Two stories, one goal: job growth in an economic downturn. Whether it is using new technology or old-fashioned marketing with a twist, the following articles are examples of small steps taking us in the right direction. While comprehensive job creation must be part of a broad-based economic recovery, our members can’t wait. Here are examples of the things that the IBEW and employers are doing to save, and create, jobs in tough times.

Sunny Skies and Green Horizons: Clean-Energy Laws Create IBEW Jobs

The San Diego area has not been exempt from the effects of the great recession of 2009, with work on many big construction projects slowing down or, in some cases, coming to a complete halt as financing dried up. But despite a sluggish construction market, the alternative energy sector—particularly solar photovoltaics—continues to be a vibrant and growing part of California’s economy and it is keeping members of Local 569 busy.

"Without all the solar work, our unemployment rate would be twice as high," says Local 569 Business Manager Allen Shur. More than 10 percent of the 2,200-member local are busy installing and maintaining solar panels on commercial projects. Solar power has even allowed the local to crack the traditionally nonunion residential market. "One of our contractors did more than 800 homes alone," Shur said.

The growth of solar power has also translated into increased opportunities for top-down organizing, as new PV startups seek out sources of skilled electricians. "A lot of the owners of these new solar operations don’t have the same kind of anti-union attitude that we sometimes encounter with other nonunion contractors," Shur said.

He credits the local’s success in attracting new contractors to their green training program, which has been in operation for more than a year. "We bring the owner to look at our training facilities to see what our members are learning. That’s a big ice-breaker right there."

Bass Electric, a Bay Area-based signatory contractor with contracts with San Francisco Local 6 and San Mateo Local 617, also reports that it is keeping busy with solar work. Owner Jeff Yee said between 30 and 40 percent of their

IBEW members across the country are participating in new partnerships with industry leaders and policy makers to create good jobs in the electrical industry.

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The IBEW Seeks Job Opportunities

work is solar-related. Yes is now getting ready for his biggest PV project yet—a 5 megawatt solar array for the city of San Francisco that is expected to require more than 20,000 hours of electrical work.

While not uniform across California, many locals are finding that renewable energy projects have kept their members working, even with the state’s unemployment rate topping 12 percent.

The California Difference

Despite fiscal emergencies, drastic budget cuts and a gridlocked legislature, the Golden State has managed to turn green energy from a buzzword into a vibrant new energy sector that is creating good jobs and new businesses, all while reducing the state’s carbon footprint.

While casual observers may chalk up the state’s success to its sunny climate, those on the ground credit California’s combination of innovative political leadership, energetic clean-energy entrepreneurs and the skilled training and manpower provided by the IBEW for making it the leader in alternative energy.

― John Bryson, former chairman of Southern California Edison, told Atlantic magazine’s Ronald Brownstein. “But on this set of issues—the clean-energy issues, the kind of things that need to be done in terms of the risk of climate change— I think California is getting it right.”

California got an early start in renewable energy legislation. As far back as the 1970s, state leaders aggressively promoted energy efficiency, setting some of the highest standards in the country, while pushing utilities to invest in energy-saving devices and programs.

― Those decisions made more than 20 years ago set us on a course quite different from the rest of the country, said Bernie Kotlier, director of green energy solutions for the California Labor Management Cooperation Committee—a joint partnership between the IBEW and union contractors.

The energy crisis of the early 2000s spurred further efforts to invest in renewable resources, including an ambitious 2005 bill that required the state’s three investor-owned utilities to generate 20 percent of their electricity from renewable energy by 2010.

And in 2006, the state’s public utilities commission approved the California Solar Initiative, which authorized the state to invest $3.2 billion in solar power.

“Making Sure Green Jobs Are Good Jobs

Having the third-largest solar market in the world has meant thousands of new jobs for California’s electricians. But going after this work has required strong outreach by the IBEW and other contractors to let potential commercial and governmental clients know what union electricians can offer.

― Our biggest selling point remains our training,” said Santa Rosa Local 551 Membership Development Representative John Lloyd. Local 551 represents six counties north of the Bay Area.

One of those counties, Sonoma, has gone a long way in taking advantage of a 2008 law that allows municipalities to fund the installation of energy-efficient upgrades to existing properties. Local 551 has been successful in attracting small solar start-ups to sign with the IBEW due to its extensive work in the county. Sonoma’s seat is the city of Santa Rosa, which was designated as a “Solar American City” by the Department of Energy.

Lloyd sits on the board of directors of a nonprofit organization called Solar Sonoma County, which promotes PV installation.

There is great demand for companies that can perform energy audits and help clients develop plans to save on their electric bills using technologies like motion detectors and advanced lighting controls.

The IBEW has been training its members in these technologies for more than a year and the awarding of a $5 million Labor Department grant to the state LMCC in January will mean thousands more members will receive training in the field.

― Our relationship with the IBEW and NECA has been critical to opening up new opportunities for us in this area,” said Shelley Keltner, chief executive of Pacific Data Electric.

― It’s been a bipartisan approach,” Kotlier said. “Both Democratic and Republican administrations have backed the efforts.”

And it has paid off. The average Californian uses 40 percent less electricity than the average American, which has saved consumers more than $50 billion in energy bills. It has also made the state a thriving center for solar power investment with more than $3 billion flowing into California from 2005 to 2008 alone.

New Interstate Workforce Council Seeks Green Jobs in Rust Belt

BEW leaders in Ohio and Pennsylvania are the driving force behind the nation’s first interstate regional workforce investment board, charged with reigniting interest in their corner of the world.

Warren, Ohio, Local 573 Business Manager Mark Catello, Youngstown, Ohio, Local 64 Business Manager James Burgham and Beaver, Pa., Local 712 Business Manager Frank Telesz Jt., are charter members of the OH-Penn Competitiveness Council, formed Jan 1.

The council covers the Youngstown metropolitan area, which extends from the city of Warren in the north to Mercer County in Pennsylvania. Made up of educators, local workforce investment board directors and local business and labor leaders from both sides of the border, the council is committed to attracting new investment and good jobs back to region—a former center of the steel and auto industry that has been hit hard by the recession.

― We’ve lost 10,000 jobs due to the decline in the auto industry alone,” Catello said.

The group is partially funded by the Department of Labor, through grants used to encourage regional economic development.

Council member Sam Giannetti, who is also executive director of work force development for West Central Job Partnership Inc., in New Castle, Pa., attributes the leading role of the IBEW on the council to the union’s commitment to training, particularly its emphasis on green power.

― Alternative energy technology will be the cutting edge of developing a new economy and I know the IBEW places a lot of emphasis on clean-energy training,” he said.

The group’s first course of action is to market the region to high-tech manufacturers, with a focus on companies involved in the green technology sector.

― It’s vital that we diversify our economy if we want to bring good jobs back,” Catello said.
in the near future, hooking up to the Internet may be as simple as turning on the lights.

A new wireless data communication system, invented and patented by a D.C.-based company and licensed to Minnesota’s L VX System, uses visible light instead of radio waves to transmit digital information, a development that could revolutionize online communications.

“We’re talking faster speeds and more secure connections, all with reduced energy consumption,” said UX Lab Chief Executive Officer Mike Muggli.

Muggli was at the IBEW International Office in Washington, D.C. late last year to show off the company’s new invention.

Before a gathered audience of IBEW representatives and staff, Muggli pointed to a small box with a glowing green light. It sat next to a computer, which was broadcasting the latest updates from CNN. Besides an electrical cord, it had no wires.

The reddish glow of an energy-efficient LED bulb illuminated the work station. Thanks to a special computer chip developed by UX System, the bulbs were also transmitting the data signals that kept the computer online.

The system is not only faster than regular broadband, LED lights cut down on energy usage by more than 30 percent. And even when the lights are off, the bulbs still emit signals to keep the computer connected to the network.

Light-based wireless is not only faster, it is also more secure. “Unlike radio waves, a light-based connection can’t go through walls or floors, making it impossible for strangers to piggyback on your connection,” Muggli said.

Muggli said he was particularly eager to share the new invention with the IBEW, which he hopes can provide the manpower to make sure it ends up installed in every office building, government center and school in the near future—a project that could potentially create tens of thousands of jobs.

“This is a big project and we need the training and skills the IBEW can provide to make it happen,” Muggli said. “We’re talking about millions of buildings across the United States which could potentially be wired for this system.”

The new technology is the brainchild of St. Cloud, Minn., native and UX System founder and chairman, John Pederson.

Pederson, a veteran inventor who developed the power-saving flashing LED lights used by many police and emergency vehicles, first publicly tested out his new light-based wireless system at the local high school and police station in January 2009, grabbing the attention of Minnesota Local 292 Business Agent Dennis Kalthoff, who works out of the local’s St. Cloud office.

“It seemed so incredible at first, I didn’t know what to make of it,” Kalthoff said. He got in contact with Pederson and Muggli, with whom he attended high school.

“I quickly grasped how important this was going to be,” Kalthoff said. “And they wanted to work with us, because they knew we had skilled electricians and training facilities, and that we would be ready to move on this right away.”

The technology also opens up new opportunities for wireless use outside the office. LED streetlights could easily be outfitted with the system, making the downtown of any major city a giant Internet café.

Car headlights could also be fitted with wireless chips, which would feed commuters important traffic and safety information—even letting drivers know when they are getting too close to a passing vehicle.

Kalthoff and Tom Leonard from Le Suur Local 343 talked up the invention with local contractors and friendly political leaders and recently set up a display at Local 292’s training center.

Local 343, which holds the contract to maintain the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, will be setting up a system prototype at the clinic and other local institutions sometime this year.

Muggli says he is looking to partner with business and governmental officials in the coming year to promote the system, hoping to see it become an integral part of any green building retrofit.

And members of the IBEW—both in construction and manufacturing—are ready to provide the labor to make it happen. “Light-based wireless has the capacity to help provide tens of thousands of new jobs in both construction and electrical manufacturing,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill.

“And the IBEW will help make sure it’s done right the first time.”
Diversity and Inclusion Program Builds Union’s Strength

In Cleveland, worked with outside experts to design the program. “For years, we’ve been talking about how our nation’s populations are changing and how our leadership needs to look more like our membership,” says Schwingshakl. “Now it’s time to make it happen, or the IBEW and organized labor will be the dinosaurs we are always falsely accused of being.”

