

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

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

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Vol. 5 | No. 4 | April 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 | *Wisconsin, Ohio face anti-worker legislation*
- 3 | *Workers push back in Fla., Ind. Congress prepares for federal cutbacks*
- 4 | *Maine, Mich. workers protest attacks IBEW uncovers wage theft in Fla.*
- 5 | *North of 49°*
- 6 | *NEBF annual funding notice*
- 7 | *IEC minutes*
- 8 | *Organizing Wire Transitions IBEW On Duty*
- 9 | *Spotlight on Safety Circuits*
- 10 | *Local Lines*
- 16 | *In Memoriam*
- 18 | *Editorials*
- 19 | *Letters to the Editor Who We Are*

THE WAR ON WORKERS

IBEW, Working Families Unite Against Widespread Anti-Worker Attacks

In Wisconsin, tens of thousands of working people and their allies have taken on an epic fight against Gov. Scott Walker's efforts to eliminate collective bargaining rights for public workers.

Sadly, he is no rogue operator. This year a crop of new hyper-partisan governors and state lawmakers took office, often by razor-thin margins, capitalizing on voter malaise and a weak economy.

Last year was the first election that was influenced by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which lifted corporate limits on campaign spending. The vehemence of the attacks on working Americans rose in direct proportion.

Corporate lobbyists and anti-worker special interest groups like the Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Builders and Contractors invested a record amount of money to elect politicians who were committed to doing their bidding at the expense of middle-class families.

In Wisconsin, Koch Industries was one of the largest contributors to Walker's campaign. The Kochs' interest in curtailing the power of labor unions is no secret. Koch Industries is also behind one of the largest anti-worker lobbyist organizations, Americans for Prosperity, and a major source of income for most of the other prominent right-wing groups and think tanks.



IBEW members were among the thousands who protested against anti-worker legislation in Wisconsin.

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user wisaflicio.

In Ohio and Florida, Koch allies Govs. John Kasich and Rick Scott are also committed to slashing bargaining rights for public workers, while lawmakers in 14 states are trying to ram through right-to-work legislation.

At a time when the American people want lawmakers to make jobs their No. 1 focus, some state officials are going after the hard-earned rights of working families, using the recession and state budgetary woes as a cover for their partisan agenda.

While politicians are spinning their attacks on public workers as a budget issue, chipping away at workers' rights and decent working standards keeps our economy on the wrong path, adding to the nation's financial problems.

There are already

signs that many of these anti-worker politicians have overreached. Walker's approval ratings have dropped to record lows, while a statewide recall effort against those state senators who supported his anti-worker attacks is quickly gaining momentum.

As you can read in this issue of the Electrical Worker, Walker, Kasich and other lawmakers have sparked an unprecedented movement among working people, bringing tens of thousands of people into the streets and state capitols across the country.

The fight is far from over. Rallies continue to be held across the country to push back against the attacks. Check the list of resources in this issue to see how you can get involved.

"Every IBEW member needs to tell their lawmakers that the top legislative priority has to be jobs," says International President Edwin D. Hill. "This is a fight we all have a stake in." ■

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.

Wisconsin Ground Zero for Attacks on Workers

After weeks of unprecedented shows of solidarity that sent thousands to the state capitol of Madison, Wis., Gov. Scott Walker and state Senate Republicans rammed through a bill stripping public workers of their rights on March 9, using a high-handed parliamentary maneuver that allowed them to bypass their Democratic colleagues.

The move, which forced the governor and his allies to strip the budget items from the collective bargaining section, exposed their true aim: to break public employee unions in Wisconsin.

Under Walker's bill, the vast majority of public employees would be restricted to bargaining only over wages while contracts would be limited to one year, forcing unions to be recertified on a yearly basis.

University of Wisconsin labor

historian Stephen Meyer told *In These Times* that "Walker's plan is worse than the right-to-work laws because it requires that unions get certified by their members yearly, at the same time that the unions are prevented from accomplishing anything for their members."

Walker says that budget woes were behind the move, saying that public workers are overcompensated compared to their private sector counterparts—an assertion that has been challenged by leading economists.

A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute found that Wisconsin's public workers earn nearly 5 percent less in total compensation than employees in the private sector.

Walker's win was a big blow to working families, says Madison Local 159 Business Manager Mark Hoffmann, but the movement that his bill created will continue the

fight. Pro-worker activists throughout the state have launched a recall campaign against GOP state senators who have stood with Walker.

Milwaukee Local 2150 member Mike Haak says, "I looked at the bill and there is nothing in there about saving taxpayers' money, but a lot about forcing an anti-worker agenda on the people of Wisconsin."

The 14 members of the state

Senate Democratic caucus left Wisconsin in February to deprive the body of a voting quorum and block the anti-worker legislation from coming to the floor.

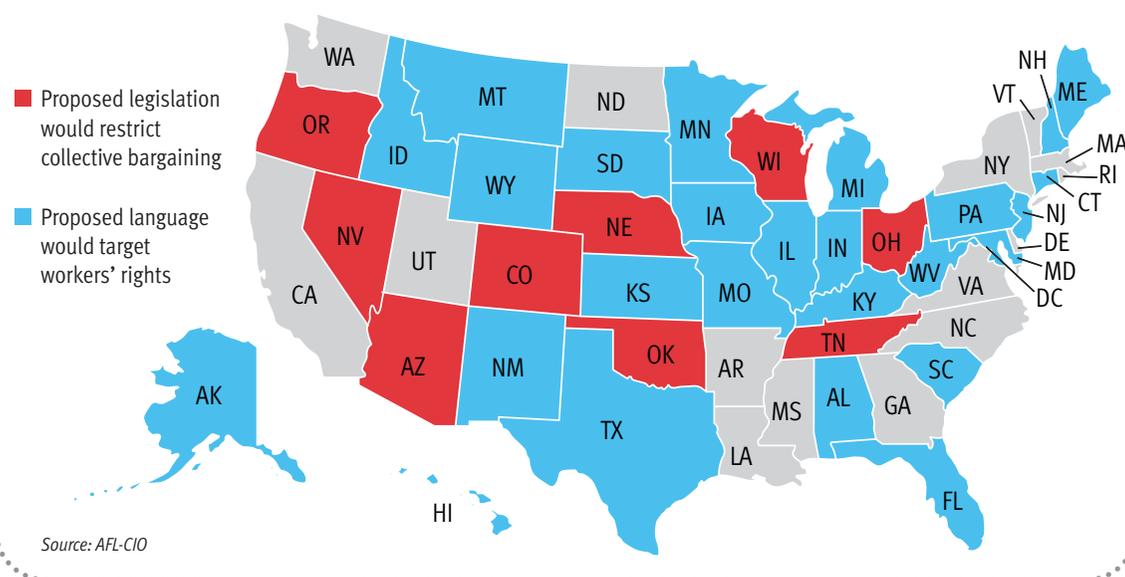
IBEW members throughout the state and beyond travelled to Madison, including Milwaukee Local 494, which represents electricians employed by state agencies.

Local 494 Business Manager

Daniel Large says, "Our public sector members—like many other state employees—took a pay freeze last year, so we have been willing as anyone to tighten our belt to help the government save money."

Hoffmann said hundreds of thousands came to Madison. "Working people in Wisconsin have woken up and are going to change politics as usual in the capital." ■

Slashing Rights, Coast to Coast



Ohio Workers Stand Up to Anti-Worker Legislation

Ohio Gov. John Kasich was expected to approve a GOP-sponsored bill last month that strips public workers of their collective bargaining rights. But labor leaders are mobilizing to make sure it never sees the light of day.

Activists are looking to nullify the legislation by moving it to a statewide referendum. That will take a full-throttle effort from workers' allies to gather more than 200,000 signatures in 90 days, which would put the law on hold and place a repeal referendum on the state's November ballot.

Marietta Local 972 Business Manager Steve Crum said members are passing out fliers on jobsites, phone banking and mobilizing signature gatherers. "We have a lot of resources and energy to draw on," he said.

Ohio Senate Minority Leader Capri Cafaro highlighted the negative impact that the collective bargaining law would have on working families:

"We can't grow Ohio's economy by destroying jobs and attacking the middle class," Cafaro said.

The law would confine workers to bargaining over wages only. It would

eliminate collective bargaining for health care, sick time and vacations.

Crum, who attended several rallies last month, said that the referendum push is critical to oppose the legislation.

"If our opponents are successful at beating back collective bargaining for state workers, we're next," Crum said. "Right-to-work and anti-PLA laws won't be far behind. So we have to make this our fight."

Dave Appleman, Fourth District International Representative, agrees. "Kasich and his crew are out to wipe out unions totally. We better be in it—because we'll be next."

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland—who lost re-election last year to Kasich—joined the March protests to lend support to union workers. "This [bill] has little to do with balancing this year's budget," he told a crowd of demonstrators in Columbus. "It's an attempt to diminish the rights of working people. It's an assault on the middle class of this state and it's unfair and out of balance."

Kasich, who has worked as a Fox News contributor, spent half a decade as an investment banker with the former Wall Street firm

Lehman Brothers—the group whose 2008 collapse helped trigger the recession that has hit working people in Ohio disproportionately hard.

A 16,000-member Facebook

group has up-to-the-minute info on the referendum push. Visit www.facebook.com and search for "Stop Senate Bill 5 in Ohio." ■

New Hampshire: 'The Toughest Fight Yet'

For New Hampshire state Rep. Michael McCarthy, union values don't just belong on the work site—they extend into the statehouse. The Middleton, Mass., Local 2321 member and Verizon Wireless employee was one of a handful of Republicans who voted in February against a right-to-work bill.

Dover, N.H., Local 490 members were among 300 activists and citizens who testified in hearings. One by one, they stood up to speak against the measure that would divide and weaken all state workers by compelling unions to represent employees who refuse to pay their fair share through dues check-off.

While only about 25 people showed up to support the right-to-work legislation, it nevertheless passed in the house. The bill headed to the state Senate in late March, and "is virtually guaranteed" to pass the body, where Republicans hold a vast majority, Local 460 Business Manager Joe Casey said.

"I've been involved in this fight for 16 years against lawmakers introducing this legislation, and this year, there's no guarantee that working families will be on the winning side," said Casey, who is president of the state's building and construction trades. "This is the toughest fight we've had yet," as pro-worker advocates face an emboldened anti-union lawmaking body.

Democratic Gov. John Lynch has pledged to veto the bill, which would send it back to the House. ■



Teachers, firefighters, health care workers and numerous public employees joined thousands at a February protest at the Ohio statehouse.

Florida Workers: Standing Together

Teachers, firefighters, health care workers and numerous public employees took to Florida's streets in March for statewide demonstrations against Republican-sponsored legislation to roll back workers' rights.

The new legislative session, which began March 8, was met with spirited rallies in more than 20 cities, as thousands of pro-worker activists began what they say will be a growing voice of opposition to Gov. Rick Scott's planned elimination of collective bargaining rights and PLAs, deep cuts in the state's public education system and other job-killing policies.

GOP state senators began the new session with plans to tackle Florida's budget, introduce tax cut legislation for large businesses and erode workers' gains at the bargaining table. But IBEW members like Jason Smith say activists are invested and optimistic about the next few months.

"I've never seen our state's workers as together on one issue as we are now," said Smith, a member of Tampa Local 824. He served as a mobilization coordinator for the coalition of labor activists sponsoring the massive March 8 "Awake the State" demonstrations. "In their efforts to scapegoat workers, Republican lead-

ers overplayed their hand.

"People—including nonunion workers—are connecting the dots between unions and the middle class, and they know what will happen to them if our bargaining rights are taken away and our jobs destroyed," he said.

Orlando Local 606 Business Manager Bob Carr cites Scott's approval of tax breaks for large corporations as evidence that the governor's policies are fiscally unsound.

"His idea is to have almost no taxes on corporations," Carr said. "How is that efficient business? It's just going to put the tax burden on

working people. Our governor is just like [Wisconsin's] Scott Walker, with the goal to make America a Third World country."

A bill that would erode collective bargaining was submitted to the Florida legislature by state Rep. Scott Plakon. If passed, the law would strip most public workers of union rights,

including collective bargaining. Plakon—who won the Associated Builders & Contractors "Friend of Free Enterprise" award in 2009—exempted firefighters and law enforcement officers from the proposed law, which labor leaders say was an attempt to drive a wedge between the various state employees' unions. ■

Indiana Right-to-Work Effort Derailed by Labor Pushback



Thousands of Indiana residents flood the state capitol in late February to tell their legislators to vote no on 'right-to-work-for-less' legislation.

Credit: Tom Stratman

In the face of massive protests in Indianapolis, Republican leadership in the Indiana General Assembly drew back from its efforts to pass right-to-work legislation in February.

"This is a big victory for all working people," says South Bend Local 153 Membership Development Director Troy Warner. "This 'right-to-work-for-less' bill would have weakened the voice of working families in Indianapolis while strengthening the power of big corporations."

Mass rallies at the capitol

against the legislation attracted thousands of Hoosier State residents from all walks of life, convincing many legislators to abandon the bill.

"When the rallies started on Monday Feb. 22, we had more than 2,000 folks at the capitol," Warner says. "By Tuesday, it was up to 3,500 and by Wednesday it was 6,000."

Warner also credits protests in Wisconsin and Ohio in helping to convince Gov. Mitch Daniels and other elected officials to back off their threats to go after workers' rights.

A diverse coalition aligned

against the legislation—representing academics, civil rights organizations, community activists and labor unions—despite GOP efforts to divide labor against itself.

"Initially the GOP told the building trades that they would exempt us from the right-to-work law and they would even leave project labor agreements alone if we didn't protest," Warner says. "Well, I believe in united we stand and divided we fall and an attack on workers' rights anywhere is attack on working people everywhere, so we weren't buying it." ■

Meanwhile, Back in Washington, D.C.: GOP Plan Calls for Gutting Rights, Slashing Jobs

GOP lawmakers in the nation's capital are attempting to roll back workers' rights under the guise of balancing the federal budget.

Republicans introduced bills to defund the National Labor Relations Board, ban PLAs, eliminate prevailing wage law, restrict collective bargaining and impose a national right-to-work act.

And a resolution passed by the House in February included hundreds of amendments—largely from Tea Party-affiliated freshmen—that would gut funding to programs addressing workplace safety and public health, along with cuts to thousands of job training facilities. Also at risk are initiatives promoting infant nutrition, early childhood education, college grants for low-income students and more.

In a letter to House and Senate members, IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill stated that the resolution, if passed, would make Congress "responsible for slashing good middle-class jobs and possibly triggering a 'double-dip' recession."

"The United States is still in the middle of a jobs crisis," Hill wrote. "Rather than address the job crisis, the House passed a bill which may raise unemployment to 10 percent. This is not what Americans voted for when they cast their ballots in November."

