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.

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 capitol 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.”
Wisconsin Ground Zero for Attacks on Workers

After weeks of unprecedented shows of solidarity that sent thousands to the state capital 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 bargaining over wages only. It would restrict public workers to bargaining only over wages while contracts would be limited to bargaining over wages only. 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, said 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 250 member Mike Haak said, “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 traveled 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 any one 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.”

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 job sites, 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 lawmakers body.

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

“Troy Warner”This right-to-work law would have weakened the voice of working families in the Assembly drew back from its efforts awayed 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.

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 a 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 entrenched 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 569’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.

Resources for IBEW Activists

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

- **We Are One** [www.we-e-r-1.org](http://www.we-e-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.afcio.org/issues/states](http://www.afcio.org/issues/states)
  An online resource for grassroots activists.

- **Progressive States Network** [www.progressivestates.org](http://www.progressivestates.org)
  An organization committed to promoting pro-worker, progressive legislation in all 50 states.

- **Economic Policy Institute** [www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org)
  A nonpartisan think tank focused on the needs of working people.

- **IBEW.org** [www.ibew.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/IBEWFB)
  Connect with over 15,000 IBEW members across the country.

IBEW Helps Shine Media Spotlight on Wage Theft

An IBEW member Gary Oney 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.

Early 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.”
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 employees 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 compulsory 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 is 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 collective équitable avec le gouvernement.

Le « Front commun » nouvellement formé représente les cols bleus et les cols blancs à l’emploi des sociétés SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy 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 employés professionnels et de bureau (CDOPE/SEPBD), 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 Regina, 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 conférencier Jason Tibbs, Gérant d’affaires adjoint de la Section locale 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 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 eu pêcher dans leurs poches durant plusieurs années afin d’aider la compagnie SaskPower à traverser ces temps difficiles, alors nous espérons que cette dernière honorerà sa part du contrat » déclare le conférencier Tibbs.

Les autres sociétés d’État réclament 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 conférencier 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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Allocations</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash (interest bearing and non-interest bearing)</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government securities</td>
<td>6.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>8.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>22.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership/joint venture interests</td>
<td>9.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate (other than employer real property)</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans (other than to participants)</td>
<td>1.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant loans</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of interest in common/collective trusts</td>
<td>32.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of interest in pooled separate accounts</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of interest in master trust investment accounts</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer-related investments:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Securities</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer real property</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings and other property used in plan operation</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15.76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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-5531, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202.623.6673. 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.”
The plan is insolvent. A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries. 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.

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits that were made under the plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan’s termination or insolvency. The PBGC’s maximum guarantee, therefore, is $35,750 per month times a participant’s credited service.

Example 3: If a participant has 10 years of credited service and 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 $7.75 (.75 x $33.00), or $35.75. Thus, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit is $357.50 ($35.75 x 10).

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 201 and the plan sponsor’s name and employer identification number or “EIN” is Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, 53-016297. For more information about the PBGC, go to PBGC’s website, www.pbgc.gov.

February International Executive Council Meeting

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

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 3:30 p.m., by Secretary Lavin, on Thursday, February 3, 2011, in Bonita Springs, Florida. Other members of the Council in attendance were Lucero, Brieger, Riley, Calvey and Clarke. Chairman Pierson and Council Members Schombel 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 Linded 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. 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 1, 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 pending 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 22, 2011, requesting reconsideration of the International Executive Council findings, was read and filed. And his request was denied.

Birth Date Changes

Koster, John W. 0003
Aldrich, Edward R. 0176
Zlentek, Josef 0024
Song, John K. 0305
Rivoli, Thomas 0025
Glauser, Travis L. 0357
Coffee, Thomas G. 0082
Waranciek, Terrence L. 0568
Zammelio, Frank J. 0099
Medina, Joe F. 0611
Collins, Danny D. 0175
Moore, Wayne 0631

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
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 InterGROW 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 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.

The solidarity they showed in the face of overwhelming adversity was amazing.”

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 serves 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 electrically 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 service men 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.”

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 Philadelphia 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 president,” 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.
**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 42-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 joke 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 an 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.”

