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TAKING ON THE 'WALMART OF CABLE':

IBEW Steps Up Organizing at Comcast

Comcast has a well-earned reputation as one of the most anti-union companies in the telecommunications industry. "It is the Walmart of the cable and telecommunications industry," says Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21 Business Manager Ronald Kastner, who has been trying to organize the cable provider in the Chicago area for years. "There isn't much they won't do to keep unions out."

But last spring, a group of Comcast workers in New Jersey successfully took on the company's hard-line opposition to unions, winning a small, but key victory.

In May, more than 75 employees at Comcast's Fairfield, N.J., facility made history when they ratified their first contract with the company. The new members of East Windsor Local 827 are the first ever previously unorganized Comcast workers to join a union.

"This is a company that is willing to spend millions to fight a union contract that might cost them \$10,000," says Telecommunications and Broadcasting Department International Representative Kevin Curran. "To finally win one after so many years is a huge boost."

The historic victory was the culmination of an eight-year organizing campaign. "The company had tried everything to keep the union out and it was pretty successful until now," says Local 827 Business Manager William Huber.

Employees complained of having no job security or regular pay raise schedules. "It is the way



Union activists worry that Comcast's low-road workers' rights model will spread throughout the telecommunications industry.

anything to stay union free. In Chicago, workers at Comcast's South Side facility narrowly lost a hard-fought election to join Local 21 by only 13 votes in June.

"It was a battle from day one," says Local 21 organizer Dave Webster. "The company used fear to tip the vote."

He says management used every anti-union tactic there is—from daily captive audience meetings to public threats to slash bonuses and wages. "They told employees that Comcast would never agree to a union contract."

They also attacked the IBEW, singling out Webster for "excessive" pay. It's a strange argument, Webster says, from a company that gave its chief executive Brian Roberts \$31 million last year.

"Roberts is one of the 10 highest paid CEOs in the country, and they want to argue that I make too much money?" Webster says.

The campaigns in New Jersey and Chicago have been carefully watched by union activists who are concerned that Comcast's anti-worker business model is increasingly setting the bar for wages and working conditions across the telecommunications industry.

"The reality is that low wages, low benefits and punishing work schedules at Comcast drag down standards for everyone," Webster says.

most of the company works," Huber says. "If your boss likes you, you are just fine, but if he doesn't, it could mean your job."

It is no surprise then, Huber says, that the 11 employees who did not receive raises last year were the strongest union supporters.

But the breakthrough by employees in New Jersey remains a unique victory at a company known for doing

Race to the Bottom

Before the rise of wireless and cable, the telecommunications industry had traditionally been a bastion of unionism. Even after the breakup of the Bell System in 1984, unions remained strong, giving most workers higher-than-average wages, a solid retirement, strong health benefits and firm job security.

A 2004 American Rights at Work report—"No Bargain: Comcast and the Future of Workers' Rights in Telecommunications"—found that union technicians earn 7 to 10 percent more than their nonunion

COMCAST continued on page 2

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IBEW Steps Up Organizing at Comcast



Workers at Comcast's Fairfield, N.J., facility signed their first-ever contract with the company in May. Standing from left are Edgardo Negron, Heath Lamont Stephen and Guillermo Acevedo, with Local 827 negotiator Dennis Slaman and Business Agent Georgeanne Scarpelli. Sitting from left are Comcast's vice president for labor relations, Patrick Battel; Local 827 Business Manager William Huber; and Comcast's labor relations director, Russell Cook.

counterparts. Cable workers, who are mostly nonunion, are even worse off, earning more than a \$13,000 a year less than their landline counterparts, while having a job turnover rate that is more than twice as high.

Today more than 60 percent of landline telecommunications employees are union, but increasing competition from nonunion wireless carriers and cable companies like Comcast—which has a union density of only 2 percent—is putting pressure on traditional telecoms.

In addition to being the largest cable and home Internet provider in the United States, it is now the third largest home telephone provider as triple service packages (cable, Internet and phone) displace traditional landline connections.

Huber, who is preparing for negotiations with Verizon over its East Coast contract, says the company repeatedly points to wages and benefits at Comcast as a reason for pushing cutbacks. “They tell us that they can’t compete with Comcast,” he says.

Carrot and Stick

Cable saw its initial growth in the early '80s just as the assault on private sector unionism was gathering steam, and Comcast has made keeping its work force union free a top priority.

