

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Vol. 5 | No. 2 | February 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 | *New tools attract new work*
Verizon ordered to maintain lines
- 4 | *North of 49°*
- 5 | *Organizing Wire*
Circuits
- 6 | *Local Lines*
- 14 | *Retiree Local Lines*
- 17 | *In Memoriam*
- 18 | *Editorials*
- 19 | *Letters to the Editor*
Who We Are

Tennessee Community Challenges Plant Shutdown



Members of Sparta, Tenn., Local 2143 lead a walk on Jan. 8 to protest the planned shutdown of the Philips lighting fixture plant. They were joined by International President Edwin D. Hill and community leaders.

use energy-efficient LED bulbs. The line will move to Mexico after it becomes productive.

"It was the way they pulled the plug on us," says McCurry, 56, president of Local 2143, recalling several successful rounds of negotiations over the years to keep the doors open on a plant that has not seen a union-led work stoppage in 30 years. Distribution costs have been cut by 60 percent and defective parts by 95 percent over the past four years.

This time, Philips' big shots showed up, accompanied by security men with earphones and delivered the death warrant for one of only two manufacturing plants left in a county whose unemployment already nears 15 percent. Then, they quickly escaped out the back door.

The Philips announcement was immedi-

Bo McCurry had spread concrete on construction sites for 15 years when he went searching for a three-month job to get him through the winter. He got hired at Thomas Lighting's fixture manufacturing plant in Sparta, Tenn. That was in 1988.

McCurry never left. There, he met his future wife, Donna, joined Sparta Local 2143 and a family of union workers and managers that has been celebrated for its progressive relationship and productivity, contributing to

the factory's designation as one of the top 10 manufacturing plants in North America in 2009 by Industry Week magazine.

On Nov. 11, the McCurrys—who share 50 years of seniority at the plant—were blindsided when representatives of the plant's owner, Netherlands-based Philips Luminares, showed up at the factory to announce that it would be shut down. Most of the work performed by 130 bargaining unit members and 170 others will be transferred to a new plant under construction in Mexico.

Just two months ago, Sparta's work force was awarded the "Lean Manufacturing Cup," for efficiency, by Philips. Soon they will begin making fixtures that will

Philips At A Glance

A multinational company, established in 1891 in the Netherlands, Philips has 127 production sites in 29 countries with sales and service outlets in approximately 100 countries. The company has 115,924 employees.

Among a long line of consumer products, Philips produces the popular Sonicare electric toothbrush and AVENT appliances for baby feeding. The company purchased naming rights to the Atlanta arena that is home to the NHL's Thrashers and the NBA's Hawks. Philips promotes a "green" image on the Web. ■

PLANT SHUTDOWN *continued on page 2*

Go "Green!"
with our e-Edition

Get your Electrical Worker delivered each month via e-mail. It's convenient & helps cut down on paper waste.

Go to www.ibew.org and sign up today!

Please recycle this newspaper.

Continued from page 1

Tennessee Community Challenges Plant Shutdown

ately met with an unprecedented demonstration of unity and resistance in Sparta. Local 2143 Business Manager Jerry Pryor—supported by servicing staff, Tenth District International Representative Brent Hall—joined with business, community and political leaders in Sparta to keep the plant from making the alarming list of 50,000 U.S. manufacturing plants that have shut down over the last decade.



Local 2143 President Bo McCurry and his wife, Donna, share 50 years at the Philips plant.

A Rescue Attempt

A purchase proposal for the plant was prepared by state and county agencies, banks and the Sparta-White County Chamber of Commerce, supported by plant manager Dave Uhrik. Despite documenting the advantages to Philips of continuing a supply of products from Sparta, the company turned down the offer.

The regional industrial board is now considering appropriating \$20,000 in travel and other expenses for community leaders to continue their advocacy with congressional leaders and Philips executives. Sparta officials estimate that the closure would negatively impact 2,500 total jobs, including the supply base and affected community services.

On Jan. 8, International

President Edwin D. Hill joined Local 2143 members, political and business leaders at a rally to send the message far and wide: “Keep the lights on in Sparta!”

A Loyal Work Force

“Our goal is to stop this shutdown,” says IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Randy Middleton. “Here’s a foreign-based company that has already received more than \$7 million in U.S. federal stimulus grants and contracts literally throwing away loyal workers and managers who have bent over backward to do the right things in Sparta.”

Philips has announced that some of the production currently performed in Sparta will be sent to Philips’ Day-Brite plant in Tupelo, Miss., which employs more than 300 members of Local 1028. By challenging the Sparta shutdown, says Middleton, the IBEW is also standing up to prevent Tupelo from being the next runaway shop.

In an editorial published in the Netherlands newspaper *Eindhovens Dagblad*, President Hill points to the progress that has flowed from labor-management participation in Sparta, where workers’ compensation claims for injuries on the job have decreased as both sides have committed to building a safer, healthier workplace.

Plant Manager Uhrik and IBEW Business Manager Pryor were recognized in a January 2010 Industry Week story for their joint efforts to establish a health risk assessment and screening plan, employing an on-site nurse practitioner for early detection of serious employee medical problems. Pryor says his life was saved by an early cancer screening.

Newly-elected Sparta Mayor Jeff Young—whose mother was one of



Local 2143 member Dwayne Pendergraph gathers with co-workers at a January rally. Pendergraph worked at a Carrier’s plant in Morrison, Tenn., until it closed in 2005, when production shifted to Mexico.

Thomas Lighting’s first workers when the plant opened in 1963 and spent 46 years on the assembly line—has been working with state and county officials to figure out ways to help workers who could lose their jobs. Young toured the plant and learned the production costs for fixtures.

A Fine Product Line

“I’ve been in business myself for 28 years,” says Young. “I can’t for the life of me figure out how—with those low production costs—it makes any sense to spend millions of dollars to move this plant to Mexico.”

Weighing an average of 12 pounds each, the Sparta plant’s fixtures can be shipped to a majority of customers within one day. Labor costs are only 4 percent of total plant costs. Plant sources say the move to Mexico will cost an estimated \$35 million. One piece of equipment alone will require six semi-trucks and months to transport.

Three years ago, White County’s industrial board issued Philips a \$5 million loan and local union leadership negotiated a new pay scale revising incentives on work that is now automated to help the company finance the installation of a new steel stamping press.

International Representative Hall, a former president and current board member of the Tennessee Labor-Management Foundation, remembers a roundtable discussion that preceded Industry Week’s top-ten listing of the Sparta plant. “They were

Standing in Unity to Say ‘No’

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill marched with Sparta Local 2143 members on Jan. 8. Here are some excerpts from his remarks.

“You—the managers, the line workers and the greater community of Sparta—are the ones who are responsible for this facility’s profitability, its success and its serving as a model of what American manufacturing should be. And you have as strong a stake in this facility as the faraway decision-makers of Philips.

When does America say enough? When do all of us—working people, management, political leaders and small business—stop letting ourselves be divided and start working together to change things? In Sparta the answer is clear—this community is standing in unity to say no. And if we keep fighting for these jobs and for this community, then maybe it will inspire others to do the same. And—step by step—we can restore the broad prosperity and pride that were the hallmarks of the American dream.”

mesmerized,” says Hall, who personally promoted the plant’s products.

Hall and local union leaders contacted Tennessee Commissioner of Labor James Neeley when they heard that Volkswagen, which was building a new plant in Chattanooga, planned to order lighting for the facility from out-of-state sources. As a result of the union’s lobbying, Volkswagen, which received significant tax breaks and other incentives from the state, agreed to purchase fixtures from the Sparta plant.

“I work with a lot of good people who clock in on time every day and do a good job,” says Dwayne Pendergraph, who works on the automated strip line. “When the boss comes down and needs something done, we do it.”

‘Something’s Got to Give’

This is Pendergraph’s second bout with outsourcing to Mexico. He, his wife and in-laws, members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 483, worked at Carrier’s industrial heating and cooling products plant in Morrison, Tenn., which shut down in 2005.

“My whole family has already taken a hard lick,” says Pendergraph. “A lot of people here at Philips will be going through what we did. It’s frustrating. We’re doing our damndest, but the carpet keeps getting pulled out from under us.”

“Something has got to give somewhere or, before too long,” McCurry says, “our senators and congressmen will have to move their offices to Mexico or China.”

Corporate Decisions Abroad

Philips plant shutdowns abroad have led to significant worker resistance. Workers in Turkey demonstrated against a plant closure in 2008. Last February, a French court ruled that Philips’ closure of a plant in Dreux, in the nation’s northwest, was illegal, ordering the company to reopen the facility.

Philips had sent workers at the Dreux plant a letter on a Saturday, notifying them that the plant would be shut down the following Monday. The letter restated the terms of the company’s final offer in negotiations with their union—either accept severance pay or transfer to a plant in Hungary at a reduced salary. Philips demanded that the workers be fluent in Hungarian to transfer. ■

Recovery Agreements Aid Organizing in York, Pa.

Steve Selby, membership development coordinator for York, Pa., Local 229, checked out International President Hill's interview on recovery agreements (*The Electrical Worker*, Dec. 2010) while visiting the IBEW's Facebook page.

In the interview, President Hill described how the new job classifications of construction electrician and construction wireman have been developed to help locals increase market share, making signatory contractors more competitive, and increasing employment opportunities for journeymen and apprentices.

After reading a few of the posted comments that accused the International union of undermining the job security of journeyman wiremen by establishing new classifications, Selby had to respond.

"Such negativity!" posted Selby, who went on to talk about how Local 229's utilization of construction electricians and construction wiremen has helped to organize nonunion electrical contractors, increasing the local's share of small commercial jobs that members—who work primarily on heavy industrial and power house projects—had rarely performed.

Selby and Business Manager Matt Paules knew firsthand how difficult it had been to sign nonunion contractors in "top-down" campaigns before the introduction of recovery agreements.

Many contractors were impressed with the IBEW's training, but all of their employees couldn't easily fit into journeyman and apprentice classifications.

"We were turning potential members away and missing the possibility of organizing contractors because we simply did not have a classification to fit the potential member or all of the potential members at a given contractor," says Paules. It was time for organizing to conform to the market model in York.

Years ago, Paules, a former organizer, and his predecessor, Jim Dougherty, took a look in the mirror and decided that new strategies were needed to grow the union.

Dougherty knew that utilizing new classifications was essential. Paules will always remember Dougherty's response to skeptics.

He said, "When Henry Miller was organizing the union, he didn't ask if workers were journeymen or apprentices. As long as a guy had a bag of wire nuts, they brought him in under the IBEW flag."

The local adopted the Pennsylvania Initiative's small works agreement in 2006, which included the CE/CW classifications. In 2007, Paules traveled to Miami to join organizers from across the country to launch the Florida Initiative, returning home with some new tactics.

Local 229 held industry nights—recruitment fairs for nonunion electricians and contractors—with decent participation, but most of the local's 22 CEs and CWs were brought in over the last six months as the local has deepened its use of recovery agreements.

In 2008, the local signed Pro Electric, a small nonunion contractor. While most of the company's original crew worked in alternative classifications, the company is now



A York, Pa., Local 229 composite crew installs solar panels at Kohl's department store in Hanover. Journeyman wiremen Shane Reese, left, and Bob Cidor are joined by apprentices Klinton Kohler, Wes Copenhaver and Chase Stewart and construction wireman Ron Hilbert.

primarily employing journeymen, apprentices and teledata technicians and winning bids on federal and state prevailing wage projects.

"Without the new classifications," says Paules, "we never could have signed Pro Electric in the first place."

Using new classifications, Local 229 recently signed Stewartstown

Electrical Service, a light commercial and residential service contractor, and another employer that specializes in residential and solar jobs.

Selby joined the local seven years ago after working for the area's largest nonunion contractor.

"We haven't sold our journeyman jobs down the river, like some on Facebook accuse," says Selby.

Every local union, he says, needs to figure out how to make recovery agreements work. "It's about our bread and butter," he says.

Selby said workers in new classifications are given 30 days of work with a signatory contractor based upon their test scores. Some have proven to be unsuitable workers and were terminated. But others have excelled and entered the local's apprenticeship program.

Jeremy Shultz, a 25-year-old journeyman and a member of the local's executive board, joined Selby on Facebook defending the CE/CW program. Shultz says, "I understand that a lot of local unions don't have full employment like ours, but we landed jobs through integrating these guys that we wouldn't have gotten."

"The trash talking isn't helpful," Shultz says. "We need to be smart about the future and keep crew costs competitive." ■

Mass. Attorney Gen. to Verizon: Fix Your Landlines

When dozens of Verizon's landline customers in 99 small towns in Western Massachusetts had their fill of poor service, static on the lines and dead dial tones, they contacted the state's Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

Springfield Local 2324's Business Manager John Rowley Sr., representing workers at Verizon, and his members had a decision to make. They knew better than most that the copper infrastructure was the culprit. The only options were to join hands with Verizon's disgruntled customers or just watch and listen from the sidelines at public hearings set up by state regulators.

"Ultimately I knew the only way to effectively deal with the situation was to become a participant in the proceedings. If the members wanted to speak out, they could not," says Rowley. Workers at utility companies lack whistleblower protections and could be disciplined for testifying about poor service, so Rowley carried the ball for them.

"I believed that this was our chance for the union to show that we are not just in our communities for ourselves," says Rowley, who filed the formal petition to intervene in the investigation.

As a direct result of Local 2324's intervention, Verizon agreed to a settlement in late December with Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley that provides for significant improvement to its infrastructure and network in Western Massachusetts. The settlement is pending approval of the DTC.

"Reliable telephone service is crucial to every household and business in Massachusetts," said Coakley. "Parts of Western Massachusetts, which lack wireless service and access to other landline service providers, rely solely on Verizon's landline service for access to emergency services and in order to conduct business and daily communications."

The settlement agreement, which will be presented at a public hearing, compels Verizon to immediately survey and complete all repair work in 33 wire centers serving 65 municipalities and to improve the condition of the network

in 34 additional wire centers within 15 months. Verizon will submit quarterly reports on progress, which will be monitored by the Attorney General's office. "Every wire center is getting a good going over," says Rowley.

"Having the opportunity to work side by side with the Attorney General's office on behalf of Western Massachusetts consumers has been a tremendous experience," says Rowley. "In the long run, it is the customers that will benefit from everyone's efforts." Massachusetts residents, he says, are fortunate that the Attorney General's department includes an Office of Ratepayer Advocacy.

After the announcement of the settlement agreement, says Rowley, even members who were skeptical about the local's intervention are beginning to see the benefits of the victory for the customers.

Some of the western region's towns have only 500 citizens. With nearly 3,000 square miles in Local 2324's jurisdiction, building public support for private-sector unionism is challenging. The local's intervention could be an example for other telecommunications and utility locals facing similar consumer demographics and service issues.

"Find out who has regulatory authority in your area," says Rowley. "Get the customers involved. If they make phone calls and send e-mails, things can happen. Fifty e-mails mean next to nothing. Five hundred start a fire," he adds.

"This is an incredibly unique opportunity. When we take a stand and back up our words with action, we make a lot of friends," says Rowley. At the same time, he says, "I have tempered optimism that the union and the company will continue to work together now and in the future." However, he says, success isn't possible without the willingness to try.

Bob Erickson, International Representative, IBEW Telecommunications Department, says, "The efforts of John Rowley and Local 2324 demonstrate the powerful benefits of working with state officials to resolve issues that affect not only our members, but the customers we serve." ■



First District Protests Privatization of Canada's Nuclear Agency

An emerging coalition of labor unions and elected officials is mobilizing against the ruling Conservative Party's efforts to sell off Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., the national nuclear agency, which employs more than 70,000 Canadians.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was able to sneak a series of controversial privatization measures—including one which mandates the sale of AECL—into his government's budget bill, which was passed last fall.