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**Circuits**

**Digital Transmission, 2.0: The Light Fantastic**

LVX 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.
Veterans Center Constructed

L.U. 6 (I,.t,sk), 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 Powars and Barrett Stapleton for heading the venture, as well as Paul Mitchell and Conrad Grass from McMillian Electric for providing a service van to assist the volunteers. Local 6 members also participated in power ing 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. Famely, Pres.

Work Picks Up

L.U. 8 (as,em,lm,mar,mt&spa), TOLEDO, OH—As work picks up 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 “Shnky” Short, P.S.

Award Banquets Celebration

L.U. 12 (Loxke), PUEBLO, CO—Local 12’s annual awards banquet for members and apprentices was Feb. 19. Our four graduating apprentices were recognized: Doug Leitig, 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 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 Jaymon followed him in the trade.


Cliff 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 97th 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, occupational 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 governor 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 capital ... 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 anti-working family bills are withdrawn.”]

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

Historic Election of Officers


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 challenging election process. The second election produced the largest turnout of vot ers in our Local’s 50-year history.

Roger M. Lash Jr., B.M.

DAD’S Day Golf Outing

L.U. 26 (ees,es,i&spa), 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 Downers Against Diabetes golf outing will be Monday, June 13. Please see 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 pic nics: the Manassas, VA picnic will be held June 18, and the picnic in Edgewood, MD, on Aug. 6. Several members passed away since our last article: Barry N. Belcher, Philip Place, Cecil R. Hall, Nelson F. Morris, William H. Hurley III, James C. Hipslay, Robert Lohr and Dominick Dell’Eira.


Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Trade Classifications

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<tr>
<th>(as) Alarm &amp; Signal</th>
<th>(ei) Electrical Inspection</th>
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<tr>
<td>(ars) Atomic Research Service</td>
<td>(em) Electrical Manufacturing</td>
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<tr>
<td>(bo) Bridge Operators</td>
<td>(es) Electric Signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>(cs) Cable Splicers</td>
<td>(et) Electronic Technicians</td>
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<td>(cah) Cable Television</td>
<td>(fm) Fixture Manufacturing</td>
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<td>(c) Communications</td>
<td>(govt) Government</td>
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<td>(cr) Crane Operators</td>
<td>(i) Inside</td>
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<td>(ees) Electrical Equipment Service</td>
<td>(it) Instrument Technicians</td>
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Trade Classifications

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<th>(lct) Line Clearance Tree Trimming</th>
<th>(plt) Lightning Protection Technicians</th>
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<td>(mt) Maintenance</td>
<td>(mo) Maintenance &amp; Operation</td>
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<td>(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers</td>
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<td>(mpe) Motion Picture Studios</td>
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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 Line Clearance Crews

L. U. 42 (ctwcm.gov,ltt6ko), 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 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.


Jacquelyn Moffitt, Mbr. Services

LED Lighting for Parking Lot

L. U. 68 (l), 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 2, 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 Wiener’s Brotherhood Fund Bowling Tournament was held Feb. 19. This annual event is one of the well-attended “FUNDraisers” for the WB&F, and lots of fun! If you’re not a WB&F 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!


Ed Knox, Pres.

“Attack on Labor”

L. U. 90 (l), 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 the 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: 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 Blais, P.S.

Battle for the Working Class

L. U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rt,ses&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 work.” 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

Meeting of Officers & Stewards

L. U. 94 (lctt,ns,klu), 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 PS&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.

Dolcen, VP.

NH Union Rally against ‘Right-to-Work’ Legislation

L. U. 104 (lctt,okl), BOSTON, MA—Hundreds of union members gathered in Concord, NH, on Feb. 3 to oppose an anti-union “right-to-work” bill, HB 424, 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 Bros. 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 31.

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 Blais, P.S.

Solar Training Begins

L. U. 120 (c,Jq), 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 Olivers from IBEW Construction Council Ontario for a very informative and engaging course.

Local 120 is proud to be hosting the 48th Annual 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! Thanks 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 Parkinson 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 Dolcen, VP.

The Electrical Worker | April 2011

IBEW members participate in solar training in January this year.