The training fulfills the diversity and inclusion committee’s decision to put education of leaders first as the foundation for positive cultural change in the Brotherhood. Unlike training sessions of the past, AMPS avoids dryly presenting legal obligations on civil rights or gender harassment, or simply encouraging members to get along better. “We’re all one, but we recognize that one size doesn’t fit all,” says Susan Woods, a partner in Henderson-Woods, the program’s designer.

Russell Ponder, the now-retired vice president of Chicago Local 134, who co-chaired the diversity and inclusion committee, has seen firsthand the benefits of increasing local leaders’ appreciation of the need for diversity and inclusion. “That’s the kind of successes we can have everywhere when local leaders understand the importance of diversity and inclusion,” says Ponder, who also served as vice president of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

The International committee understood that diversity training will take time considering the turnover in business managers and their busy schedules, says Ponder. “This is a long process,” he says. “But it’s the only way for IBEW to survive.”

“People are like icebergs,” says a PowerPoint slide in the first of four sections emphasizing how individual identities are a combination of what’s visible and invisible, above and below the surface. Effective leaders need to know both ends of the iceberg. “Diversity is about the people. Inclusion is about the organization,” says Woods, who credits the strength of the IBEW’s plan with the organization’s inclusion of members from different backgrounds and different levels of organizational leadership experience on the planning committee.

Tom Rutherford, political coordinator of Denver Local 68, who attended AMPS in December on the invitation of Business Manager Dennis Whalen, remembers being assigned to a female journeyman in the late ’80s and challenging the bigotry of a senior male journeyman who questioned why women should be in the trade. Even so, the training was “eye-opening,” says Rutherford, especially the section on how minority applicants to pass entry tests.

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pressing for more mentoring and advancement of minority members into leadership. The resolution continues, “Managing diversity is not only an economic and business imperative, but is a political, social, and moral imperative as well.” The measure empowers the International President to study policies and procedures related to recruitment, hiring, access to education, career paths, mentoring and leadership to realize diversity as “a core structural element to achieve inclusion and full participation for all members at every level of the IBEW...”

After the Cleveland convention, Hill met with leaders of the EWMC to flesh out implementation of the resolution. A newly-formed diversity and inclusion committee met for 18 months, during which a curriculum for diversity training was developed. In April 2009, International officers and executive assistants attended a pilot session in Las Vegas, followed by several other sessions with business managers and district staffs.

In a video introduction for AMPS training, International President Edwin D. Hill says, “With AMPS, like COMET and the Brotherhood’s Code of Excellence, the IBEW is providing an example to the building trades and other organizations in taking on tough challenges.”

In a troubled economy, says Hill, there will be those who want to “go slow” on ushering in a more diverse union culture. “As with our other programs, we need to have the courage to do both what is right and what can make us stronger. A more confident, forward-thinking, access to education, career paths, mentoring and leadership to realize diversity as “a core structural element to achieve inclusion and full participation for all members at every level of the IBEW...”

The resolution is a testament to the consistent advocacy of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, founded in 1974 at the 30th IBEW Convention in Kansas City. (See “Building IBEW’s Diversity and Strength,” IBEW Journal, June 2006). From its inception through 1993’s Centennial Convention—when the group’s meeting was officially listed in the convention brochure for the first time—and beyond, EWMC has been

### Local Initiatives Enhance Diversity, Community

Here are a few examples of locals that honor the union’s diversity and build stronger links with surrounding communities. We will be reporting on others in future issues of The Electrical Worker and www.ibew.org.

#### Verizon Locals Bargain for Family Benefits

As chairman of a Verizon-IBEW advisory council on training and family benefits, Business Agent Clyde Dickinson, East Windsor, N.J., Local 827, had a problem. Verizon agreed to continue funding the program begun in the 1990s. But, if the money were used to subsidize daycare for members’ children—at current costs—there would be no funds left over to support the needs of members who have no children at home. A good thing could end up being divisive. So Dickinson, a co-worker, and a fellow advisory council member from Philadelphia Local 944, joined with their employer to brainstorm a solution that considered the diverse needs of the telecommunications workforce.

Some members are scheduled to work on days when their children are out of school. Others are scrambling to care for aging parents. Members of the “sandwich generation” often have both responsibilities. So the locals bargained for all workers to qualify for funds providing up to 120 hours annually to cover child care or nursing care for aging dependents.

The joint program gives workers access to a database that rates the quality of child care and elder care vendors. Current benefits also include a free-of-charge online home-work assistance service for students, giving some relief to parents who have already put in a long day at work.

Debra Naugle, the union’s liaison to the family program, says funds for training in new technologies and careers and the family support provided by the joint program are more needed than ever before. “At one time, Ma Bell provided cradle to grave benefits. Things have changed,” she says.

#### Los Angeles Community/Faith-Based Construction Initiative

When Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa was campaigning for office, the one-time labor organizer traveled to minority communities and promised to do something about high unemployment. “We finally had someone in office that didn’t see organized labor as a ‘special interest,’ but as a valuable resource to improving our city,” says Local 11 Treasurer Eric Brown.

Brown and other labor leaders met with the mayor’s representatives and religious and civic leaders of minority communities, engaging in frank discussions about how to bring increasing numbers of African-American and Hispanic residents into the trades. “Villaraigosa said he wanted to make the [construction] crane the official bird of Los Angeles and he developed a progressive building agenda,” says Brown. Project labor agreements on work for the Los Angeles Unified School District, the airport and the port carried local hire requirements. But special efforts needed to be launched to prepare many applicants to pass necessary tests to succeed in the trades.

The Los Angeles branch of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus set up Saturday study sessions at Local 11’s training facility. Some Local 11 activists traveled to local churches for weekly mentoring sessions.

“Residents got to see the intensity of our training. You could see it in their eyes,” says Brown, that many were thinking, “We want to be part of this.”

The construction market has slowed, but local hire requirements are still in place and Local 11 is continuing to prepare a diverse group of workers to enter the trades.

“Some of our new members will be stars,” says Brown. Many have already succeeded despite being placed in schools with oversized classes and facing street violence in their communities. “They are deserving people who have the foundation to succeed and just need a little help.”

Portland, Ore., Local Restores African-American Landmark

Donna Hammond, president of the Portland, Ore., chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, cherishes her memories of celebrations at the Billy Webb Elks Lodge, the most renowned landmark of the city’s African-American community.

“The Gathering,” an annual event at the building—which opened in the 1920s as the “Colored YWCA” amidst opposition by white residents—reminded her of homecomings that she attended with her parents in their native Arkansas, bringing together residents who had moved away but wanted to stay close to their roots. But, like others in the community, Hammond feared that, without major restoration, the building that also hosted USO services for black soldiers in World War II could be lost.

Working with a local signatory minority contractor, Local 48 sent a journeyman and two apprentices to apply their skills to upgrading the Elks Lodge’s electrical system as part of a $1 million restoration project.

“Our work tremendously enhanced Local 48’s reputation and contacts in the African-American community,” says Hammond, who teaches cultural competency training courses in her municipality.
The great recession of 2009 may have led to a slow-down in the normally busy oil sands region in northern Alberta, but in 2010 Canada’s biggest job market is hotter than ever—and it’s putting thousands of building trades members to work. “A year ago, we had a three-month bump when we had to send all the travelers home,” said Edmonton Local 424 Business Agent Wade Ashton. “We had a hard time making sure all our members were working.” It is a scenario that is not unusual in Alberta, which has one of the tightest labour markets in Canada, thanks to the oil and gas industry. Record low oil prices last year put many projects in the oil sands—the second-largest reserve of petroleum in the world—on hold, but the recent jump in energy prices and positive signs that the recession may be winding down have given the area an economic jupstart. Leading the way is Royal Dutch Shell’s new $27 billion oil upgrade facility, located just outside Edmonton, which will process tar-heavy oil from Fort McMurray for refineries in the United States. The heavy crude oil from the region is mined, not pumped, and requires a great deal of refining before it is useable. The project, Scotford Upgrader 2, is the biggest construction project in Canada, employing more than 8,000 workers, including more than 2,700 IBEW members. “It’s the busiest work site in Canada right now,” said Local 424 Business Manager Tim Brower of the Fort McMurray site, more than 400 kilometers (or about 200 miles) north of the provincial capital. “We’re at full employment.” IBEW members from throughout Canada are being recruited to come to Edmonton, with contractors even offering a $100-a-day stipend for out-of-town workers. It isn’t easy work, particularly as the frigid Alberta winter blows across the prairies, with temperatures dropping as low as minus 26 degrees Celsius (or minus 15 Fahrenheit). But IBEW members are glad to be on the job again. “We are going to need even more electricians on this project before it is completed,” Brower said. The massive project, which is to be built in four phases, is expected to take upwards of 15 years to complete. The first phase is expected to be completed by September. The upgrader will have a total processing capacity of 400,000 barrels a day. Other oil sands projects in the works include an 8.6 billion mine being built by Imperial Oil an hour north of Fort McMurray. The job will require thousands of skilled workers, and Local 424 is gearing up. “We’re going have to fight hard for the job,” Ashton said. Unlike the strong union Edmonton area, Local 424 and its contractors face increasingly cutthroat competition in Fort McMurray—from both nonunion contractors and the Christian Labour Association of Canada, an employee association that many in the labour movement have criticized for signing sweetheart deals with employers. “We’ll be very busy until the end of the summer and then we’re getting ready for the next big project,” Ashton said.

**New Oil Sands Refinery Project Fuels Alberta’s Economic Recovery**

In the face of environmental criticism, the Canadian building trades is calling on policy makers and elected officials to engage in a fair debate about the future of the oil sands region in Alberta. It is sponsoring an ad campaign in favor of balancing the need for good jobs and an inexpensive energy supply with concerns about reducing carbon emissions and fighting pollution. In an ad that ran in the Hill Times, Canada’s leading political weekly, the Canadian building trades, said: “Debate about the oil sands is important, but it must be a reasonable debate … we need the oil sands. It is a secure supply of a required energy and significant economic resources.” The oil sands region represents the second-largest reserve of petroleum in the world, and in recent years it has become the economic powerhouse of Canada. But the process of extracting oil from the sand is intensive and dirty and it takes its toll on the environment, leading to bad press and increased calls from environmental groups like Greenpeace for a shutdown of projects there. While sharing concerns about global warming and air quality, many building trades members feel that the oil sands are being unfairly targeted out of proportion to its actual impact on the environment, says Robert Blakely, director of Canadian affairs for the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Canadian Building Trades Calls for Balanced Debate on Oil Sands’ Future

“Deprive us of the oil sands and you deprive the economy of a crucial source of income,” said Phil Flemming, Vice-President of Building and Construction Trades of Canada. “There is too much alarmism by some in the environmental community,” he said. “We need to make sure the debate is grounded in reality, not fear.”