In an analysis of the resolution, the Wall Street investment firm Goldman Sachs found that it would reduce the country's economic growth by as much as 2 percent of gross domestic product, likely leading to a spike in unemployment by as much as a whole percentage point. And a chief economist with Moody's Analytics, a New York-based firm specializing in financial research, said that the plan would ax 700,000 jobs by the end of next year.

IBEW Political and Legislative Department Director Brian Baker said the resolution and its anti-worker amendments illustrate that GOP lawmakers' calls for a balanced budget and job growth are disingenuous.

"We've got to figure out how to get people back to work instead of cutting programs that benefit the middle class," Baker said.

The past few months have seen modest improvements for working families nationwide. Claims for unemployment insurance dipped, and consumer spending is on the rise. But right-wing austerity measures will only undercut lasting growth, said one stalwart ally of working families.

"Let's instead work together and address a primary cause of our budget crisis: years of economic downturn and lost revenue due in large part to trade agreements that shipped jobs overseas," said Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown. "Let's pursue real reform rather than ideological attacks aimed at dividing working people."

Hill said that the mass demonstrations nationwide are a clear sign that entwined issues like workers' rights and budget cuts are more prominent in the collective consciousness of middle-class Americans than they have been in years.

"The enemies of the working class are trying to divide us, shun us and ignore us," Hill said. "But this energy is just going to amplify." ■

THE WAR ON WORKERS *continued on page 4*

Activists Keep up the Pressure on Michigan Lawmakers

While Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder publicly maintains that he wants to work with unions to avoid mass protests like those in nearby Wisconsin, pro-worker advocates are concerned that he hasn't taken enough steps to distance himself from more anti-worker lawmakers in the state legislature.

Activists have held rallies and attended statehouse meetings to keep pressure on the governor. Snyder said in the press that he's "not interested" in actively pursuing policies that would hurt working families, but he may allow certain bills to become law. On March 1, he signed legislation banning collective bargaining for nearly 20,000 home-based child care providers.

GOP state Sens. John Proos and John Moolenaar, along with state Rep. Joe Haveman and others have introduced legislation to make Michigan a right-to-work state, outlaw PLAs on government projects and end collective bargaining.

That, combined with Snyder's state budget proposal—which includes tax breaks for businesses, deep cuts in public education and tax hikes for seniors and working families—is why Detroit Local 58

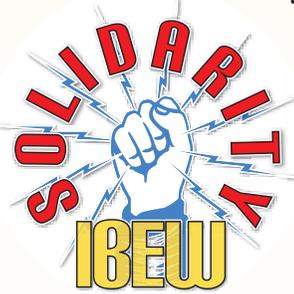
President Dave Austin says working families in the Great Lakes State should be mobilizing.

Austin has joined worker advocates at House hearings on banning PLAs, imposing right-to-work legislation and other issues.

"We brought hundreds of union members to the statehouse. I've been called a 'union thug' and other names, but when most people see us

wearing our [union] shirts and demonstrating in a civil way, they see us as standing up for the middle class. They get it."

The governor met in March with the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council to highlight his economic agenda, which includes building a new bridge over the Detroit River—a project that could employ thousands of construction workers. Snyder also endorses a plan to build new coal-fired power plants and expand mining in the Upper Peninsula to spur job growth. ■



Maine Workers Tell Gov.: 'We Need Good Jobs, Not Partisan Attacks'

Activists in Maine are gearing up to take on their own wave of anti-worker legislation as Gov. Paul LePage announces plans to go ahead with introducing a right-to-work bill.

The Republican governor—elected last November—told Politico in February that he would "push forcefully ahead with right-to-work legislation" in his state, even if it means a Wisconsin-style fight with unions.

LePage told the newspaper that Mainers want jobs and they "don't care if they're union jobs or nonunion jobs. They just want a paycheck."

"What he is saying is that we don't care about good jobs," says Maine AFL-CIO President Don Berry, who also serves as Portland Local 567's training director.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, wages of workers in right-to-work states are more than 3 percent lower than those that allow for fair share dues check off.

"The Maine economy has been plagued by too many jobs that offer minimum wage and nonexistent benefits and LePage is adding to the problem," Berry says. "We need good middle-class jobs, not ones that keep our workers stuck in poverty."

A right-to-work law would also add to the red tape many businesses face by imposing a whole new string of regulations that get between employers and their employees. "[The governor] wants the state to go in and tell employees how they can bargain with their workers and whether or not they can choose to recognize a union," Berry says.

LePage is also targeting public workers, slashing retirement and health care benefits for teachers and other public employees, while giving out tax breaks to the wealthy. ■

IBEW Helps Shine Media Spotlight on Wage Theft



IBEW member Gary Omev is a veteran who was denied a job on the project, a new VA center. The IBEW helped uncover numerous wage and hour violations at the site.

Nearly a year of building trades and IBEW outreach to nonunion workers about wage and hour violations at the construction site of a Veterans Administration hospital complex paid off in February.

As a direct result of the unions' efforts, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division is investigating contractors on the Lake Nona site near Orlando for misclassifying workers and violating Davis-Bacon prevailing wage statutes.

Public scrutiny also focused on the contractors' use of foreign-made materials and their failure to hire veterans to work on a hospital that will serve them.

"I was blown away by how many news outlets showed up at the press conference," says Fernando Rendon, recording secretary and assistant business manager of Orlando Local 606, of a Feb. 16 press conference called by the Central Building and Construction Trades, and joined by veterans groups and community allies. Four local network television affiliates were joined by reporters from independent and university media and Spanish-speaking channel Univision.

Rendon, one of the original organizers of IBEW's membership development Florida Initiative, remembers getting some negative comments from workers when he first joined other unionists at the site last year to make workers aware of their rights under federal law. Many workers received raises after complaining to their employers, some of whom had lied to them.

"We were the big bad union guys," says Rendon. "Now the workers trust us more than their contractors because we tell the truth."

A week before the press event, federal and state authorities detained nine undocumented workers on the 65-acre, \$665 million project that includes a power plant and dormitory. Six were found hiding in a ceiling. A caller to police said that a senior manager employed by the contractor, Brasfield and Gorrie, had helped hide the workers.

While the raid helped draw press attention and federal regulators to the construction project, Rendon and other leaders said that the shoddy treatment of workers was the fundamental issue of concern to the unions.

A worker reports that managers of Quinco Electric, one of the nonunion contractors on the job site are now "quaking in their boots." They have removed foreign-made couplings from conduit and are advising workers to remember their job classifications when they are questioned by investigators.

A week after the press conference, building trades members who circulated literature on the job ran out of materials because of intensified interest from the work force.

The high-profile exposure of violations at Lake Nona, says Rendon, is setting a precedent that will raise the bar for wages and working conditions in the entire region. Contracts for a large-scale Air Force base project in the jurisdiction of Daytona Local 756 were due to be let in February, but have been delayed. Speculation is that, in the wake of Lake Nona, contractors are being told to make "sure their numbers are right," says Rendon. Signatory contractors have bid on the project.

"We are extremely lucky that our building trades council, under the leadership of Ironworker Wes Kendrick, put aside our small differences and worked as a team," says Rendon. "That is the only way labor will progress." ■

Resources for IBEW Activists

Where to go to get involved and stay up-to-date

- **We Are One** www.we-r-1.org
Americans will be rallying across the country the first week of April in support of workers' rights. Go to the Web site to find an action near you.
- **States of Denial** www.aflcio.org/issues/states
An online resource for grassroots activists.
- **Progressive States Network** www.progressivestates.org
An organization committed to promoting pro-worker, progressive legislation in all 50 states.
- **Economic Policy Institute** www.epi.org
A nonpartisan think tank focused on the needs of working people.
- **IBEW.org** www.ibew.org
The latest updates from IBEW members across the country in the battle to defend workers' rights.
- **IBEW Facebook Page** www.facebook.com/IBEWFB
Connect with over 15,000 IBEW members across the country.



North of 49° | Au nord du 49° parallèle

Saskatchewan Crown Corporation Workers Unite for Fair Contract

More than 9,000 employees at Saskatchewan's major Crown corporations have come together to coordinate bargaining and build unity in their campaign for a fair contract with the government.

The newly formed "Common Front" represents blue- and white-collar workers at SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SGI—government-owned provincial corporations—bringing together members of Regina Local 2067 and two other unions.

Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union Local 397 President Garry Hamblin told the Regina Leader-Post that "when we started comparing notes and sharing information amongst ourselves, we could see that there were a lot of

common approaches being taken by management at various tables."

"It seemed like it was appropriate to come back with a similar response," he said.

Local 2067 represents more than 1,400 employees of SaskPower, the provincial utility. They have been working without a contract for more than a year.

Members overwhelmingly rejected management's demand for concessions in January—including restrictions on overtime benefits and refusal to address the company's inadequate benefits package and retirement plan—while their wage rate remains below average for utility workers in Western Canada.

Local 2067 Assistant Business Manager Jason Tibbs says employ-

ees are frustrated by management's insistence on slashing benefits and instituting restrictive work rules—all while SaskPower is posting healthy profits.

One of the company's most contentious demands calls for restricting the use of compensatory time off. Workers chose to forgo wage increases in exchange for compensatory time off during less flush times for the utility in the 1980s and many feel the company's efforts to take it away represents a betrayal.

"Our members took it in the wallet for years to help SaskPower make it through some tough times, so we expect it to keep their end of the bargain," Tibbs says.

The other Crown Corporations have also called for similar cutbacks.

"The government needs to take

a close look at the money-making operations of the Crowns and act accordingly," says a statement from the coalition. "That means taking concessions off the table and getting serious about a decent wage for the people who make the Crowns so profitable."

Tibbs says the coalition serves as a clearinghouse of information to help the unions in their bargaining. "We are facing the same problems and we need to share ideas with each other," he says.

"All Crown corporation workers want a fair contract," says Local 2067 Business Manager Neil Collins. "The companies are doing better than they have in years and it is only right that the men and women who make this province work get to share in some of their success." ■

Les travailleurs des sociétés d'État s'unissent afin d'obtenir un contrat équitable

Plus de 9,000 employés des plus importantes entreprises gouvernementales de la

Saskatchewan se sont réunis afin de coordonner les négociations et de créer l'unité dans leur campagne visant à obtenir une convention équitable avec le gouvernement.

Le « Front commun » nouvellement formé représente les cols bleus et les cols blancs à l'emploi des sociétés *SaskTel*, *SaskPower*, *Sask Energy* et *SGI*—des corporations de la Couronne appartenant entièrement au gouvernement de la province—et regroupe les membres de la Section locale 2067 de la FIOE ainsi que les membres de deux autres syndicats.

« Lorsque nous avons commencé à comparer nos notes et à partager nos informations, nous avons constaté qu'il existe plusieurs similarités dans les démarches prises par la direction aux diverses tables de négociation » mentionne Garry Hamblin, Président du Local 397 du Syndicat canadien des em-

ployés professionnels et de bureau (COPE/SEPB), dans une déclaration au *Journal Regina Leader-Post*.

« Il nous semblait approprié de revenir avec une réponse similaire » dit-il.

La Section locale 2067 de Régina, membre de la Coalition, regroupe plus de 1,400 employés travaillant pour la société d'électricité *SaskPower*, le service public d'électricité de la province. Ces travailleurs sont sans contrat de travail depuis plus d'un an.

Au mois de janvier, les membres ont massivement rejeté la proposition de la direction demandant que les employés fassent des concessions. La direction voulait restreindre les avantages sociaux reliés au travail en temps supplémentaire et refusait d'aborder le groupe d'avantages sociaux et le plan de retraite considérés insuffisants, alors que dans l'Ouest du Canada, le taux de salaire de ces employés demeure en-dessous de la moyenne des salaires des travailleurs des services publics.

Le confrère Jason Tibbs, Gérant d'affaires adjoint de la Section lo-

cale 2067, affirme que les employés sont frustrés par l'insistance de la direction à vouloir réduire les avantages sociaux et à instaurer des règles de travail restrictives alors que la société *SaskPower* affiche de très bons bénéfices.

La demande la plus controversée de la compagnie exige de limiter le recours aux congés compensatoires. Les travailleurs avaient décidé de renoncer aux augmentations salariales, en échange de congés compensatoires durant les années 80, une période moins faste pour les services publics; plusieurs considèrent que les tentatives de la compagnie représentent une véritable trahison.

« Nos membres ont dû piger dans leurs poches durant plusieurs années afin d'aider la compagnie *SaskPower* à traverser ces temps difficiles, alors nous espérons que cette dernière honorera sa part du contrat » déclare le confrère Tibbs.

Les autres sociétés d'État réduisent également des réductions similaires.

La Coalition est claire dans son communiqué de presse lorsqu'elle mentionne : « Le gouvernement doit examiner de près les activités lucratives des sociétés et agir en conséquence, en laissant tomber les concessions exigées des employés et en songeant sérieusement à négocier un salaire acceptable pour ceux qui ont contribué aux bénéfices des dites sociétés ».

Le confrère Tibbs indique que la Coalition sert de « centre d'échange d'information » pour venir en aide aux syndicats dans leurs négociations. « Nous sommes confrontés aux mêmes problèmes alors nous devons partager nos idées » ajoute-t-il.

« Les employés des entreprises gouvernementales ne désirent qu'une chose : un contrat équitable. Les sociétés se portent mieux que par les années passées; il est donc normal que les femmes et les hommes qui ont contribué au bon fonctionnement de cette province reçoivent leur part des succès obtenus » conclut Neil Collins, Gérant d'affaires de la Section locale 2067. ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

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

IBEW on the Huffington Post

President Hill has a blog championing good jobs and more. Read it at www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill.

YouTube

The IBEW stands in solidarity with the working people of Wisconsin. Watch online at the IBEW's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker.

HourPower

Partnerships create jobs—and the IBEW is always trying to create them.

Take a look at how Des Moines, Iowa, Local 347 is creating one with Fair Play Scoreboards. www.IBEWHourPower.com



ElectricTV

For AEP, when it comes to investing \$1 billion to rebuild infrastructure, our electricians and contractors are the only game in town—check it out on ETV. electricTV.net



ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE for the National Electrical Benefit Fund

Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your pension plan (“the Plan”) and general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called “defined benefit pension plans”) must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. In fact, despite the difficult economic times and the market losses in 2008, the Plan substantially rebounded in both 2009 and 2010. As a result, the Plan is in sound financial condition and is considered a “green zone” plan (rather than a plan in endangered or critical status). This notice is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010 (“Plan Year”).

How Well Funded Is Your Plan?