By incorporating the measure into an omnibus budget bill, Harper made it difficult for opposition MPs to vote against it without threatening the stability of the government. Under the parliamentary system, a vote against the government's budget is viewed as a vote of no confidence, which would set the stage for a new round of elections. Bringing down the government was not an appealing option for many campaign-fatigued MPs and voters, who have endured three national elections in less than six years.

"Harper manipulated the system by including this item in the budget," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "He's trying to sell off a key component of Canada's energy portfolio with minimal debate or public input."

The concern is that privatization will put thousands of jobs and future investment in nuclear technology in Canada at risk.

Rob Sheppard, president of the Society of Energy Professionals, one of the unions that represents AECL employees, says in a statement that, "Canada has a wealth of nuclear expertise and knowledge that is renowned worldwide, and we feel it is imperative that this technology and the thousands of good jobs it creates must remain Canadian."

First District International Representative Peter Routliff, who testified against the sale before a special Senate subcommittee last fall, questions whether a private investor would have the expertise and funds necessary to maintain AECL, in particular the special CANDU reactors—a Canadian-invented pressurized water

reactor used in nuclear power plants.

More than 70 Deep River, Ontario, IBEW Local 742 members work for the nuclear agency's Chalk River reactor—jobs which could be put at risk by privatization.

Hundreds of other IBEW members who work in the nuclear industry could also be affected by the sale.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 Business Manager Ross Galbraith represents workers at the

Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station, which, while owned by NB Power, uses an AECL-produced CANDU reactor.

"Our main concern is whether a private entity would maintain the resources needed to support this technology," he says. "CANDU is a unique Canadian technology and we don't want to see it abandoned."

The sale also met some opposition in Ottawa. Sen. Pierrette Ringuette

(New Brunswick) teamed up with other senators to oppose the measure last fall.

"The survival of AECL is crucial to Canadians; whether for its medical isotope production for millions of Canadians, or its nuclear energy production, which supplies half of Ontario's electricity," she says in a statement.

Ringuette introduced a bill that would limit the government's sale of

AECL to only 30 percent of the agency's assets.

Routliff says the First District is leading a grassroots education effort to help keep the agency in the government's hands.

"This puts thousands of good jobs and the nuclear energy industry in Canada at risk, so it's vital that every IBEW member lets their MP know how they feel," says Vice President Flemming. ■

Les sections locales du Premier District protestent contre la privatisation de la Société nucléaire canadienne

Une nouvelle coalition a été formée par des syndicats de métiers et des députés élus afin de se mobiliser contre les tentatives du Parti Conservateur de vendre *Énergie atomique du Canada limitée* (ÉACL), la société canadienne d'énergie nucléaire qui emploie plus de 70,000 canadiens.

Le Premier Ministre Stephen Harper a réussi à faufiler une série de dispositions controversées sur la privatisation—notamment celle prévoyant la vente d'ÉACL—dans le projet de loi budgétaire de son gouvernement passé l'automne dernier.

En incorporant la disposition dans un projet de loi omnibus, Harper a rendu la tâche plus difficile aux députés de l'opposition, sachant qu'en votant contre cet item, la stabilité du gouvernement pourrait être menacée. Selon le régime parlementaire canadien, un vote contre le projet de loi budgétaire est considéré comme un vote de non confiance, préparant ainsi la voie à de nouvelles élections. Renverser le gouvernement ne représentait pas une option désirable pour plusieurs députés, épuisés par les campagnes et pour les électeurs qui ont dû supporter trois élections nationales en moins de six ans.

« En incluant cette disposition dans le budget, Harper a réussi à manipuler le régime. Il essaie de vendre un élément clé du portefeuille énergétique du Canada sans qu'il y ait le moindre débat ou consultation publique » déclare Phil Flemming, Vice-président international pour le Premier District.

Notre plus grande inquiétude c'est que les enjeux entourant la privatisation auront un lien direct sur des milliers d'emplois de même que sur les futurs investissements dans la technologie nucléaire au Canada.

Ron Sheppard, président de la *Society of Energy Professionals*, un des syndicats représentant les employés de ÉACL déclarait ce qui suit dans un communiqué : « Le Canada est renommé à l'échelle internationale pour son expertise et son savoir dans le domaine de l'industrie nucléaire et nous estimons qu'il est impératif de conserver cette technologie et les milliers d'emplois qu'elle permet de créer au Canada ».

L'automne dernier, le confrère Peter Routliff, représentant international pour le Premier District, a témoigné devant le sous-comité sénatorial spécial contre la vente de ÉACL, questionnant les probabilités qu'un investisseur privé puisse avoir l'ex-

pertise et les fonds nécessaires pour maintenir ÉACL, plus spécialement les réacteurs de puissance CANDU, des réacteurs modérés à eau lourde mis au point au Canada et utilisés pour les centrales nucléaires.

La privatisation pourrait aussi entraîner la perte d'emplois de plus de 70 membres de la Section locale 742—FIOE de Deep River, en Ontario, travaillant à la centrale nucléaire de Chalk River.

Des centaines d'autres membres de la FIOE oeuvrant dans le domaine de l'industrie nucléaire pourraient également être affectés par la vente d'ÉACL.

Le confrère Ross Galbraith, Gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 37 de Frédéricton, au Nouveau-Brunswick qui représente les travailleurs de la Centrale nucléaire de Point-Lepreau, se dit très préoccupé par la situation car bien que la centrale appartienne et soit exploitée par Énergie NB, elle comprend un réacteur de puissance CANDU conçu par ÉACL.

« Est-ce qu'une entité privée aura les ressources nécessaires pour développer une telle technologie? C'est ce qui nous inquiète le plus car la conception et la technologie de pointe des réacteurs CANDU est unique au Canada et nous ne

voudrions pas qu'on laisse tomber ce programme » dit-il.

Le sujet de la vente d'ÉACL a aussi amené une réaction négative à Ottawa l'automne dernier alors que la sénatrice libérale Pierrette Ringuette du Nouveau-Brunswick, ralliée à d'autres sénateurs, exprimait son opposition à cette disposition.

« La survie de *Énergie Atomique du Canada Limitée* est cruciale pour les Canadiens, tant pour la production d'isotopes médicaux nécessaires à des millions de Canadiens que pour la production d'énergie nucléaire qui fournit plus de la moitié de l'électricité de l'Ontario » a-t-elle déclaré.

Madame Ringuette a présenté un projet de loi qui limiterait la vente d'ÉACL par le gouvernement à seulement 30% des actifs de la société.

« Le bureau du Premier District mène une campagne d'éducation populaire afin de maintenir la société au sein du gouvernement » dit le représentant Routliff.

« Des milliers d'emplois rémunérateurs et toute l'industrie de l'énergie nucléaire au Canada pourraient être en péril. Il est donc primordial que chaque membre de la FIOE s'adresse à son député afin de lui faire part de ses préoccupations » conclut le Vice-Président Phil Flemming. ■

Organizing Wire

Savvy Online Campaign Yields Victory for N.Y. Can Plant Workers

A unique campaign to boost membership in New York may be a harbinger of future efforts to strengthen workers' voices on the job, where laptops can be as important as leaflets.

Nonunion workers at Anheuser-Busch InBev Metal Container Corp. in Newburgh, who make cans for Budweiser beer and other brands, were worried about their futures after the company was sold in 2008 to a Belgian group. Employees reached out to New City Local 363 last spring

for support—but the fear of captive-audience meetings, harassment and other actions by the employer left many at the plant wary of how to press forward without management sidelining their efforts.

So organizers got crafty and set up a special blog strictly for the 164 employees to debate, strategize, air concerns and ultimately come together for victory, all while avoiding many of the union-busting tactics so common in most campaigns.

Lead organizer Sam Fratto said the anonymous nature of the site—where workers did not have to use their real names—ensured that

employees could express their views and ask questions without the threat of reprisals from management.

"This was basically like having a 24-hour-a-day union and campaign meeting," said Fratto, who serves as the local's senior assistant business manager. "It got the workers involved and allowed people to weigh in with questions and concerns before or after their shifts. It showed that they didn't have to be afraid to speak their minds."

Rick Lewis, a 20-year veteran of the plant, said the blog "made the impossible possible."

Fratto said, "They were afraid to talk among themselves on the floor. They'd tried organizing the plant a few years back with a different union, and the bosses retaliated—they even fired some folks. But this time with the blog, nobody's jobs were in jeopardy because management couldn't single out who was for or against the union.

"It also became apparent to us that the company knew about the blog and was monitoring it daily—but we didn't have anything to hide, so that didn't matter," he said. "What mattered was that people felt comfortable coming forward with their ideas about how to build a better workplace."

The company set up its own version of a site—but it lacked two-way communication, only plugged the company's talking points and fell flat with the work force, Fratto said. And despite management's efforts to hone in on pro-union workers, captive-audience meetings couldn't refute what the workers were reading on Fratto's blog.

"They can't top this," Fratto said. "The company tried to get people to spill info about the campaign, but the workers just stayed silent. And since nobody's wearing T-shirts or handing out stickers or fliers, who could they put the pressure on? Nobody."

Fratto started the blog last June with a straightforward post titled "Fellow Can Plant Workers: Follow Us Here."

"In these tough economic times, it is very stressful for every middle-class family when it comes to worrying about work or what will happen at work," he wrote. "It is less stressful when you work under a written contract. This election will be successful because it is being handled by the



New City, N.Y., Local 363 set up a blog to help workers at the Anheuser-Busch InBev Metal Container Corp. organize their workplace.

workers themselves—as a group. Check back here frequently for updates, information and the truth."

A word-of-mouth buzz about the blog grew, and Fratto's flagship post generated more than 200 comments, most of them positive.

"Thank you for creating this," wrote one commenter. "I believe it is what we need to balance out what we are told during the workday by management."

"This was basically like having a 24-hour-a-day union and campaign meeting."

— Sam Fratto, lead organizer

Another wrote, "This site is great. We need a safe place away from work to share our thoughts."

The next few months ushered in a fluid campaign, a successful election last August—where more than 75 percent of the work force signed cards—and what Fratto calls a productive round of negotiations in December, where negotiators raised issues regarding disciplinary procedures, overtime, scheduling, medical leave and other policies.

Employee Joe DeStefano, 49, has been at the plant since it opened in 1988. He said there's been a sig-

nificant change in staff/company relations that he hopes will carry through to a collective bargaining agreement and beyond.

"Management has been treating us respectfully and things are going pretty smoothly right now," DeStefano said. "People are working together better than before the campaign. The common goal right now seems to be more focus on doing things right and making our plant the best that it can be.

"We want to show the company, and the country, that we are unique, dedicated, focused, skilled and willing to make our plant an example to all—to show that the IBEW workers at Newburgh are willing to strive for perfection and achieve excellence in all that we do," he said.

Local 363 officials said they are impressed with the tenacity and camaraderie of the new members.

"They understand the power associated with having a written contract to work under," said Business Manager/Financial Secretary John Maraia. "The workers knew they had to take steps of their own to protect themselves. We are glad they had the courage to take those steps and we welcome them into the IBEW."

Fratto invites the entire IBEW membership to visit this blog and "offer encouragement to these brave members."

Send your own message of solidarity to the workers while they negotiate their first contract by visiting www.canplant.blogspot.com and posting a comment. ■

Circuits

Vermont IBEW to Plant Opponents: Don't Distort the Facts

Leaders from the 1,200-member Montpelier, Vt., Local 300 recently hosted a press conference to demand politicians and environmentalists stick to the facts on Vermont Yankee's safety. The local represents 160 employees of the nuclear plant, as well as approximately 50 electricians working for subcontractors on site.

The event came on the heels of a Vermont Department of Health report that found no significant adverse health effects to the public as a result of Vermont Yankee's operation. Montpelier Local 300 President George Clain, Business Manager Jeffrey Wimette and several workers—both union and nonunion—shared their stories. Vermont Yankee's operating license expires in 2012 and must get a green light from the state legislature to be renewed.

"When deciding the fate of one of Vermont's most vital employers, we cannot rely on inaccurate information and political spin," Wimette said. "Our members are on the ground every day and know what is really going on at Vermont Yankee and that it is indeed a safe place to work."

According to the report, health outcomes in communities surrounding the plant do not differ substantially from other regions. What's more, the cancer rates in Vermont Yankee's emergency preparedness zone are lower than in the county as a whole, the state and the country. Fish, soil, water, milk and sediment samples exhibited no radioactivity outside historical range.

"I've worked at Vermont Yankee for almost nine years—the last three as a reactor operator—and simply wouldn't be there if the place were unsafe," said Vermonter Michelle Joy. "The DOH report is no surprise to those of us on the inside who use our industry-leading training to keep the plant running smoothly and reliably."

Leading up to its May 2010 refueling outage, Vermont Yankee produced 5.3 million megawatt hours of electricity around the clock for 532 consecutive days—the second longest run in the plant's history. Designated one of the best places to work by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the facility received the Department of Labor's Green Mountain Voluntary Protection Program STAR award for its exemplary safety record.

"As well-intentioned as they may be, some in the public eye have cast Vermont Yankee as a threat to the public's safety," Wimette said. "A thoughtful look at the facts says otherwise." ■

Local Lines

JATC Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The San Francisco Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee conducted completion ceremonies for the Inside Wiremen and Sound and Communication classes of 2009 and 2010.

The graduating apprentices celebrated their achievement well. Congratulations to the graduates:

Inside wiremen 2009—Leno Bellomo, Richard Almer, Justin Bonner, Ceferino Alvarez, Kevin Boyle, Klifford Breuker, Marcello Brignardello, Nicolas Burroughs, Akim Carson, James Calgaro, Peter Cerimeli, Gaetano D’Amato, Michael Doherty, Robert Hansen, Michael Doyle, Qui Ly, Daniel Garcia, Jimmy Ma, Scot Kingshill, Jonathan Martinez, Troy McCabe, Anthony Nunsiale, Michael McDermott, Patrick Schroff, James Moylan, Stephen Sweeney, Laura Pagan, Saul Urquilla, Ian Phelps, Christopher Wilson, Robert Schueszler, Lawrence Toboni, Israel Tzaig and Sean Walsh.

Inside wiremen 2010—Martin Bac, Paul Arnold, Donald Bernal, Erik Byberg, Cyrus Blue, Yong Bang Cai, John Carlin, Matthew Connolly, Eugene Cooper, Jeff Cooksey, Gavin Klippel, Henri Elkaim, Barry McDevitt, Anthony Guerrero, Jesus Nevarez, Sai Xiong Kuang, Daniel O’Connor, James Lagomarsino, Benjamin O’Leary, Chris Lane, Raul Pena, Michael Lauster, Luz Maria Rodriguez, Phillip Lera, Edward Sherron, Andrew Logue, Dwayne Wilson, Nathan Lotspeich, Kevin Wong, Bryan Oliver, Joseph Wright, Nathan Smith, Ernie Tam, Jonathan Thorsen, Lev Tourubaroff, Keith Whooley and Wesley Wong.

Sound & Communication 2010—Juan Johnson, Jason Miller, Askia Muhammed and Pavel Serdyuchencko.

Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.

Labor Museum Volunteers

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—More than 150 Local 8 members participated in a picket at Willard/Kelsey on Nov. 11, 2010. Within just a few hours, one of the owners and the chief financial officer met with us and discussed area standard wages for work performed on their projects. They agreed to work with us on projects that are scheduled in 2011. A big thank-you goes to all Local 8 members who participated in the picket. It was an impressive demonstration.

Many Local 8 members have been volunteering at the Labor Museum in Monroe, MI, over the past year. Thank you to all those members who have donated their time and talent to such a wonderful cause.

The Hockey Fundraiser held Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, was a huge success—and a great way to celebrate another Buckeye win! The prize money winners were: for \$1,000—Dan Crook; \$600—Lee Arnott; and \$400—Charlie Condon and Chip Hammer.