The building trades’ ads point to the progress made on the environmental front by the oil sands industry. Carbon emissions in the oil sands are down by nearly 30 percent since 1990 thanks to new technological advances, and less than 5 percent of Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions come from the region. “We and our families want our children to inherit a healthy environment,” the Building Trades of Alberta said in a statement on its Web site. “We believe that improved processes and technology will continue to reduce the environmental impacts of oil sands development.”

Building trades leaders also say that groups like Greenpeace ignore the importance of the oil sands to Canada’s economy. More than 200,000 jobs from across the country are linked to the oil sands, making development in the region key to Canada’s future. “For the tens of thousands of workers whose livelihoods depend on the oil sands, the region is too vital for the environmental debate to be based on anything but hard facts,” said IBEW First District Vice-President Phil Fleming. “There are too many jobs at stake.”

Les Syndicats des métiers de la construction au Canada revendiquent un débat équilibré sur l’avenir des sables bitumineux

Devant la critique des environnementalistes, les Syndicats des métiers de la construction demandent aux responsables et aux représentants élus de s’engager dans un débat honnête sur l’avenir de la région des sables bitumineux en Alberta. Ils commandent une campagne publicitaire dont le message précise qu’ils sont en faveur de trouver un juste équilibre entre la nécessité de bons emplois et d’un approvisionnement énergétique économique et les préoccupations concernant la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre et la lutte contre la pollution. Dans une déclaration au Hill Times, un hebdomadaire national canadien très influent qui couvre les actualités sur la politique, les Syndicats des métiers de la construction ont affirmé qu’« il est important de tenir un débat sur le sujet des sables bitumineux mais il faudra qu’il soit honnête et ouvert...car nous avons besoin des sables bitumineux. Ils assurent la fiabilité d’un approvisionnement énergétique de qualité, le gagne-pain dépend du développement des sables bitumineux. Il faut que les dirigeants des Syndicats des métiers de la construction ne cachent pas les progrès dans le domaine de la nouvelle technologie qui ont permis de réduire d’environ 90% les émissions de gaz des sables bitumineux, depuis 1990. »

Les syndicats des métiers de la construction de l’Alberta (Building Trades of Alberta) déclaraient sur leur site Web : « Chaque famille souhaite que le débat soit basé sur des faits réels et non sur le peur. »

Les publicitaires des métiers de la construction indiquent que l’industrie des sables bitumineux a fait beaucoup de progrès sur le plan environnemental. Des percées dans le domaine de la nouvelle technologie ont permis de réduire d’environ 90% les émissions de gaz dans les sables bitumineux, depuis 1990. Moins de 5% des émissions de gaz à effet de serre proviennent de la région.

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Filling the Holes in IBEW’s History

Few souvenirs from an IBEW convention are more cherished than panoramic photos of delegates to the International Convention. Images of rank and file members and their leaders—so varied in dress and demeanor—are a window into the union’s changing numbers and demographics. Whether perched on a union hall’s walls or rolled up in a chest in a family’s attic, the pictures—going back to 1895—hold the value and meaning of the ages in labor history.

At the International Office’s archives, original convention photos are stored in a climate-controlled room, guarded from deterioration that results from fluctuating temperatures, light or infestation. Only digitally-scanned prints are available for public exhibit.

While few unions have worked harder to honor its history than the IBEW, most historical preserves contain holes that need to be filled.

Retired International Representative Mike Nugent, who managed the archives until last year, worked tirelessly to gather memorabilia to fill some of those holes. Last December on a visit to Dayton, Ohio, Local 82, Nugent found two missing panoramic photos of the Seventeenth International Convention, held in Montreal in 1923, and the Eighteenth convention, held in Seattle in 1925.

Local 82 agreed to donate the original photos to the archives under the condition that the local receive digitally-scanned copies back. The originals were sent to Dodge Color in Silver Spring, Md., where they were removed from their frames. Dodge fixed the frayed edges of the photos that were rolled up and damaged before framing and completed the digital imaging.

Despite Nugent’s broad outreach efforts to build the union’s collection, photos of the Sixth International Convention, held in Pittsburgh in 1899, and the Seventh International Convention, held in St. Louis in 1902, are still missing.

Curtis Bateman, the IBEW’s collections manager who replaced Nugent, says, “I hope members can help us look around for these missing photos, so that we don’t have to go another 100 years before we find these images of some of the dedicated men who set the IBEW on the path of growth.” Their accomplishments are documented in The Electrical Worker, says Bateman.

The November 1899 issue of the newspaper, for instance, includes minutes of that year’s convention and a progress report since the last meeting in Detroit in 1897. “Our membership at the close of the last convention was 1,800. Today we have 3,200. Instead of 48 locals in good standing, we have today 76,” states the Electrical Worker. The paper reported $7,000 in the union’s treasury.

If you have copies of the missing photos or know where they can be located, please contact Bateman at the International Office (202-728-7691), or e-mail him at Curtis_Bateman@ibew.org.

Health Care Risk Assessments Save Costs and Lives in Tennessee

With health insurance costs continuing to rise and Washington gridlocked on how to reform the system, local unions and employers continue to share a keen interest in containing costs while promoting a healthy work force.

In Sparta, Tenn., a health screen ing partnership between Local 2143 and Phillips Luminaries’ lighting fixture plant is not just trimming costs, but saving the lives of union members, including Local 2143 Business Manager Jerry Pryor’s. The dramatic success of the wellness program is part of a record of achievement that made it one of Industry Week magazine’s top 10 plants in 2009.

Pryor learned about the plant’s colonoscopy two years ago at a company-sponsored health fair. “They say the test isn’t necessary until age 50. I was 48, but I signed up anyway,” says Pryor. The screening showed a mass in his colon that doctors said could have taken his life within two years.

Pryor is not alone. Since the self-insured employer, located about an hour-and-a-half east of Nashville, began offering voluntary risk assessments and blood analysis free to all workers six years ago, dozens have been diagnosed with serious conditions that were successfully treated.

Lisa Norris, Philip Sparta’s human resource manager, told Industry Week that 5 percent of workers accounted for 50 percent of the plant’s health care costs, but “those sick workers changed from year to year.” The only way to get ahead of those costs, she said, was through extensive screening to detect disease, coupled with educational programs to address diabetes, smoking, obesity and other conditions.

Ninety percent of Philip’s workforce participates in risk assessments. One hundred workers were diagnosed with serious health conditions in the first year of the program. Only nine were similarly diagnosed last year.

Once a week a nurse is available for an office-based health fair. Medical specialists are on site two days a week. “Not too many people (in the 140 member bargaining unit) are on sick leave anymore,” says Pryor. The productivity of Philip’s work force—despite a tough national economy—mirrors its progress on health care savings. Bargaining unit members, who manufacture fluorescent lighting for schools and public buildings and specialty lights for airports and swimming pools, were working 10 hours a day, six days a week until the beginning of February. The last large producer of fluorescent lighting in the U.S., Philips and Local 2143 have stayed in competition with manufacturers in China and other nations by involving workers in improving techniques and practices.

Planned Being Finalized for Online College for Working Families

Since its early days as the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, the National Labor College has been an important part of the lives and careers of thousands of trade unionists, including many IBEW members and leaders.

Today, this unique institution, like its partner—the AFL-CIO—is once again adapting to major changes in the makeup of the labor movement and society.

Next fall, the college, based in Silver Spring, Md., will launch a new online learning curriculum that will combine liberal arts with technical training and cover new subjects like security studies, criminal justice and construction management.

“We listened to our members to determine what kinds of courses and degrees people require to advance their careers,” Thomas J. Kriger, the college’s provost, told Human Resources Online. The online program is dubbed the College for Working Families.

The developing program will be enriched by the experience of Paula Brungard, former IBEW Director of Education, and former International Office’s interim president of the college after the retirement of President William Scheuerman in January. Peinovich was formerly provost and president of Walden University, a distance-learning graduate school. Before that, she was vice president of academic affairs for Excelsior University, an online institution that has trained IBEW members in the nuclear industry.

With added financial pressures on working families, the online curriculum provides a way for students—including the AFL-CIO’s 11.5 million members and their families—to pursue educational credits without having to attend the one-week in-residence sessions required under the current curriculum.

Technical support for the online university will be provided by the Princeton Review Inc. and its subsidiary, Penn Foster Education Group Inc.

Kirk Brungard, executive assistant to AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and former IBEW Director of Construction Organizing, is helping to establish the new program. “With partners like Penn Foster and The Princeton Review,” says Brungard, “the new distance learning program fulfills the original vision of NLC founders by making available quality, affordable and accredited higher education to millions of rank-and-file union members and their families.”

Tuition for the College for Working Families, requirements for entry into the program and course offerings are being finalized.
'Adopt-a-Family' Program

L.U. 11 (I, u, k, p, a) LOS ANGELES, CA—Congratulations to Local 11 members at Steiny and Company Inc. for their skills and expertise at installing sustainable energy technology on the rooftop of the company’s Baldwin Park warehouse. [See photo, below.] The solar panels will provide power and lighting for years to come. We salute the company’s effort to offset its carbon footprint and are hopeful this example will convince other businesses to do the same.

We are proud to report that U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis visited the Electrical Training Institute along with other high-ranking Obama administration cabinet members as part of the president’s plan to put America back to work. Solis toured more than 50 classrooms and state-of-the-art labs while speaking with students and posing for photos.

Solis praised the Local 11 leadership for taking an active role in promoting green jobs. She acknowledged the ETI as the premiere training facility for green careers in the United States and marveled at the nearly 500,000 kilowatt photovoltaic array installed by Local 11 members. Solis was joined on the tour by Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

Bob Oddy, P.S.

Tremendous Generosity

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Local 15 sends good wishes to Reps. Ron Welte and Dave Mullen. Bro. Welte retired after 37 years of service. Bro. Mullen was appointed international representative assigned to the IBEW Utility Department in Washington, D.C. Local 15 will miss his extensive experience.