IBEW Local 42 members on a Lewis Tree Service crew perform roadside line clearance in Meriden, CT. From left: Joe Aponte, groundman; Lamont Priest, lead foreman; Javier Martinez, foreman; and Nelson Rodriguez, trimmer 1.
workplace deaths is 15 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 non-RTW shop states. Missouri Senators Victor Callahan and Tim Green are fighting hard for working-class people, but they need our help. Let your elected representa-tive hear from you. Let’s stop this “crush the work-ing 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.

**Local Lines**

**TEC Project Stopped in Senate**

L.U. 146 (El.,&t., DECatur, IL)—We wish we had better news about the Tenaska Taylorville Energy Center project, but unfortunately the state legis-la-tion 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 for-tune and fear of competition from an out-of-state company that were 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. Lunnir R. Stephenson, the many area business managers, and building trades and councils for their support; and to Illinois A.F.L.-C.I.O. Pres. Michael Carrigan and Illinois A.F.L.-C.I.O. Sec.-Treas. Tim Drea for keeping the legislation moving despite obstacles. On a positive note, the Mcanon 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 Dominick Rigoni. We extend condolences to their families. They will be remembered.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

**Convention Delegate Nominations**

L.U. 150 (es.,Sts, &s, Waukegan, IL)—Nominations for delegates will be at the May meeting. The election of delegates will be at the June meeting. Please be in attendance if you wish to be nominated, nomi-nate 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 con-ventions’ business concerning all locals is completed along with setting policy for the next five years. As usual, the IATC 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. Condon, P.S.

**Visiting Union Delegation**

L.U. 164 (e.,Jersey City, NJ)—In December 2012, 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. After an exchange of warm wishes and gifts, the group visited the IBEW Local 164 Training Facility. There they asked many ques-tions 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.

**Work Outlook Promising**

L.U. 222 (Se., ORLANDO, FL)—Greetings from sunny Florida. Our work has held steady; however, we con-tinue 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 pre-sented 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 manage-ment personnel. We all feel the program should make a difference to our customers when choosing contractors, and also provide a safe working envi-ronment for our members. In order for it to be effec-tive 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” Nicholas.

Attend union meetings and support your local!

Bill Hitt, A.B.M.

**L.U. 234 (Flm.), CASTROVILLE, CA**—The past year for our mostly rural tri-county local has been a very busy one despite the pitiable economy and impov-erished conditions our many brothers and sisters are finding everywhere. Between a guerilla and cru-ci-al mid-term election, installing an on-premises electric vehicle charging station, implementing CALFIT for energy savings through advanced light-ing controls, upgrading our hall and thereby attain-ing LEED Gold status, supporting out-of-work apprentices with gift cards, sharing our limited resources with various local charities that in turn benefit many of our 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 2012 election of its officers, held last June.


Stephen Slowavac, P.S.

**Local Wins PWR Appeal**

L.U. 280 (E., Morrow, U., Mo., Mt., Sts.&s), SALEM, OR—Greetings from sunny Oregon. Our work has had a busy one despite the pitiable economy and im-pov-erished conditions 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 contrac-tors 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 sur-veys 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 lossess in 2012 of Bros. Arthur Brinkman, Orvil Mitchell, Randy Rasher, Alan Schmidt, Walt Talley, Gerald Deems, Gail Millsap, Eric Rose and James Bolton. We thank them for sacrifices they made for us and future generations!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.
Unit4 Labor Kickoff
L.U. 304 (lctt,0k,i), 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 50. Cave led a short, yet inspirational life of selfless giving and is remembered for his commitment to helping those less fortunate.

Our industry is ever-evolving, and it is important that we have a Pin Presentation lunch to honor 2010 Local 332 members who participate in a CALCTP class.

Training for the Future
L.U. 332 (e,ees,ktt), 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.

New Journeymen Electricians
L.U. 350 (l), HANIBAL, 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. 29, 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 (lts&kpa), 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.

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.

Bennie Ballard, Organizer

Habitat for Humanity Projects
L.U. 498 (lts,ctv,em,i&spa), TRANSVERSE 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 408 picnic this summer. The inside apprentice classes last year helped wire three Habitat for Humanity homes and the 4-H barn at the fairgrounds.

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 (l,0rb), 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, 203 St. Catharines, and 2938 Regina for employing our members.

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

Al Byers, P.S.