Managers have resorted to a host of union-busting maneuvers to keep it that way—from dividing the work force by buying off employees through bonuses and promotions to intimidating union supporters through unfair disciplinary actions and illegal terminations.

“In preparing this report, we encountered numerous Comcast employees with strong feelings about the company’s treatment of union mem-

bers and supporters, who insisted on remaining anonymous out of fear that they would lose their jobs,” write the authors of “No Bargain.”

And while management is willing to dole out extra bonuses during an organizing drive, Comcast is quick to take them back as soon as the campaign ends. As current AT&T employee Sam Johnson, who tried to organize his Comcast unit, put it: “When the organizing stops, so do the perks.”

Comcast has also been successful at throwing out contracts at newly acquired unionized companies by refusing to bargain in good faith and singling out pro-union employees for harassment, transfers and layoffs. At one former AT&T Broadband facility, the company fought Local 21 for seven years before employees forced Comcast to renew their contract. (See “Seven Year Struggle Yields Contract at Comcast in Illinois,” IBEW Journal, June 2006)

While the former AT&T workers were able to squeak out a victory, they have been the exception. Starting with seven Comcast units in the early 2000s, Local 21 is now down to only two.

Fighting Back

Comcast’s hostility to unions is pushing organizers to find new ways to build public pressure on the company.

In Massachusetts, employees at Comcast’s Fall River facility, dissatisfied over unfair disciplinary procedures, signed cards to join Middleboro Local 2322 last year. But instead of proceeding straight to a National Labor Relations Board election, which could expose pro-union workers to harassment by management, the two dozen technicians approached community leaders and

elected officials to help prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they had a strong majority behind them.

“We have to build up enough pressure,” says International Organizer Steve Smith. “We had to make the process open and public.”

Local 2322 invited leading lawmakers, such as U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch, Fall River Mayor William Flanagan and Jobs with Justice activist Kim Wilson, to publicly check the list of Comcast employees against signed union authorization cards.

Lynch and Flanagan then wrote Comcast asking them to “respect the employee majority and voluntarily recognize Local 2322 as their representative.” Sen. John Kerry and Rep. Jim McGovern also publically called on Comcast to recognize the union.

Management continues to refuse to negotiate but Local 2322 is still keeping up the pressure, publishing a monthly newsletter directed at Comcast workers. And in April, Fall River service technician and pro-union activist Christine Dexter attended a White House forum sponsored by the Labor Department, where she explained why she and her co-workers were fighting for the right to organize.

“We want to sit down with [Comcast] and begin to collectively bargain for the things we think a union can help us with,” she told the gathering. “Like job security and a voice in the workplace.”

“The fight to keep good jobs in telecommunications starts at Comcast,” says Telecommunications and Broadcasting Department Director Martha Pultar. “Comcast’s low road model of worker relations could easily become the template for the entire industry unless employees and community leaders stand up.” ■

IBEW Short Named Video of the Year

IBEW-produced video “Workplace Democracy: Corporate Style” is the winner of LabourStart’s second annual labor video of the year contest.

More than 3,000 votes were cast online for the five finalists, which were nominated by a panel of judges.

With the story of Max, the worker who gets dragged into a meeting with his bosses after trying to organize a union, the video sheds light on what really happens in organizing campaigns.

“We wanted to show how little power an individual worker has when his employer and the forces of wealth are arrayed against him,” says Media Department Director Jim Spellane, who wrote the screenplay. “Many companies in the United States have gone to extremes in their efforts to squash workers’ efforts to organize, and we wanted to shine a light on that.”

Produced in-house by the IBEW’s own video team and cast with union actors, the video has been viewed more than 10,000 times on YouTube, and was featured on Web sites like Daily Kos, the AFL-CIO Blog and the Huffington Post.

“The most important thing is the story the video is trying to tell, and if this honor results in a greater number of people seeing our video then that’s even better,” says Media Department International Representative Mark Brueggenjohann.

And the research backs up the basic facts of the drama as portrayed by the earnest Max, faced down first by a mean-looking company henchman and then menaced by the corporate suits who control his destiny. According to Cornell University’s Kate Bronfenbrenner, more than 50 percent of all workers who attempt to organize are threatened by their bosses, while more than 70 percent of managers bring in outside anti-union consultants—the kind depicted in “Workplace Democracy.”

YouTube user abrinker commented that “this does happen. Maybe not with dramatic actors, but this has happened to me.”