As we all know, work remains slow in our jurisdiction, but please remain positive as the new year ahead should bring a better outlook and many more opportunities.

Terry “Shorty” Short, P.S.

Community Service

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—Local 12, in Pueblo and southern Colorado, is proud to represent union electricians to the broader community by lending a helping hand to the Salvation Army and the United Way. Through the volunteer efforts of members in our area and the United Way Electrical Upgrade Program, families with electrical needs are being helped. “This program is a great way to reach out to the community and lend a helping hand” said Albert Herrera, Local 12 organizer. There is also a drive to help remodel the existing Salvation Army; kitchen, bathroom and shower facilities are having electrical upgrades. Thanks to all those who are giving of their time.

Clif Thompson, A.B.A.

Fantasy of Lights Volunteers

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Brotherhood and the spirit of Christmas were certainly alive and well when dozens of caring members contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to make the 17th annual Ritz’s Fantasy of Lights possible. Fantasy of Lights is the premier fund-raising event for the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. More than \$2 million has been raised since the show began. This has provided more than 60,000 hours of physical therapy for handicapped children and needy adults in the Evansville area. Thousands of dollars can be spent to advertise the skills, abilities and attitudes of the IBEW, but nothing demonstrates them more effectively than the commitment to our community. Thanks go out to all the volunteers. Special thanks to members Nick Vaught, Ben Ippock and Josh Quinn for their willingness to supervise setup and nightly maintenance needs.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Scholarship Applications

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—In this new year, we are working hard to gain employment opportunities for our members and hope the economy will continue to turn around.

It is also time to look into the Local 26 scholarship for any members whose children are eligible to apply. The scholarship award is \$2,500 per year for up to four years of college. Visit the Local 26 Web site www.ibewlocal26.org for specific information and to download an application form. Applications may also be obtained from the union hall. Please call (301) 459-2900 to request that one be mailed to you. The deadline to submit applications is March 31.

The following members passed away since our last article: Louis M. Slye, Oscar R. Sweet and Roger E. Harris.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Lambert J. Barclay, Michael R. Fowler, Ronald J. Ferguson, Raymond W. Jones Jr., Jerry L. Price, Ronald L. Warrick, Timothy J. Waters, James F. Burke, Walker T. Clark, Philip C. Comploier, Roger E. Golden, Larry A. Hedrick, Leo E. Howell, Mark J. Milam, Donnie Parson, Gregory P. Pritchett and Gary A. Stepler-Krieg.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Annual Golf Benefit

L.U. 34 (em,i,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—We at Local 34 wish everyone a happy new year. First, a bit of news from last fall. Local 34 held its annual golf outing in September 2010 at Laurel Greens Golf Course in Knoxville, IL. The turnout was outstanding as usual and we raised \$5,777.71 for Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Oct. 22 was our annual awards banquet at the Itoo Hall in Peoria, IL. The banquet is always a great event for members young and old to reminisce and meet new people. Local 34 congratulates all our members who received an award pin.

Finally, back to the new year. The work in Local 34 is showing signs of life as of this writing, despite approximately 20 percent of the membership on the books.

2011 seems to have a better work outlook with signatory contractors being awarded several big jobs including the Bass Pro Shop and Kroger remodels.

Remember to be safe and God bless.

Greg Wroblewski, P.S.

Holiday Lighting Project

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Bus. Mgr. Gil Steele thanks the 120 members of Local 38 who descended upon downtown Cleveland to light all four quadrants of Public Square in a single day. Even though it was a brutal Cleveland weather day, that did not stop the steadfast members and their families from installing thousands of holiday lights and decorations in the allotted time period—and having a fun time doing it. It is quite a display that everyone can be proud of. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Zenith Electric was awarded the \$45 million electrical contract for the new Medical Mart and Convention Center. At this writing, the project was scheduled to begin soon on some disconnect and make-safe work; separating the electrical systems between Public Hall and the old Convention Center; and installing the new switchgear.

2011 is shaping up to be a much better year with some of the big projects that are coming our way such as the new Eaton Building, Cleveland Clinic Data Center, East Bank Flats project, Fairview Hospital job and the Cleveland Casino.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



Among the 120 Local 38 members and officers who volunteered to light Cleveland Public Square are, from left: Steve Ruitto, Executive Board member Mike Shingary and Tarrah Kempffer.

Holiday Social Gathering

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—On Dec. 9, 2010, Local 42 held their “Christmas Smoker” event. Congratulations to the following members who received pin awards for their years of service with Local 42:

For 60 years of service—Leonard White; for 55 years—George Brede; 50 years—Charles Nichols,

Trade Classifications

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

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

Aubrey Pharmed, Gus Von Matt; 45 years—William Bernier, Thomas Bosely, Roland Jackson, Alvin McCartney, James Neuland, Burt Smith; 40 years—James Bowen, Russell Moffitt, Gregory Palakewitz, Paul Retting, Gary Roberts, Leonard Roberts, Louis Schilb, Donald Schultz, Frank Skut, Thomas Ulinskas; 35 years—Thomas Schweitzer; 30 years—Marshall Eagan, Louis Faraci; 25 years—Gilles Belanger, Stanley Lada, Gene Parenteau, Dennis Prue, Gerald Shaw; 20 years—Thomas Capodagli, Michael Cardoze, Michael Gneiting, William O'Donald, Joseph Samatoski, Christopher Shane; 15 years—Edward Avery, Stephen Belanger, Robert Bolton, James Brellis, Keith Burns, Craig Clinton, Sean Hallinan, James Henderson, Steve Ouellet, Robert Pelletier, Israel Rivera; and 10 years—Christopher Barker, Joshua Benson, Dennis Coughlin, Robert Currie, Mark Dlubac, Matthew Hand, Donnie Langley, Jay Martz, John McLellan, Mario Mendes, Ernesto Perez, Joseph Rivera, Manuel Rodrigues, Robert Rutkowski, Darren Shinkle, Robert Stella and David Stewart.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, Mbr. Services

Organizing New Members

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st) SEATTLE, WA—Local 46 has had numerous successful organizing drives this year! We welcome our new members from KCTS (a PBS station) as well as on-board technicians who maintain and repair Talgo trainsets in our region.

At this writing, 27 clerical and technical employees from KCTS have worked toward a new contract for eight months with only a few issues left.

As of press time, Talgo on-board technicians' negotiations have just begun and members are ready to roll up their sleeves and secure a much awaited contract. Their patience paid off, as they waited a full year before the National Labor Relations Board granted an election. Despite the long wait, as the NLRB and the National Mediation Board determined jurisdiction, they voted to certify Local 46 as their bargaining agent.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employees were also organized through the Federal Labor Relations Act. This unit will be moving to Newport, OR, so will be represented by Local 932 out of Coos Bay.

Meanwhile, area school district administrators use current budget crunches to justify no wage increases for IBEW maintenance staff. Unfortunately the union and the district administrators differ on how to adequately address such budget concerns. Wasteful spending could be addressed before depriving members of fair wages. Union teachers face these challenges as well, alongside our IBEW maintenance members.

Angela Marshall, Rep.

World-Class Intel Expansion

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—Intel Corp. announced plans to invest \$6 billion to \$8 billion in Oregon, Arizona and New Mexico. Construction will soon begin to upgrade the Hillsboro, OR, facility. According to Mike Rogoway at The Oregonian, Intel also plans to build a new chip manufacturing facility for processor research and manufacturing with capacity for significant expansion.

The Oregonian also reported that the projects will create 6,000 to 8,000 construction jobs as well as 800 to 1,000 long-term factory jobs. The bulk of

those jobs will be in Oregon where Intel's wages and benefits average \$120,000 a year.

"It is an investment in Oregon; it is an investment in the citizens of this state," said then-Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, in the last months of his final term. "Thank you all very much for believing in us." It is the belief in union workers that challenges IBEW members to perform at a world-class level.

INTEL is bucking the business trend of moving U.S. production offshore by making an investment here. To honor that commitment, we need to consider Intel our business partner and strive for continued success in a highly competitive business sector. This is a challenge we gladly face.

Robert Blair, P.S.

Investing in Our Future

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—It is time to remind ourselves that we sometimes make our own future. A recent Labor Tribune article was a re-post of a 2004 writing by John Gray entitled, "A Day in the Life of Joe Middle-Class Republican." You can hear Thom Hartmann's version of it by putting that title into your favorite search engine online, and enjoy the rant!

Our future really is influenced by what we do today and what we choose to purchase today. Local 68 provides an appropriate message with "Made in USA" toys for the children at our annual Christmas party. What could be better than stimulating the American economy while encouraging family?

Don't forget your two-cent's worth. Please donate to COPE each time you pay your dues. Two cents per hour worked is not much out of your pocket, but it adds up to making a huge investment in our future by helping to elect worker-friendly people, and by helping to pass worker-friendly legislation.

We extend deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers:

Robert J. Tyler, Phillip Vessa, Enrique Estudillo, Donald Spittler, Robert G. Ingram, Robert G. Shinall, Charles D. Terry and Hubert Harrison.

Ed Knox, Pres.

2010 Graduating Class

L.U. 76 (c,i,rts&st), TACOMA, WA—On Aug. 27, the Southwest Washington JATC held a dinner for the 2010 graduating class.

Local 76 welcomes our new inside construction journeymen: Jared Anderson, John Bryson, Kyle Carlson, Josiah Carossino, Norman Cook II, John Eisenbacher, Doug Fletcher, Javier Gandara, Ricardo Garces, Isaac Green, Kevin Johnson, Guillermo Gonzalez-Herrera, Chad Lanstrom, Dwayne Lee, Jeff Linger, Josh Marquez, Torey Mielke, Mark Mitchell, Bryan Nyman, Sasha Owens, Greg Owens, Darrell Paimateer, Dean Pitsch III, Rustam Popkov,

Jeff Reinmuth, Marie Schlotterer, Lindsay Sturn, Steve Thompson, Omar Trujillo Ortiz, Dan Vailencour, John Vasak Jr., Jeremy Williams and Ralph Wright. Welcome also to our new residential journeymen: Max Ladenburg, Pavel Lutsyuk, Mark McGunagle, Spencer O'Galleher and Jordan Shumate. And our new low voltage journeymen: Brad Baker, Jennifer Cowlshaw, Austin Elliff, Bryan Gamble, John Herin and Casey Peterson.

We congratulate these new journeymen and wish them long and successful careers. We also wish to recognize Torey Mielke as winner of the 2010 western states apprentice competition.

Mac McClellan, P.S.

Early Winter Work Picture

L.U. 80 (i&o), NORFOLK, VA—Work through the early winter has continued to be good, with near full employment for our members.

A large project in the western part of our jurisdiction looks to continue to grow through the spring, as do several smaller projects throughout the jurisdiction. You must be registered in ERTS in order to work through Local 80 if you are traveling.

Local 80 made a generous donation to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots during the holiday season. Approximately 75 toys were donated to Toys for Tots through Bayside Harley Davidson in Portsmouth, VA.

Dennis Floyd, P.S.



Local 80 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dennis Floyd, Bus. Mgr. Matt Yonka, and Ray Perry, vice president and general manager of Bayside Harley-Davidson, note success of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive.

Green Energy Strides

L.U. 82 (em,i,mt&rtb), DAYTON, OH—With fewer opportunities in this struggling economy, Dayton is striving to be the leader in the green energy field.

Among the few contractors in Local 82 working with renewable resources, Kastle Solar and Wind stands out. Kastle Solar and Wind is the green energy division of Kastle Electric, family owned and operated for 85 years.

As a two-year old venture, KSW is making great strides. KSW recently completed a commercial project consisting of a 528 panel, 1.19 kw solar photovoltaic array; it also has six 7,000 watt inverters and one single three-phase AC output. This project was for the Main Field Distribution Center of the Dayton Daily News in Kettering, OH. The project took 5½ weeks of manpower to complete. Members who worked on this project were: Tony Granato, Jason Hardin and Sean Roberts, all journeyman wiremen who are NABCEP trained, and one apprentice.

The company worked with Schott Solar PV Inc. All materials are American made; all panels are also American made, coming out of a company based in Albuquerque, NM. KSW also has several other projects in the works—a 264 panel, 60 kw array that will supply its personal shop; and two elementary schools in Adams County, OH.

Kastle Solar and Wind and Local 82 are doing great things in the green energy field. Local 82 also has five trainers for solar classes: Sean Roberts, Phil Carter, Dick Brooks, Nick Comstock and Jason Zimmer. We also have approximately 60 trained installers.

Clare Raiden, P.S.



Local 82 members working with Kastle Solar and Wind installed solar photovoltaic array at the Dayton Daily News Distribution Center.

Service to Country

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—Winter is here and we are awaiting some needed projects to begin.

Local 90 held its annual Christmas children's party last December with more than 200 in attendance to celebrate the holiday with Santa and enjoy entertainment for the families. Thanks to our Christmas committee for all their hard work to make this event a success.

The retirees had their annual Christmas luncheon, also well attended by our retirees and their spouses. They always put out a good spread and have a lot of laughs.

At our December union meeting we welcomed home two members from their duties in the armed forces. Brendan Toth had served in the U.S. Army since 1977 and was part of Iraqi Freedom. He received numerous commendations and held the

rank of command sergeant major. He retired from the Army in December.

John Coggshall also served in the U.S. Army for the past seven years with two tours in Afghanistan under his belt. He has earned the rank of sergeant, and soon will earn the rank of husband. He got engaged when he got off the airplane in Connecticut. The entire membership thanks both of these brothers for their bravery and service protecting our great nation.

Sean Daly, Pres.



Local 76 graduating class of 2010 gathers for a celebration.

Local Lines

Annual Pin Night

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—Local 96 held its annual pin night, awarding years of service and honoring the following retirees: Gary Leavenworth, Norbert Perduta, John Alatalo, Robert Briggs, Kenneth Desautels, Rodney Dwelly, Richard Lanney, Raymond Looney, Samuel McQuoid, Wayne Gentile, David Wyman, David Wright, William MacFarlane and Richard Roy. Congratulations, brothers, and enjoy retirement.

The kids' Christmas party was a jolly time again this year. Families enjoyed magical live entertainment, face painting and a gift from Santa for all the children. The local thanks everyone who helped make the day special for the children. Among those who helped were: Jennifer Blake, Dana Mrozinski, Bus. Mgr. Leo Miller, Pres. Robert Fields, George Carpenter and David A. delaGorgendiere.

The votes have been tallied and Massachusetts made it through another election and remains a blue state. Although we lost some seats in the House and Senate, we stood strong. Thanks to all members for voting.

For more information visit us online at www.ibewlocal96.org.

Luke E. Carpenter, Treas./P.S.

Apprentice Boot Camp Graduates

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Congratulations to all of the apprentices from Local 104 who graduated our boot camp #21 in October 2010.

The Northeastern Apprenticeship and Training committee and Local 104 put all of their apprentices through a six-weekend-long boot camp to teach apprentices how to climb, pole setting, framing, knot tying and rigging. The apprentices do all of this training at our membership development training center in Barrington, NH. They are given 40 hours of practical hands-on training to learn how to climb. After they pass their climbing test, they become a



Local 104's boot camp #21 graduates pose on pole. Standing below, from left, are instructors Scott Shuttlesworth, journeyman lineman from Local 104; Kevin Place, apprenticeship coordinator, Local 104; Jack Skilton, assistant director for N.E.A.T.; and Britton Page, fourth-step apprentice, Local 104.

certified safe climber with N.E.A.T. They also get all of their safety classes during this time: CPR, First Aid, Pole Top/Bucket Rescue and OSHA T&D 10-hour class. So when the graduates are called to go to work, all of their certifications are up to date.