Under federal law, the Plan must report how well it is funded by using a measure called the “funded percentage.” This percentage is obtained by dividing the Plan’s assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. Your Plan’s funded percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is set forth in the chart below, along with a statement of the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

Funded Percentage			
	2010 Plan Year	2009 Plan Year	2008 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2010	January 1, 2009	January 1, 2008
Funded Percentage	83.8%	82.1%	93.5%
Value of Assets	\$11,355,235,554	\$10,787,685,180	\$11,857,581,409
Value of Liabilities	\$13,534,912,452	\$13,142,152,828	\$12,682,101,271

Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date for the plan year and are actuarial values. Because market values can fluctuate daily based on factors in the marketplace, such as changes in the stock market, pension law allows plans to use actuarial values that are designed to smooth out those fluctuations for funding purposes. The asset values below are market values and are measured as of the last day of the plan year, rather than as of the Valuation Date. Substituting the market value of assets for the actuarial value used in the above chart would show a clearer picture of a plan’s funded status as of the Valuation Date. The fair market value of the Plan’s assets as of the last day of the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is shown in the following table:

	December 31, 2010	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$10,312,237,212	\$9,706,110,219	\$8,989,737,650

Critical or Endangered Status

Under federal pension law a plan generally will be considered to be in “endangered” status if, at the beginning of the plan year, the funded percentage of the plan is less than 80 percent or in “critical” status if the percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Rehabilitation and funding improvement plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time.

The Plan was not in endangered or critical status in the Plan Year.

Participant Information

The total number of participants in the Plan as of the Plan’s valuation date was 491,775. Of this number, 237,032 were active participants, 109,881 were retired or separated from service and receiving benefits, and 144,862 were retired or separated from service and entitled to future benefits.

Funding and Investment Policies

Every pension plan must have a procedure for establishing a funding policy to carry out plan objectives. A funding policy relates to the level of assets needed to pay for benefits promised under the plan currently and over the years. The funding policy of the Plan is to ensure that the employer contributions to the Plan, coupled with long-term investment returns, will keep the Plan financially secure and permit the Plan to meet all current and future liabilities. The Trustees have determined that the 3% of gross labor payroll contribution rate will continue to satisfy this funding policy.

Once money is contributed to the Plan, the money is invested by plan officials called fiduciaries, who make specific investments in accordance with the Plan’s investment policy. Generally speaking, an investment policy is a written statement that provides the fiduciaries who are responsible for plan investments with guidelines or general instructions concerning investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan is to select a diversified investment portfolio designed to balance risk and return, and to hire or contract with professional investment staff and advisers to ensure that the allocation of investments are prudent and that the individual investment funds and managers are achieving the goals established by the Plan.

Under the Plan’s investment policy, the Plan’s assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
Cash (Interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	0.36%
U.S. Government securities	6.40
Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	–
All other	8.41
Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	0.34
Common	22.61
Partnership/joint venture interests	9.15
Real estate (other than employer real property)	0.05
Loans (other than to participants)	1.30
Participant loans	–
Value of interest in common/collective trusts	32.39
Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	0.65
Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	–
Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	–
Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2.50
Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	–
Employer-related investments:	
Employer Securities	–
Employer real property	–
Buildings and other property used in plan operation	0.08
Other	15.76

For information about the Plan’s investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above—common / collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trust investment accounts, or 103-12 investment entities—contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

A pension plan is required to file with the U.S. Department of Labor an annual report called the Form 5500 that contains financial and other information about the plan. Copies of the annual report are available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202.693.8673. For 2009 and subsequent plan years, you may obtain an electronic copy of the Plan’s annual report by going to www.efast.dol.gov and using the Form 5500 search function. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan’s annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator. Individual information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit under the plan, is not contained in the annual report. If you are seeking information regarding your benefits under the plan, contact the plan administrator identified below under “Where to Get More Information.”

February International Executive Council Meeting

Minutes and Report of The International Executive Council's Regular Meeting

Summary of Rules Governing Plans in Reorganization and Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. Under so-called "plan reorganization rules," a plan with adverse financial experience may need to increase required contributions and may, under certain circumstances, reduce benefits that are not eligible for the PBGC's guarantee (generally, benefits that have been in effect for less than 60 months). If a plan is in reorganization status, it must provide notification that the plan is in reorganization status and that, if contributions are not increased, accrued benefits under the plan may be reduced or an excise tax may be imposed (or both). The plan is required to furnish this notification to each contributing employer and the labor organization.

Despite these special plan reorganization rules, a plan in reorganization could become insolvent. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option. This information will be provided for each year the plan is insolvent.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that can not be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11.00 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33.00 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC's maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant's years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$500.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service ($\$500.00 / 10$), which equals \$50.00. The guaranteed amount for a \$50.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus $\$24.75 (.75 \times \$33.00)$, or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 ($\35.75×10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200.00, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20.00 (or $\$200.00 / 10$). The guaranteed amount for a \$20.00 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11.00 plus $\$6.75 (.75 \times \$9.00)$, or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ($\17.75×10).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under the plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee pre-retirement death benefits to a spouse or beneficiary (e.g., a qualified pre-retirement survivor annuity) if the participant dies after the plan terminates, benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's name and employer identification number or "EIN" is Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, 53-0181657. For more information about the PBGC, go to PBGC's website, www.pbgc.gov. ■

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Secretary Lavin, on Thursday, February 3, 2011, in Bonita Springs, Florida. Other members of the Council in attendance were Lucero, Briegel, Riley, Calvey and Clarke. Chairman Pierson and Council Members Schoemehl and Calabro were excused due to extreme winter weather conditions prohibiting their travel.

International President Hill

International President Edwin D. Hill met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Lee

International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood both in Canada and in the United States.

Legal Defense

Payments for legal defense, made from the General Fund, were examined and approved in accordance with the requirements of Article X, Section 1, of the IBEW Constitution.

Financial Reports

The International Secretary-Treasurer's Reports for the various funds of the Brotherhood were presented to the members of the International Executive Council, examined, approved and filed.

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision

International President Hill advised the council members that there are no local unions under the supervision of the International Office at this time.

IBEW—Cope Audit

Reviewed and filed

Article XX and XXI Cases

There has been no activity under either Article XX or Article XXI.

Retirement of Retired International Executive Council Member

John E. Cole, Retired International Executive Council Member
Effective January 1, 2011

Discussion for the Appeal Process of Disability Pension for the Pension Benefit Fund

Discussed the process for appeals of questionable disabilities for the Pension Benefit Fund Pension. It was agreed that when a questionable disability pension is approved by the International Executive Council that the pension should be listed with the rest of the disability pensions attached to the minutes of the International Executive Council Meeting.

Leased Vehicle Policy

Having reviewed the IBEW Leased Vehicle Policy, and after due discussion and consideration, the International Executive Council conditionally approved the draft of the IBEW Leased Vehicle Policy, pending legal review.

Charges Filed with The International Executive Council Against

Edward L. Green, Card Number D544352, Retired Member of Local Union 575, IBEW

On January 7, 2011, Brother Austin W. Keyser, Local Union 575, Business Manager preferred charges against Brother Edward L. Green, Card Number D544352, a vested pension member in the IBEW.

These charges were pended until the report of the assigned hearing officer has been received by the International Executive Council.

Correspondence from Arthur Cirimele Regarding Charges and International Executive Council Findings

Correspondence from Brother Cirimele, dated January 27, 2011, requesting reconsideration of the International Executive Council findings, was read and filed. And his request was denied.

Birth Date Changes

Membership in L.U.

Koster, John W.	0003
Aldrich, Edward R.	0176
Zdenek, Josef	0024
Sorg, John K.	0305
Rivoli, Thomas	0025
Glausier, Travis L.	0357
Coffey, Thomas G.	0082
Waranock, Terrence L.	0568
Zammiello, Frank J.	0099
Medina, Joe F.	0611
Collins, Danny D.	0175
Moore, Wayne	0613

The Next Regular International Council Meeting

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Friday, February 4, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, June 6, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois.

For the International Executive Council

Patrick Lavin, Secretary
February 2011

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW Pension Benefit fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the "About Us" page. ■

IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

TAKING EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY
TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Deadline May 1

For contest information, go to

www.ibew.org/FoundersScholarship



Organizing Wire

A Toast to Idaho Malt Workers after Two-Year Organizing Fight

Workers at an Idaho malt and barley plant emerged victorious in February in their two-year-long struggle for union representation.

More than 20 employees at the InteGrow Malt plant—located in Idaho Falls—were officially certified as members of Pocatello Local 449 after first voting for a voice on the job with the IBEW in the fall of 2009.

The plant processes malted barley for use in brewing beer.

Workers voted union by an overwhelming majority in a National Labor Relations Board-supervised election, but management appealed.

The company—which is jointly owned by the international food giant Cargill and the Grupo Modelo brewery of Mexico—also dragged employees through lengthy unit determination meetings, trying to peel union supporters out of the bargaining unit.

The board rejected the company's arguments, but the endless legal wrangling was successful in stalling the campaign.

"Management was very anti-union," says Local 449 Business Manager Robert Bodell. "They threw every hurdle they could think of to slow us down."

Despite the many obstacles—leading to four unfair labor practice charges being filed against the company—workers stuck together throughout.

"Even though they had no experience with unions, the group stayed strong," said Local 449 Organizer Mike Miera, who said Eighth District International Representative Rocky Clark was helpful on the campaign. "The solidarity they showed in the face of overwhelming adversity was amazing."

Employees' main complaint was management's arbitrary work schedule changes, putting workers on a six-day work week without consultation with the shop floor.

The five-year-old plant was built by Local 449 inside construction members, so when deciding to join a union, InterGROW workers went straight to the IBEW.

Negotiations on a first contract kicked off in March. ■

Transitions

DECEASED Joseph J. Sparks



The IBEW regrets to announce that retired Third District International Representative Joseph J. Sparks died January 1 at the age of 88.

Brother Sparks was initiated into Philadelphia Local 98 in 1948. A Phila-

delphia native, he was a graduate of St. Joseph's College. Sparks served six years in the U.S. Navy during World War II before joining the IBEW.

Working as an inside wireman, he quickly became a leader in the local, serving as a member of the executive board and as business agent before being elected president in 1965.

Local 98 Financial Secretary Francis Walsh joined the IBEW soon after Sparks' election.

"He was a real effective presi-

dent," says Walsh. "Extremely professional, he made sure every meeting ran smoothly and on time."

He served in the position until 1970, when he was appointed Third District International Representative by International President Charles Pillard. Brother Sparks serviced construction locals in his home city and throughout eastern Pennsylvania.

Retiring in 1985, he remained active in the labor movement and civic affairs, serving as president of

Local 98's retirees club and as a member of the general board of the National Council of Senior Citizens.

He was also very active in local politics, volunteering with the Philadelphia AFL-CIO's get-out-the-vote drives.

Brother Sparks was also a member of a local barbershop quartet group, performing for nursing home residents and church groups.

The IBEW extends its deepest sympathy to his friends and family. ■

IBEW On Duty



IBEW members from far and wide make up various construction squads in Afghanistan and beyond. Pictured left to right: Eric Altice, Reading, Pa., Local 777; George Flick, Bethlehem, Pa., Local 1600; Michael Negrete, Harrisburg, Pa., Local 143; Monty Stiltner, Toledo, Ohio, Local 8; Lawrence Jones, Columbus, Ohio, Local 683; Anthony Ross, Philadelphia Local 98; Jose Santiago, Local 143; Gavin Fisher, Local 777; Stanley Poleshuk, Local 143; Bruce Snyder, Allentown, Pa., Local 375; Steve Bandura, Norristown, Pa., Local 380; and Mark "Salty" Salter, St. Louis Local 2.

Members Tackle Heavy Construction Jobs in Mideast

When the Air Force needs large construction work done quickly in and around combat zones, the men and women of RED HORSE ride in.

Members of the construction squad formally called "Rapid Engineers Deployable: Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers" handle upgrades on airfields, drill wells, and complete large projects involving demolition and construction—all to ensure that U.S. troops have the infrastructure to do their jobs in Iraq, Afghanistan and surrounding countries.

Allentown, Pa., Local 375 member Bruce Snyder served as superintendent of the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE's electrical division in Afghanistan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. There, he and fellow IBEW members joined other skilled trades workers to construct and electrify medical stations, communications centers and other structures.

"We take pride in being able to build anything the Air Force needs here," said Snyder, who joined the National Guard after four years of active

duty in 1986. "IBEW members are a valuable part of this effort, and we don't take our responsibilities lightly."

Fellow RED HORSE member Gavin Fisher, a reservist and meter reader with Reading, Pa., Local 777, worked with Snyder as part of a convoy team to deliver bulldozers and heavy equipment to construction sites in the Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan.

"It was tough work, and you always had to keep your eyes open," said Fisher, 27, who is looking to become a lineman with Metropolitan Edison Co.

A typical RED HORSE squadron is made up of more than 400 servicemen and women, including members of the carpenters, masons, sheet metal workers, plumbers and various other trades. Squad members stay on the move, often connecting with other RED HORSE groups at various sites.

"I met many of my fellow members from around the nation doing similar work," said Snyder, who returned home last spring. "It was always a thrill to get to a new place and ask around if anyone was IBEW." ■

Spotlight on Safety



A strategic partnership of union, management and OSHA representatives has improved safety of linemen and other classifications in the outside utility branch.

Renewed OSHA Partnership Saves Lives in Line Construction

Paul Loughran, a 41-year lineman, tells apprentices that being part of the IBEW is an incredible work opportunity. Then, Loughran, safety director of Boston Local 104, bluntly counsels, "But it won't be incredible if you don't work safely. Your days could be numbered."

Loughran's passion for job safety is driven by accident investigations into fatalities in the five-state region covered by his local union. He says he's been with families as the conditions of their loved ones went from "dire to terrible."

"Every detail of the four fatalities I investigated are emblazoned in my mind," says Loughran, who was

appointed three years ago by International President Edwin D. Hill as an IBEW representative for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's strategic partnership with power transmission companies to reduce worker injuries and deaths.

The OSHA partnership, founded in 2004, says Loughran, is an opportunity to set up minimum standards for safety in an industry where he knows—from long years traveling for work across the U.S.—that work practices vary widely.

The strategic partnership, which was renewed in January for another three years, includes IBEW, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Edison Electric Institute, Henkels & McCoy, MDU Construction Services Group Inc., MYR Group Inc., Pike Electric Inc., Quanta Services and the National

Electrical Contractors Association.

Sitting down at the same table with union and nonunion contractors offers the opportunity to raise the standards of the entire industry, says IBEW Safety and Health Department Director Jim Tomaseski. Changes in ownership in the construction sector, he says, have led to more "double-breasted" contractors, incorporating both union and nonunion divisions. Even Pike Electric, a longtime open shop outfit, now includes Klondyke, a Phoenix-based signatory contractor.

Last year, as a result of the partnership's work, IBEW locals representing outside linemen received new best practice recommendations to protect workers from falls when working on wood poles. One of the partnership's unprecedented accomplishments, says Tomaseski, is bringing together "OSHA Form 300" logs that detail reportable injuries of six contractors into a common database. More data, he says, will lead to sharper, more effective safety practices.

"Statistics don't lie," says Tomaseski. "Neither does the pain and suffering of families of members who experience injuries or die on the job."

Sending out recommendations is only a piece of the painstaking process of changing work culture. Seattle Local 77 Construction Business Representative Rick Strait, who works with Loughran on the strategic partnership says, "It's a big step from where we sit in offices to guys practicing safety on the job." The pressures of performance, he says, can't be minimized. "It's a pace issue," he says.