Thanks to our members, we exceeded the collection goal for the United Way 2009-2010 campaign. Together, the union and management contributed more than $25,500!

In our nuclear stations, we reached agreement with ComEd on Travel Agreements for 2010 and are working on other packages. Some members helped with an outage at Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Pennsylvania and were welcomed by Local 277.

Local 15 is installing smart meters under an AMI pilot program; the goal is to install 150,000 meters in the next few months. The Systems Services Group Agreement with ComEd was overwhelmingly approved by affected members by a vote of 70-1.

We reached an agreement with Exelon on a new collective agreement—final approval for the entire system is expected by year’s end. This will cover new hires with ComEd, Exelon and BSC.

In our fossil stations, the Midwest Generation employees heard from CEO Ron Utzig the harsh reality that the stations’ futures depend on how climate control legislation turns out—a reminder that elections are important! In June, our benefits package with NWGen expires, so we will provide “change forms” for members input.

Douglas Vedas, P.S./B.R.

Embracing Green Technology

L.U. 11 (I, u, k, p, a) LOS ANGELES, CA—Congratulations to Local 11 members at Steiny and Company Inc. for their skills and expertise at installing sustainable energy technology on the rooftop of the company’s Baldwin Park warehouse. [See photo, below.] The solar panels will provide power and lighting for years to come. We salute the company’s effort to offset its carbon footprint and are hopeful this example will convince other businesses to do the same.

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Bob Oddy, P.S.

Tribute to a Union Brother

L.U. 19 (u), AURORA, IL—We are deeply saddened to report that Gary Cichy, a Nicor Gas field employee and a member of the IBEW for more than 30 years, was fatally injured at a work site on Nov. 23, 2009.

Gary began his career at Nicor in 1979 and worked as a distribution technician out of the Jolietage with MWGen expires, so we will provide “change forms” for members input.

Douglas Vedas, P.S./B.R.

“National Broadband Plan”

L.U. 21 (c, u, t, g, h, b), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by Pres. Obama on Feb. 17, 2009. Over the last year, the Federal Communications Commission has been working with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to perform the FCC’s role under the Recovery Act. Part of the Act requires that a National Broadband Plan be completed by Feb. 17, 2010. The Act also funds initiatives that are planned to speed up deployment in unserved, underserved and rural areas, providing important public benefits while also increasing jobs.

Stay tuned.

Chris Harris, B.R.

Political Involvement

L.U. 43 (e, m, u, h, s), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 43 has a long tradition of political involvement in our jurisdiction and this past year was no exception. Because of term limits the incumbent mayor of Syracuse had to vacate his seat in 2010. This caused a battle for the open position. Both the Democratic and Republican parties started early with hotly contested primaries. Our local stood behind Stephanie Miher, union labor attorney and city councilwoman.

B. Mgr. Bill Towsley asked Bro. Al Macrullo to act as our political coordinator. With door to door canvassing, literature drops, phone banks, fundraising and human billboards, Al had the members deeply involved. Minner won her primary and then won the general election over her Republican opponent by a large margin.

We also had three members run for public office. Bro. Jim Corbett—for Onondaga County Legislature, Bro. Jeff Currie—for Cortland County Legislature and Bro. Bill Kuhn—for council, town Of Elbridge. Both Corbett and Currie won election. Many thanks to all those who helped on Election Day, including political coordinator Marzullo, JIC instructor Dave Nichols and many journeymen and apprentices.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

New Year’s Resolution

L.U. 55 (c, t, g, b, h, s, p), SPRINGFIELD, IL—As we welcome the new year ahead and a new decade, let us not forget the importance of community and the sacrifice of those who have given their time to make life better for union members and society in general. Being a member of the largest electrical union in the world means more than just paying dues.

At this writing, member education continues on health care reform and the fight for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. Helping to pass laws to improve jobs, the economy and the everyday lives of all working families will continue to be a priority in 2010. We highly encourage all members needing work boots to take advantage of a 27 percent discount on 100 percent American made, union-made work boots at www.TheUnionBootPro.com. Use discount code Be0021mD. Buy American. Buy union. Save money.

Local 21 continues to expand our means of communicating with our membership. Follow us now on Twitter at http://twitter.com/IBEWLU21.

Thomas Hopper, P.S.

Los Angeles Local 11 members installed a rooftop solar array at a Steiny and Company Inc. warehouse. From left, back row standing, are: Casey Britt, Mark Jacomin, Dion Mau, Ray Chesney; front row, Dave Mojica, Wayne Tesoriero, John Garduno and Jose Peregrino.
World-Class Training Facility
L.U. 77 (littler.mt,0,16), SEATTLE, WA—After a long, hard battle, on Nov. 15, 2009, the purchase and transfer of the National Utility Training and Education Center, located at 2800 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, WA, to IBEW Local 77 was finalized. The prior NUTEC inc. board of directors was unable to develop the NUTEC site and training facilities, mainly due to lack of corporate/business membership funding. Instead of the site reverting back to desert, with a total loss of a training site, Local 77 saw an opportunity to continue the vision of establishing a much-needed center.

Thus Local 77 made an offer to purchase the 70-acre facility from the old NUTEC board in January 2009. The transfer required Local 77 to engage with the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Energy (former owner of Horn Rapids training site), the State of Washington, and Benton County. The process began by a vote of the membership in 2006.

After months of hard work by Bus. Mgr. Don Guillett and the local’s property attorney, Cindy Thomas, Local 77 will partner with the IBEW Utility Training Trust, HAMMER Training Facility, electrical utilities, and line construction contractors to have a world-class, inclusive utility industry training facility.

Pat Darling, P.S.

President Visits Jurisdiction
L.U. 129 (ft,m,0,16), IONAH, OR—Oh...We had the great pleasure of a visit by Pres. Obama to our jurisdiction on Jan. 22 for a town hall meeting and a tour of some of our local businesses. He spoke of some very positive things that will influence our area and state greatly.

Work in our local remains slow. We do expect some projects to start this spring including a $140 million Cleveland Clinic project and a Wal-Mart project.

As of this writing, negotiations continue with utilities, and line construction contractors to have a world-class, inclusive utility industry training facility.

Dennis Pedings, P.S.

Stimulus Package Benefit
L.U. 145 (emi,0,16), ROCK ISLAND, IL—Local 145 wishes to acknowledge retirees Ron Peters and Larry Hoffman for their continued endeavors to promote a positive union image through community service. Again last year, they led the efforts of several union brothers and sisters, including retirees, to bring power to the Symphony of Lights holiday display in Clinton, IA. At more than a mile long, the display includes over half a million individual lights and is known regionally as “the” holiday destination.

Despite the economic downturn facing the country last year, Local 145 was able to keep most of our journeymen working. Locally, we continue to benefit from the Obama administration’s stimulus package through several government contracts in the Quad Cities. The construction of a flagship biodegradable plastics plant for ADM Company also kept many members on the job late into the year.

2010 promises to bring more work to the area. Making national headlines, the Thomson Prison will be converted to a super maximum security facility to house detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Asia, Western Illinois University has begun efforts to expand campus facilities in Moline. The annual out- age at our Cordova nuclear facility will also provide jobs for electricians in early 2010.

Steve Long, P.S.

2009 Projects Successful
L.U. 153 (emi,0,16), SOUTH BEND, IN—As 2009 wrapped up so too did two large projects that helped Local 153 get through this economic slowdown.

In September 2008, at the American Electric Power D.C. Cock Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, MI, there was a mechanical failure in Unit 1. One of the turbines threw a blade causing some damage and a minor fire. The damage was labeled a catastrophic incident by AEP. The IBEW was instrumental in turning this around. For 15 months Local 153 members put in long hours, seven days a week. The entire project resulted in more than 50,000 hours through the 15 months. The repair job was finished up on schedule and the unit was returned to the power grid on Dec. 29, 2009.

In the fall of 2006, construction began on the new St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, IN. The 631,000 square-foot hospital opened its doors on Dec. 14, 2009. The project was built by all union construction workers. Over 3.5 million hours were worked by members of the St. Joseph Valley Building & Construction Trades over the course of the $365 million project. On Dec. 5, 2009, the hospital hosted an open house for the contractors and trades workers. The St. Joseph Valley Building & Construction Trades was happy to present the hospital charitable foundation with a small token of its gratitude in the form of a check for $10,000.

Troy D. Warner, B.R.

Community Service Recognized
L.U. 163 (emi,0,16), MIWES-BARRE, PA—Local 163 gieves the passing of Bros. Carl Olshefski and past training director Michael J. Shannon.

Apprentices and journeymen participated in community service this summer at the Fenwood Music Camp near Hazleton, PA. The volunteers donated their time to upgrade and repair sections of the camp buildings; the work included switching circuits, exit signs and energy efficient lighting. The Greater Hazleton Area Community Service Foundation presented Local 163 with a check for $10,000.

Steve Long, P.S.

Winning Team at the Local 57 Trap Shoot, from left: Dave Vega, Wade Palmer, Bill Walker, Jeremy Price and Drue Palmer.
A dinner dance was held in October 2010 for retirees and their guests. Local 163 Bus. Mgr. Michael Kwashnik hosted the evening’s festivities along with Executive Board members and officers to honor the many years of service and dedication by our retirees. The annual children’s Christmas party last December was a big success due to the hard work of Bro. Eric Grohwolzki and all his elves.

John T. Nadolny, P.S./Training Dir.

Membership Development Effort
L.U. 177 (boe,lm,ms,sp)}, JACKSONVILLE, FL—Retired member Bro. Bill Gehm celebrated his 34th year in the red suit at our annual children’s Christmas party last year. Santa gave out gifts to approximately 250 kids that day as they enjoyed games and refreshments. Both the children’s party and the retirees’ Christmas party were big successes, thanks to the help of many volunteers.

Work in the Jacksonville area remains dismal at best. The Membership Development Volunteer Committee (MDVC) remains energized and is still monitoring the progress of the new county courthouse being built nonunion. The new $340 million Greenland Energy Center was awarded to H.B. Zachary and will be built nonunion as well thanks to the Jacksonville Electric Authority. The MDVC plans to monitor the project and the use of undocumented workers on it.

Alan Jones, Pres.

Local Lines

The IEW is a better place because of you. We wish you all a happy retirement.