In the accompanying photo, among those posing on the pole are Local 104 boot camp #21 graduates: Richard Forsythe, Caleb Bragg, Stephen Cenedella, Kristopher Dimercurio, Jasper Dustin, Derek Mohn, Kyle Tyrrell, Michael Collins and Marc Hooke. Congratulations to all the graduates.

Chris Blair, P.S.



Local 106 retirees assist with the archived photo project: Tom Eckberg (left), Bob Samuelson, Jim Clement, Gene Ross, Doug Stock, Larry Ross, Bruce Boardman and Bill Pihl.

Training Center Expansion

L.U. 106 (catv,govt,i&spa), JAMESTOWN, NY—Local 106 members are proud to announce we have completed our \$1.5 million building expansion project in Jamestown, NY. The project came in one month ahead of schedule and under budget. The building includes a new meeting hall, conference room, five classrooms and a high bay area.

With the addition of a new solar array and green building technology, we received the "Award for Innovative Energy Initiatives" presented at the 2010 Chautauqua County Energy Conference by Greg Edwards, our county executive.

On another note, we put a call out to our retirees to help track down our local history and to fill in some of the blanks as they go through our archived pictures. In recent years, our members have brought in pictures to archive and some of the photos are from the early 1900s. We need to make sure we know where we come from so we can move our local forward. The retiree group that meets at our local every month has really come together to get it done! Thanks again to all our retirees for what they've done in the past to move our local forward into the future.

Dave Painter, P.S.

Longtime Organizer Retires

L.U. 112 (c,i&st), KENNEWICK, WA—Bob Vandecar, Local 112's original organizer, retired effective July 1, 2010. Bob has served as organizer since 1988. He served for four business managers during his time as organizer. Bob's many accomplishments, to list just a few, include: organizing the Ash Grove Cement Plant in Durkee, Oregon; organizing the Demil workers at the U.S. Army incinerator site in Hermiston, Oregon; helping many non-signatory contractors become signatory; and, of course, organizing countless non-represented electrical workers. Bob was one of the first organizers in the late 1980s when the IBEW reaffirmed its commit-

ment to organizing. Good luck in retirement to Bob and his wife, Elaine. You will be missed, Bob.

Recently, Local 112 has made an effort to increase attendance at union meetings. At our November 2010 meeting, we had a noticeable increase in attendance due to the efforts of J.J. Elgin and T.J. Carter, who texted many of our apprentices and reminded them of the meeting. We hope the trend of increased attendance will continue. Thank you, J.J. and T.J.

At this writing, we have 45-50 on Book 1 with a few calls coming in. We have only been able to put out a few from Book 2 and do not expect any change until spring.

Joe Legard, Organizer

'Jobs for Alabama' Campaign

L.U. 136 (ees,em,i,rtb&u), BIRMINGHAM, AL—We have been fortunate to have work during the last couple of years, working traveling brothers and sisters as well. Thanks to them for their help.

Our "Jobs for Alabama" campaign is ongoing to protest our city and state projects that

allow contractors to work illegals on their jobs.

We also have an ongoing multi-local organizing campaign with a major non-signatory southeastern electrical contractor. We have been working with the other locals involved to show this contractor that we can man his projects with skilled IBEW members and keep them profitable. We have already proved this on one project utilizing a small-works ratio. Organizing this contractor would open up many job opportunities across the districts.

The local welcomes two new contractors. AC&E Electric is doing some work at Mercedes Benz; and thanks to our members, we're getting some work previously done by non-signatories. We also welcome McWilliams Electric, a minority owned contractor that hopes to pick up some City of Birmingham work that requires minority participation.

The key to getting and keeping this work is for us to go out and be professionals—go to work every day, be on time, work steady and be safe.

Bobby Hamner, P.S.



Local 136 organizers discuss picket rules with University of Alabama at Birmingham police officers.

Energy Center Update

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—Our first-year apprentices recently completed a four-week Saturday "boot camp." This is new to Local 146 and was

greatly needed. Thanks to Training Dir. Jason Drake and to Jason Brummitt for bringing this training.

The Illinois House approved the Tenaska Taylorville Energy Center in December 2010, but the legislation stalled in the Senate and at press time was scheduled to be brought back up in January of this year. We hope to be able to report good news in the future. This is another prime example of the importance of electing labor-friendly candidates when we go to the polls and vote.

The Future Gen project has apparently been moved to Meridosa, IL. Although this is in another local, it is still good news that the project is still being considered. There is nothing further on the Secure Energy project.

We extend deepest sympathy to the family of 52-year member Gene Winterbauer, who passed away. Gene was a greatly involved member, who was always willing to help out in any way he could. He will be truly missed.

Rich Underwood, P.S.

Service Pins & Chili Cook-Off

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—At our recent Christmas union meeting service pins were given out to members with 50, 55 and 60 years of service. The following members received 50 year pins: Roger Ankley, Robert Boettle, Tom Curley, Ted Dell, Ed Hood, Bill Kirk, Art Rasmussen Sr. and John Rottman. Rudy Peshman and Harry Preuss received 55 year pins and Ken Breitung and Ted Galvani received 60 year pins. Combined that is 630 years of service among 12 men! Quite an accomplishment and many thanks to each of you for all of your years of service.

Scholarship applications are available at the Hall. There are also 2008 Code Books on sale for the rock-bottom price of \$20 a piece until they are gone. First come first serve so you'd better hustle! The JATC is still offering update classes on a variety of subjects.

The 4th annual Local 150 SPARKS Chili Cook-off will be held Feb. 20, 2011, at A.J.'s Horsin' Around Bar. The address is 114 East Washington Street in Round Lake Park, Illinois. Start time is 1 p.m. and the donation is \$10 or \$5 if you bring a pot of chili! This event is a lot of fun.

See you at the meeting.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Green Bay Light Display

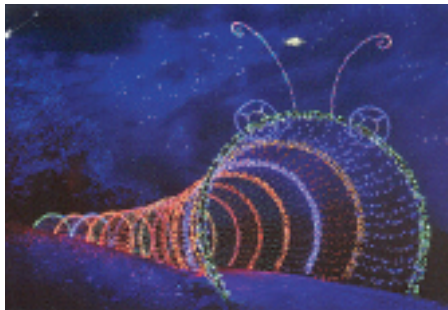
L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Work in Local 158 has been pretty steady for the last eight months or so, as of press time. We had quite a few members as well as travelers working at the shipyard in Marinette, WI, for an extended period. That mostly came to an end, with a few left there. We are waiting for the government to okay the building of more Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), which should create more work in the future. At the time of this writing, the two nuclear plants (Kewaunee and Point Beach) were

ramping up for scheduled outages. Commercial work has been slow.

The local along with partner Tru-Pro once again sponsored the Green Bay Botanical Gardens holiday garden of lights display. We sponsor a huge 7-foot tall

by 7-foot wide caterpillar with 20,000 LED lights. Total light displays comprise more than 250,000 LED lights. This is a great holiday and community endeavor.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.



IBEW Local 158 and Tru-Pro sponsored a caterpillar display at the Green Bay, WI, Botanical Gardens holiday light display.

'Project Grandma' Charity

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—Project Grandma, Local 164's signature charity, was held last year on Saturday, Oct. 23, and was again a huge success.

Project Grandma originated 12 years ago, conceived by Bro. John Nordyk. The project's goal is to help eliminate the disease of breast cancer and give every woman a chance to live to the age of being a grandmother. The charity donates to numerous institutions, including Gilda's Club and Hackensack Hospital, and helps patients and their families.

John "Nordy" Nordyk and former co-chairman Barry Hammond ran the fundraiser for years, and to date more than \$600,000 has been raised to combat this disease. Nordy suffered a stroke in November 2004, but he remains involved and attends the event every year. Our beloved Bro. Barry Hammond died of cancer in December 2009. We miss him terribly, but his spirit lives on.

This year's theme was a "Roaring 20s" casino night. Featured were musical entertainment by the quartet La Vie en Rose; poker and craps tables; 65 tricky tray prizes; a 50-inch TV door prize; and a raffle for a two-night stay at the NYC Marriott Marquis in Times Square and tickets for the play "Jersey Boys."

Kudos to new chairwoman Theresa Rolaf and her outstanding committee for a great job. John "Nordy" Nordyk beamed with pride throughout the evening, and I'm sure Barry Hammond smiled as he watched the festivities from above.

John DeBouter, Pres.

Children's Christmas Party

L.U. 176 (es,i,rts&spa), JOLIET, IL—Approximately 900 members and their families attended the greatly successful Local 176 children's Christmas party on Dec. 4, 2010.

We thank the Christmas party committee: Kathy and Bill Kibler, Billie VanDuyne, Paul and Janice Parkhill, Matt and Dana Kenney, and Lori and John Warren. Thanks also to: Ray "Santa" Sugg; secretaries Bobbi Johnston, Micki Dralle and Sharon Jameson; and the whole Kibler family for all they did.

And many thanks to our wonderful "elves"—Will and Ashley Kibler, Billie VanDuyne, Bobbi Johnston, Sophia Sullivan, Nathan Lee, Cydney Malone, Melissa and Ryan Buss, Alexis Perona, Taylor Boxman, Brie Hurley, MaryKate Haffey, Laura Haffey, Alex Rambo, Annah Marquardt, Morgan Basso, Natalie Sugg, Mariah Frost, Matt and Dana

Kenney, Christina Parkhill, Nicole Parkhill, Nate Lee, Anton and Greg Vershay, Jess Kudia, Kevin Snikeris, Kevin Kucera, Brian Olson, Mike Neubauer, Doug Williams, George Concaildi, Damian Barroso, Chris Terdic, Michael Cialone, Brett Martino, Jacqueline Kerr, Todd Schott, Justin Grace, Jim Ryan, Candy and Steve Magruder, Rita and Bob Marquardt, Lucille and Ray Noel, Bernice and Ed Voss, Ron and Donna Blazekovich, Mickey Bersano, Doug and Sharon Ward, Doug and Pat Wolcott, Jeff Farrar, Chuck "Moose" McBroom, Jacob Smith, Mike and Roxanne Guadagno; Dennis, Deena, Nicole and Vinny Lovato; and Tom, T.J. and Samantha Daufenbach.

My apologies if I missed anyone by name. Everyone's help in making it a great party was much appreciated.

Mark Ferry, R.S.

Your Vote Matters

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—Think your vote doesn't matter? Think again!

In 2007, Vallejo's current mayor, Osby Davis, garnered merely two more votes than then-councilman Gary Cloutier. During the recent general election, among the 228,064 votes cast in Congressional District 11, IBEW-endorsed candidate, incumbent Jerry McNeerney, edged out Republican David Harmer by a mere 2,568 votes—just nine-tenths of 1 percent!

The bid for California's office of attorney general was even tighter. IBEW-endorsed candidate Kamala Harris beat Steven Cooley by a razor-thin margin. Of the 9,921,423 votes cast for that office statewide, Ms. Harris won by only 75,033 votes—just eight-tenths of 1 percent! Closer to home, Local 180-endorsed candidate for Napa County supervisor, incumbent Diane Dillon, beat her opponent by a mere 247 votes.

If union members had fallen for the lie that their votes don't matter, we'd be searching for future candidates willing to give labor the time of day. See how critical your vote really is? It's high time that we give the notion, "My vote doesn't matter," the burial it deserves. Let's all get with the program, continue to get our brothers and sisters registered and mobilized, and keep getting out labor's vote!

Kevin Coleman, B.A.

Cable/Fiber-Optic Work

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our new membership development representative, Greg Doss, has been busy with efforts to organize the nonunion cable/fiber-optic workers in our jurisdiction. Our outside electrical work will be slower than usual in the year ahead; however, it appears there will be a lot of fiber projects that will help employ our members.

Unfortunately, we cannot focus solely on the nonunion workers in our area, as we continue to face jurisdictional problems with other crafts who seek to put what I consider unqualified workers on the job. We need new solutions to this old problem. Get creative and get busy. When something works, spread the word to other locals having the same problem.

Eric Patrick, B.M.

Picnic & Pins

L.U. 212 (j), CINCINNATI, OH—Local 212's annual picnic was held in August last year. All had a good time, despite the midday rain storm. Catching up with old

friends and good conversation were highlights of the day. Service pins were available to all members who have increments of five years of IBEW service. These pins are handed out each year at the picnic, so if you have one due just come on out to this year's picnic.

We were honored to recognize the following members for their 50-plus years of service: 50-year members—Robert Blanchet, John Brennan, Frank Butler, Cecil Dickey, Richard Gilb, Robert Hayes, Carl Long Jr., James McCracken, Bernard Murphy, Alfred Niederheman, Charles Phiester, Robert Ruehl, Raymond Schoster, Michael Scola, Anthony Wartman and Robert Zehner; 55-year members—Thomas DeWald, Paul Gerke, Stanley Johnson, Raymond Kathman, Fredric Kaufman and George Laker; and 65-year member—Jack Keller.

On behalf of the Local 212 membership, I thank you all for your years of service.

Randy Rothert, B.A.

High Points of Difficult Year

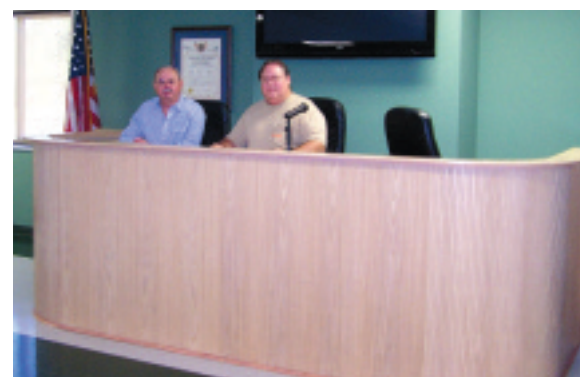
L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—We made it through 2010. Last year brought with it plenty of hardships and struggles. The local and its members were able to squeeze a few high points out of the last quarter though. One was completion of a large, hard deadline job—30 miles of re-conductor in 45 days. Working seven-day weeks from daylight until dark, the membership finished the job on time with no lost time accidents. Second was one of our contractors secured the transmission work for one of the largest utilities in the state; that project continues into 2011.

We also completed a transmission and distribution job in the Keys, on properties that have contracted nonunion for years. The local has heard nothing but high praise for the brothers and sisters who helped complete these very difficult jobs.

One other high note of 2010: While laid off from work, Bro. J.J. Zlotowski put his talents as a master carpenter to work for the local. J.J. built an outstanding podium for our new meeting hall.

We wish everyone a good new year ahead.

Bill Hitt, V.P.



Local 222 Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell (left) and Bro. J.J. Zlotowski sit at the new podium constructed by a union member.



Local 252 congratulates the graduating class of 2010.

LEED Gold Certification

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—Our local is proud that despite these difficult economic times, our members realize how important it is to support medical research for aiding children with diabetes. Our membership's heartfelt, hard-earned, generous gift to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for the Annual Kids Walk continues to reflect that our values are well placed by esteeming children and their families.

Local 234 has earned LEED Gold Certification for our existing building in Castroville. This honor was bestowed upon us by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) on Nov. 10, 2010. We are very pleased that our union hall and training center have achieved this notable certification. During the LEED certification process, Local 234 also became a Monterey County Certified Green Business.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.



IBEW Local 234 achieved LEED Gold Certification, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, for its union hall and training center.

Graduating Class of 2010

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rts&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—The NJATC and Local 252 congratulate the graduating class of 2010. [Photo, at bottom.] The graduates are: David Antkowiak, Jeffrey Avedisian, James Betz, Matthew Brodie, Timothy Buss, Ryan Carter, Jonathan Donoho, Thomas Fanslow Jr., Shelly Griffiths, Andrew Hallenbeck, Eric Hovatter, Stephen Ladd, Scott Miller, Ralph Mitchell, Keith Nowak, Jayson Ouillette, Patrick Parkinson, Duane Penhallegon, Vincent Pulsinelli, Jeffrey Smaga, Brian Smith, Joesph Steller, Donald Tippie, Dennis Watson, Matthew Wood,

Adam Wszola, Matthew Zellman and Andrew Zuzelski. The Reuben C. Rose award for academic achievement was presented to Jayson Ouillette. We wish the very best to all graduates, on the road and at home.