Strait, a 40-year IBEW member who worked 35 years with his tools as an outside lineman before his current full-time assignment, has seen big advances in safety through the OSHA partnership and similar efforts between employers and the IBEW. "Even though contractors always jockey for the work," he says, "safety is more often part of the discussion." And more contractors are reaching out to the union to pre-plan projects, not just for speed, but for safety. Loughran sees a more safety-conscious union membership. "Good common sense can overcome resistance," he says.

Answering the politicians who

are calling for less government regulation and defunding OSHA, Loughran says the strategic partnership is an example of how government can be a catalyst for unions and businesses to do their jobs better. "A safer workplace is a more productive workplace," he says.

"The OSHA partnership crosses a lot of boundaries that we haven't crossed before," says Strait, noting

that traditionally the West lagged behind the East in enforcing safety standards in outside construction. "We don't hit home runs. It's incremental change," he says. But, Strait, who said he often thinks of a 25-year journeyman lineman co-worker who was rendered mentally disabled after an accident, says, "We're at the table and lives are being saved." ■

Circuits



Digital Transmission, 2.0: The Light Fantastic

LX System founder John Pederson shows off his revolutionary new communications device, currently on display at the IBEW International Office in Washington, D.C. The wireless data communications system uses light instead of radio waves to transmit digital information, allowing a computer to hook up to the Internet using only energy-efficient LED light bulbs. He says he is partnering with the IBEW to install the new system at public and private facilities across the country. For more information, go to www.lvx-system.com. ■

MOURN
FOR THE DEAD
FIGHT
FOR THE LIVING
WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • AFL-CIO

Local Lines

Veterans Center Constructed

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Our veterans give everything they have to keep us safe, and members of Local 6 gave of themselves for our veterans in return. Local 6 members donated their time and expertise to help construct a veterans center at the Community College of San Francisco. This will provide our veterans with a lounge and conference room for study, as well as a counseling center. Our thanks go to Steve Powers and Barrett Stapleton for heading the venture, as well as Paul Mitchell and Conrad Grass from McMillan Electric for providing a service van to assist the volunteers.

Local 6 members also participated in powering up the East Bay Stand Down, an event that provides food, clothing, medical, dental and other services to homeless veterans. Thanks go to Bill Green and Jim Mitchell for coordinating the effort. All the volunteers are commended for reaching out to help our veterans.

Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.

Work Picks Up

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—As spring begins, it is getting warmer and work is picking up. Now that gambling is legal in Ohio, a Hollywood Casino is currently being built in Toledo and is putting our members to work. A steel mill is going up in Leipsic, OH, which is also providing jobs.

We thank the members from different jurisdictions for coming to Toledo and taking the Local 8 Wind Training Certification Program. Their new skills will make them the best trained individuals in this advancing new field and assist the IBEW to effectively capture this wide open market.

Local 8 appreciates all of the locals that have put our members to work. We thank you all.

Terry "Shorty" Short, P.S.

Awards Banquet Celebration

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—Local 12's annual awards banquet for members and apprentices was Feb. 19. Our four graduating apprentices were recognized: Doug Leiting, Bob Morris, Tim Quintana and Tom Toussaint. Congratulations to these fine brothers for their hard work. Local 12 also recognized more than 65 service-pin recipients.

A special award went to Bro. Ralph Montera, who received his 70-year pin to a standing ovation. "We are so proud of all our recipients, especially



Int. Vice Pres. Ted C. Jensen (left) congratulates Local 12 retired member Ralph Montera (second from right) on his 70-year award. Among Bro. Montera's family members in attendance are his grandson Jayme Montera (right), son Charlie and daughter-in-law Terri.

Ralph ... who is an inspiration to all," said Bus. Mgr. Dean Grinstead. Ralph Montera started his electrical career in 1937 and became an apprentice in 1941. He served in World War II and later owned his own business, Ralph's Neon and Electric. Ralph's son Charlie and grandson Jayme followed him in the trade.

We were pleased to have in attendance IBEW Eighth District Int. Vice Pres. Ted C. Jensen, Int. Rep. Guy Runco and retired Int. Reps. Jim Ozzello and Don Shaputis. Also among labor and political leaders attending were: Colorado House Minority Leader Sal Pace, Colorado Building Trades Council Bus. Mgr. Neal Hall, Colorado AFL-CIO Executive Dir. Mike Cerbo, IBEW Local 111 Asst. Bus. Agent Jim Thorpe, IBEW Local 68 Bus. Mgr. Jim Mantele, and Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 58 Bus. Mgr. Ron Lenz and Organizer Terry Kershaw. Many other local officers and contractor representatives also attended the celebration.

Clif Thompson, A.B.A.

Workers Rally in Indiana

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Local 16 members demonstrated their abilities and helped clients of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center through work on the 17th Annual Ritz's Fantasy of Lights. For more than two months union volunteers hauled, set up and maintained displays that allowed the Rehabilitation Center to raise more than \$140,600. These funds will help underwrite physical, occupa-

tional and speech therapy for needy tri-state children and adults. Since its inception, Fantasy of Lights has generated more than \$2,233,700.

Organized labor in Indiana has been facing some of the strongest opposition it has seen for generations. "Right-to-work" legislation (HB 1028 & HB 1043) has been strongly opposed by this hall and by members who are aware of its ramifications. Desperately needed unemployment insurance funds are being challenged and likely reduced, and prevailing wage laws are also facing attack. The governorship and both state legislative bodies are not labor-friendly. Without action from each individual in the form of letter-writing, calls, visits and contact with legislators, these battles and current working standards that are enjoyed today could easily be lost.

[Editor's Note: For detailed reports on the situation in Indiana, see news articles in this issue of the Electrical Worker and on the IBEW Web site www.ibew.org. As reported: "More than 25,000 Hoosiers rallied at the state capitol ... to tell legislators to oppose "right-to-work" legislation. Republican leadership in the state senate announced ... that it was withdrawing the controversial bill, but activists say they will remain vigilant and mobilized until all anti-working family bills are withdrawn."]

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Historic Election of Officers

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—On Oct. 26, 2010, Local 24 held a swearing in ceremony for recently elected officers at the monthly membership meeting. Sworn in to office were: Bus. Mgr. Roger M. Lash Jr., Pres. Pete Demchuk, Vice Pres. Frank Voso, Fin. Sec. Thomas S. Benjamin, Rec. Sec. Neil E. Wilford, Treas. Robert D. Hastings; Executive Board members Anthony A. Decint, Timothy W. Medford, Joseph R. Mills, John L. Rankin and Carmen D. Voso; and Examining Board members Norman B. Bage Jr., Michael J. Taylor and Corey V. McCray. Fourth District Int. Rep. Brian G. Malloy administered the oath of office.

Thanks to all the members who came out to vote in both our historic elections, and special thanks to Election Judge Ray Henderson, who worked tirelessly through the most difficult election process in our history. Special thanks also to the Election Day tellers for their dedication and professionalism in both elections, held June 12 and Sept. 11, 2010. Special thanks also to Fourth District Int. Rep. Kenneth W. Cooper, who advised the local union during the challenged election process. The second election produced the largest turnout of voters in our local's 50-year history.

Roger M. Lash Jr., B.M.

DAD's Day Golf Outing

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—At last—springtime in Washington, D.C.! It's been a long winter, but we're hopeful that employment opportunities will start to bloom just like our annual cherry blossoms do!

Reminder to all: The upcoming Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing will be Monday, June 13. Please send in your registration form as soon as possible if you wish to participate. Forms are available in our quarterly magazine or online at www.ibewlocal26.org. Also, mark your calendars for this year's picnics: the Manassas, VA, picnic will be held June 18, and the picnic in Edgewater, MD, on Aug. 6.

Several members passed away since our last article: Barry N. Belcher, Philip Place, Cecil R. Hall, Nelson F. Morris, William W. Hurley III, James C. Hipsley, Robert Lohr and Dominick Dell'Erba.

Best wishes to the following new retirees: Steven M. Laffoon, Willie J. Arnold, Michael F. Hamby, Simon P. Nina, James W. O'Hara, David M. Sheffield, Melvin D. Humphries Jr., Richard B. Maines Sr., Thomas A. Miller, John A. Morrison, William G. Proctor Jr. and Walter G. Williams.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

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.



IBEW Local 42 members on a Lewis Tree Service crew perform roadside line clearance in Meriden, CT. From left: Joel Aponte, groundman; Lamont Priest, lead foreman; Javier Martinez, foreman; and Nelson Rodriguez, trimmer 1.

IBEW Line Clearance Crews

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—At press time, we have 359 Lewis Tree Service Inc. members in IBEW Local 42. They are currently working in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The line clearance tree trimming crews have been very busy and at this writing are working hard with lots of cleanup from all the storms we've had. They are doing removal of dangerous trees and tree limbs trying to keep all of the areas clear for the Outside electrical workers. They have been working an average of 40 hours a week in all types of weather, such as rain, sleet, snow and even in temperatures of 20 below. Keep up the good work and be safe.

For the near future, Local 42's Membership Development Rep. Jeffrey Neurath and Asst. Membership Development Rep. Patrick J. Navin are also working very hard with ongoing campaigns.

Also, Local 42 recently concluded negotiations with Philips Lighting/Lightolier group.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, Mbr. Services

LED Lighting for Parking Lot

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Local 68's parking lot is adorned with a new addition—three of them actually. (The wind turbine was installed some years ago as a project of the local, with Local 68 members and Golden Solar doing the work. Recently, three totally self-contained parking lot light poles were installed by Local 68 members and Gard Construction Services. These poles feature LED lighting powered by batteries kept charged by solar photovoltaic panels. All components of the pole lights are made in the United States!

Our referral procedure for inside wiremen has changed. Effective March 7, 2011, signing of the Day Book for inside wireman calls will be from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., with dispatch beginning at 9 a.m. Refer to the Web site www.UltimateElectricians.com/jobcalls, then click on Inside Job Calls.

The Wireman's Brotherhood Fund Bowling Tournament was held Feb. 19. This annual event is one of the well-attended "FUNdraisers" for the WBF, and lots of fun! If you're not a WBF member, consider joining! It's a great way to help members in need.

The Annual Summer Picnic will be Aug. 20, noon to 3 p.m., at the Westminster Elks' Lodge. The Horseshoes Tourney begins at 11 a.m. Mark your calendars!

Condolences to families of our recently deceased brothers: Timothy J. Makinen, Ronald T. Kennedy, William K. Millsap, Richard A. Sandoval, Robert E. Hartman, Vernon D. Vogel and Mark Goulet.

Ed Knox, Pres.

'Attack on Labor'

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—The toughest winter in memory is finally behind us and some much needed projects are starting to break ground.

Our new 1st year apprentice class has started and we wish our new apprentices luck in their journey to become proud union journeymen and women. This year's class is small due to the economic climate and work picture, but better days are coming.

The legislative session is in full swing with a large orchestrated attack on organized labor. When we lose seats to the unfriendly side, look out. They all want to fix the budget problems (market collapse) by taking more from the working class.

At press time, there are reportedly 43 bills alone to get rid of prevailing rate, 33 bills to get rid of the state employees' pensions. We are fighting against a tide of union busting politicians with their corporate/profit building agenda. The session ends in June and we are hopeful not to lose anything we already have.

[Editor's Note: For reports on grassroots union rallies across the country to fight anti-worker lawmakers' attacks on working families, see news articles in this issue of the *Electrical Worker* and on the IBEW Web site www.ibew.org.]

Sean Daly, Pres.

Meeting of Officers & Stewards

L.U. 94 (lctt,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ—On Dec. 13, 2010, the local held a meeting for all the officers and stewards. This was the first of its kind. The meeting was designed to inform all the representatives of the financial status of Public Service Electric & Gas Company and what it means to all of us. The top leaders of PSE&G answered questions submitted by the union. The financial world is complex, and the local wanted make sure that our representatives got the relevant information to relay to all the local members.

Carla Wolfe, P.S.

NH Union Rally against 'Right-to-Work' Legislation

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Hundreds of union members gathered in Concord, NH, on Feb. 3 to oppose an anti-union "right-to-work" bill, HB 474, in the New Hampshire House of Representatives that would end the practice of requiring nonunion members to pay a share of collective bargaining costs. Similar bills have come up about a dozen times in New Hampshire's history in the last 30 years. But with a new Republican majority in the House, bill sponsors said they are hopeful for a win this time.

Among the unions represented at the rally were the IBEW, Firefighters, Teachers, Teamsters, Pipefitters, Painters and state employees—all speaking out in opposition to the bill.

IBEW Local 104 Bro. Brandy Rossman spent 10 hours waiting his turn to speak before the House Labor Committee at the New Hampshire State House in opposition to the "right-to-work" bill. On Feb. 15 the New Hampshire House of Representatives let us down by voting against New Hampshire unions and passing the 'right-to-work' (for less) bill by 221 to 131. Thanks to the hard work of all the union members in New Hampshire, we were able to get 40 Republicans to vote no.

[Editor's Note: As of press time, New Hampshire Democratic Gov. John Lynch has pledged to veto the bill if it passes the state senate. Activists are meeting with legislators, lobbying to secure enough votes to sustain a veto. For detailed reports, see news articles in this issue of the *Electrical Worker* and on the IBEW Web site www.ibew.org.]

Chris Blair, P.S.

Solar Training Begins

L.U. 120 (c,i&o), LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA—With anticipation of solar projects in our jurisdiction upcoming, Local 120 held its first Solar Training course on Jan. 27 and 28. Special thanks to all who participated, and also to Peter Olders from IBEW Construction Council Ontario for a very informative and engaging course.

Local 120 is proud to be hosting the 48th Annual



IBEW Boston Local 104 member Brady Rossman testifies at the State House in Concord, NH, in opposition to a "right-to-work" (for less) bill before the New Hampshire legislature.

IBEW OPC Hockey Tournament this year on April 29 and 30, and we look forward to having IBEW members from Ontario, Michigan, Ohio, New York and Massachusetts participating. Truly an International event! A thanks goes out to all the volunteers and to the Recreation Committee for all their hard work and dedication. We know it will be a great success.

We look forward to the start of the Parkwood Hospital project this summer, and overall the work picture looks to improve compared to last year. Thanks to our sister Locals 303, 529, 804 and 2038 for the calls over the past few months.

Paul Dolsen, V.P.

Battle for the Working Class

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—Here we go again—"right-to-work" (RTW) for less is the next battle in the epic war of the right wing versus labor. We prefer to call it "right to wreck." The bill's advocates won't stop until all working-class wages and benefits as well as environmental laws resemble those of China.

"Right-to-work" legislation introduced in the Missouri Senate is Senate Bill 1. Right wingers have made this top priority for 2011, using "job creation in a down economy" as an excuse. Two thoughts: The bad economy was caused by pro-corporate, pro-banking policies—and make no mistake about it, this is a direct attack to weaken the power of organized labor.