The LMCC hosted formal classes at the Everett union hall in December with an overwhelming response. The Electrical Project Supervision Program consists of three integrated levels. It’s open to all members and contractors. Please contact the Everett hall for more information.

Rob De Velder, P.S.

New Union Hall/JATC Facility
L.U. 229 (em;i,rtb), YORK, PA—Local 229 officers are proud to announce that on Dec. 21, 2009, the local settled on a new union hall/JATC training facility. The new facility will be located at 555 Willow Springs Lane in East Manchester Township, only 2 miles off the Emigsville, PA, exit off interstate 83. The building is more than 65,000 square feet and is situated on 6.13 acres.

The officers and JATC committee are working with architects and contractors to get the necessary renovations underway as quickly as possible; we hope to have the facility ready by late spring. The primary motivation for the purchase of this facility was the need for more space for our apprenticeship training program. We now have the facility to give all Local 229 apprentices the opportunity to learn with every piece of electrical equipment necessary for them to “top out” as the best trained electrical workers in the industry!

We have much work ahead of us and we will need members’ participation to accomplish it.

Mark James, P.S.

Retirees Donate to Worthy Cause
L.U. 257 (em;i,rtb,rts,spa&tim), JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Local 257 retirees met on Dec. 8, 2009, for a Christmas meal provided by the local. This year, in lieu of a gift exchange, the retirees decided to contribute to a worthy cause. Retirees donated $800 to a Local 257 member’s family to assist with their son’s needs. Local 257 Journeyman wireman Brian Kaiser’s 2-year old son, Brayden, was born with a kidney disorder and has needed a kidney transplant. There has been a two-year wait for the transplant and the family has spent countless hours in doctors’ offices, hospitals and dialysis clinics. We commend the Local 257 retirees for helping Bro. Kaiser’s family. The Kaufers thank everyone for the prayers and contributions.

Last November, CenturyLink (created by the merger of CenturyTel and Embarq) employees negotiated a new three-year contract. The negotiation committee consisted of Local 257 Bus. Mgr. Don Brummeier, Chandra Sullivan, Dale Adams and Greg Cope for their efforts putting on our 2009 Christmas party. Great job.

Ron Ely, P.S.

Holiday Food Drive
L.U. 197 (em;i,rtb)&tit), BLOOMINGTON, IN—We celebrated a happy holiday season. Our apprentices did a fine job collecting canned food for the needy during the 2009 holidays.

We held our annual Christmas party, and everyone had a good time. Service pins were awarded to: Dave Cooprider (10 years of service), Scott Taylor (10 years), Shawn Dehaven (15 years), Russell Roberts (35 years), Dave Ashenbrenner (40 years) and Elmer Alsene (retired). Congratulations, brothers, and thanks for your commitment to the IEW and our local. Door prizes were awarded and good food and drink were served.

As we move forward into 2010 we wish our members good luck in the year ahead. This is also an election year for many local and state candidates. If anyone wants to help, walk our skills.

Remember: take pride in the union, get involved, and stay involved.

Mike Ruikes, P.S.

Several Local 197 retirees gathering for celebration: front, center, Ron Davison; back row, from left, Mike Potter, Dennis Patterson and George Brattain.

Airport Control Tower Project
L.U. 291 (rtb,rrt,ts,spa&tim), BOISE, ID—Work remains slow here in southwest Idaho with more than 260 book s hands still out of work. Local 291 extends a big thank you to sisters (IEW Local 149) and Bob Bodell for providing work for many of our members over in the eastern side of the state. Ongoing work at Sorento Lactalis, the Boise State University Science Building, and Middleton High School continues to provide some work for our members, Lea Electric’s Tony Keen and many Local 291 hands recently finished up the new Boise Airport/FAA control tower. At 290 feet, the tower is the tallest structure in the state of Idaho.

Our condolences go to the family of Irene McMillin, who passed away Nov. 21, 2009. She was an IEW member for 55 years, and was Local 291 office manager for 37 years. She is missed by all.

Congratulations to Bro. Lanny Wearn on the birth of a new son. We thank Randy and Melanie Cope for their efforts putting on our 2009 Christmas party. Great job.

Ron Ely, P.S.

Local 351 members completed work on a new Boise Airport/ FAA control tower.

Hope for Spring Uptick
L.U. 309 (lrt,mt,mr,rtb,ts,spa&tim), COLLINSVILLE, IL—The economic downturn that has hit too many locals unfortunately has now touched ours. The Inside branch is currently suffering unemployment since the completion of our two largest projects, Sunlake at U.S. Steel and Aengpa Ethanol Plant in Granite City. The Outside has slowed down a little, but we hope for a brighter spring.

2010 looks to be a busy year as numerous labor agreements are set to expire. We are always looking for people who have not served on negotiating committees to step up and help out with new, fresh ideas.

Our “Fifty-Year Dinner” was again held at Sunset Hills Country Club. As it always was well attended. Special thanks to Carl W. Chesser and Robert L. Hartman Jr., our 70-year honorees.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.
Holiday Party
L.U. 351 (c,es,lkt,mt,se,spa,uk), FOLSOM, NJ—Our annual children’s Christmas party was held on Dec. 13, 2009. Again, it was a wonderful celebration for the kids. Thanks to all the committee members who made it a huge success. They are: Duke Collins, Kathy D’Alonzo, Dan Cosner, John Blondi, Bill Hisey, Jim Bresch, Joe Trumbetti, Chuck Dellavecchia, T.J. Wolfe, Ed Reiser, Dennis Kleiner, Ray Ustman and Sean Newlin.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.

Care Packages for the Troops
L.U. 369 (em,es,lkt,o,rb,ts,spa,uk), LOUISVILLE, KY—The Local 369 office staff collects $1 for every T-shirt, hat, etc. they sell throughout the year—then during the holidays they locate charities and needy members to assist.

For 2009, the staff spearheaded a project to prepare care packages for military personnel stationed overseas who are deployed from this state. With the help of www.anysoldier.com they found several troops from this area to send the packages. Joanne Caple, Ronda Goodin, Kay Profitt and Debbie Roby shopped for items requested by the soldiers. Word of this undertaking spread and the retirees decided to help. Tommie Humphreys, through his connections with Dare-to-Care, acquired 50 cases of snacks, toiletries, etc.

Tommie recruited other retiree buddies with trucks and they delivered four skids of boxes. Several business agents unloaded this massive shipment and the race was on to package everything for shipping to the soldiers for Christmas. We contacted the post office, which brought in extra help to handle approximately 200 care packages for the troops.

Thanks to office staff, business agents, retirees and a few kind citizens, the packages were shipped out in time. Most of all we thank the troops, who risk their lives to keep this country safe. We salute the troops and their families. Godspeed.

John E. Morrison Jr., P.S.

Promoting the IBEW
L.U. 379 (l,okbt), CHARLOTTE, NC—On Aug. 1, 1926, our brothers signed the local union charter application at the historic Hotel Charlotte. On the same date in 2009, officers and members kicked off a new cross promotion with the Hotel Charlotte Restaurant.

Located on South Sharon Amity Road, this stately restaurant of the Queen City for the past 30 years is owned by Steve Black. It has hosted many dining celebrities, most recently Federal Reserve Chmn. Ben Bernanke, named Time magazine’s 2009 Person of the Year. This establishment is adorned by many items from the Hotel Charlotte dating from the 1920s—including the original mahogany bar and solid cherry valet doors. Local 379 historic pieces continue to be added along with other IBEW items, including the Brotherhood’s decals on the front door! We have established the Local 379/IBEW discount, extended to all members of our Brotherhood! A paid-up union dues receipt is all you need to show your server to receive the discount. Since the beginning of this cross promotion, Local 379 has held numerous gatherings at the Hotel Charlotte, and the upcoming charter party will be held there in August. When visiting Charlotte, NC, stop by and bring your local’s waves for display in the restaurant!

Guy B. DePasquale, Historian

This building sets a new level of expectation for design, one that is high-performance from the user’s perspective, as well as from an energy efficient perspective. Occupancy sensors control the lighting, HVAC, and general-use receptacles. Daylight sensors control lighting levels to allow natural sunlight to be utilized. When natural light is not sufficient, lighting levels automatically adjust to assure that lighting levels never fall below 36 foot-candles. The lighting in the common areas and lecture halls is computer controlled for day and night and different scenes.

Energy savings on the lighting alone is figured at 86,200 kilowatt hours annually, a saving of 50 percent. This building is a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) project and scored 48 points, well into “gold” level.

Twin journeyman wiremen and seven apprentices from Local 449 worked on this Code of Excellence project.

Robert J. Biodell, B.M.

Linemen Brighten Holidays
L.U. 457 (u), MERIDEN, CT—In December 2009, linemen from Local 457 brightened the holidays for patients at Connecticut Hospice in Branford by stringing lights on the trees on the property after receiving a request for assistance with decorating the grounds for the holidays. [See photo, below.] The IBEW members volunteered to give up a Saturday morning to work outside in the freezing cold to make a difference in the lives of others. Their generosity is an example of what the holiday season is truly about.

Rich Sank, B.M./F.S.

Service Award Honorees
L.U. 545 (i), ST. JOSEPH, MO—At this writing, work remains slow. The Lost Creek Wind Farm has helped to ease a slow winter for us. New projects in this area are finally starting to bid.

Local 545 held our annual retirees meeting on Dec. 3, 2009. At that meeting we awarded several service pins to our retirees with 50 or more years of service. Receiving 50-year pins were: Martin Lajoie, Henry Ruhrike and Roy Wood. Awarded 45-year pins were: Aubrey Anderson, Frank Roth III and Roger Schultz Sr. Awarded 40-year pins were: Robert Gilmore and Carl Schweder. Martin Logan Sr. received his 70-year pin. We are very fortunate to have so many healthy retirees in our local.

“We are saddened by the passing of Bro. Gary “Gar” Keene, who passed away in August 2009 at age 60. Our prayers are with his family.

Greg Logan, B.M./F.S.


Local 449 members worked on a LEED design-build project for the College of Southern Idaho.
Prospective New Companies
L.U. 557 (c,m,t,564) SAGINAW, MI—The prospect of new companies entering the Saginaw area is a bright light at the end of a long winter tunnel. Some solar cell companies have shown an interest in possibly calling Saginaw their new home to manufacture components geared toward America’s new focus on green energy.