Jayson Ouillette, P.S.

Brother LeFrance Mourned

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rts,spa&u), HIB-BING, MN—Members of IBEW Local 294 mourn the passing of Bro. Cory LaFrance on Sept. 24, 2010. He was a

Local Lines

member of Local 294 for 33 years. Cory was born in Fort Frances, Ontario, on Nov. 23, 1955, and lived in International Falls, MN, most of his life. As a union electrician, Cory worked for several locals throughout the U.S. He traveled all over the country and worked in states including Connecticut, New York, Louisiana, California, Minnesota and various other places. He leaves behind his wife of 36 years, Michelle, and a son, Jeremy. He will be sadly missed by us all.

Daniel Arvola, P.S.

Celebrating Labor

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—Union members and their families joined together on Sept. 6, 2010, in the city of Hoisington, KS, to celebrate Labor Day. IBEW Local 304 had participants from as far as Lawrence, KS, walk in the parade. A potluck picnic was enjoyed by all who took time to remember who this day is truly for. We hope next Labor Day will be even better. Thanks to all of you who spread our message of unity and commitment to our communities by participating. Pres. Dave Schneider and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gene Sicard supported the members by participating in the parade.

The 9th Annual Labor Day Parade was held in Topeka, KS. This is organized by numerous labor organizations and has grown since 2001. The parade starts with several floats, tractors, company vehicles and antique cars motoring through downtown Topeka and ends at the Capitol grounds with a rally featuring speakers thanking workers for their hard work and dedication.

Paul Lira, B.M.



A Local 304 contingent gathers for the city of Hoisington, KS, Labor Day parade, organized by Local 304 member Travis Davis and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gene Sicard.

Solar Classes & Jobs

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Pictured is a three-phase solar power project installed at the University of Akron by Bros. Mark Douglas Jr. and Greg Bowers of Speelman Electric. While our region is not known for a sunny climate, according to the National Weather Bureau these systems are viable and “green.” The solar industry, closely aligned with the glass industry in Toledo, through its R&D has improved photovoltaic cell output and reliability.

Kudos to the Executive and COPE Committees for scoring another “touchdown” at the Annual Pig Roast! Bros. Lenny and Marty Klein prepared the pig to perfection. Past president George Peters carved (while tasting), and honorary Sister Carole “Snowbird” Jackson handled the dining setups and raffle tickets. Friends and tool-buddies enjoyed the feast and competed in several contests.

The economic engine is starting to turn again; hopefully we’ll see some more employment as the weather turns colder here. NFPA-70E requires at

least one crew member be current with their CPR when working on any equipment energized at greater than 50 volts. Check your wallet card and if you are out-of-date, get to class and get current; CPR training has a two-year life.

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Don Schofield (class of 1954) and Jack Marsillo, who received his 50-year pin in 2009.

Bob Sallaz, P.S.



Local 306 members installed rooftop solar array at the University of Akron.

San Jose Holiday Lights

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Local 332 decorated the big Christmas tree at “The Christmas in the Park” event in downtown San Jose. Every year in the Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park, community groups and other sponsors set up displays and decorate trees. It even “snows” in the park several times a night. It is a great time for all! Many thanks for their help to Wendell Weber and the Community Service Committee: Sal

Ventura, Earl Talbott, Barry Lindsay, Karen Thomas, Jim Register, Craig Ortet, Nero Munoz, J.J. Zamora, Wendell and Thomas Weber, Miguel and Kiara Cervantis, Frank and Kyle Mann, Anthony Garcia, Dave Barclay, Tory Blair, Paul Zele, and Rich and Ciara Ayers.

Local 332 held its Annual “Old-Timers” Dinner in October 2010. Int. Rep. Gregory A. Teeple attended and praised the “old-timers” and their contributions in helping build Local 332. Among service pin

recipients were: 60-year members—past president Richard Mercer, Edward Lawton, Sam Mardia; 55-year members—Al Fingold, Roger Lefebve, Walter Parle, Harold Sink; and 50-year members—past business manager Bruce Baxter, Richard Cerniglia, Lawrence Hildebrandt, Kenneth Parker, Rodney



Local 332 members lighted and decorated a large tree at a downtown San Jose Christmas in the Park event.

Plett, Robert Salta, Gerald Simmons and Larry Wayne. Many 45-, 40- and 35-year pins were handed out as well. Congratulations to all.

Thanks to Bus. Mgr. Bob Tragni, business agents and office staff who make this event a big success every year.

Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.

Seminar on Retirement

L.U. 340 (irts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—In early December 2010, we hosted a “Get Ready to Retire Seminar,” attended by some 100 members. We conduct this seminar approximately every two years and it is a great aid to the members when they get ready to apply for pension benefits.

We scheduled speakers from all of our pension plans, and from the Social Security Administration, to give presentations and answer our questions about retirement.

Special thanks to IBEW Int. Rep. Michael B. “Mike” Meals and Bro. Michael Reed from NEBF for attending our event and helping members better understand the International and National Electrical Benefit Fund pension plans.

One attendee at our retiree seminar was long-time member Bro. Dwight Evans (former business manager of then-Local 442, Redding, CA). When Local 442 amalgamated into Local 340, we kept that office open and Bro. Evans agreed to stay on and continue to manage the north area for us and serve the members living there. His hard work and dedication to the IBEW definitely earned him a long, healthy retirement and we wish him and his family the best.

The work picture for our area has not changed and is still real slow.

We mourn the passing of retired Bro. Carl L. Huckstep and active member Bro. Matthew J. Martin.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.



Attending the Local 340 retiree seminar are, from left: Michael Reed, NEBF; IBEW Ninth District Int. Rep. Michael Meals; Local 340 Bus. Mgr. A.C. Steelman; Tom Goode, trust financial advisor; and Local 340 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dwight Evans.

‘Bowling for Hunger’ Drive

L.U. 352 (u), LANSING, MI—IBEW Local 352—which represents employees at Board of Water and Light and at the Duke Energy Central Utility Complex plant—is having a bowling for hunger drive on Friday, Feb. 25, at Holiday Lanes from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bus. Mgr. Ron Byrnes said



Local 364 members volunteer to light the holiday ice skating rink: from left, Bros. Tim Tammen, Bob Wilson and Dan Schlittler, Sister Paula Creton and Bro. Bill Herlugson. Not pictured: volunteer Bros. Fernando Perez and Shane Grobe.

the local’s goal is to have an event to bring the membership together and help the less fortunate in the Lansing community. We also hope to strike it big with a great turnout both in terms of participation and donations for the local food bank. Byrnes said Local 352 plans to make this an annual event.

Local 352 elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Ronald J. Byrnes, Pres. Tracy K. Tolbert, Vice Pres. Shane Wandle, Rec. Sec. Stacy Class, Treas. Kate Weldon and Fin. Sec. Lisa Faber-Ryan. Executive Board members are: Keith Jenks, Kurtis McHenry, Eddie Rodriguez, Guy Schlicker, Michael J. Stanley, Dan Thelen and Joan Waterbury. Appointed as assistant business manager: James Dravenstatt-Moceri. Delegates to the IBEW Convention: Ronald J. Byrnes and Eddie Rodriguez. Congratulations and thank you to everyone.

Tracy K. Tolbert, Pres./P.S.

Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—The recent holiday season was a bit brighter for the Inside and VDV classifications due to the fact that we have a better work outlook in our area than in recent past years. We have slowed seasonally, however 2011 is shaping up to be halfway decent with regard to work.

Local 364’s annual children’s Christmas party in December was a success. The highlight of the party is an opportunity for members to bring their children and grandchildren to our union hall to visit with Santa and receive a Christmas gift from him. Santa was again portrayed by Bro. Ty Hillman, who plays the part flawlessly.

Members of Local 364 who were lucky enough to work throughout the past year selflessly gave thousands of dollars of donations so that members

less fortunate could have a decent holiday meal and groceries for the holiday season. The spirit of brotherhood is alive and well.

Thanks to members who helped wire the annual holiday festival of lights and who lit up Rockford’s holiday ice skating rink with Christmas lights. The rink was constructed by area union building tradesmen volunteers.

Charles Laskonis, B.A./Organizer



Local 380 congratulates JATC graduates: front row, Joseph A. Landis, Michael J. Ciach Jr., Josh S. Shoffstall, Dan M. Connor, Vincent C. Coleman Jr., Barron Von Weniger, Kevin M. Mason; back row, Michael J. Rudinski, Robert J. Barnett III, Deric A. Covelens, Robert A. Reyes, Daniel P. McGuire and Michael B. Hand.

JATC Graduation Celebration

L.U. 380 (ei,es,i&it), NORRISTOWN, PA—Local 380 JATC held its 2010 apprentice graduation banquet at the Crown Plaza in King of Prussia, PA.

We celebrated the accomplishments of this group, who just five years ago entered the electrical field with little or no electrical background. The first lesson the new apprentices learned was that they had signed up for more than just a job. They had signed up for a true apprenticeship. They would work on the job 40 hours a week learning the craft from highly skilled journeymen; attend school two evenings a week and maintain the required grade average; attend some Saturday classes such as CPR/First Aid and Comet; and perform community service projects. Through all this, they made it with the support of their families and the dedicated JATC staff and instructors.

The 2010 Stephen Malinowski Leadership Award went to Michael J. Rudinski. An award for perfect attendance in the fifth year went to Daniel P. McGuire. Awards for perfect attendance in all five years of apprenticeship went to Michael B. Hand, Kevin M. Mason and Josh S. Shoffstall. Overall achievement awards went to Michael J. Rudinski for third place; Kevin M. Mason for second place; and for first place, the James W. Mayall Award went to Michael B. Hand.

Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.

New Solar Array Installed

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—Local 388's union hall has a new solar array that was recently installed and it is something to be proud of. The system is a 2.1 kilowatt system utilizing Sharp solar panels and Sunny Boy inverters.

The local thanks members who volunteered to install the new system: John Klosinski, Julie Brazeau,



Local 388 installed a new photovoltaic solar array at the union hall.

Larry Wendorf, Jason Kay, Joshua Maiers and Kevin Kluck. They did an outstanding job on the installation.

The racks are custom built using a local company, keeping the money local. Not only is the local offsetting its electric bill, but this qualified as an install for those seeking to get their NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) qualifications. The local also gets curious individuals stopping by the office seeking information about the solar array system and inquiring who installed it for us. It's a win-win for the local.

Local 388 mourns the sudden death of David Glascock. David was age 42 and leaves behind two sons. I had the privilege to work alongside Dave when he first started in the trade. He was a good union man and would not hesitate to tell you to "Buy American." He will be missed and leaves a void within the local.

Guy LePage, P.S.

New Union Hall

L.U. 428 (govt,i,rts&spa), BAKERSFIELD, CA—After 109 years, Local 428 is finally going to have our own union hall. The groundbreaking ceremony was held Nov. 18, 2010. Attending were: Bus. Mgr. Danny Kane, Bus. Agent/Pres. Jim Elrod Jr., our union officers, the trust committee, the apprentice coordinator, instructors and the general contractor.

Local 428 started in July 1903; meetings were held on Sundays in the back of a boarding house. In 1906 a meeting place was rented for \$4 per month in the labor council hall. In 1949, Local 428 loaned the carpenters \$20,000 to build their union hall; then in 1950, Local 428 started renting office space in the carpenters' union hall.

At the same new location, an apprentice building and training facility is being built along with a trust office. The existing apprentice facility was purchased in 1967; the trust is presently renting its own facility.

Hopefully the new facilities will be ready for business sometime in 2012.

Ivan Beavan Jr., P.S.



Local 428 holds a groundbreaking ceremony for a new union hall.



Local 490 graduates and instructor install solar panels: Brain Dean (left), Scott Huot, Jason Strong, Instructor Jim Casey and Steve Reynolds.

Solar Panels Installed

L.U. 490 (i&mt), DOVER, NH—IBEW Local 490 is proud to announce that the graduating class of '08 has installed enough photovoltaic panels to supply all of the electrical needs for the new Training Center.

On average our output exceeds the input needed, using two arrays of 27 panels with 9,450 total watts peak output feeding two Sunny Boy 5-kilowatt inverters. On a sunny day our daily output is 32 kilowatts, and on average it is 900 kilowatts monthly.

Kudos to the installers: Brain Dean, Scott Huot, Jason Strong, Instructor Jim Casey and Steve Reynolds.

We thank our hardworking class of '08 for showing that IBEW Local 490 is dedicated to providing clean, green energy for New Hampshire.

Jaye P. Yanovitch Jr., P.S.

Projects at Military Bases

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—"You cannot contribute anything to the ideal condition of mind and heart known as Brotherhood, however much you preach, posture or agree, unless you live it."

-Faith Baldwin

Savannah Local 508 has been blessed to have the work we have in our jurisdiction because of the military bases. The project at the Tactical Maintenance Facility at Fort Stewart, GA, consists of 12 buildings that are like huge Jiffy Lubes. IBEW members have worked with D&N Electric Company on this project. The job peaked at 260 journeymen and apprentice electricians from locals all across the U.S.A.

At the time of this writing, we were working approximately 200 journeymen and apprentices from IBEW locals. D&N also has the Fifth Brigade Headquarters job, which has employed approximately 60 journeymen and apprentices. Inglett & Stubbs electrical contracting company of Atlanta has the Fifth Brigade cafeteria job and employed

some 15 journeymen and apprentices.

We thank every local for sending their members to help staff these jobs. In Savannah we are seeing brotherhood and liv-

ing this "ideal condition of mind and heart." Thank you, brothers.

Judith U. Sheahan, R.S.

Dinner Dance Banquet

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 530's slo-pitch team competed Sept. 17 and 18 last year in Barrie, Ontario. We were happy to bring home the "B" division championship and thank Local 1739 for hosting the tourney and showing our mem-

bers a great time and a great city.

On Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, our local celebrated our 69th Annual Dinner Dance Banquet. This is where members receive their years-of-service pins. Two members achieved 45 years of service.

Congratulations to all who attended and all who earned their pins.

We thank Locals 804, Kitchener; 2038, Regina; and 402, Thunder Bay, for employing our members away from home.

Local 530 mourns the recent passing of Jack Mavity and Cy Fugere.

Al Byers, P.S.



Local 570 presents service awards. From left are: John Sullivan (50 year member), Lloyd Talbot (50 years), Gerald Stratton (60 years), John Chavez (60 years), Ronald Kunzler (50 years), Daniel Allyn (50 years), Bus. Mgr. Mike Verbout and Dale Gumm (55 years). Not pictured: John McGuire (50 years).

Annual Picnic 2010

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ—In the midst of the economic downturn, Local 570 managed to have another fun-filled annual picnic. We had a lot of support from the members in helping with setup, grilling and cleanup. The apprentices again were handed a loss on both attempts on the tug-of-war challenge they offered the journeymen. Bus. Mgr. Mike Verbout handed out service pins representing more than 425 years of combined IBEW service. Thanks to the members and their families for making this a great event.

Scott Toot, Organizer

'Positive Outlook'

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Several Local 606 "old-timers" recently got together for a cook-out. [Photo, pg. 12.] They enjoyed seeing each other, reminiscing and sharing stories from the "old days."

Our new Bus. Mgr. Bob Carr reports a positive outlook for the work picture in 2011.

With deepest regret we report the passing of

Local Lines



Several Local 606 members enjoy a get-together: from left, Doug Dagley, George Wynn, Tom Phillip Sr., Terry Thompson, Ernie Tipton, Hank Pasard, Butch Cox, Richard Hutchinson, Bobby Noojin, Tom Malone, Larry Duplisse, Don Ernest, Butch Rizer, Larry Grassman and Jim Sullivan.