Many right wingers have no idea of the benefits derived from unions: Unions have always fought for tougher health and safety standards; the rate of



IBEW Local 120 members participated in solar training in January this year.

Local Lines

workplace deaths is 51 percent higher in RTW states; and Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois have higher worker productivity than their RTW neighbors. The average worker in a RTW state makes approximately \$5,333 a year less than those in fair-shop states.

Missouri Senators Victor Callahan and Tim Green are fighting hard for working-class people, but they need our help. Let your elected representative hear from you. Let's stop this "crush the working class" campaign.

[Editor's Note: For reports on grassroots union rallies across the country to fight anti-worker lawmakers' attacks on working families, see news articles in this issue of the Electrical Worker and on the IBEW Web site www.ibew.org.]

Steven Morales, P.S.

TEC Project Stopped in Senate

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We wish we had better news about the Tenaska Taylorville Energy Center project, but unfortunately the state legislation needed to move the \$3.5 billion project was stopped in the Illinois Senate. There were not enough votes to pass the bill. Our own downstate Republican senators all voted against the bill, even after pledging in their November campaigns they would support the TEC project. We believe the Illinois Senate gave in to powerful special interest groups that hid behind inflated rate increase scare tactics, when in fact it was their own economic fortune and fear of competition from an out-of-state company that was their only concern.

Tenaska is now evaluating its next course of action and we hope to do everything we can to see that this project and its economic impact have a chance to move forward. We thank everyone who sent e-mails, made phone calls and attended rallies to support this project. Thanks also to IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson, the many area business managers, and building trades and councils for their support; and to Illinois AFL-CIO Pres. Michael Carrigan and Illinois AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Tim Drea for keeping the legislation moving despite obstacles. On a positive note, the Macon County Board voted to implement the new sales tax that will allow area schools to improve their facilities.

In recent months we lost members Joseph Dittamore, Darrell Rhoades, Michael Allen and Dominic Rigoni. We extend condolences to their families. They will be remembered.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

Convention Delegate Nominations

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Nominations for delegates to the 38th International IBEW Convention will be held at the May meeting. The election of delegates will be at the June meeting. Please be in attendance if you wish to be nominated, nominate someone else or just to see how the process works. The convention will be held in September in Vancouver, British Columbia, so all delegates will need passports to attend. The convention is held every five years and this year we will be celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the IBEW. During these conventions business concerning all locals is completed along with setting policy for the next five years.

As usual, the JATC is offering a variety of classes for all members to upgrade their skills and learn some new aspect of our craft. Please try to

take advantage of one or two of these awesome classes! It will only benefit you.

We have had a total of 16 Local 150 members receive their Associate Degrees in conjunction with College of Lake County and our JATC program. Congratulations to all!

We need a new chairman for the Jubilee Days Parade. Please consider stepping up and working on this once-a-year event. Our annual picnic will be held on Aug. 20, 2011.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Visiting Union Delegation

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—In December 2010, a delegation of trade unionists from Hubei Province, China, representing eight various trade councils, visited IBEW Local 164 headquarters. The delegation, headed by Chmn. Han Chun Xin, was part of the group that has visited Local 164 for 10 consecutive years. They were hosted by Local 164 Pres./Training Dir. John DeBouter.

As always the visit included a swapping of ideas. The guests learned about the structure of the IBEW, and we in turn learned how their unions operate. There is a vast difference.

On Jan. 19, another delegation of 16 trade unionists from Shaanxi Province, China, visited Local 164 for the first time. This delegation, headed by Chmn. Wu Quinyang, was greeted by Local 164 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Thom Misciagna. The group wishes to establish a relationship of mutual exchange and cooperation of ideas. After an exchange of warm wishes and gifts, the group visited the IBEW Local 164 Training Facility. There they asked many questions of the instructors and the students through the interpreter Han Chun Xin. Han Chun has visited Local 164 many times and has become a good friend of the local.

Thom Misciagna, A.B.M.



Local 164 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Thom Misciagna (front row, center) greets Chmn. Wu Quinyang (front row, third from right) and members of the Shaanxi Province trade union delegation.



Local 280 members stand in front of the Facebook data center project jobsite in Prineville, OR. Steward Jeff Fowlds is fifth from left.



Local 222 Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell (left) presents 40-year service award to member Gary Brown.

Work Outlook Promising

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—Greetings from sunny Florida. Our work has held steady; however, we continue to have a few on Book 1. The outlook for work is promising in the second quarter of the year.

Local 222's January membership meeting was held in south Florida, where Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell presented Bro. Gary Brown with his 40-year service pin. Gary has served the IBEW in many capacities over the past 40 years. He now works for a local utility and continues to participate in local union activities.

We are in the process of adjusting the Code of Excellence to include the employers and management personnel. We all feel the program should make a difference to our customers when choosing contractors, and also provide a safe working environment for our members. In order for it to be effective everyone, both labor and management, must buy into the program.

We regret the recent loss of several brothers who were sort of legendary in Florida: Bros. Tommy Davis, Ron Cowart, Bill Hancock, Vernon Nickolas and Joe "Little Nick" Nicolas.

Attend union meetings and support your local!

Bill Hitt, A.B.M.

Report of Busy Year

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—The past year for our mostly rural tri-county local has been a very busy one despite the pitiable economy and impoverished conditions our many brothers and sisters are finding everywhere. Between a grueling and crucial mid-term election, installing an on-premises electric vehicle charging station, implementing CALCTP for energy savings through advanced lighting controls, upgrading our hall and thereby attaining LEED Gold status, supporting our out-of-work apprentices with gift cards, sharing our limited resources with various local charities that in turn benefit our many local families, establishing the mandated recovery program to regain market share, and countless other undertakings—we are just now able to proudly announce publicly the results of our local's 2010 election of its officers, held last June.

Elected were: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Ken Scherpinski, Pres. Andy Hartmann, Vice Pres. Chris Kiner, Rec. Sec. Stephen Slovacek, Treas. Dennis "Mike" Inhot, and Executive Board members Anthony Davis, Andy Gattis, Rick Keaton and Richard "Rip" Smith. Congratulations to all those elected.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Local Wins PWR Appeal

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Oregon State Prevailing Wage is a very important factor for our signatory contractors to compete on a level playing field. It was a shock to all of us when it was found out the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) did not "prevail" us in Lane County. We knew we had the majority of the market share but according to the surveys handed out to electrical contractors it said otherwise.

This put Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew and Assistants Tom Baumann, Bill Kisselburgh and Lance Zifka to work going to our signatory shops to make sure the surveys were done correctly and turned in. After many painstaking hours of collecting data and turning these into BOLI, it was proven that we have the majority of the market share! This means Local 280 prevailed and our wages/benefits will be the benchmark that all contractors, union or nonunion, must bid with. Many thanks to our staff for protecting the hard fought wages/benefits that our forefathers earned.

We mourn the losses in 2010 of Bros. Arthur Brinkman, Orvil Mitchell, Randy Rasher, Alan Schmidt, Walt Talley, Gerald Deems, Gail Milsap, Eric Rose and James Bolton. We thank them for sacrifices they made for us and future generations!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

United Way Labor Kickoff

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—A United Way Labor Kickoff was held at Local 304's hall Sept. 2, 2010. With this event, the United Way thanks labor members for their help and asks for continued support. Volunteers cooked brats and hot dogs and served refreshments. Participants included union members from Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Topeka Transit, Firefighters Local 83, IBEW Locals 304 and 226, USW-Goodyear, Plumbers Local 441 and Graphic Printers Local 49C.

United Way presented the Nathan Cave Award at the Labor Kickoff. Instituted in 1984 by the Topeka Federation of Labor and the Labor Participation Committee of the United Way of Greater Topeka, the awards were named after the late Nathan Cave, a union member who died at age 30. Cave led a short, yet inspirational life of selfless giving and is remembered for his commitment to helping those less fortunate.

The 2010 Nathan Cave Honoree is Ginger Smoot, of IBEW Local 304. Ginger was honored for her commitment to the community as illustrated through her work with Heartland Shares, volunteering with Park Clean-up, the United Way Labor Participation Committee, Special Olympics and the Labor Day parade activities. "This community is a better place because of Ginger's work for others," said Dan Woodward, vice president, AFL-CIO Community Services liaison. "She motivates those around her and truly exemplifies what it is to live united."

Paul Lira, B.M.



Local 304 Rec. Sec. Ginger Smoot (second from right, holding plaque) and family attend the United Way Labor Kickoff event.

JATC Renewable Energy Classes

L.U. 322 (govt,i,it,lctt,o&u), CASPER, WY—The Wyoming Electrical JATC will conduct a Renewable Energy course during the 2011 and 2012 training cycles. The first classes were held in February in Casper, and in March in Sheridan; a class is scheduled in Jackson during April. The class covers the principles of photovoltaic systems and how to incorporate photovoltaics into stand alone or interconnected electrical systems. The class is approved for 16 hours of code. It is free of charge. Take advantage of the next round of classes to improve your skills. Our industry is ever evolving, and it is important that we take every opportunity to enhance our skill set.

During 2011, Local 322 and the membership will participate in many community service events. The local will do a Biker Rally for Kids in May, have a team in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in July, and hold the Third Annual Fall Food Drive starting in October. Don't miss your chance to help fellow brothers and sisters do our part to assist those in need. Please contact the hall for more details.

Chris Morgan, P.S.



IBEW Local 332 members participate in a CALCTP class.

Training for the Future

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Our IBEW local is part of the California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program (CALCTP), administered and managed by ICF International. The training program is a statewide initiative aimed at increasing the use of lighting controls in order to reduce energy consumption in commercial buildings.

Our JATC is providing training and certification of union electrical contractors to install, commission and maintain advanced lighting control systems. This is being done in anticipation of new energy rebates that will be offered to customers with the provision that the work be performed by an approved contractor and an electrician with the appropriate training.

CALCTP has developed an Advanced Lighting Control training program that includes testing, designing, installing and troubleshooting of lighting control systems. The JATC is doing this training with a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor—and when the energy rebates become available it will give our contractors and members an opportunity to take advantage of this market.

Daniel Romero, Training Dir.

Pin Presentation

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—In January we had a Pin Presentation lunch to honor 2010 recipients of 50-, 55- and 60-year pins. It is great to see members reconnect with their old "toolies" and share recollections as well as catch up with what they're doing now. Due to the loyalty and dedication of these retirees, we've been able to enjoy a better life for many years. These members went through "lean times" as well, but stuck with the IBEW and got through those times to later enjoy a good retirement! They paved the way for us and we are grateful. It was an honor for Local 340's officers and business office staff (organizers and representatives) to serve the retirees and their families lunch and recognize their service. Special thanks to Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey and Int. Rep. Brother Michael B. Meals for their help with the presentations.

Like many other locals, we have never seen such a bleak work picture. With more than 350 on Book 1, 50 Inside apprentices and 30 Sound & Communication workers waiting to go to work, every

day is a challenge; but as always, we will continue to "fight the fight"!

We mourn the passing of retired Bros. Gary Cecchetti, George Korte Jr., Alfred E. Hopkins and Stan Mulock.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.



Local 350 honors new wiremen at apprentice graduation dinner. From left, front row: Local 350 Bus. Mgr. William Tate; Robert Killday, TH&N Electric; and Dave Shaw, St. Louis Chapter NECA. Back row: apprentice graduates Bob Kramer, Aren Schneider and Daren Adair; and Tom Fletcher, apprentice committee. Not pictured is graduate Glenn Johnson.

New Journeyman Electricians

L.U. 350 (i), HANNIBAL, MO—Congratulations to the four new journeyman wiremen in our local. Local 350 had a graduation dinner (see photo) for the new wiremen on Sept. 10, 2010. The graduates are: Daren Adair, Glenn Johnson, Bob Kramer and Aren Schneider.

Local 350's work picture is slow as of this writing, but should pick up this year with a windmill farm in the area. Other small projects are in the works.

The Local 350 election of officers will be held in June.

We mourn the loss of Bro. Bill Behymer, who passed away in 2010.

William Tate, B.M.

Volunteer Organizing Committee

L.U. 440 (i,rts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—On Dec. 21 last year, members shown in the accompanying photo gathered for a meeting of the Local 440 Volunteer Organizing Committee—showing their commitment to being part of the committee. Because it was a night of extremely heavy rainfall in southern California, the overall turnout was lower than the actual number of brothers and sisters who are signed up for this committee.



Local 440 members serve on the Volunteer Organizing Committee.

With various tasks, activities, and events to participate in throughout our county, members' help on the Volunteer Organizing Committee will be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who have expressed interest in this effort. If others are interested, your participation is always welcome.

Bernie Balland, Organizer

Habitat for Humanity Projects

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing the work outlook in our area remains challenging.

Thank you to those members who helped make the annual Christmas party a great success last year; it was a great time for all.

Remember to save

July 23 for the Local 498 picnic this summer.

The inside apprentice classes last year helped wire three Habitat for Humanity homes and the 4-H barn at the fairgrounds. Thank you to all for helping!

We wish to say hello to our members traveling around the country and overseas.

On a sad note, our local recently lost retired members John Antaya and Ray Anderson. Our condolences go out to their families.

Timothy R. Babcock, P.S.

April 28 Commemoration

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—April 28 marks Canada's National Day of Mourning, a day to remember all workers who died on the job or from occupational illness. We hope to see as many members as possible across the country take part in their communities, to not only remember the past but also strive for a better future.

With few jobs to report and nothing currently upcoming on the horizon, Local 530 wishes to thank Locals 804 Kitchener, 303 St. Catherines, and 2038 Regina for employing our members.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bro. Frank Riley.

Al Byers, P.S.

Local Lines



Local 558's prize-winning Christmas float was entered in several holiday parades.

April 30 Spring Picnic

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Greetings. Thanks to members, our 2010 Christmas float was a great success. Local 558 participated in several parades last Christmas, receiving awards ranging from third place up to one grand prize for a best overall. The local thanks everyone who helped with building the float and participated in parade activities.

At press time, plans are being finalized for the local's 2nd Annual Spring Picnic. The picnic will be April 30 at Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals, AL. A catered dinner will be furnished and T-shirts will be given away to commemorate the special event. A newsletter will be sent out to the membership with further details of activities. Members can also visit our Web site www.ibew558.org for more details. Looking forward to seeing and visiting with all members and their families.

Mac Sloan, Mbr. Dev.

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 570 (i,mo,spa&u), TUCSON, AZ—We finished out 2010 with members and family having an opportunity to meet Santa and take part in the Pima Area Labor Federation Softball Tournament. Thanks to all the members who participated. IBEW Local 570 rallied to take first place in the tournament.



Local 570 retired members Joe Nordstrom (left) and Ron Davis (center) receive 45-year service pins presented by Bus. Mgr. Mike Verbout.



Local 586 Executive Board members gather for a photo.