No doubt that the recent work at the Hemlock Semiconductor facility has shown new companies that this area can still support some substantial economic growth. Couple this new work with additional pending expansion due in Hemlock, and things can start to look a bit more optimistic than in previous months. It is no secret that much of the state of Michigan has struggled with a major downturn. Optimism must prevail in order to weather the difficult winter. Frozen temperatures may chill us for now, but let’s try to stay warm in the long run.

Our local was saddened by the sudden death on Nov. 29, 2009, of Bro. Scott MacArthur. He was 54 and suffered a fatal heart attack. Bro. Scott was a remarkable union member and did wonderful things for the IBEW and its members in his time on Earth. He is truly missed.

Evan Alardyce, P.S.

Celebrations a Success
L.U. 559 (Lmar, m/m, U/Spk) SANTA ROSA, CA—The celebration included a southern-style pig roast barbecue dinner prepared by local IBEW/NECA contractors. Door prizes were donated by Local 553.

Joshua Miranda (left) visits with Santa at the Local 569 Imperial County holiday party.

Thanks to the local staff for making both holiday parties a success.

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.

Steady Work Picture
L.U. 651 (L/m,r,564) SANTA ROSA, CA—Our Annual White Castle/Christmas Light installation and breakfast event was Nov. 14, 2009. [See photo, below] The crew was: Mario Candell, Dennis Nicodemus, Rick Delme, Joe Biser, Carmella Biser, Dan George, Skip Seaford, Bill Davies, Steve Smith, Gary Groc, Margie Richards and Committee Chair Ed Moore. Thanks to Robert’s Electric for use of the bucket truck.

The retelies luncheon on Dec. 5, 2009, was well-attended and everyone enjoyed the occasion. Local 683 officers appreciated the invitation to attend and enjoyed the get-together and the great food. At the Dec. 10 union meeting/Christmas party, many prizes were given away including: money, blue jackets and CSU hockey tickets, a rifle, a shotgun and a year of paid dues to some lucky members. Rod Sumner received the Volunteer of the Year Award. We extend condolences to the family of Robert L. Griffin, who passed away Nov. 19, 2009.

We hope this spring our IBEW membership will see an increase in employment to get all members back to work. We also thank the locals that are helping our traveling members with job opportunities.

Rick Deime, VP/PS.

Looking to Spring
L.U. 683 (em/62) COLUMBUS, OH—Our Annual White Castle/Christmas Light installation and breakfast event was Nov. 14, 2009. [See photo, below] The crew was: Mario Candell, Dennis Nicodemus, Rick Delme, Joe Biser, Carmella Biser, Dan George, Skip Seaford, Bill Davies, Steve Smith, Gary Groc, Margie Richards and Committee Chair Ed Moore. Thanks to Robert’s Electric for use of the bucket truck.

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Rick Deime, VP/PS.
certified building in Lake County. It is on track for LEED "silver" level certification, and has potential to make "gold" level.

Local 697 is committed to new technology and training in alternative energy for photovoltaic and wind energy. The project qualified for a $75,000 matching grant from the State of Indiana for a 21.5 KW photovoltaic system supplying "green" power to the site. Local 697 member and LEED accredited professional Tracy Hall helped spearhead aspects of the project. Infrastructure for a future wind turbine is also planned.

The facility features glass walls showcasing main switchgear and low voltage mainframes, with video screens monitoring building performance. The JATC section includes an open-air, third-floor classroom with the photovoltaic arrays manufactured by IBEW members at the Sharp factory in Tennessee and installed and maintained by training center students. LEDs will be used in all exterior fixtures. Completion is scheduled for fall 2010. Progress of the project can be accessed through a link from our Web site www.ibew697.org to a real time webcam online.

Our new home will serve as another proud symbol of our great Brotherhood, and partnership for generations to come.

Raymond E. Kasmark, B.M.

Career of Service

L.U. 723 (em, gov, ct, ts, slk), FORT WORTH, TX—Local 723 sent our good friend Executive Board member and steward Jon Burkhed to his next adventure of retirement. Jon served selflessly as a steward for more than 20 years at United Telephone, Sprint, Embarq, and other service providers. He retired after 20 years at United Telephone, Sprint, Embarq, and other service providers. His service to Local 723 and City Utilities of Springfield, MO.

Dick Wilson, P.S.

National Gas Rodeo Team

L.U. 753 (u), SPRINGFIELD, MO—The Gas House Gorillas team of City Utilities of Springfield, MO, swept four out of five events, while tying for first place in the remaining event at the National Gas Rodeo held Sept. 25, 2009. Teams from across the United States attended the event, hosted by Midwest Energy Association. The team won events that comprised cutting a 6-inch pipe by hand with a wheel cutter; running a gas service; building a meter set; hand digging a vault with shovels; and a relay composed of numerous job-related tasks.

Making it to the rodeo, let alone winning it, was in question shortly before the event. The original team of IBEW Local 753 members Dana Underwood and Adam Joy had been practicing for weeks with coach Steve Holt (who is on honorary withdrawal from Local 753). Underwood and Joy had established the times needed to win the competition and were gearing up to compete when Joy sustained an injury forcing Joy to withdraw and Holt to replace him. This proven ability to work together speaks well for the relationship between Local 753 and City Utilities of Springfield, MO.

Adam Joy had been practicing for weeks with coach Underwood and Joy had established the times needed to win the competition and were gearing up to compete when Joy sustained an injury forcing Joy to withdraw and Holt to replace him. This proven ability to work together speaks well for the relationship between Local 753 and City Utilities of Springfield, MO.

Local 753 Gas Rodeo team members display trophy. From left are: Local 753 Bus. Mgr. Bradley Stokes; rodeo team members Dana Underwood and Steve Holt; and IBEW Eleventh District Int. Rep. Jim Lynch.

Office Building Investment

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Local 1015 members attended their first Code of Excellence class on Nov. 21, 2009. Bus. Mgr. Sergio A. Salinas was the instructor.

“Because of the excellent training and material I received at the Seventh District Train the Trainer class, we received positive feedback from the 21 members who participated,” Bus. Mgr. Salinas said. He notes that the COE will not only benefit existing signatory contractors, “but also prospective new contractors in the Rio Grande Valley.”

Among the 21 participants were 15 first-year apprentices. Bro. William Balsells, one of the first-year apprentices attending, received an outstanding evalu-
A Successful Year
L.U. 1049 (ltt,ut,aca,ow), LONG ISLAND, NY—2009 was another successful year for Local 1049. With the sale of former IBEW 137’s building, we enhanced our General Fund and created a larger, stronger voice for our members. Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand has allocated some of the monies to improve the flow of information for more effective communications with the membership. Future improvements will include a new media center and a memorial garden, where members can reflect on the contributions of past members, as well as contemplate their own role in building the union for present and future members.

We ended 2009 by negotiating a new contract for our Line Clearance Tree Trim members. The three-year agreement includes general wage increases and an employer-funded increase to the Medical Fund. We also successfully expanded our Jurisdiction to include Tree Trimming along the Long Island Railroad.

2010 will be challenging as well. The Long Island Power Authority will put the Maintenance Services Agreement out for bid and National Grid is actively seeking bidders for its Generation and Home Energy Services Divisions. We will also negotiate new contracts for our members who work for National Grid Home Energy Services, Waste Recycling Solutions, and National Grid.

Remember to stay informed: attend the general meetings, visit our Web site www.ibew1049.org, and sign up to receive the “Hot Wire.”

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Union Workers Mobilize
L.U. 1245 (cat,em,gov,lit,ot,pet,tu), VACAVILLE, CA—More than 400 retired and working members set up the first picket line in the local’s 63 years of representing workers at NV Energy. The informational picket, at the company’s Reno headquarters, protested the company’s announced intention of eliminating contractual protections for retirement medical benefits during negotiations for a new contract. The picket action was followed by a candlelight rally with speeches by clergy members and other unions. Although the company and union agreed to a temporary extension of the contract beyond its Dec. 31, 2009, expiration date, NV Energy has shown no inclination to change its position on retirement medical benefits. The union increased pressure on the company over the Christmas 2009 holiday season by placing full-page ads in all the major newspapers in northern Nevada. In the ad, headlined “NV Energy: Honor Your Promise to Workers,” leaders of Nevada’s faith community called on company executives “to keep their word.”

The local is gearing up for bargaining over the clerical agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric, which expires at the end of 2010. The bargaining committee met to strategize for mobilizing members, and the union plans joint educational meetings with company negotiators to study issues underlying the negotiations. Members can submit bargaining proposals this spring at unit meetings.

The local’s mobilization against privatization at the City of Redding helped force the city council to back off of a sweeping plan to outsource IBEW jobs to the private sector. The union engaged in a wide-ranging campaign against the privatization plan, including radio talk shows, paid radio ads, a city hall rally, testimony before city officials, etc. The local remains on high alert in Redding, where some city leaders are still pursuing an outsourcing agenda and where two proposed ballot measures would target retiree benefits.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

Training Success
L.U. 1253 (llt,ut,aca,ow), AUGUSTA, ME—Congratulations to Rick Broad, Pat Dauphinee and Harry Lyons for their success on the EPRI certification exam taken on Dec. 12, 2009, following the JATC sponsored instrumentation course.

Twelve Local 1253 members had the opportunity in December to participate in comprehensive wind turbine tower training sponsored by signatory contractor Larkin Enterprises Inc. and Maine’s North Star Alliance. Training consisted of composite and safety training, both in the classroom and hands-on. This included tower rescue, thanks to access provided by First Wind. Participants included: Justin Alberico, Tim Bickford, Pat Cameron, Lany Drake, Chris Dunlop, Tim Dyer, Pete Fish, Steve Foster, Tom Graham, Chris Moore, Pete Poulin and Steve Tracey. Recent retirees include Greg True, Everett Scott, Dave Weed and Tom Smith. We thank each for their many years of dedicated service to the local union and the industry.

William Gifford, P.S.

Hawaiian Telcom Update
L.U. 1357 (llt,ut,aca,ow), HI—Hawaiian Telcom filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy on Dec. 2, 2008, in an attempt to reorganize and reduce its debt. On Nov. 13, 2009, bankruptcy judge Lloyd King ruled to confirm Hawaiian Telcom’s proposed Plan of Reorganization, without modification. The confirmed “Reorganization Plan” will reduce the debt from $5.5 billion to $300 million and will assume the collective bargaining agreement, as well as the funding of the pension plan. This will make the company a more vibrant competitor as it emerges out of Chapter 11.