Bros. James K. Bieber and Jerry Segó. Our sincere sympathy goes to their families.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

Extreme Makeover: Osprey Edition

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—When the residents of an osprey nest (perched atop the lights some 60 feet above the largest soccer pitches in Waterloo) migrated south this winter, they were unaware that a new home would await them in the spring. More familiar with building transformer banks than habitats for wildlife, members Brian Martin and Randy Kirkwood (Waterloo North Hydro) were happy to assist municipal staff in a joint relocation project to help keep this family of majestic birds in the community.

The work was delicate and challenging—a true test of the skills and talents of these aerial artists. The crew began by carefully removing the nest and was successful in doing so without disruption to the original structure—certainly no easy task when dealing with such a large structure made of only sticks and sod. Using a fabricated platform designed and crafted especially for this purpose, the nest was then mounted and fastened securely into place. Finally, as a group of wide-eyed children looked on, the pole supporting the aerie was gently set into place on a quiet hillside at a local park. Quite a memory for them; and quite an experience for all those who did their part in preservation for this once-endangered species—thanks for making a difference.

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.



Local 636 members Brian Martin and Randy Kirkwood (Waterloo North Hydro) feather the controls as they help establish a new home for some feathered friends in their community.

'Great Fellowship'

L.U. 648 (em,i,spa&u), HAMILTON, OH—Local 648 wishes everyone a happy new year in 2011—and we hope for full employment for all our fellow IBEW brothers and sisters. The Kids Christmas Party and

the Retirees Christmas Party were huge successes last year. Both were well attended and everyone enjoyed the great fellowship during the holidays.

Local 648 mourns the loss of several brothers last year: Henry George, Ray Retherford, Alan Fields, Jack Eggleton, Joe Wright, Wally Hair, Melvin Blevens and Sterling Welling. May God bless these brothers and their families and friends.

Jeff McGuffey, P.S.

Solar Array at Union Hall

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—The solar array at the hall was completed and we have seen our electric bill drop by almost 50 percent in the first couple months of use. Bro. Steve McNally worked hard to acquire the grant money to fund this project and with some help from state Rep. Stephen Barrar (R-District 160; Chester and Delaware Counties), we were able to accomplish that. The arrangement of the inverters and touch screen visible at the entrance to the hall provides prospective contractors and customers a firsthand look at a professional solar installation. Undoubtedly, knowledge in the solar field is a key component to continued success in the electrical sector. It has enabled us to turn around the Kohl's rooftop solar array project at Granite Run and it will allow us to capture a greater portion of work in a growing field.

While we lost a few political friends in the recent elections, we still maintain relationships with many who greatly appreciate our involvement and support. A special thanks to the members, especially the apprentices, for all of their help on Election Day. I wish everyone well in the coming year.

Jim Russell, Pres.



IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill (center) presents Local 666 officers with 100th anniversary plaque at December centennial celebration. From left are: Local 666 Pres. Harry F. Zahn IV, Bus. Mgr. James H. Underwood, Int. Pres. Hill, Fourth District Int. Rep. James B. Kauffman, and Local 666 Vice Pres. James A. Bell Jr.

Centennial Christmas Dance

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Our Centennial Christmas Dance was held Dec. 18, 2010, at the Acca Temple. It was a huge success. Thanks to our Dance Committee and the Centennial Committee for their hard work. These events are crucial for our solidarity.

The apprenticeship office offers several classes for education, including the code update CEU require-

ments for journeymen who need to renew their state journeyman card with the State of Virginia. The classes are offered monthly at the JATC office in Ashland, VA. Call the JATC or check the Web site www.rjatc.org.

Thanks to all members who support our food bank. If any member would like help stretching their food budget, please call the union office. The process is quick and discreet.

Congratulations to our recently retired members: Joseph W. Ashworth, David W. Barnes, James C. Bowker, Lawrence R. Blank, Eddie F. Gutshall, Robert L. Haggerty and Gene C. Peaco.

The union offers condolences to the families of departed Bros. Charles G. Nicholas and James M. Jones Jr. We appreciate their service to our brotherhood and they will be missed.

Kendra Logan, P.S.



Local 684 Bus. Mgr. Billy Powell (left) accepts 100th anniversary charter plaque presented by Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey.

Lighting Controls Training

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—The work picture in Local 684 is still slow at this time. We hope all the newly elected officials in our state will work on getting some jobs for our members in 2011.

Our training center is currently doing the California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program (CALCTP) for our members. This course gives members the certificate needed to work on jobs that are being created with the new energy-saving technology in lighting.

A new class of first-year apprentices was recently started and we welcome Mark



Local 688 members, family and friends volunteered to work on holiday float.

Allen, Christopher Allerton, Tyler Ash, Craig Moorehead, Chad Warren, Daniel Westfall and Juan Vazquez to the IBEW.

Richard Venema, Rep.

Holiday Food Drive

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—The annual Make-A-Difference food drive was held Oct. 22 and 23, 2010, to help stock six food banks located in Richland County for the holidays. IBEW Local 688 members generously contributed \$120 for the annual event. Andy Biglin and Willie Thompson bought non-perishable food items with the money collected and Dan Lloyd delivered the food to the drop-off location.

Stacey Lloyd, wife of Dan Lloyd, designed the holiday float. [Photo, above.] All of the volunteers put the float together at the parade site. The float was towed in the annual Mansfield holiday parade on Nov. 20. Thank you to all who gave their time to participate in the parade. Among the volunteers pictured are: Gary Baumberger; Carl Neutzling; Dan Lloyd's wife and son; Ed Reiter, AFL-CIO; Kit Forbush with her husband, son and niece; Mike Gressler with his girlfriend and her daughter; and Jerry Conrad and his daughter. Dan Lloyd snapped the photo.

Congratulations to Bob Neault, the proud father of a new baby!

Local 688 wishes Bro. Paul Knackstedt well on his retirement.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

Broadband Build Out

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—We were successful in electing state Gov. Pat Quinn in the November 2010 election. We thank all of our members who helped with phone banking, walking door to door, and contributing to COPE. Gov. Quinn is a friend to labor and we certainly are grateful he was elected.



Several Local 702 members who are military veterans attend the November 2010 union meeting.

Bids packages are currently being sent out for broadband build out in southern Illinois. This work will include 742 miles of buried fiber, about three years of work, and prevailing wage package.

At this writing, we have 21 journeyman wiremen on the out-of-work book one list and 511 on our out-of-work book two list.

We hope everyone had wonderful and safe holidays.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

JATC Code Update Classes

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—Happy 2011! All the children who attended the Local 716 Children's 2010 Christmas Party had a great celebration, along with the adults present that evening. The union hall looked great. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time to help with these parties.

In Houston the work situation has slowed, but with spring and summer approaching we look for several new projects to start.

Local 716 is hosting State Licensing Code Update Classes put on by the Houston JATC. Check our Web site www.ibew716.net and under events click on the calendar for dates and time. The Aetna Wellness Screening will also be held on those dates.

Local 716 is also getting prepared for the 2011 St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Houston. Come out and enjoy the festivities.

Local 716's Centennial Celebration will be held in March 2012 and we are planning a great celebration. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Pres. David Alley at (713) 869-8900 Ext. 249.

We encourage all members to register to vote and to exercise that right, along with donating to the PAC Fund.

We wish all a safe and prosperous 2011.

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

Children's Christmas Party

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Local 756 held its annual kids Christmas party Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010. More than 40 children and grandchildren of members attended. The children were happily surprised when "Santa" arrived greeting them with holiday cheer and presents. Bro. Buddy Hart and his wife, Kathy, again played "Mr. and Mrs. Claus." Office manager Candice Hampton did a fabu-

lous job coordinating details for the party—including decorating the room, ordering food and making sure a present was under the tree for each child. Thanks to all who labored and those who attended for making this another successful Christmas party.

At this December writing, our work here in Daytona is still slow. There is a potential for future work at the Space Center in the coming year. The work at the Cape will depend on whether politicians properly fund the space industry. The growing trend is for so-called "privatization," which is code for union busting and lower wages. I hope that's not the case. May our country and our Brotherhood be blessed with a prosperous new year.

Dan Hunt, P.S.

'A Great Honor'

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—IBEW Local 760 was honored with a Resolution of Recognition by the Knoxville City Council for our 85 years of community service, training, representation and charitable involvements. The City of Knoxville and our city council leaders presented the resolution to recognize Local 760 at the council meeting on Dec. 28, 2010.

This recognition is a great honor for us. Our members, their families and friends were invited to attend for the city council presentation.

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



Local 760 Pres. Lonnie Hunley (left) accepts Knoxville City Council Resolution of Recognition awarded to the local. Presenting the plaque is Knoxville, TN, Vice Mayor Bob Becker (right).

Spread the News: Organize

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—The 2010 midterm election is over. We must work toward the next one by always helping the working families in our neighborhoods, no matter if they are affiliated with a union or not. The "Objects" listed in our IBEW Constitution are very clear: to organize all, to promote reasonable methods of work, to cultivate friendships, to help each other when down, to secure employment, to reduce the

hours of daily labor, to strive for better pay, to seek a higher standard of living and security for the individual, and to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of all.

As we begin a new year, this is the perfect season for all of those great objects. People are more open to hearing our union message when we exhibit a spirit of community. So, don't be discouraged by seasonal election results; spread the union news and organize. Local 776 extends best wishes to all for 2011.

Chuck Moore, B.M.

Full Agenda for 2011

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Our local has a full menu on the table this year, from officer elections in June to contract committee members getting started on contracts. As always, medical benefit language and wages will be a hot topic.

Bro. Jace Eckenrod stepped up to manage a newly formed Membership Development Committee, made up of local stewards, to organize nonmembers.

We welcome new members: Jerome Heitzman, Sarita Morales, Jennifer Schlotterbeck, Michael O'Brien and Corby Robinson.

Our Tucson-based customer call center has gone to 24-hour staffing to better serve customers after hours and weekends, rather than using an off-site answering service. This was a joint union and management effort to keep this work in-house.

We will have 17 union journeymen turning out in their respective areas at Tucson Electric Power this year; at this writing I do not have a count for Trico Electric journeymen. Our local is proud of all our members and we believe we have some of the best craft workers. Skilled, safe and union!

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—Greetings to all for the new year.

We wrapped up contract negotiations for our newly organ-

ized lab technicians at American Electric Power's Dolan Lab facility in Columbus. This is the first group within Dolan Lab that we have organized.

Concerning wage increases, we were successful in getting the company to agree to take these employees off of a JPR (job performance review) based system and place them into a "step increase" type of wage structure. In addition, these employees will now have a real "voice" in the workplace. Welcome aboard, brothers and sisters!

In other news, System Council has entered into our yearly wage negotiations with AEP. Please try to attend your monthly union meetings for updates on how these negotiations are going, as things change from week to week.

Please remember to stay safe out there, and watch out for your brothers and sisters. We're all in this together.

James T. Jette, P.S.

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

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

IBEW on the Huffington Post

President Hill blogs on what it will take to grow the IBEW in these tough times. Read at www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill.

YouTube

Community activists from across the Gulf Coast fight to save the Avondale Shipyard. Watch online at the IBEW's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker?feature=mhum.

HourPower

Teamwork is as vital to an IBEW lineman as a harness or a helmet. See how a team from St. Louis Local 1439 embodied that

spirit during the International Lineman's Rodeo.

www.IBEWHourPower.com



ElectricTV

Fast, sleek, new and green ... electric cars are the wave of the future. On Electric TV, we discuss how installing chargers can increase returns for business and building owners alike. electricTV.net



At the Local 756 children's Christmas party, Lilliana and Nicholas Johnston visit with "Santa" and "Mrs. Claus."

Retirees

Hopes for Year Ahead

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 retirees ended 2010 with high hopes that the year ahead will be a better one for our Brotherhood. We hope the economy and employment improve, and we pray for the happiness of all our brothers and sisters.

Our last regular meeting of 2010, held Nov. 16, was informative and enjoyed by all. Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Stephen Schoemehl, IEC member, gave a comprehensive picture of our local's current and future prospects. His words were encouraging. Lunch was served and several attendees celebrated birthdays. We urge more retirees to attend club meetings; otherwise they miss a good thing!

The annual Christmas party held Dec. 8, 2010, was a great time. The food, decorations and good spirits were heartwarming. The ladies auxiliary is commended for their hard work and dedication, which make this affair such a success. Funds were raised for the relief committee—and in the spirit of the season, all raffle winners donated their cash prizes to the needy of Local 1.

Club meetings for 2011 are: March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21 (luncheon), and Nov. 16. Start time is 10:30 a.m. Please mark your calendar.

Don Appelbaum, P.S.



Local 1 Pres. Tom George (right) and Retirees Club Pres. Dick Weller (left) attend annual Christmas party.

Special Olympics Golf Outing

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER—The Central Florida Chapter of the Local 3 Retirees Club helped sponsor and participated in the Flagler County Special Olympics 1st Annual Golf Outing at the Palm Harbor Golf Club in Palm Coast, FL, on Oct. 16, 2010.



Local 3, Central Florida Chapter, Retirees Club members make up a golf team at the Oct. 16, 2010, event are, from left: Joseph Golan, Trustee John Greco and Vice Chmn. Harvey Lydecker.



Local 3, North New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club gathers at the Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY. Photographer: Abe Fichtenbaum (second row, left).

In addition to sponsoring the 14th hole for the event, the chapter also fielded a team in the four-ball scramble competition and placed fifth in the event.

Joseph P. Golan, P.S.

Trip to Educational Center

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—Our chapter was together again Aug. 23-26, 2010, to enjoy the Educational Center at Cutchogue, NY. We had 65 people attending. Those who could not attend were missed.

On Tuesday, the ladies set a delicious table of favorite appetizers. On Wednesday, our gathering enjoyed delicious sausage and peppers, spaetzle, lasagna and more. Thank you all. Isn't this a good picture (photo above) of us taken by our photographer, Abe Fichtenbaum, at the Educational Center?

At this writing we were looking forward to our Dec. 8, 2010, Hanukkah and Christmas luncheon. Be well till next time for more fun.

Anthony LaBate, P.S.

2nd Annual Holiday Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTH-WEST FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER—On Dec. 9, 2010, the place to be for the SWFL Gulf Coast Chapter Retirees was the 2nd Annual Christmas Party. It was held at Benedetto's Steakhouse in Punta Gorda, FL, and 40 members and spouses attended. Although the temperature outside was unseasonably cool for Florida, there were plenty of warm and friendly spirits all around. It was a great night and everyone had a wonderful time. Even "Mrs. Santa Claus" made a surprise appearance with gifts for the ladies.

Our chapter meetings are well attended in an atmosphere of camaraderie and brotherhood. The monthly meetings include reports from the Pension director that contain the current state of Local 3;

updates on political developments; and lively questions and answers about the union movement.

A second golf outing and a Ladies Night are being planned for the spring.

The chapter meets on the second Monday of each month, at 11 a.m., at The Golden Corral Restaurant at 4690 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL. All IBEW and Local 3 members are invited to attend. For more information, call Chapter Chmn. George Dondero at (239) 593-6297 or e-mail: Gdondero@aol.com. Hope to see you soon.

George Dondero, P.S./Chmn.

Planning Events for 2011

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—With the arrival of 2011, officers and committees are planning club events for the year: the 34th Pensioners Reunion Luncheon on Feb. 18; a New York City outing, an overnight trip to Mystic, CT, and a visit to the New London submarine base in May; the family picnic in June; and fishing in July.

Our 2010 Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon at the Travelers Rest in Ossining, NY, was a complete success. Attending were 127 members, spouses and guests, who enjoyed celebrating the holiday season together with friends.