As we enter 2011, work is still slow in southern Arizona. Spirits were lifted at the February monthly meeting when many of our members showed up to receive their membership pins. We will continue to present membership pins at the monthly meetings.

Scott W. Toot, Organizer

Unique Election

L.U. 586 (em,i&o), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA—As our election nears, we think of our last one in which all of our 11 positions for officers were filled by acclamation. The membership has responded vigorously to the opportunity to work with union pride and principles under Bus. Mgr. James Barry and his staff, and our local feels second to none.

Our Retirees Club is thriving under the guidance of Bill Warchow. The retirees are enjoying many activities and trips. They are also the prime movers with our Labour Day parade and won the award for

best float three times in the last five years. Well done, everyone.

Doug Parsons, Pres.

and “adopted” a local family in need to help make their holiday joyous and memorable—learning first-hand that the greatest gift is giving.

Or the members at Guelph Hydro whose ‘Adopt-a-Family’ campaign raised nearly \$7,000, which was used to bring some Christmas magic to six families in their community. Thanks to members’ fundraising efforts and generous support of a “Wish Tree,” Santa left presents for 38 children and their parents—along with food store gift cards, hydro vouchers and cash donations.

Then there are the members from Enersource Hydro whose United Way donations totaled more than \$39,000. In addition to helping improve the quality of life in their community, quick thinking and fast action on the part of members at Enersource also saved lives in two separate incidents: administering first aid and CPR to a colleague involved in an electrical contact accident; and getting immediate assistance for a visitor experiencing a heart attack.

We salute the care and courage of these members and all the IBEW “hometown heroes” making a positive difference in their workplaces and communities. Unions—we still matter!

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.

More Solar Work

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—We continue to see the emergence of solar work in the area. We recently completed a 1.1 megawatt rooftop array on the A. Duie Pyle warehouse in Parkesburg that consisted of more than 4,400 panels. The rooftop solar project at the West Chester Parking Garage was also awarded to a union contractor. The job opportunities this growing industry presents are certainly a

welcome addition to our traditional scope of work. [See photo, pg. 15.]

Bus. Mgr. Paul Mullen was recently elected as president of the Delaware County Chapter of the AFL-CIO. Bro. Mullen ran for this position unchallenged and received the full support of all the various AFL-CIO affiliates. Bro. Brian Mullen was elected as sergeant of arms. Congratulations to both.

I always enjoy hearing of our members’ interest in this article. I laugh every time somebody says they flip right to this spot when the Electrical Worker arrives in the mail (I do it, too). Actually, Local Lines articles alternate every other month

‘Hometown Heroes’ Make a Difference

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—Not everyone is a star but as local members have shown us, we can all shine in our own way.

Take the staff at Windsor Addiction & Withdrawal Management (Windsor Regional Hospital) who were touched by the Christmas spirit



A Spirited Gesture of Goodwill: Local 636 Executive Board Rep. Linda Georgiu (second from right) joins member Sue Nantais, WRH-Unit 25, (far right) in celebration of sharing the gift of Christmas with their “adopted” family—Jessica (left), Dustin (second from left) and mom Jane (center).

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

IBEW[®]

MERCHANDISE

www.ibewmerchandise.com



\$10.50

Khaki Hat

Khaki brushed cotton with black embroidered IBEW initials.



\$57.00

New Embossed Denim Jacket

100% cotton, rugged blue denim, with embossed IBEW initials on front and large 10" embossed logo on back.



\$9.50

Brass Money Clip

Antique styled die cast money clip with double spring attachments and raised IBEW initials.

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



At the Kohls store in Media, PA, the rooftop solar array installation nears completion by the IBEW Local 654 crew, with job foreman Rich Metzger (third from left).

from even-numbered locals to odd-numbered. That explains why we are not in every issue.

Be safe and enjoy the spring weather.

Jim Russell, Pres.

Politically Active

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Congratulations to our new retirees: William R. Gayle, Frederick A. Helfert, Kenneth W. Marny, John F. North Jr., Ray E. Payne, Larry W. Robertson, Billy B. Stroud and Kelvin L. Swearingin.

The work picture remains slow in our area. We thank our sister locals for putting our members to work.

The Virginia AFL-CIO Legislative Conference was held in Richmond on Jan. 31. It is more important than ever that we continue to be involved in the political process. If you want to get involved and lobby your representatives, join your local COPE committee.

Our local extends condolences to the families of our recently departed brothers—John K. Wynne Jr., Thomas W. Stone Jr. and James R. Moore. We appreciate their service to our union.

Local 666 monthly meetings are held the second Friday of each month, 8 p.m., at the Henrico Volunteer Rescue Squad on Huntsman Rd. Please plan to attend.

Kendra Logan, P.S.

'Getting More Jobs'

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—We are now into the new year with not a whole lot changing in our work picture. There are some small jobs that could put some of our members to work starting in late spring or early summer. This would be an improvement over 2010 when we didn't have even the small projects going on.

There are more and more things being said about the CE/CW program from all parts of the country every day. I would like to report that a couple of our contractors have gotten and are getting more jobs using a number of these new construction electrician and construction wiremen classifications, and at the same time putting journeyman wiremen and apprentices to work on these projects. These journeyman wiremen and apprentices would most likely be sitting at home or on the out-of-work list if not for this new tool to compete with the non-

signatory contractors. It's not perfect, but as a 35-year member watching our market share keep declining, I am happy to see it given a chance, and real happy to see it working.

Plans are starting for our yearly picnic, which at press time is scheduled for July. Stay safe.

Richard Venema, Rep.

Service Award Recipients

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—Thank you to Jim Herrick and Harold Walker, who fried the fish for our annual Christmas party last year.

Service awards were handed out at our December 2010 meeting. The following members received awards: for 20 years of service—Sandy Alley, John Dannemiller, James Elia, Mark Reynolds, Malcolm Salyers; for 25 years of service—Randy Golden, Paul Nance, Rocky Rice, Jeff Weikle; for 30 years—E. M. Breedlove, Vicky Carpenter, Ed Huvler; 35 years—Ron Goss, Jack Martin; 40 years—Randy Kistner, James Dick II, Don Eyerly; 50 years—James Cox Jr., Tom Hopkins; 55 years—Ken Naylor, Donald Tate; and for 60 years—Woodrow McClurg.

Congratulations to Erin Benner, the proud father of a new baby boy!

We are saddened to report the loss of 51-year member Tom Garrison. We send our condolences to his family.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

Market Recovery Plan

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—We have 148 on Book 1 at press time. More than 1,000 are on Book 2. Book 1 will remain slow. We do not foresee getting into Book 2 even in 2011.

Work in our jurisdiction has yet to improve. We always seem to wait for the next big job to come along, which does give a much needed shot in the arm. But those jobs are far and few between. With the union work force dwindling, and nonunion contractors paying their workers less and less, we need to spread out into other areas with new ideas where most work is being done. But if we just sit back and wait for the next big one to come along ... that's what we'll be doing, waiting. And those "marvin" checks don't fill the gap. The world is constantly changing and we have to change with it. So we have adopted a new market recovery plan as advocated

by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill in hopes of getting this work. We need to hold public officials accountable to uphold our rights and keep our system an economic power that honors workers' rights.

Thanks to brother locals for helping keep our members employed in these times. It's tough being away from home for long periods, working or looking for work.

Congratulations to the 2010 apprentice graduates: Jered Wenglikowski, Terrence Flynn, David Courier, Norman Winter, Jeffrey Turbin, Brendon Baranek, Andrew Kunz, Matthew Grzegorzcyk and Samuel Wejrowski.

Tom Bartosek, P.S.

100th Anniversary Celebration

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—In addition to our everyday Local 702 business, we have several events scheduled in 2011 that make a very full year.

April 5 is our Annual Retiree Dinner; April 17 is the Clay Shoot with Union Sportsman Alliance; and April 29 and 30 is the only indoor held International Lineman Rodeo located at DuQuoin, IL.

June 17 is our Golf Tournament, and June 25 is our 100th Year Anniversary Event. We have been planning our 100th anniversary for several years. We want to share this once-in-a-lifetime event with our members, our communities and everyone who is affiliated with IBEW 702. Our Web site www.ibew702.org has been enhanced to answer questions about the anniversary and to order tickets.

Local 702 has been blessed with the building of what is reportedly the largest construction site currently in the United States. We thank all our members and our traveling brothers and sisters for their expertise and hard work in manning this job.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Member Participation is Key

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—I hope everyone is doing well and working. Our work situa-

tion has been a little slow this winter and we are looking for it to pick up this spring.

IBEW Local 716's membership participated in the Houston St. Patrick's Day parade, as well as a sponsorship in the Cesar Chavez parade. Community participation is the key, as we continue to spread the message about the IBEW and Local 716.

There are still a few Code Update classes available for those who still need the class to update their licenses. The last Code Update class is May 21, 2011.

I want to thank all those who participated in the Aetna Wellness Screening. By participating you earned free dental premiums for yourself and your family, and kept the Aetna Premier deductible of \$500; deductibles for all others on Aetna is \$750. Even though our co-pays did go up, without this wellness screening program we might have seen co-pays go up along with our contribution rate. Thanks for doing your part.

Local 716 is getting ready for our centennial celebration in the IBEW and we are excited. Look forward to more exciting information regarding this celebration.

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

The 'End of an Era'

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—The space shuttle will be retired in the near future and NASA will then focus its space ventures toward "heavy-lift" rockets that will travel to deep space.

Local 756 electricians are pictured below at one of the two launch complexes used to launch the shuttle fleet. Launch Complex 39B is in the process of being refitted for the next generation of space flight that NASA will be developing. We are optimistic that this will produce future work opportunities. There are many scenarios being thrown around here at the Kennedy Space Center.

Unfortunately one idea is to outsource space exploration to so-called private companies like "SpaceX" (even though it has received millions in taxpayer dollars, hardly private).

Politicians are being pressured by the "Tea Party" and others to cut federal spending, and that almost always means targeting working people.



IBEW Local 756 electrician crew members gather at a Kennedy Space Center launch complex.

Local Lines



Among attendees at a Local 776 Retirees' Luncheon are: from left, front row, Jerry "Smiley" Starnes, Ronnie Goodale, Clarence Lowe, Howard "Peewee" Wessinger, Kenny Loach, Bob Ferral, Charlie Groves, Larry Poole; back row, Frankie Farr, Johnny Huckabee, Richard Kelly, Charlie Goodale, Bennie Dixon, Don Belcher, James T. Moore, Wayne Poole and Bob Curry.

Local 756 and the building trades have put themselves in the best possible position to show decision makers that we can build whatever they need without running over budget—and still keep the U.S. space industry at its highest level of performance. The pictured crew (and others not shown in the photo) have done just that and have put the IBEW in a great position to obtain future work at the Space Center.

Dan Hunt, P.S.

Retirees Luncheon

L.U. 776 (i.o.rts&spa) CHARLESTON, SC—I recently had the honor of attending our Local 776 Retirees Luncheon in Columbia, SC. [Photo, above.] Most all of these guys were originally out of Local 382 before they became members of Local 776, and we count on them to help us stay connected to the communities they live in. (In earlier years, Local 382 was an inside construction local based in Columbia.)

At the luncheon, I enjoyed hearing the retirees' stories and being around such men who have kept the labor movement alive in our state. I am proud of their accomplishments and humbled when they call me "brother."

Chuck Moore, B.M.

Local Goes Green with Smart Energy

L.U. 804 (i&o), KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—IBEW Local 804, in conjunction with the provincial government through the Ontario Skills Training Enhancement Program, has embarked on a solar equipment installation at our union hall. OSTEP supports the Liberal government's Skills to Jobs Action Plan announced in the 2008 budget. Over three years, \$15 million was earmarked for the improvement and modernization of training facilities across the province. With the solar equipment installed, we are poised to begin training our members in the safe handling, installation, care and maintenance of solar panels and inverter systems. As a condition of the OSTEP grant, Local 804 will host local high school students and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program students. In doing so we will mentor our communities' future electricians, educating not only in the growing solar energy market but also the safe practices needed in the construction industry.

Along with our commitment to further the education of members, Local 804 received approval from the Ontario Power Authority for connection to the grid through OPA's Micro-fit Program. The product of the Ontario Energy Board, OPA is responsible for assisting in development of the province's energy plan. With our contribution of green energy to the grid, we are proud that we are taking part in the most comprehensive feed-in tariff renewable-energy programs on the continent.

Dino Celotto, P.S.

Bowling Tournament Benefit

L.U. 910 (ees,i&t), WATERTOWN, NY—The work picture during the winter was slow. At press time, spring work looks better because of Fort Drum projects.

Service pin awards were presented to eligible members at the December 2010 membership meeting. Our members who reached a service milestone during the year but were unable to attend will receive their pin in the mail. Congratulations to all.

In May, our Brotherhood Committee will hold a bowling tournament. Members who bowl are encouraged to attend. Each team must have at least two local members. Proceeds are to benefit the brotherhood fund. A good time will be enjoyed by all.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

'Moving Ahead'

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Arbitration is a tool used to settle grievances between the union and employer when they are unable to agree on a solution to the matter. The union recently disagreed with an employer over the right to make unilateral changes to benefit plans without negotiating those changes. After more than a year of meetings and finally arbitration, the arbitrator has ruled in the

union's favor. Medical Plan increases that took effect over the last two plan years will revert back to the 2009 costs. The details of how employees will be made whole will be discussed between the two parties in the near future. The union is awaiting a decision on a similar case with another employer and although similar, you never know what the arbitrator might see in the transcripts that influences the decision. We can only hope we presented the facts as well as we did in the previous case.

Our internal organizing efforts are moving forward as we welcome new members: Calvin R. Pulda, Hal S. Myers, Rebecca Medina, Anthony Polley, Yolanda Quesada, Aracely Coronado, Ryan Yosin and Raymond Courtright.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

Apprenticeship Program

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—Local 1466 is finalizing an agreement with American Electric Power to reinstate an apprenticeship program for all IBEW linemen on company property. The training for our linemen will now be ALBAT certified and will be administered jointly by the IBEW and AEP. An oversight committee will be formed and will have six members. Three will be union members and three will be representatives from AEP. For years AEP has had its own in-house training, which is only recognized within the company. However, once the new apprenticeship program goes into effect, our linemen will receive their journeyman's card, which certifies them as a trained lineman, even if they decide to leave AEP. The company has also agreed to look at the possibility of expanding the program to other departments in the future.

Remember to be safe out there and look out for each other.

James Jette, P.S.



Nine recent Local 1116 apprentice graduates working as new journeyman linemen with Tucson Electric Power are, from left: Bros. Daniel Camacho, David Ochoa, Jeremy Massey, Leander Johnson, Daniel Cruz, Mike Halbur, Brandon Stevens, Lucas Cummings and Joe Breda. Several of this group participated in the last two Lineman's Rodeos at Kansas City.