Local 1357 Bus. Mgr./V. Sec./Sec. Scott Long stated, “We’ve always supported the business plan. The longer we are in Chapter 11, no one benefits.” By the time you receive this, Local 1357 will have elected local union and unit officers for the 2010-2013 term of office, as well as delegates to the 37th IBEW International Convention. We wish Godspeed to our staff and elected officials, and we welcome the chance to continue to build strong leaders and a strong work force for Local 1357. With contract negotiations and state elections coming up soon, 2010 will be a busy year for us, and we look forward to working with Hawaiian Telcom and T&TE.

Karenann Wedge, P.S.

A ‘Living Local’
L.U. 1359 (llt,ut,aca,ow), ME—We at Local 1359 are part of a what I like to call a “Living Local.” Our membership is working to assist, support and encourage those in other locals who are laid off, while being friend and family to our own local members. Generosity is a beautiful blessing for both the giver and recipient. We are still looking for experienced relay technicians. These are good jobs with great pay and benefits. We seek to increase our membership with qualified craftsmen. Even in this market, we have trouble filling these positions. If you know a qualified relay technician, please pass this message on. We also strive to be a leader in safety. The Blue Hat safety program is being implemented on Entergy Arkansas and Alliant properties due to its success in 1947’s jurisdiction on the Amener, Missouri, property. Increased partnerships with the employers foster a better relationship with the employees and members. We have excellent leadership in St. Louis and throughout Local 1359. Without the skill and dedication of the rank and file, our local could not thrive. We are proud of the Local 1359 members. They are generous, people of character and committed to making the IBEW better, one good job, one good deed, at a time. Please remember all those bravely serving our country to protect these inalienable rights.

Ken Carrol, P.S.
Michael Walter, B.M.

Officers Elected
L.U. 1359 (les,ema,mp,pet,tu), BALTIMORE, MD—Our local held its election of officers in December 2009. Local 1359 officers elected to guide the local for the next three years are: Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Rostkowski. Elected to the Executive Board: William Guthrie, Vice Pres. Fred Richards, Treas. George Broad, Pat Dauphinee and Harry Lyons for their service to the local: Clarence Fletcher, Curt Hudson, Dawn Furlough, Jane Daisey and Richard Adams.

Local 1359 congratulates four members who retired last year: Hubert “Pie” Phillips, William Moore, Linda Hardesey and Donna Sterling.


Bro. Moore started at Delmarva Power as a meter reader in 1972, advanced to engineering fieldman and retired June 1, 2009. Sister Hardesey worked at Delmarva Power since 1972. She retired as a clerical associate in Fleet Services and the Substation Department on June 1, 2009.

Sister Sterling started at Delmarva Power in 1966. She most recently worked as a protective equipment tester in Salisbury and retired on Feb. 1, 2009. Best wishes to all for a happy retirement.

E.D. Sparks, P.S.

Local Lines

Local 1245 line workers from nearly 20 employers gather at Weakley Hall in late 2009 for a two-day safety summit, convened by Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzelle in the wake of three job site fatalities during the year. During a general discussion, Local 1245 Safety Committee member and SMUD electrician Art Torres, standing at right, offers his perspective to the group.
Vice Chmn. Jason Strawhorn, Recorder Robert Taminelli; and Executive Committee members Neil Becker, Delaney Burkart, Bob Denhardt, Walter Plesniak and John Phillips.

Our thanks to Election Committee members—Earl Brown Jr., Kathy Doyle, George Noble and John Zebroski—for their time and hard work.

Bus. Mgr./Pres. Guthrie states that the officers and stewards of the local will continue to do the utmost in protecting the jobs and working conditions of our members. He also stated he is proud to have won by such an overwhelming majority (93 to 1) and has just successfully stood for his 4th straight election covering more than 40 years.

Thomas Raszkowski, R.S.

**Union Solidarity**

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—I know it’s early but we go back to the negotiation table in one year, and a year can go by quickly. Get out your contract book and read it; it is your lifetime to your job benefits. Back when our local was started, a lot of time was spent putting our first contract together. So start thinking about it for the good of the union. Without your input there would be no union. Without your solidarity, there would be no union. We the members are the union. With the economic slowdown, things are tight. So far we have weathered the storm. We all have things that we would like to have in the contract for the better of the union. The earlier we begin, the better we will come out next year.

The IBEW members with the electrical department of the City of Coffeyville, KS, ratified their new contract unanimously, with a slight wage increase on their “wage only” third-year opener. The city was hit hard with the flood of 2007 and is still recovering. Congratulations to Amy Pointer, a new apprentice meter person. Good luck on your new venture, Amy.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

**Actions Can Solve Problems**

L.U. 1759 (80), AUGUSTA, GA—IBEW has the best electricians a contractor could ever want. We learn a variety of skills within the electrical industry and we pass those skills to our apprentices. If only being the best in what we do would count for 100 percent of the grade. Our IBEW members are well-trained—that is not a problem. The problem is sometimes coming in late, leaving early, not showing up at all and complaining about working outside. Electrical work is everywhere and we don’t have bankers’ hours.

If we all showed up to work on time, did our jobs and went home at the end of the day, that would help strengthen union contractors, increase our market share and benefit our membership.

In the nonunion world, the electricians are not trained to do quality electrical work. However, they are good at working every day and not complaining about where they work. In the Augusta area, they have the largest market share.

We can help solve our problems by simply doing what we are supposed to do. There are very few in the IBEW that this applies too, but one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch.

Until next time, God bless.

Will Sallters, A.B.M.

**New Projects Scheduled**

L.U. 1721 (I,NE), CLEVELAND, OH—Two major new projects have been awarded. The Cleveland Public Power Authority is planning a new $20 million power plant for the city of Cleveland, which will help reduce emissions and improve air quality. The project is expected to be completed by 2023.

The project will be managed by the city’s Department of Public Works. The city has committed $10 million to the project and will provide a bond guarantee for the remaining $10 million.

**Funds Raised for Food Bank**

L.U. 1799 (80), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—IBEW Local 1799 and 1678, Sudbury, presented a donation of $1,300 raised by fellow IBEW electricians for the community of Callander, Ontario, Food Bank. The donation was presented during a Christmas party held at Lulu’s Bar. [See photo, above.]

Trade unions working at the new North Bay Hospital organized the event to help those less fortunate. This was the second year in which union electricians were able to assist the local community of Callander.

A big thank-you goes out to everyone who attended the event and contributed to the fund-raiser.

Frank Kastle, P.S.

**Generosity of Membership**

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—Bus. Mgr. Dave Keating thanks all Local 2325 members who participated in or donated to the 2009 Toys for Tots campaign. The generosity of our membership during the 2009 holiday season surpassed all our previous efforts. Local 2325 raised more than $3,000 and donated some 600 toys to the program. Thank you to the U.S. Marine Corps for its ongoing work with this wonderful program.

We also thank our COPE Committee for their hard work during the 2009 municipal elections and the Massachusetts special election for U.S. Senate. A highlight of our COPE efforts was the election of Local 2325 member Dave Cormier to the City Council in Leominster. The election of union members to political office is the only way to ensure unwavering political support for the labor movement. The best way to get our members elected is by supporting the IBEW’s COPE efforts.

Political action must be part of a greater overall strategy if we have any hopes of holding on to what we have earned and securing greater gains in the future. Get involved in your local and remember that our union is as strong as our weakest member.

Paul Mark, P.S.
In Memoriam

Members for PBF Death Claims were Approved in January 2010

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<td>Smith, J. H.</td>
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<td>Brown, J. E.</td>
<td>12/18/1931</td>
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<td>Morgan, J. L.</td>
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Under the requirements of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA) as revised, your union is advising you of your rights as a federal sector union member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. These rights are as follows:

**Bill of Rights**

As a local union member, you have:
- Equal rights to participate in union activities
- Freedom of speech and assembly
- A voice in setting rates of dues, fees and assessments
- Protection of the right to sue
- Safeguards against improper discipline

**Collective Bargaining Agreements**

Union members (and other employees affected by the agreement) have the right to receive or inspect copies of collective bargaining agreements.

**Constitutions, Bylaws and 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 the Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS). Unions must make these documents available to members and permit members to examine the records necessary to verify the financial reports for just cause. The documents are public information and copies of reports are available from OLMS and on the Internet at www.union-reports.dol.gov.

**Officer Elections**

Local union members have the right to:
- Nominate candidates for office
- Run for office
- Cast a secret ballot
- Protest the conduct of an election
- Run for office.
- CAST A SECRET BALLOT
- PROTEST THE CONDUCT OF AN ELECTION
- NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE
- RUN FOR OFFICE
- RUN FOR OFFICE.
Double-Talk on the Recovery Act

When Congress passed President Obama’s $787 billion stimulus package last year to help revive the economy, a grand total of three congressional Republicans—out of a total of 218—voted for it.

The GOP denounced the bill as irresponsible big-government spending. But as an article in the Washington Times (a conservative paper, by the way) recently pointed out, this didn’t stop many of those same lawmakers from seeking out Recovery Act money for their own districts.

The article points to a letter from Missouri Sen. Christopher Bond—a vociferous critic of the Recovery Act—to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack requesting stimulus funds for a project that he said would “create jobs and ultimately spur economic opportunities.”

Bond’s colleague in the House, Rep. Joe Wilson—best known for his “You lie!” outburst during Obama’s first address to Congress—also had no problem petitioning the federal government for stimulus money for his South Carolina district, despite his public opposition to the stimulus plan.

All told, more than 90 Republican lawmakers—all opponents of Obama’s bill—stealthily tried to steer federal stimulus monies to their own districts.

And many more made sure to boast to their constituents about all the stimulus funds and new jobs they brought home—all thanks to political strategists in the halls of Congress.

Genuine political differences are one thing; sheer hypocrisy is something else.

Most economists agree that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped save the economy from sliding into a new Great Depression. The three best known economic research firms all estimate that the bill added nearly 2 million jobs and saved millions more.

While the stimulus bill helped to prevent total disaster, we all know more must be done.