Our membership is growing, with 300-plus members and new retirees signing in at every meeting. Our chapter has 20 "Golden" members, who are age 80 or older.

We mourn the loss of members Frank Caruso and William Harrington. They will be missed.

Our chapter joins in the support of our working brothers and sisters in this economic downturn and we hope working conditions improve in 2011. We also support our military service men and women and wish them success. Happy, healthy new year to all members and chapters.

Edward A. Rubow, P.S.

Great Retiree Participation

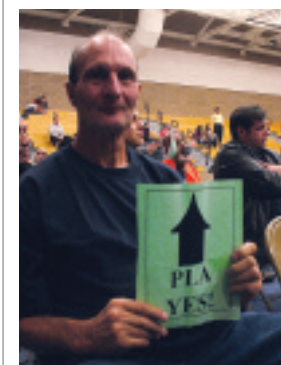
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA—The Local 11 Retirees Club held its annual holiday luncheon at Taix's Restaurant. Several great gifts were raffled off and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and the company of good friends. During the luncheon Retirees Club Pres. Marty Cohen announced that board member Dolores Gomez would miss the event due to illness. She is recovering just fine. Dolores' appendix almost burst on the way to the event, but she made it to the hospital in time. Thank you to everyone for your well-wishes. We are glad so many members could join us.

At our recent meeting, all board members and officers were reelected for two years.

We applaud participation by retirees on organizing committees and at city council meetings and public hearings. Your participation is vital to the passage of proposed projects and project labor agreements. Several huge jobs are in the works, such as the Wilshire Grand high-rise (reportedly the tallest on the West Coast) and the NBC/Universal expansion. Your advocacy helps!

We invite all Local 11 retired members to join our club. We meet the second Wednesday of every month at the Commerce location.

Bob Oedy, P.S.



Retired Local 11 member Rolf Hunn attends a public hearing for San Gabriel Unified School District project labor agreement.

News From the Great Lakes

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 38, CLEVELAND, OH—As I reflect on all the things we are thankful for here in America, I pray that our economy will turn around soon and get everyone back to work.

At this early December writing, we were looking forward to our 2010 Christmas Party. We always have a great turnout for this annual event. Everyone enjoys the scrumptious dinner and the friendly fellowship. We appreciate the many retirees and spouses who work hard to put on this grand event.

Our club Pres. Harry Finkler does a great job at



Local 3, SWFL Chapter, Retirees Club members and spouses surround the new SWFL Chapter poster at the Christmas party in Punta Gorda, FL.

our monthly meetings and his volunteers do a wonderful job with our lunches, clambakes, picnics and trips.

The 2010 monthly meetings were enjoyable. At one meeting, a speaker presented slides on construction in Central Asia. At another, our guest speaker was from the U.S. Coast Guard. And at another, we enjoyed a reverse raffle.

Recent trips included Michigan and Wheeling, WV. I heard that some monetary gain was experienced by those who attended.

Wishing you all a happy new year ahead. God bless America and God bless our troops.

Arthur Lesjak, P.S.

2010 Holiday Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—As 2011 closed, it was a time of reflection for all at Local 58. Our luncheons last year were always attended by members who have been the mainstay of our organization.

Attending our Christmas luncheon were some 160 members and guests. The meeting hall was a “Winter Wonderland” with Christmas tree and decorations. Attendees enjoyed a fine dinner with beverages, a commemoration and a time for renewing acquaintances. What a great time to talk to those old-timers who helped build this local. Donation baskets accepted contributions from those who wished to contribute. Of course, our hearts would not let us forget those who departed this year. May they rest in peace!

Pres. John Ahern chaired the event and distributed 17 prizes in the 50/50 raffle. That was accompanied by drawings for the centerpieces or a bottle of wine.

The Retirees Association still needs members who are willing to be a part of the Board of Directors. Any of the members and their spouses are invited to attend our meetings held at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at our hall in the Bill Rushford Room. Become a part of what you all created and have a say in where we are going. Happy new year to all and God bless.

Frank A. Maisano, P.S.

110th Anniversary Celebrated

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—In November 2010 we celebrated our local’s 110th anniversary, at the Providence Convention Center. It was a gala affair and well attended, with many guest speakers.

Although we currently face hard economic times, our forefathers experienced very hard working conditions: 12-hour days, low pay, and no safety protections. They realized if they wanted a better life for their families they needed to join the IBEW. They also realized that forming a local union would be a hard-fought battle due to the anti-union sentiment that dominated the area.

In January 1900, the IBEW issued a charter to Local 99 in Providence, RI. We thank those nine members who had the courage, vision and determination to form this great local that we enjoy today: Bros. S.E. Sanborn, D.A. Murphy, R.A. Ripley, R.A. Joyce, A.P. Barry, George F. Jenks, H.H. Mello, A. W. Seavey and J. W. Bristow. Thank you, brothers, for paving the way for us. We enjoy decent wages and working conditions, and a better life for our families because of you.

Raymond J. Germershausen, P.S.



Local 130 Bus. Mgr. Clay J. Leon III (second from left) presents service awards to three retirees. From left are: Bros. Louis E. Foret, Bus. Mgr. Leon, Edward Caire and Lawrence Bouterie.

Service Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—We thank Durel “Duke” Legendre, our new secretary, for taking over the bus trips to the Gulf Coast. The ladies in the club have assisted Bro. Legendre by making phone calls and collecting money for the trips.

The Retirees Club’s annual Christmas party held in the Alexander room on Dec. 14, 2010, was a great success with 103 members, spouses and guests attending. Everyone enjoyed celebrating the holiday season, music, dancing and socializing with friends.

We wish to recognize our former secretary Harry “Buddy” Carver for a wonderful recovery. He was missed by all while he was out recuperating.

Local 130 Bus. Mgr. Clay J. Leon III presented Bro. Lawrence Bouterie his 65-year service award, Bro. Edward Caire his 70-year award, and Bro. Louis E. Foret his 55-year award.

We mourn the passing of: Bros. John E. Bacques Jr., Frank I. Bauer Jr., Ralph L. Fox, Lionel Gerstner, Edwin J. Gunn Jr., Arnold E. Letman, George A. Miller Jr., Lloyd J. Sauvinet and George Washington. May they rest in peace!

Until our next meeting, God bless America.

George Clesi, Pres.

Great Christmas Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—Wow, what a great Christmas party the Local 134 Retirees Club enjoyed at the American Heritage Center. It was catered by Harrington, serving the best corned beef in Chicago. The delicious dinner also offered roast chicken, potatoes and cabbage; and for dessert, home-made pies.

More than 110 guests attended the party. There were 45 door prizes: 20 \$25 gift certificates; two Local 134 jackets; one Local 134 sweater; five Local 134 belt watches; one \$100 special gift certificate, drawn by the lucky winner from tickets collected from attendees at all the 2010 meetings; and 16 poinsettia plants. All the delicious surplus food was donated to a local homeless shelter.

Come to the club meetings—and remember, there are no strangers at Local 134, only friends you haven’t yet met!

We welcome all Local 134 Retirees. Noon to 1 p.m. is “greet & meet” time at Retirees Club meetings held the second Wednesday of each month. The regular meeting continues until 2:30 p.m. at the union hall, 600 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

2010 Club Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 150, WAUKEGAN, IL—We had a good 2010 and look forward to 2011 being a good year also. In June 2010 we had our club elections. Elected were: Pres. Ray Holst, Vice Pres. Tom Love, Sec. Diane Holst, Treas. Tom Curley, and E-Board members Ray Holst, Tom Love, Gene Crovetti and Jim Holst.

In May we saw “The Producers” at the Racine theatre. Another trip was to Rockford, where we visited Japanese gardens, had lunch and went to Midway Village—all very interesting. We also spent a day at the Racine Zoo.

In August we made our annual trip to White Pines State Park. We had a lunch, saw a play (always funny), enjoyed a dinner, time around a campfire, an overnight in a nice log cabin and a “lumberjack” breakfast. As always, it was a good time.

In December we went to the Fireside theatre and saw “The Child,” a unique look at the birth of Christ from Joseph’s point of view.

As we do each year, we planned and presided over the Union Children’s Christmas Party. We hope more members will join us for this wonderful event next year. We thank Rich and Pam Lahey, who did a great job as “Mr. and Mrs. Claus.”

Diane Holst, Sec.



The Local 150 Retirees Club thanks Rich and Pam Lahey, who played “Mr. and Mrs. Santa” at the children’s Christmas party.

Holiday Season Donations

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ—The Local 164 Retirees Association proudly held our annual holiday party on Dec. 15, 2010, with a great luncheon and entertainment. We had donations for buying toys and presents for those in great need during the holiday season. Recently we donated to the Wounded Warriors Project. We also conducted our third annual Coats For Kids & Adults program, collecting 400 gently used winter coats for at-risk, homeless or sheltered people.

A Poconos, PA, casino/resort trip is planned for springtime. We will also have golf outings and fishing trips that keep our retirees busy and together.

Our monthly luncheon meetings offer seminars, stories and camaraderie. We invite all Local 164 retirees to be members of this vibrant association.



The McCormack family represents two generations of Local 164 members, from left: retiree Chris McCormack, age 96, and his sons Jim and Bob McCormack.

Please go to Web site www.LU164Retirees.squarepins.org for events, pictures and news.

David Judovin, P.S.

‘Gifts to Give’ Donations

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 223, BROCKTON, MA—On Dec. 8, 2010, the Fireside Restaurant in Middleboro was the location of our informal business meeting and Christmas luncheon for 30 members and guests. After an exchange of gifts and a wine raffle, Mary Ann Bouldry thanked attendees for their generous donation of more than 600 pairs of socks and underwear for needy children served by Gifts to Give in New Bedford. At the previous meeting in September, members donated \$50 to the Bourne Public Library’s Knitters club. The Knitters created more than 100 pairs of mittens and hats which, along with the donated clothing, were delivered to Gifts to Give. Jim Stevens, founder of the nonprofit organization, extended profuse thanks to IBEW 223 for their support and contributions throughout 2010.

It was noted that Bro. Harry Howland, who is recuperating at home after a hospital stay, would appreciate hearing from the membership. A card or note may be sent to him at 55 Prospect St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379. A moment of silence was observed for recently deceased Bro. Arthur Blais.

Burt Bouldry, Pres.



Gifts to Give founder Jim Stevens (left) accepts Christmas donation of clothing for needy children, presented by Local 223 Retirees Club Pres. Burt Bouldry.

Retirees

36th Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 236, ALBANY, NY—The Retirees Club held its 36th annual luncheon in 2010 at the Italian Club in Albany, NY, where many of our retirees, their spouses, and invited guests had a wonderful meal.

Many of the widows of our departed members were our guests. This was the largest luncheon we have had so far. Everyone enjoyed seeing old friends and reminiscing about our working days at the trade.

We were pleased to have several special guests present, including Local 236 officers and retired former Int. Vice Pres. Donald Funk, who served previously as business manager of former Local 166.

Jim Porter, P.S.



Attending the Local 236 Retirees Club's 36th annual luncheon are, from left: Local 236 Bus. Mgr. Don Rahm, retired former Int. Vice Pres. Donald Funk, Retirees Club Pres. Phil Clemens, Sec. Jim Porter and Treas. Mike Ray. Ken Hinckley snapped the photo.

Annual Holiday Festivities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID—The annual Christmas party with gift exchange was held in Garden City, Idaho, at the JATC Building.

There were 47 in attendance with a visit by our Int. Rep. Ben Antunes, who presented holiday greetings from the International Office. Club Pres. Joe Sirani offered a Christmas prayer, preceding the meal, to remember the "Reason for the Season." The main entrées were furnished by the Retirees Club and prepared by Dennis and Mary Beth Anderson—delicious turkey and pulled pork. The rest of the meal was potluck and provided by the members. It was all awesome. There was so much food, and a lot of hungry members to enjoy it.

A gift exchange was held after the luncheon and we played "Chance and Greed," where someone had the opportunity to pick an unopened gift or take from another person. Not too much greed went on. Everyone seemed happy with what they picked.



Local 291 Retirees Club members enjoy a festive 2010 Christmas party.

We hope all had a happy holiday season.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of every month. All are welcome!

Joe Sirani, Pres.

Club Attendance Increases

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 306, AKRON, OH—Monthly club attendance increased during 2010 along with the ranks of newly retired brothers. We wish a long and healthy retirement to recent retiree Bro. Matt Pramik. We believe he might have been our first 50-year member still working!

Our senior golfers tore up the links at local courses for the past seven months and had a great time. Retirees attended every social event at our local and provided some great entertainment. Why is it the older we get, the more we remember? Old friends and good food produced many smiles around here.

Topics of discussion at our meetings are many and varied. New pills for old ailments, the latest in artificial joints, the economy, what's happening in the trade, our families and, occasionally, politics. At a recent meeting, several wondered how many families have produced three or more generations of wiremen in our local. The names Campbell, Dies, Douglas, Fraley, Goodspeed, Hornacek, Shafer,

Stanec, Sweitzer, Thomas, Thompson, Trettel and Young came to mind. By our count, that is 20 families in 115 years of IBEW affiliation in Akron.

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Donald Schofield (class of 1954) and Jack Marsillo, who received his 50-year pin in 2009.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy new year!

Bob Sallaz, P.S.

Gratitude & Reflection

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 353, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—2010 was a difficult but successful year. The unexpected loss of executive board member Frans DeJong definitely made us all reflect and be thankful for all we have.

Our club enjoys monthly luncheon meetings and looks forward to trips to our sister Locals 105, 303 and 804. In 2010, the following events helped keep us busy: our stay and dinner/theatre trip in Niagara Falls, the Stoney Lake boat cruise, the Walters Family din-

ner/theatre, and the day at Woodbine/Casino. Also last year, celebrating our club's 25th anniversary with our sister Locals 105, 120,586, 894 and 1739 provided us great pride and pleasure. Helping to raise more than \$700 in creature-comfort items sent to our overseas troops for Christmas was another delight.

Some 600 attended our Christmas Dinner/Dance held Dec. 4. A highlight was the presentation of service pins. Receiving pins were: six 65-year members, 24 60-year members, eight 55-year members and 46 50-year members. Thus far, a total of 437 living Local 353 members have achieved 50 or more years of service. Bro. Frederic Cooling, age 101, was among those who received a 60-year pin.

Robert Rynyk, Pres.

Join the Camaraderie

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 415, CHEYENNE, WY—As we begin 2011 with a newly elected Republican majority in the House and a smaller Democratic majority in the Senate, we hope Congress and our president can come together for the good of the people. It is wrong that 5 percent of the wealthy have 95 percent of the wealth. This country became great because of a working middle class, and there are those who would do away with a middle class. We must hold our politicians to higher standards. Stay informed, stay active and let's stand up for working people.

With so few members in our Retirees Club, we are not a very active group, but those of us who do get together enjoy the camaraderie. We invite more retirees to join us.

Our condolences go to the Kennedy family on the passing of Bro. Darrel Kennedy.

We also extend sympathy to Jim and Jeannine Anderson, whose house was burned down. The Retirees Club is working on a plan to help the Andersons this spring. Check at the hall and see if you can chip in.

I continue to work on assembling a picture diary of the history of our local and its members. [See photo, below.] Send me anything you think I can use. I will copy it and return your original to you.

John J. Occhipinti, P.S.

Club's 30th Anniversary

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—The Retirees Club was 30 years old in December 2010. In keeping with the holiday season and to celebrate the club's 30th year, older retired members (those who were unable to get out during the year because of health problems) participated in a small buffet in

December Those six retirees, their guests and designated drivers attended, participated in a gift exchange and received a special gift from the Retirees Club.