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in February 2011

Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Bates, G. H.	11/19/2010
1	Bueker, R. D.	1/25/2011
1	Frey, L. T.	12/25/2010
1	Krachenberg, B. A.	12/25/2010
2	Dunnigan, S.	1/3/2011
2	Erleben, C. A.	1/4/2011
2	Smith, R. E.	12/25/2010
3	Ash, O. K.	11/19/2010
3	Cristiano, R. J.	10/26/2010
3	Davis, W. M.	12/5/2010
3	Ferguson, J. A.	11/23/2010
3	Harris, M. G.	9/24/2007
3	Hyman, D. S.	5/7/2010
3	Keegan, J. A.	10/25/2010
3	Lehotsky, W.	1/23/2011
3	Mader, J.	10/9/2010
3	McElroy, A. D.	12/2/2010
3	Nazaruk, M.	10/4/2010
3	Orso, D.	1/11/2011
3	Rivers, E. E.	12/19/2010
3	Roth, J. A.	9/8/2009
3	Sabran, B.	12/24/2010
3	Schwiebert, W. H.	6/3/2010
3	Shaklo, N.	11/23/2010
3	Springer, O. L.	10/22/2010
3	Trapani, F.	12/4/2010
3	Trotman, H. R.	11/14/2010
3	Vint, R. A.	12/12/2010
3	Visnovec, T. P.	11/14/2010
3	Voges, T. A.	11/28/2010
4	Schmidt, R. E.	12/9/2010
5	Dumbaugh, R. E.	12/18/2010
5	Jasper, E. G.	1/21/2011
5	Maletto, A. J.	6/7/2010
5	Williams, R. L.	12/1/2010
6	Bagley, V. D.	1/20/2011
6	Calleja, J. A.	1/4/2011
6	Uliana, P. F.	12/4/2010
8	Haas, D. G.	1/24/2011
8	Johnson, H. D.	12/27/2010
8	Robaszekiewicz, K. J.	10/13/2010
8	Rockwood, R. E.	12/12/2010
8	Snyder, F. E.	1/18/2011
9	Lyons, G. A.	12/30/2010
11	Bass, B.	1/1/2011
11	Dennis, G. E.	10/14/2010
11	Jay, J. E.	12/11/2010
11	Larson, G. A.	12/7/2010
11	Pica, P. J.	12/4/2010
11	Smith, C. L.	12/26/2010
11	Storms, P. L.	12/31/2009
11	Vandezande, J.	1/7/2011
15	Onufrock, D. G.	3/13/2009
16	Barnes, F. W.	12/31/2010
16	Conley, L. L.	1/5/2011
17	Glaxner, D. E.	8/14/2010
17	Parks, M. E.	8/24/2010
19	Somero, R. W.	12/16/2010
20	Anderson, C. R.	12/2/2010
23	McDonough, J. J.	12/22/2010
24	Fields, V. D.	1/7/2011
25	Aguis, J. P.	12/31/2010
25	Lanzarotta, L.	1/15/2011
26	Hall, C. R.	12/27/2010
26	Harris, R. E.	11/6/2010
26	Hurley, W. W.	1/8/2011
26	Lohr, R. E.	1/30/2011
35	Maloney, F. T.	12/10/2010

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
38	DuPlaga, A. F.	12/1/2010	130	Fox, R. L.	11/15/2010	317	Dingess, B.	12/31/2010	586	Schwartz, E. G.	10/30/2010	1141	Olsen, B. W.	11/29/2010
38	Mihaly, J.	12/31/2010	130	Letman, A. E.	11/22/2010	317	Long, T. C.	1/18/2011	595	Asturias, O. J.	7/11/2010	1141	Teders, K. J.	12/24/2010
38	Scott, D. N.	1/1/2011	131	Thompson, G. E.	9/25/2010	322	Smallwood, R. C.	12/23/2010	595	Black, R. A.	11/16/2010	1186	Craig, J. A.	9/19/2010
41	Kuss, G. H.	11/25/2010	131	Vanwynen, D. W.	10/27/2010	326	O'Rourke, J. J.	10/5/2010	596	Schlobohm, D. C.	12/24/2010	1205	Matheny, M. C.	1/2/2010
41	Mayer, S. F.	11/20/2010	134	Bartoszek, E. V.	12/10/2010	332	Applegate, G. L.	12/4/2010	596	Smith, R. J.	1/25/2011	1208	Cribbs, J. C.	12/16/2010
43	Podsiadlik, V. J.	10/25/2010	134	Berendsen, R. W.	12/23/2010	332	Long, A. E.	8/4/2010	606	Bieber, J. K.	12/9/2010	1245	Davis, T. E.	12/28/2010
44	Schrader, N. W.	12/19/2010	134	Hart, W. P.	12/10/2010	332	Plischke, H.	11/12/2010	611	Abeita, R. A.	1/28/2010	1249	Dymock, J. B.	8/15/2010
46	Lightburn, R. F.	1/10/2011	134	Holzmann, D. E.	12/12/2010	340	Korte, G.	11/28/2010	611	Kremers, D. W.	12/16/2010	1253	Roberts, N. A.	12/16/2010
46	Martin, J. L.	12/24/2010	134	Jankauski, R. E.	8/6/2010	345	Wood, J. T.	4/19/2010	611	Montes, R.	5/31/2010	1319	Olejnick, D. J.	12/9/2010
46	Porter, G. E.	11/28/2010	134	Kapis, R. J.	12/14/2010	347	Johnson, H. E.	11/29/2010	613	Booth, H. O.	12/19/2010	1340	Miller, J. H.	1/23/2011
46	Potts, D. L.	1/13/2011	134	Nelson, C. E.	12/30/2009	347	Jones, H. E.	12/3/2010	617	Hurlbut, W. P.	11/15/2010	1377	Hawks, C. B.	12/6/2010
46	Sinnott, T. R.	1/8/2011	134	Quaranta, V. A.	12/30/2010	349	Harvey, R. E.	1/16/2011	640	Ashley, B. D.	1/11/2011	1393	Sands, J. F.	12/22/2010
48	Buffington, J. R.	10/1/2010	134	Shipanik, M. A.	8/21/2010	351	Sparks, J.	12/6/2010	640	Fulcher, D. L.	11/5/2010	1426	Parent, D.	12/29/2010
48	Funston, R. L.	12/19/2010	134	Swidergal, M. S.	10/28/2010	353	Albrecht, H. J.	11/22/2010	640	Martin, C. L.	11/27/2010	1516	Spencer, C. E.	12/24/2010
48	Ray, E. D.	7/18/2010	136	Channell, A. N.	1/6/2011	353	Fisher, C. E.	12/27/2010	648	Setser, D. W.	12/13/2010	1525	Cunningham, W. G.	1/10/2011
48	Stevenson, W. R.	1/3/2011	136	Sweatman, J.	12/17/2010	353	Robinson, B. J.	12/28/2010	649	Vanausdoll, K. A.	9/19/2010	1547	Laws, B. F.	12/30/2010
53	Owens, W. V.	10/16/2010	141	Chlon, W. S.	1/5/2011	353	Seivwright, D.	1/11/2011	659	Chriss, E. E.	6/24/2010	1547	Parks, D. R.	12/1/2010
58	Andrews, P. D.	12/18/2010	145	Hooten, R. D.	12/11/2010	353	Webster, G. M.	1/1/2011	659	Gideon, D. E.	12/17/2010	1579	Manning, R. N.	1/27/2011
58	Calleja, H. J.	12/21/2010	146	Dittamore, J. H.	12/23/2010	354	McCrimmon, B. M.	12/21/2010	659	Harris, C. D.	12/17/2010	1600	Bryk, A. J.	1/11/2011
58	Doback, M. J.	1/4/2011	153	Jordan, R. D.	12/30/2010	357	Connors, D. A.	1/6/2011	666	Martin, R. E.	3/14/2010	1701	McCarthy, J. E.	12/5/2010
58	Hohman, J. W.	12/9/2010	159	Allen, L. M.	10/2/2010	357	Leriche, E. R.	9/19/2005	666	Moore, J. R.	1/20/2011	1701	Nave, E. L.	1/2/2011
58	Obradovich, N.	12/5/2010	159	Berry, R. P.	1/8/2011	357	Matthews, V. A.	11/28/2010	673	Stevenson, J. T.	11/30/2010	1739	Campbell, G. E.	9/5/2008
58	Schiete, R. F.	12/13/2010	159	Hume, C. E.	12/8/2010	357	Slaughter, E. A.	12/14/2010	673	Town, L. C.	12/14/2010	1739	Neddeau, D. E.	9/4/2008
60	Akins, T. L.	1/28/2011	160	Gagner, J. M.	1/11/2011	359	Biers, B. H.	12/19/2010	676	Meseroll, W. H.	12/1/2010	1758	Haltom, L.	12/10/2010
60	Lobert, T. P.	12/28/2010	163	Davis, J. J.	1/15/2011	364	Knott, N. L.	10/26/2010	676	Parker, G. A.	1/5/2009	1768	Hughes, A. D.	11/30/2010
64	Beike, F. E.	1/7/2011	164	Banasiak, R. C.	1/8/2011	364	Martin, S. M.	10/22/2010	676	Patterson, J. F.	9/28/2008	2077	Wood, R. J.	11/10/2010
64	Christian, W. D.	11/24/2010	164	Gilligan, R. T.	11/17/2010	369	Duncan, H. E.	1/3/2011	676	Piccolo, F. P.	12/15/2010	2166	Frenette, H. E.	9/6/2010
64	Christy, V. R.	12/17/2010	164	Gravatt, W. R.	1/1/2011	369	Massey, A. E.	1/24/2011	676	Richardson, R. T.	12/10/2010	2166	Harris, H. E.	11/22/2010
68	Makinen, T. J.	12/20/2010	164	Jones, D. A.	11/21/2010	369	Rowe, H. E.	1/4/2011	683	Riffle, R. G.	11/27/2010	2330	Lane, B. G.	11/24/2010
70	Angel, H. E.	12/7/2010	175	Summers, B. C.	1/20/2011	412	Brown, C. L.	12/26/2010	683	Rutledge, D. C.	12/13/2010	I.O. (134)	Ellis, K. O.	12/20/2010
70	Pope, R. E.	10/16/2010	175	Ward, J.	12/30/2010	413	Cardinal, C.	6/24/2010	683	Thompson, J. E.	1/15/2011	I.O. (134)	Simonek, C. J.	1/12/2011
70	Spradlin, J. A.	10/23/2010	176	Feeney, K.	1/8/2011	413	Mason, R. W.	1/1/2011	697	Meyer, R. P.	12/28/2010	Pens. (835)	Maners, G. O.	12/13/2010
70	Tucker, J. D.	12/13/2010	177	Brown, L. B.	12/24/2010	424	Elm, A. J.	9/10/2010	701	Wendt, A. F.	12/11/2010	Pens. (835)	Swinny, J. E.	11/12/2010
71	Pickenpaugh, R. A.	10/28/2010	177	Crosier, R. D.	12/7/2010	426	Bierman, G. E.	11/28/2010	702	Abbadusky, M. D.	1/12/2011	Pens. (852)	King, G. R.	12/31/2010
72	Perryman, E. R.	11/22/2010	191	Martin, R. W.	12/1/2010	429	Boyd, F. W.	1/22/2011	702	Mayo, H. C.	1/20/2011	Pens. (2150)	Brasure, G. C.	11/24/2010
73	Steingraber, W. G.	12/22/2010	194	Richard, J. M.	7/8/2010	429	Conder, B. W.	11/5/2010	702	Talbert, M. E.	1/15/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Bates, J. F.	1/28/2011
77	Commet, M. D.	1/17/2011	197	Donovan, F. R.	12/1/2010	429	Young, R. M.	11/29/2010	712	Cimini, P.	1/19/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Bennett, T. C.	12/11/2010
77	Evans, T. H.	12/4/2010	212	Kilius, R. A.	12/11/2010	436	Williams, H. D.	1/2/2011	716	Biddle, C. A.	12/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Bowers, C. H.	1/14/2010
77	Schleusner, F. L.	9/11/2010	212	Wetzel, E. C.	12/21/2010	441	Bonner, W. D.	11/17/2010	723	Cummins, H. J.	7/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Carter, L. H.	1/9/2011
77	Shults, C. C.	12/21/2010	213	Sutherland, J. C.	9/29/2010	441	Lewis, C. O.	12/15/2010	728	Carl, V. C.	12/21/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Cline, M.	12/18/2010
77	Tilson, L. E.	1/21/2011	213	Winning, P. J.	10/23/2010	445	Davis, W. I.	12/16/2010	728	McElveen, D. J.	12/10/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Cooper, G. J.	11/23/2010
80	Curling, W. C.	12/8/2010	222	Hemingway, W. H.	12/13/2010	449	Wilson, H. E.	1/10/2011	728	Robles, J. T.	12/14/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Crum, E. G.	12/11/2010
80	Hart, F. J.	11/3/2010	236	Armer, J. F.	7/10/2010	456	Guscott, A. W.	1/20/2011	733	Graham, J. H.	11/5/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Dungan, J. H.	11/21/2010
82	Eder, G. C.	1/4/2011	236	Waters, A. A.	1/16/2011	456	Thompson, G. J.	1/9/2011	743	Fix, R. W.	12/13/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Erickson, K. T.	12/29/2010
84	Hightower, R. D.	10/18/2010	245	Cygan, S. J.	5/8/2010	459	Reed, J. W.	1/20/2011	760	Baker, J. E.	12/20/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Foley, J. M.	11/26/2010
84	Yarbrough, E. L.	12/11/2010	245	Prue, H. D.	10/29/2010	459	Straw, D. A.	1/12/2011	760	Gillentine, J. M.	10/17/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Fulco, J. F.	11/6/2010
86	Bushman, C. G.	11/29/2010	258	Kleinstauber, E. C.	9/30/2010	479	Bennett, P. D.	12/9/2010	760	Lusby, H. L.	12/24/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Gibbs, H. R.	11/8/2010
86	Connell, D. F.	1/1/2011	258	McGraw, J. E.	12/1/2010	479	Mattison, T. B.	11/18/2010	760	Martin, J. H.	11/22/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Gromek, S.	1/15/2011
97	King, R. E.	12/23/2010	258	Wellmann, G.	9/3/2010	480	Keller, J.	11/22/2010	768	Fitzpatrick, R. G.	12/3/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Grozzell, A. E.	10/15/2010
98	Kachigian, C.	10/20/2010	265	Meyer, J. J.	12/15/2010	480	Thomas, S. W.	7/28/2010	794	Edgin, W. H.	12/26/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hetherington, A. H.	7/31/2010
98	Shmihluk, V. W.	1/22/2011	265	Vanek, N. L.	12/24/2010	481	Cox, J. W.	8/27/2010	816	Nash, J. T.	12/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hirsch, E. A.	10/31/2010
99	Fargnoli, M. C.	12/7/2010	291	Dillard, R. L.	12/10/2010	481	Smith, L. D.	12/29/2010	855	Sell, C. K.	12/6/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Hovland, R. R.	11/26/2009
99	Gambuto, R. J.	1/9/2011	291	Freund, A. J.	12/12/2010	488	Wood, J. G.	8/27/2010	861	Malone, E. J.	12/11/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Jones, R. H.	8/5/2010
102	Billack, J. M.	11/5/2010	292	Christenson, C. H.	12/24/2010	490	Purdy, A. W.	12/6/2010	876	Rachuba, L. B.	11/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Lapiana, S.	12/8/2010
102	Lewaine, R. W.	11/25/2010	292	Elstad, D. M.	1/1/2011	494	Dopp, P. R.	12/11/2010	876	Savage, F.	11/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Larson, E. J.	12/20/2010
102	McCracken, E. K.	12/25/2010	292	Miegel, D. R.	12/21/2010	494	Kaiser, J. C.	12/20/2010	915	Robinson, J. L.	12/7/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Lesic, G. L.	1/11/2011
102	Richards, W. B.	11/21/2010	292	Mulnix, R. G.	1/22/2011	505	Nall, R. F.	12/27/2010	934	Hartsock, P. L.	1/22/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Lundemo, J. F.	12/21/2010
103	Connors, J. J.	11/14/2010	295	McAlister, E. G.	12/26/2010	529	Cross, T. A.	11/16/2010	934	Kelley, E. P.	12/17/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Maidrand, G. L.	12/30/2010
103	Leahy, R. K.	11/26/2010	301	Dossey, C. B.	1/4/2011	530	Mavity, J. E.	9/11/2010	934	Pierce, J. V.	1/14/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Maxwell, H. J.	7/14/2010
103	Strazzullo, J. D.	1/10/2011	301	Missildine, I. L.	12/19/2010	545	Koenig, E. A.	12/23/2010	953	Geving, R. A.	12/18/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Maycock, W. F.	12/19/2010
103	Venezia, L. J.	12/14/2010	302	Schmid, C. B.	12/13/2010	551	Rocha, E. C.	10/22/2010	968	Furner, L.	11/25/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Morrison, P. E.	12/11/2010
110	Reilly, E. H.	8/1/2010	303	Clouthier, C. J.	12/29/2010	557	Chislea, P. E.	12/13/2010	993	Stankie, J. C.	1/10/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Pargulski, L. B.	12/27/2010
110	Rosar, C. F.	12/9/2010	303	Mikulic, F.	12/7/2010	558	Broadfoot, W. B.	11/18/2010	995	Clary, C. C.	12/25/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Pfeifer, H. F.	10/28/2009
115	Ledford, D.	12/25/2010	305	Byrd, L. W.	1/5/2011	558	Chandler, D. L.	12/16/2010	995	Mayers, A. J.	11/26/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Ripley, R. J.	12/28/2010
124	Kopp, H. G.	12/18/2010	306	Vatovec, J.	12/22/2010	558	Lyon, G. E.	12/2/2010	1000	Freeman, M. J.	12/3/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Rogers, C. V.	12/13/2010
124	Merys, E. H.	1/11/2011	307	Abe, R. M.	11/25/2010	568	Korenstein, M.	12/26/2010	1002	Hall, J. L.	10/29/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Rohyans, D. D.	10/29/2010
124	Thornton, J. D.	12/21/2010	307	Weber, R. L.	9/25/2008	569	Feraldo, A. J.	1/4/2011	1002	Russey, W. J.	9/30/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Spicer, C. E.	12/30/2010
124	Whalen, C. J.	1/6/2011	309	Sudduth, E. L.	12/12/2010	569	Grandbouche, G. L.	12/6/2010	1141	Caldwell, L. O.	1/20/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Tomczyk, S. J.	12/29/2010
126	Boettner, J. N.	12/28/2010	309	Wessell, M.	5/21/2010	569	Thibodeau, W. E.	1/27/2011	1141	Canary, E. A.	12/9/2010	Pens. (I.O.)	Wallingford, G. G.	12/25/2010
126	Dunn, G. H.	12/23/2010	313	Best, V. G.	12/23/2010	570	Gamez, R. L.	7/10/2010	1141	Carpenter, G. B.	1/6/2011	Pens. (I.O.)	Walsh, I. J.	11/29/2010
126	Gibbons, R. G.	12/27/2010	317	Damron, T. J.	9/24/2010	576	Parker, M. C.	10/16/2010	1141	Dawkins, L. R.	11/21/20			