JATC Renewable Energy Classes
L.U. 322 (gntt,li,ctt&kpa), 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.

Pin Presentation
L.U. 340 (lts,kpa), SACRAMENTO, CA—In January we had a Pin Presentation lunch to honor 2010 recipients of 30-, 50- and 60-year pins. It is great to see members reconnect with their old “tools” 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. Mauer 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 Cecchettiini, George Korte Jr., Alfred E. Hopkins and Stan Mielick.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Local 440 members serve on the Volunteer Organizing Committee.

Related Links

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—April 30 Spring Picnic 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.

Local’s 2nd Annual Spring Picnic. The picnic will be 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. 670 (lmo, 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.

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.

Unique Election
L.U. 586 (em, j&ks), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA—As our election nears, we think of our last one in which all of our 15 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.

Local 586 Executive Board members gather for a photo.

‘Hometown Heroes’ Make a Difference
L.U. 654 (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 and “adopted” a local family in need to help make their holiday joyful and memorable—learning first-hand that the greatest gift is giving.

Or the members at Guelph Hydro whose “Adopt-a-Family” campaign raised nearly $3,000, 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 (as, che, clu, catv, em, spa & u), 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 Parkersburg 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. 5.] 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.

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

Electrical Worker | April 2011
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).

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).

‘Getting More Jobs’

L.U. 666 (as,i,mt,o), RICHMOND, VA—Congratulations to our new retirees: William R. Gayle, Frederick A. Payne, Larry M. Robertson, Billy B. Stroud and Richard Venable, Rep.

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 and John Dannemiller, James Elia, Mark Reynolds, Carolyn Golden, Paul Nance, Rocky Rice, Jeff Weikle; for 30 years—E. M. Breadlove, Vicky Carpenter, Ed Hulder; 35 years—Ron Goss, Jack Martin; 40 years—Randy Kistner, James Dick II, Don Eyre; 50 years—James Cox Jr., Tom Hopkins; 55 years—Ken Naylor, Donald Tate. And for 60 years—W. Dowind McClurg.

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

We are saddened to report the loss of 35-year member Tom Garrison. We send our condolences to his family.

Don Lloyd, P.S.

Member Participation is Key

L.U. 716 (em,ltrs&pa), HOUSTON, TX—I hope everyone is doing well and working. Our work situation has been a little slow this winter and we are looking for it to pick up this spring.

IBEW Local 756’s membership participated in the Houston St. Patrick’s Day parade, as well as a sponsorship in the Great Cheese Parade. Community participation is the key, as we continue to spread the message about the IBEW and Local 756.

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 756 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.

100th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 702 (es,i), HUNTSVILLE, AL—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 DuQuinl, 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.

Market Recovery Plan

L.U. 692 (as,i), 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 “manhurv” 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 their 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 Grzegorzczik and Samuel Jeitowski.

Tom Bartosiek, P.S.

L.U. 756 electrician crew members gather at a Kennedy Space Center launch complex.
Local Lines

Retirees Luncheon

L.U. 776 (L.U.756 & L.U.804) CHARLESTON, SC—I recently attended an event for retirees and it was a great way to spend an afternoon. The event was hosted by the local union and was open to all members who had retired from the industry.

Among attendees at the Local 776 Retirees’ Luncheon are: from left, front row, Jerry “Smiley” Starnes, Ronnie Goodale, Clarence Low, Howard “PeeWee” Wessinger, Kenny Loach, Bob Ferral, Charlie Groves, Larry Poole; back row, Frankie Fan, Johnny Huckabee, Richard Kelly, Charlie Goodale, Bennie Dixon, Don Belcher, James T. Moore, Wayne Poole and Bob Curry.

Local Goes Green with Smart Energy

L.U. 804 (L.U.804), 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, $5 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 Apprentice Program students. In doing so we will mentor our community’s future electricians, educating not only in the growing solar energy market but also the safety 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. 1116 (L.U.1116 & L.U.910), TUCSON, AZ—A bowling tournament benefit was held recently to raise funds for the Brotherhood’s efforts. The tournament was held at the Tucson Elks Club, and a total of $10,000 was raised.

Several of this group participated in the last two Lineman’s Rodeos at Kansas City.