Also in December was the annual Local 611 family Christmas party. "Santa" (played by retiree Jenaro "Junior" Pedroncelli) handed out stockings full of goodies for the children. Turkeys and trimmings were cooked by Local 611 members. I counted at least 12 retirees and their wives present, and I met two retirees from other locals who now live in the Albuquerque area. The party was well attended, especially by children.

Our condolences go to the families of retired brothers who passed away since our last article: Raymond Montes, Walter D. Gentry, Buford B. Staggs, Merle O. Clark, Gordon K. Dawson, William D. Ohr and Gilbert G. Mascarenas.

Remember the spirit of brotherhood. Give those in poor health a call, a card or visit. We wish everyone a happy, healthy 2011.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



Local 915 retired Bros. Bob McDonald (left) and Buddy Wade register get-out-the-vote walkers.

Volunteers Get Out the Vote

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 915, TAMPA, FL—Just before the 2010 midterm election, the West Central Florida Federation of Labor held a get-out-the-vote walk. Our meeting hall was used as a staging area. Some of us retirees went down to help out. That morning IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill paid us a visit. Most of us had the honor of meeting and talking to Pres. Hill.

Our club still meets on the first Monday of every month. Lunch is provided and we have a short business meeting. Attendance usually runs between 15 and 20 people. We welcome any of our retired members to attend. Also on the third Monday of each month, we have lunch at Luptons on Busch Blvd. Come out and enjoy visiting some of the brothers you worked with over the years.

Dennis Field, P.S.



A vintage photo shows Local 415's graduating "Class of 1962-1965." From left: Frank Kading, Bob Mayhew, Jack Waechter, Darrell Kennedy, Tom Bates, Richard Vosler and John Occhipinti.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The *Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman
Robert W. Pierson

First District
Joseph P. Calabro

Second District
Myles J. Calvey

Third District
John R. Clarke

Fourth District
William W. Riley

Fifth District
Stephen Schoemehl

Sixth District
Gregory A. Lucero

Seventh District
Patrick Lavin

Eighth District
John F. Briegel

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

First District
Phillip J. Flemming

Second District
Frank J. Carroll

Third District
Donald C. Siegel

Fourth District
Salvatore J. Chilia

Fifth District
Joe S. Davis

Sixth District
Lonnie R. Stephenson

Seventh District
Jonathan B. Gardner

Eighth District
Ted C. Jensen

Ninth District
Michael S. Mowrey

Tenth District
Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor
Edwin D. Hill

C. James Spellane

Mark Brueggjenjohann

Malinda Brent

Len Shindel

Carol Fisher

Alex Hogan

Lucas Oswalt

James H. Jones

Len Turner

Tim Prendergast

Curtis D. Bateman

John Sellman

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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

©2011 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on Union-made paper.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *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.

Paid advertising is not accepted.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

P.O. Box 503

RPO West Beaver Creek

Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6



© 2011 IBEW

FROM THE OFFICERS**Inspiration in Tennessee**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

I was inspired by the spirit of members of Sparta, Tenn., Local 2143 as I joined them and community leaders on Jan. 8 on a walk to protest the planned shutdown of the Philips lighting fixture plant and outsourcing the work to Mexico.

It wasn't hard to see why their plant has been celebrated as one of the 10 best manufacturing plants in North America. These are men and women who take pride in making quality consumer products.

Our members in Sparta are working with an extraordinary manager, Dave Uhrig, who—immediately after the shutdown was announced—put a plan together to purchase the plant in hopes to convince Netherlands-based corporate giant Philips to continue ordering fixtures made in Tennessee.

Philips refused, an act that can only be characterized as corporate betrayal at its very worst.

Here's a foreign-based company that has received more than \$7 million in U.S. federal stimulus money shutting down a profitable, productive plant and spending millions more to move to Mexico. If this plant shuts down, no manufacturing plant in the U.S. or Canada is safe.

I say, "if the plant shuts down" because members of Local 2143, the plant management and their community are not rolling over or running scared in the face of the company's brutal announcement. They are fighting to keep it open.

Brothers and sisters, I am determined to see that the men and women of Sparta are not left to struggle alone. I am mobilizing our International union's staff and resources to help spread the story of Philips' betrayal to all who share our desire for economic justice, not just within North America, but across the globe.

Can the IBEW and our allies keep the Sparta plant from joining the list of 50,000 others in the U.S. that have already shut their doors? We don't know, but the line has been drawn.

The fight to rebuild and sustain a manufacturing sector in the U.S.—to restore the broad prosperity and pride that were the hallmarks of the American Dream—starts in places just like Sparta. Let's keep the lights on. ■

Congress: Don't Kill Good Construction Jobs

Despite coming to power last month in part by attacking the Democrats' weak record on job growth and denouncing President Obama's "job-killing" policies, one of the GOP's first acts as the majority party in the U.S. House of Representatives has been to kill good jobs in the economic sector hardest hit by the recession: construction.

House Republicans passed a rules package last month that treats the Highway Trust Fund as part of general revenue, tearing down the firewall that prevents the fund from being spent on unrelated projects. The trust finances state highway and transit projects through the federal gas tax—a tax exclusively earmarked for investing in our highway, bridge and rail systems. And since its creation in 1956, the fund has put tens of thousands of construction trades men and women to work.

But the GOP's move puts future job growth at risk. By treating the fund as general spending, Congress can easily withhold monies for future transportation projects, making it appear they are doing something about the deficit.

And subjecting highway funds to the uncertainty of the normal congressional appropriation process makes it nearly impossible for state and local officials to plan long-term projects, placing thousands of good jobs at risk.

The rule change is opposed by a broad coalition of business, local government and labor organizations—from the Chamber of Commerce and the Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials—which recently wrote Speaker John Boehner asking him to reverse the GOP's decision.

A vibrant construction sector is key to our economic recovery, and America can't afford to see it sacrificed in the name of short-sighted partisan politics.

Some lawmakers have taken a courageous stand against this rule change, but we need to hear more voices from both sides of aisle. Good jobs and a strong infrastructure should be a bipartisan issue. With unemployment in construction running more than 20 percent, Congress' priority should be getting more Americans back to work, not engaging in bureaucratic maneuvers that eliminate needed jobs. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Winning the Perception Battle

I just received and watched President Hill's DVD on CW/CE workers helping the IBEW recover work we have lost. I have been a member of the IBEW for almost 25 years, and at various times have been involved with organizing. I even came in through an organizing campaign I led. We won the election, but the contractor never signed an agreement. While I can see a benefit to this tactic in the short-term, in the long run the nonunion sector will just cut their cost (wages) to get below our labor cost.

Our biggest problem is the public's view of unions. The corporations and the business sector have tarred us with the brush of being lazy and greedy ne'er-do-wells. I just read a letter online blaming UNIONS for rising health care costs, the high prices of automobiles, the reason our schools are in bad shape, and have in the past seen us blamed for just about anything bad you can think of. We need to show the benefits of being union, by running a national media campaign, extolling how unions can help make lives better. If we do this right, the public should see that unions aren't the protectors of lazy bums and people looking for the easy way out.

By arranging for insurance for our members, we actually help keep health care costs down. It's the people without insurance (nonunion) that drive up health care costs, because someone has to pay for them, and it's usually done by charging those with insurance more. They don't seem to see that the foreign car companies (mainly nonunion) charge just as much for their cars. Why blame a working man for making \$25 an hour (\$50,000 a year), when the CEOs and upper management get millions? When I salted a contractor a few years back, I had a discussion with a co-worker about wages and unions. I told him that the employer wouldn't be paying us as much as he was (about half of scale) if it wasn't for the threat of the higher union wages. He disagreed, and said he thought the contractor was a nice guy who wanted to see his people prosper.

We need to clean up our image and make belonging to a union respectable once again.

Robert Newport
Local 481 member, Indianapolis, Ind.

Who We Are

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

Ark. Retiree Spins Blues-Inspired Tunes for College Radio

Jim Drennen may be in his 50s—but when it comes to his love of music, he talks with the speed and intensity of a teenage MTV fan.

"I'm almost always thinking about music in one way or another," said Drennen, a Jonesboro, Ark., Local 1516 retired journeyman inside wireman. "Many nights a week I'm up till three or so down in the basement," where he stashes his 7,000 pieces of vinyl, countless CDs, cassettes and four-track tapes.

Drennen's individual passion goes public every Saturday at 9 p.m., when he helms the DJ booth at Arkansas State University's radio station to serve up an energetic and eclectic mix of tunes on his show "Blues Where You Least Expect It."

But listeners anticipating standard odes to popular guitar slingers like Stevie Ray Vaughn or John Lee Hooker will be in for a surprise.

"This isn't your daddy's blues show," Drennen said. "You're liable to hear Andy Griffith singing 'How Long Blues' from 1959 to [heavy metal band] Megadeth covering Muddy Waters' 'I Ain't Superstitious.'" "But then again, that's where you would least expect to find the blues," he said.

Drennen has hosted 200 half-hour shows since 2008, all anchored by his encyclopedic knowledge of multiple styles. And each broadcast has a clever, coherent theme—regardless of how off-the-wall the playlist may look on paper.

There's the "Movie Blues" show that aired last February. In that episode, Drennen spun tracks from diverse film stars like Woody Allen (an accomplished jazz clarinetist) and Bette Midler, who offers a comedic take on Screamin' Jay Hawkins' "I Put A Spell On You."

Then there's the show where he spliced together original versions of bedrock standards by legends like Robert Johnson and B.B. King with updated interpretations by '70s rockers Led Zeppelin and Cream, featuring Eric Clapton.

Now in its third season, "Blues" is enjoying continued spon-



Retired Jonesboro, Ark., Local 1516 journeyman Jim Drennen spins records at his local college radio station.

sorship by Local 1516. To show his appreciation for underwriting his first year on public radio, the father of five dedicated an August 2009 program to the local and the broader labor movement.

"This isn't your daddy's blues show. You're liable to hear Andy Griffith singing 'How Long Blues' from 1959 to [heavy metal band] Megadeth covering Muddy Waters' 'I Ain't Superstitious.'"

— Jim Drennen, Local 1516 retiree

For the entirety of the 30-minute broadcast, Drennen takes listeners on an audio tour of the IBEW's history, interspersing tales about Henry Miller and the founders' ambitious dream with songs about working people's struggles.

"Let's find out why Henry had the blues, and what he did about it," Drennen tells the audience early in the set before launching into solid labor anthems like "Talking Union," "Which Side Are You On?" and "I Don't Want Your Millions, Mister."

He thanks the Brotherhood and tells listeners, "[The IBEW's] support is the foundation on which I stand today. If it were not for their support, I would not be here."

And not just in the radio booth. In 2007, Drennen was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and

required surgery to install a pacemaker in his chest. "Without the union-provided insurance," he said, "I'd probably be dead today. I owe my allegiance to my own local and the International."

Though the diagnosis forced Drennen into an early retirement, he appreciates the time he has to devote to the show.

"I miss working with the brothers and sisters—I miss the camaraderie," he said. "I got to travel quite a bit, and have friends from all over. But I'm still doing something I love, and that's important."

He's also building something of a following.

"[Jim's] got some fans among some members here," said Local 1516 Business Manager Kirk Douglas. "And his show on Henry Miller was interesting. I think it was educational for many of our brothers and sisters who are still learning about Henry Miller's life. We're proud to sponsor his show."

Drennen's next steps involve getting a Web site up and developing merchandise to promote the broadcast. He said he would love to get national syndication at some point, but he recognizes the "outside-of-the-mainstream" aspect of his program.

"It's more of an educational show," he said, "so what better place than the college radio station?"

Tune in to "Blues Where You Least Expect It" online at 9 p.m. Saturdays at www.kasu.org. ■

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

IBEW

www.ibewmerchandise.com

MERCHANDISE



\$46.00

Black Blanket Lined Jacket

100% cotton, black duck w/brown corduroy collar and blanket lining. Red, white & blue embroidered IBEW initials on front.



\$31.00

IBEW Denim Shirt

100% cotton with button down collar and 2 button cuff. IBEW initials above pocket on left chest.



\$25.00

Women's Red Button Front Cardigan

100% cotton, red button front cardigan with IBEW fist and lightning bolts on left chest.

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

DEADLINES

Entry form and video on a DVD of presentation **must** be submitted online or postmarked by the following dates:

February 15, 2011

7th District (AZ, KS, NM, OK, TX)
9th District (AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA, Pacific Islands)

March 31, 2011

2nd District (CT, ME, MA, NH, VT, RI)
4th District (DC, KY, MD, OH, VA, WV)
5th District (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, Panama, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)
8th District (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY)
10th District (AR, NC, SC, TN)

April 29, 2011

1st District (Canada)
3rd District (DE, NJ, NY, PA)
6th District (IL, IN, MI, MN, WI)
11th District (IA, MO, NE, ND, SD)



The skills of IBEW members on the job are well known across North America. But what other talents lie beneath the surface of the 725,000 men and women who make up our union?

We want to find out. And that's why we are holding the first ever IBEW Has Talent contest to coincide with the year of our 38th International Convention.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- All participants must be IBEW members in good standing. In the case of a band or group act, at least one person must be an IBEW member in good standing.
- All acts should submit a video of their performance to the International Office (see details on entry form below) where a team of judges will determine the top qualifying acts for each IBEW Vice Presidential district.
- The next round of competition will take place at the annual district progress meetings. Each qualifying video will be viewed and judged by participants at the contestant's district progress meeting.
- The winning act from each district will be housed at the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, where they will compete live at the convention picnic on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011.
- The top three finishers will compete live in a final round of competition, where a winner will be declared.

Entries, including videos, can be submitted online or by mail. Complete contest rules and entry instructions are printed below and on the IBEW Website, www.ibew.org/talent.

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

IBEW Has Talent and it's time to show it off! To enter, fill out this form completely, sign and date the Agreement and Release portion, and submit it with a video on a DVD of your performance to our website at www.ibew.org/talent. * Performance in submitted video on a DVD must be no longer than five minutes in length. Thank you for participating and good luck!

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Local Union Number _____

Card Number _____

(On IBEW Membership Card or Dues Receipt)

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Performance Description _____



*** Please note that entries may also be mailed to the following address:**

IBEW Has Talent Contest
ATTN: Jim Spellane
900 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

(Print Name)

(hereinafter "Contestant"), and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (hereinafter "IBEW"), agree as follows with respect to contestant's participation in the *IBEW Has Talent* (hereinafter "IHT") contest at the IBEW's 38th Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on September 19–23, 2011.

1. This contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the entry must be involved in the performance.
2. All submissions must be suitable for family viewing and not contain objectionable material. The IBEW reserves the right to disallow or disqualify any act for any reason.
3. Contestant agrees to enter the IHT contest and to submit to the IBEW International Office a video on a DVD of his/her performance, for consideration by the judges established for the IHT contest. Contestant further states that no performer in the video is a fulltime professional entertainer.
4. Judges at the International Office shall review all entries submitted by contestants in the IHT competition. Based on their review of the entries, the judges shall determine the acts to be submitted to each of the IBEW's 11 districts for judging at the district level.
5. The parties agree that the IHT competition does not carry with it a monetary prize or any other financial payment. Each district shall determine its winning act. Each member of the 11 individual district winning acts shall be provided with a hotel room in Vancouver for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday nights. Each act will be provided with no more than three rooms per night.
6. During the day on Saturday, September 17, 2011, the 11 district winners will compete. The judges shall select 3 of the 11 district winners as finalists, and the finalists shall then compete later on the same day.
7. Contestant agrees that he/she is not an employee of the IBEW International Office, and that he/she is not entitled to any benefit of any kind beyond those specified in this agreement.
8. All submissions become the property of the IBEW. Participation in this event indicates approval to use any image or video of the performance in future IBEW publications, presentations, and websites.
9. In consideration for being allowed to participate in the IHT contest, contestant hereby releases the IBEW from any obligation, duty, or commitment other than those set forth in this agreement.

Signature *(required for entry)*

Date