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

FROM THE OFFICERS**Wisconsin's Wake-Up Call**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Republicans have pushed through their bill to eliminate collective bargaining for tens of thousands of public workers in Wisconsin. They did it the only way they could—considering that polls show over 60 percent of the state's population opposes the bill—by using undemocratic tactics that make a mockery of their state's progressive tradition.

Walker's heroics for anti-union employers and the nation's right-wing could come at a deep price. Recall campaigns against eight Republican senators are gathering momentum.

Even more importantly, however, Walker has awakened a movement. The huge mobilizations of workers, community residents and students against Walker's agenda in Wisconsin were in the best democratic traditions of that state and our entire nation.

I am proud that IBEW locals were in Wisconsin standing shoulder to shoulder with our fellow citizens and are working hard to stop more reactionary legislation from being railroaded through their legislatures.

Pitting workers in the private sector against those who work in municipal, state and local government is backfiring in Wisconsin and other states where similar initiatives are under consideration.

A growing number of Americans know that the budget problems of our cities and states were not caused by public workers, but by the illegal actions of the big banks and Wall Street insiders.

The allies of these same interests are threatening to enact legislation that would set back the collective bargaining gains of IBEW members in all of our branches.

Walker and other governors like John Kasich in Ohio were elected to create jobs and help rebuild the middle-class, not to undermine the standards of workers who keep their states running.

After Ronald Reagan busted the air traffic controllers union (PATCO) for going on strike in 1981, many of us were frustrated that our labor movement's response did not have the force or strength or outrage that was desperately needed at that time.

Brothers and sisters, Gov. Walker's attack and the demonization of public workers in other states is this generation's PATCO moment. To fail now would be to desert our responsibility to our families and to the next generation of workers. ■

Danger on the Job

April 28 is Workers Memorial Day—the day when thousands of working men and women pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the workplace. This year's theme is "Safe Jobs Save Lives. Our Work's Not Done."

It's a fitting message in these trying times. In the race to undermine worker safety to boost big business' profit margins, anti-worker politicians have their feet squarely on the gas pedal.

The same lawmakers who support hefty tax cuts for the richest Americans recently announced plans to slash \$99 million in funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The cuts would eliminate 20 percent of the department's operating budget and, says IBEW Safety and Health Department Director Jim Tomaseski, "would severely cripple the agency in its mission to provide vital services and ensure employer accountability in all workplaces, including in the most dangerous job classifications."

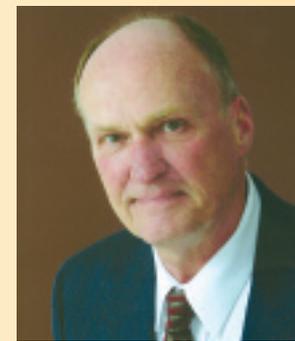
Under George W. Bush's administration, OSHA became so hobbled by politicians representing big business that its staff was smaller than it was in the 1970s. Underfunding the agency led to an increase in workplace injuries, accidents and deaths in the early- to mid-2000s.

In 2009, President Obama beefed up OSHA, hiring inspectors and compliance specialists—many of whom know firsthand what constitutes safety at work. On-the-job fatalities are on the decline.

IBEW members and our friends in the trades have always been the ones leading the fight for workplace safety because we know what it's like to stare down danger on the job. We build the bridges, wire cities, construct the buildings and supply the power to keep America running. And we are always ready to partner with OSHA and our employers to keep workers safe.

I hope your fighting spirit is strengthened by the stories of brothers and sisters on the front lines of state battles to mobilize for working families. And I hope you and some of your co-workers organize activities in your communities for Workers Memorial Day.

Hold those who died in your hearts. We still have a lot of fighting ahead. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

Letter From Madison

Kurt A. Roberts, the writer of the following letter, is press secretary of Madison, Wis., Local 965 and a maintenance mechanic/welder at the Columbia Generating Station (owned by Alliant Energy, Wisconsin Power & Light). He wrote this in the midst of the historic protests in Madison.

What's Going on in Wisconsin?

In mid-February teachers, nurses, parole officers, firefighters, prison guards, state workers and local government employees flooded into the Wisconsin state capitol building and surrounded it in protest. Joining them were thousands of ordinary Wisconsin citizens. A representative cross section of America, the mix of genders, ages, ethnicities, professionals, tradesmen, public and private sector employees, all demonstrated that this was the people of Wisconsin exercising those rights that are not only guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution but, as is so often expressed by conservatives, protected by our brave young service members fighting overseas. Not surprisingly Gov. Scott Walker and his allies called the protesters "thugs."

What brought these citizens of Wisconsin out in spite of the cold winter weather is a budget bill whose most contentious provisions include changes to the state's relationship with its employees. Some will tell you that the protesters are out there because they don't want to pay their fair share toward their medical benefits and pensions. But the unions who represent the employees affected have already agreed to the financial concessions.

This bill makes it illegal for Wisconsin public employees (except for police officers, firefighters and state troopers) to negotiate any aspect of their employment with the government, except for wages, which would be capped at the rate of inflation. Working conditions, seniority, promotions and grievance resolution are to be no longer negotiable. It will also be illegal to have their union dues deducted from their paycheck; they will have to mail their dues to their union every month.

Gov. Walker's refusal to negotiate any portion of this bill implies that this is but a stepping stone to a greater goal of destroying the rights and protections afforded working families across the state, not just those of the public sector. After all, he did campaign on a promise to make Wisconsin friendlier for business. It's a shame that Scott Walker insists that this be done at the expense of working families.

The environmental movement has Greenpeace, human rights advocates have Amnesty International, and the voice, the force, the movement for real family values, is America's workers bonded together in solidarity for living wages, safe working conditions, fair treatment, and adequate benefits. The impact of union affiliation has always gone beyond the members covered by an agreement and set the standard for many nonunion workers in the same industry, if for no other reason than to keep the union out.

So much of what our union forefathers fought to achieve is now taken for granted. Safe working conditions, Saturday as a day off, the 40-hour work week, overtime pay, sick leave, seniority, and grievance resolution were all concepts championed by the workers themselves and made possible by those workers finding strength in numbers.

Rome wasn't built in a day, as the old saying goes. Well the United States wasn't built by an individual. Farmers didn't and couldn't raise a barn by themselves; pioneers couldn't cross the plains alone, and no single individual ever built a railroad, a bridge or a skyscraper.

One of our earliest slogans at the founding of this nation was based on the realization that union equals strength: "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." Americans standing together for their rights is the most natural and most American thing they can do. To deny them that right is a slap in the face of not only those labor pioneers of the past but also the founding fathers of this nation who gave us the right to assemble, freedom of speech and the press, and whose Constitution was written to give us the tools to control our own destiny and "pursue happiness." Happiness cannot be pursued by those who are little more than slaves and have no seat at the table to control their working conditions.

This is a moment in history where the U.S. Supreme Court is controlled by those who stand with corporations, declaring those non-human entities to have the same rights as citizens.

This is a moment in history where the rights of ordinary citizens to collectively bargain are threatened as never before.

This is a moment in history where we can choose to let the corporate bosses destroy the American way of life, let the super-rich like the Koch brothers buy our government, and let ourselves go quietly down the road to slavery.

Or we can do what Americans have always done: we can stand by our fellow workers, our teachers, our firefighters, our state workers, our neighbors, our sisters, our brothers. American families are stronger with labor unions; Wisconsin is stronger with labor unions; and this country is stronger with labor unions. With faith in each other and support for those under attack we have the opportunity to show America what unity and solidarity really mean.

Kurt A. Roberts
Local 965 member, Madison, Wis.

Who We Are

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

Wisconsin Workers: 'Fighting for All of Us'

The massive protests in Wisconsin against Gov. Scott Walker's attempt to eliminate collective bargaining rights for public workers has inspired a new spirit of solidarity and activism among IBEW members, both in Wisconsin and across the country.

"Our members have been participating in the rallies on a daily basis," says Madison Local 159 Business Manager Mark Hoffmann. He says members are mobilized—public and private—in a way he hasn't seen in years. "They know that Walker isn't going to stop with public workers," he says. "If he can get away with taking away the rights of teachers and sanitation workers, it's a threat to the entire middle class."

Janesville Local 890 member Jim Anton has been making the more than an hour commute from his home in Williams Bay to Madison three times a week to join the rallies.

"If he can get away with taking away the rights of teachers and sanitation workers, it's a threat to the entire middle class."

— Mark Hoffmann, Madison Local 159 Business Manager

The inside wireman told *In These Times* magazine that "labor has been divided for many years, but this has been a spark that started something. Hopefully we will be stronger because of it."

Some travelled even farther to be part of the protests.

Spokane, Wash., Local 73 member Aarin Borges, responding to a call for help from his friend Local 159 member Mark Roughen to help get out the real story about what was going on in Wisconsin, flew to Madison in February.

Borges and Roughen set up a camera in the capitol building—hooked up to a live Internet feed—to



A Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 member hoists a flag at a solidarity rally March 5 in Madison, Wis., for weeks the epicenter of union activism.

help get out the story that Walker's moves were aimed solely at attacking workers' rights.

The feed's link was shared on the Internet as activists across the country used it to watch live coverage of the protests.

When the authorities in Wisconsin cracked down on admission into the capitol building, the International Office coordinated with Workers Independent News (WIN) to obtain press passes that enabled them to continue their feed.

Also logging thousands of miles to show their solidarity were a group of Boston Local 2222 members, who drove more than 18 hours to Madison to join the protests in late February.

Steve "Smitty" Smith, a Local 2222 organizer and retired lineman, writing on a blog about the group's trip, said "my mom and my dad—a retired postal worker—live very modestly on his pension. Yet they offered me \$100 when I told them we were going to support the workers in Madison. My mom and dad can't afford \$100, but they won't stand by and see their children and grandchildren's futures disappear without getting involved."

IBEW members from California to Missouri were also drawn to Wisconsin, including Kansas City, Mo., Local 124 member Roger Lake, who

says what is happening in Madison is revitalizing the labor movement.

International President Edwin D. Hill also travelled to Madison, telling protestors in late February that "there is not a place I would rather be than here in Wisconsin, standing with people who are fighting for all of us."

Milwaukee Local 2150 member Mike Haak says Walker's attacks have electrified the membership. "During last year's election, there was a lot of apathy," he says, admitting that some members voted for Walker, who was elected last November. But the mobilizations in Madison have generated a sea change in thinking. "There has been a desire to be involved and an energy that I haven't seen in a long time. Walker really woke a lot of us up," he says.

The IBEW's International Executive Committee created at its February meeting a unity fund to help local members fighting for the rights of working people in Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Florida and beyond.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to **IBEW Unity Fund** and mail them to:

IBEW Unity Fund
900 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001 ■

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