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 line men 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 into the future.

Local 756 and the building trades have put themselves in the best possible position to show members they live in. (In early years, Local 382 was an inside construction local based in Columbia.)

Chuck Moore, B.M.

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 Buexer, 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 Enkeleben, C. A. 1/4/2011
2 Smith, R. E. 12/25/2010
3 Ash, O. K. 11/19/2010
3 Cristiani, R. J. 10/26/2010
3 Davie, W. M. 12/25/2010
3 Ferguson, J. A. 11/23/2010
3 Harris, M. G. 9/24/2007
3 Hyman, D. S. 5/7/2010
3 Keggen, J. A. 10/25/2010
4 Lahotsky, W. 1/23/2011
5 Mader, J. 10/9/2010
5 McElroy, A. D. 12/2/2010
5 Nazaruk, M. 10/4/2010
5 Orza, D. 11/1/2010
5 Rivers, E. E. 12/19/2010
6 Roth, J. A. 9/8/2009
6 Sabran, B. 12/24/2010
6 Shako, N. 11/23/2010
7 Springer, O. D. 10/22/2010
7 Trapani, F. 12/4/2010
7 Trotman, H. R. 11/14/2010
8 Vint, R. A. 12/12/2010
8 Vanowen, T. P. 11/14/2010
8 Voges, T. A. 11/28/2010
8 Schmidt, R. E. 12/14/2010
9 Durbauha, R. E. 12/18/2010
9 Jasper, E. H. 12/12/2010
9 Maletto, A. J. 6/7/2010
9 Williams, R. L. 12/11/2010
9 Bagley, M. D. 1/20/2010
9 Calleja, J. A. 1/4/2010
9 Ullama, P. F. 12/4/2010
10 Haag, O. G. 12/4/2010
10 Johnson, H. D. 12/27/2010
10 Robakiewicz, K. J. 11/13/2010
10 Rockwood, R. E. 12/12/2010
10 Snyder, F. E. 11/8/2010
11 Lyman, G. A. 12/30/2010
11 Bass, B. 1/1/2010
11 Dennis, G. E. 10/14/2010
11 Lanson, G. A. 12/27/2010
11 Pica, P. J. 12/4/2010
11 Smith, C. L. 12/26/2010
11 Storms, P. L. 12/31/2009
11 Vandeza, J. E. 1/7/2011
11 Gnauchek, D. G. 11/30/2009
11 Barnes, F. W. 12/31/2010
11 Conley, L. L. 1/5/2011
11 Glaser, S. B. 8/14/2010
17 Parks, M. E. 8/24/2010
17 Somero, R. W. 12/10/2010
17 Anderson, C. R. 12/22/2010
17 McDonough, J. J. 12/22/2010
17 Fields, V. D. 1/7/2011
17 Agu, J. P. 12/31/2010
17 Lanzarotta, L. 1/15/2011
17 Hall, C. R. 12/27/2010
17 Harris, R. E. 11/9/2010
17 Lohr, R. E. 1/30/2011
35 Maloney, F. T. 12/10/2010

James Jette, P.S.

“Moving Ahead”

L.U. 1116 (L.U.1116), 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 Plans 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 Courtwright.

Local 776 and the building trades have put themselves in the best possible position to show members they live in. (In early years, Local 382 was an inside construction local based in Columbia.)

Chuck Moore, B.M.

In February 2011

L.U. 1116 (L.U.1116), COLUMBUS, OH—Local 1116 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 ALAB 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.
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<th>Surname</th>
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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 heroes 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 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 Brueggenjohann, “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 the places, including in the most dangerous job classifications.”

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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.
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 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 already agreed to the financial concessions. Government 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.

Amnesty International, and the voice, the force, the movement for real family values. Happiness cannot be pursued by those who are little more than slaves and stronger with labor unions; and this country is stronger with labor unions. With the 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. 20003.
**DEADLINES**

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

- **February 18, 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 22, 2011**
  - 1st District (Canada)
  - 3rd District (DE, NJ, NY, PA)
  - 6th District (IL, IN, MI, MN, WI)
  - 11th District (IA, MO, ND, SD)

**CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

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*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**

[Text of the agreement and release]

**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/ibew/ta-talent.