Now Congress is debating a new jobs bill. Is the GOP serious about joining together in a genuine bipartisan manner to do what it takes to create jobs? Or will it continue to play political theater for the beltway crowd and their own extreme right-wing base? Fifteen million unemployed Americans will be watching.

FROM THE OFFICERS

IBEW at Fulcrum of Nuclear Revival

It’s more than fitting that President Barack Obama chose Local 26’s apprenticeship training center outside of Washington, D.C., to deliver the exciting news on Feb. 16 that he was approving billions of dollars in federal loan guarantees to build two new nuclear reactors in Georgia, the first to be built in the U.S. in three decades.

Since the late 1980s, more than 300 members of Atlanta Local 84 have operated two reactors at the Plant Vogtle nuclear facility adjacent to a site that was cleared last year for the new ones. The diligence, responsibility, productivity and respect for safety of the existing work force provide a strong template for the new members who will be hired to bring the reactors online. But this news sweeps in a much broader spectrum of the work force.

Because of our activism, the trades are on the cusp of signing a project labor agreement with the Southern Company that will put thousands of union construction workers to build the reactors once they are approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As you can see from the front page story of this issue, the IBEW is involved in all phases of the push toward a greener energy future, and we believe that nuclear power is a crucial part of the mix.

Nuclear has its critics who are already saying that massive cost overruns will lead to default on loans, or that safety and operational problems could put us in greater peril.

These critics don’t know the IBEW. They don’t know the exemplary performance of thousands of members in nuclear plants and construction sites across the nation. They will soon. Brothers and sisters, we have brought huge construction projects in on time and under budget in every corner of our continent. Our charge is to match that pursuit of excellence in all aspects of the Georgia project.

Our union has taken decisive steps with our partners in industry and academia to establish new nuclear training programs to replace thousands of our most skilled workers who are nearing retirement. Our success at Plant Vogtle will be measured by the yardsticks of a swift learning curve and a bold, timely and safe startup.

Getting people back to work will be done not in one fell swoop but in many smaller actions. The loan guarantees are an important step forward for both a sensible energy policy and jobs.

Edwin D. Hill
International President

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International President

The Electrical Worker was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NB EW 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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Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

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HOW TO REACH US

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

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: medai@ibew.org

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The Electrical Worker will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

Past advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: P.O. Box 503

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Helping Hands

I was excited to have the opportunity to help construct and wire a Christian school in Chinandega, Nicaragua, for two weeks, along with 29 other volunteers. It was hard work, but fun. We ran PVC conduit for switches, lights, fans and receptacles. It was challenging because we did most of the electrical work in the block and concrete structure that had already been completed. They did not want any conduit or boxes exposed, so we had to do a lot of saw cutting and chipping with pickaxes and hammers. All of the boxes and conduits that were in the walls were mortared in place once installed. After we installed several conduits in the floor, we poured a new concrete floor in the school. All of the concrete and mortar we used was made on site, mixed and poured by hand.

Donald C. Schroeder, III
Local 236 third-year apprentice, Albany, N.Y.

Honoring the Heroes

I want to acknowledge and thank all of the tradesmen at the Elm Road Generating Station (Oak Creek power plant), Bechtel Construction Co. and the IBEW for their generous support of the Homes for Our Troops project in the town of Eagle and for the many care packages they send to our local soldiers serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In these hard economic times, I am proud of my union brothers along with the support of their employers for giving back to the community. They know how fortunate they are to have a job and their generosity towards worthy causes when the “hard hat” is passed is a shining example of what sharing and being thankful is all about.

Let us never forget that the men and women who answered the call when our country came under attack make it possible for all of us to live and work in freedom.

Patrick E. Cain
Local 494 member, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Why it Matters

I have been troubled by the news of Hershey Chocolates moving its production from Hershey, Pa., to Mexico. My wife and I have totally banned purchasing any Hershey to support our local, Local 245 member, Toledo, Ohio.

Steven C. Dunaway
Local 245 member, Toledo, Ohio

Deep Sea Lures
New Jersey Member

Last year was deadly for New Jersey fishermen, with 21 losing their lives at sea. But when a vessel goes down in the ocean, finding out what happened is nearly impossible, leaving family members without an explanation and ship owners without the evidence they need to back up their insurance claims.

The U.S. Coast Guard has a limited capacity for underwater investigations. So when questions arose over the cause of the March 2009 sinking of the scallop trawler Lady Mary off Cape May in southern New Jersey, they turned to an eight-man volunteer deep sea diving team—a team that included Folsom, N.J., Local 351 member Capt. Steve Gatto—to reconstruct what happened in the pre-dawn hours before the North Carolina-based boat vanished beneath the waves.

“There was no water where the boat's transponder emitted a signal,” said Capt. Gatto. “The evidence, presented before a Maritime Board of Investigations, could end up not only clearing the names of the seven-member crew (only one survived), but help the boat’s owner—who lost two sons, a brother and a nephew in the tragedy—reap some of his substantial financial losses.

A Passion for the Sea

An inside wireman since 1988, diving has been Gatto’s passion since he first saw Jacques Cousteau’s television series as a child. “I knew it was something I wanted to do,” he said.

Growing up an hour from the New Jersey coast, Gatto took up diving soon after graduating high school. Initially it was just a hobby, exploring historic shipwrecks off the East Coast, including a World War II-era German submarine and the SS Andrea Doria, a famous Italian ocean liner that sunk off the coast of Massachusetts in 1956.

The Thomas Hebert, a 94-foot tugboat that mysteriously sank in 1993, turned the avocation into serious business for Gatto.

He had once worked for the tow company that owned the Hebert and was concerned that the ship’s crew—five of whom died in the accident—was being unfairly scapegoated for the accident.

“I called up the owner and offered my services,” Gatto said. After locating the wreck, Gatto and his partner Tom Packer quickly found evidence that the sinking was likely the result of an encounter with a third vessel.

“The Hebert was towing a 344-foot barge, and based on how the wreck was positioned, I’m confident that a submarine hit the tow cable and pulled the tug down backwards into the water,” Gatto said.

The crew was eventually exonerated based on the evidence presented by Gatto and Packer, but the culprit still remains a mystery. “It was never pinned down what did it,” he said. Gatto’s renown has grown to the point that he is now considered one of the leading shipwreck investigators in the mid-Atlantic—and he does it all in his free time.

“We do this on our own nickel and dime,” he said. “I’m grateful to have a job that gives me some flexibility.”

He has appeared on the History Channel’s “Deep Sea Detectives” program and is writing a book on the sinking of the Thomas Hebert. “I can guarantee it will be a great read,” wrote veteran Titanic researcher David Bright on his blog.

Making the Investigation

Finding the wreck itself is often the most difficult and time-consuming task. Fishing vessels are required to broadcast their location every half-hour using an electronic marker, but a ship can travel miles in that time period.

When they reach the wreck, their first job is the grimmest—recovering the bodies of the victims. “Fishermen are a tight-knit family, and a sea tragedy can take multiple famil

ies members at once, so we want to help the family with some kind of closure,” Gatto said.

Then the crew carefully photographs and videotapes the wreck. “It’s like any other crime scene,” he said. “You don’t want to disturb the evidence until everything is recorded.”

To find out more about Gatto’s book go to www.tugboatdown.com.
This is a summary of the annual report for the INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS’ PENSION BENEFIT FUND, (Employer Identification No. 52-0933994, Plan No. 003) for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**Basic Financial Statement**

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were $12,370,377. These expenses included $10,767,469 in administrative expenses and $1,613,200 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 450,143 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was $1,390,780,853 as of June 30, 2009 compared to $1,368,620,935 as of June 30, 2008. During the plan year the plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of $416,260,592. This decrease includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan’s assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of $304,672,317, including employee contributions of $331,302,371, losses of $165,277,460 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of $189,372,460.

**Your Rights to Additional Information**

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant’s report;
2. Assets held for investment; and
3. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers’ Pension Benefit Fund
907 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Summary Annual Report for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers’ Pension Benefit Fund

**IBEW FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP**

**AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS**

The IBEW Founders’ Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steer the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for $200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate’s, bachelor’s or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is $24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

**RULES FOR ENTRY**

**Eligibility Checklist**

Founders’ Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an Honorary Withdrawal for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant’s achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete personal résumé is required. The résumé should outline education and work history, any special honors or awards, military service, involvement in union, local, civic, community or religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay. The title and topic must be: “How the Founders’ Scholarship will benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the electrical industry.” The essay must be typed and double-spaced.
7. Applicants must submit a test score from the SAT I or the ACT. NO OTHER TESTING SERVICES ARE ACCEPTABLE. Archived scores or new test registration may be obtained by contacting: SAT (www.collegeboard.org) or ACT (www.act.org). To send scores directly to the IBEW Founders’ Scholarship, the code numbers are 9455 for SAT and 0697 for ACT. It is strongly suggested that any new test taken should be the SAT I.
8. Materials need not be sent at the same time but must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

**Selection of Winners**

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals.

The independent Founders’ Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in the Electrical Worker.

**Responsibility of Each Founders’ Scholar**

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in their next term or, at the latest, in January of the following year. Each winner’s earned grades must be sent to the Founders’ Scholarship Administrator, together with a Founders’ Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founder’s Scholar paper is due. It must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school. If a serious life situation prevents continued studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

**APPLICATION**

Name __________________________ Telephone # _________
Address __________________________
City/State __________________________ Zip/Postal _________
SS/SIN # __________________________ Birthdate __________ Member of local # _________
Card # __________________________
Initiated into IBEW ________________
Most recent employer ________________________________
Job classification __________________________ Work telephone # _________
I wish to study for a __________ degree in
Field of study must contribute to the development and improvement of the electrical industry as determined by the Founders’ Scholarship Administrator.
List your first and second choices for school:
1. ____________________________ 2. ____________________________
Did you complete high school or the GED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.
Did you have the opportunity to take apprenticeship or skill improvement training? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send transcripts or your course to the Scholarship Committee.
Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.
Have you taken any college courses? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send transcripts of all college courses to the Scholarship Committee.
Name used on class records
When did you take the SAT I or the ACT? (Month/Year)
To submit new test scores, it is strongly suggested that you take the SAT I. We will use your highest score; therefore, it is in your best interest to retake the test.

*Signature* __________________________
Date __________________________

Mail application materials postmarked prior to May 1 to:
IBEW FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
907 Seventh Street, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Form 172
Revised 01/10