Go to www.youtube.com/theElectricalWorker to watch the video. ■



An actor in the IBEW’s popular dramatic video

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A Greener Grid? Not Without Eminent Domain Laws, IBEW Says

Jim Dahlberg likes what he sees each morning when he steps out of his front door in South Range, Wis., and heads to work: a sinewy section of high-voltage transmission cables channeling power across his community in the state's northwest and along to Wausau, 200 miles southeast.

It might not be the most aesthetically pleasing structure, the Sixth District International Representative concedes. "Some people don't like looking at them, but we've got to have lines like this to move power from where it's generated to where it's needed."

This line—the Arrowhead Weston line—that runs through Dahlberg's neighborhood transports a mix of energy, including wind and hydroelectric, from Minnesota and Manitoba to customers in the Badger State. Costing more than \$135 million, the project employed about 400 area IBEW members during its construction three years ago.

As a project that brings clean power to customers hundreds of miles from where it's produced, and as a source of solid jobs, Arrowhead Weston is a dual victory championed by both green energy supporters and union leaders.

But elsewhere in the nation, friction persists. The irony, Dahlberg says, comes from some in the environmental community who are celebrating renewable sources of energy—especially wind and solar—but who oppose large construction projects to expand transmission lines to carry such power.

This is why labor leaders are encouraging local and state legislatures to adopt eminent domain laws giving governments greater ability to approve the construction of transmission lines to further connect the nationwide power grid.

Eminent domain laws allow local, state or federal government to acquire private property for public use. In the process, governments are required to pay just compensation—or what the property is worth—to the landowner.

"You've heard of NIMBYs—people who say, 'Not in my backyard,'" Dahlberg said. "I guess you could call me an IMFY—'In my front yard.' We have to do this if we want to be serious about going greener with our power, and the only way that can happen is with eminent domain."

The nation's electrical grid network is both aging and underdeveloped. Some sections are nearly six decades old and weren't designed to carry massive loads of power over long distances. This creates energy backlogs that are hampering the development of the green sector at a time when our nation increasingly needs more renewable power. With more eminent domain laws



More than 400 IBEW members helped construct the massive Arrowhead-Weston transmission line, which connects energy markets in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Manitoba.

Photo © American Transmission Co. All rights reserved.

on the books, labor leaders say, the industry will be better primed to help meet the energy demands of the future.

A Real Alternative?

Wind energy is the most economically viable renewable resource. And the breezy expanses in areas like the Dakotas and Kansas could produce enough power that—if properly harnessed—could help meet the Obama administration's mandated energy standard of 80 percent of the country's electricity coming from clean sources by 2035.

The 2005 energy bill directed the Department of Energy to conduct studies to develop so called "energy corridors"—areas rich enough in wind activity to make construction of turbines cost-effective and beneficial to the nation's power infrastructure.

"But there's not adequate transmission yet to transport the power, and every step of the way there's opposition," said IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter.

As a prime example, he cites Pennsylvania—which inhabits a large section of the wind energy corridor—where some state and local politicians have resisted efforts to build transmission lines.

Additional feedback from many in the environmental community shows "excitement that there's supposedly going to be all these new green jobs," Hunter said. "But there are no green jobs in wind if we don't have transmission to transport energy and connect it to the grid."

Legal Clouds in Big Sky Country

Chuck Dixon and Dan Flynn know all too well how lack of these laws can tie up major projects intended to bring power—especially renewables—to energy-hungry areas. The Butte, Mont., Local 44 business manager and the assistant business agent, as well as their members, have been eyeing a \$215 million project called the Montana-Alberta Tie Line for years. Stretching more than 200 miles, the line will connect electricity markets from Great Falls to those north of the Canadian border, providing a potential boon for the state's wind energy developers and providing jobs for local members.

Last December, a court ruling by a judge in Glacier County struck down eminent domain for transmission projects, threatening the line.

But a bill passed last month by the Montana state legislature stated that utilities do have the right of eminent domain in transmission projects, a development indicating that legal skirmishes could still cloud the landscape in the near future.

In a recent op-ed in the Helena Independent Record, Flynn and Chuck Magraw—an attorney representing the state's Natural Resources Defense Council—outlined their support for eminent domain law.

"Transmission lines and associated renewable energy development mean jobs—good jobs, like linemen, electricians, engineers, and construction workers—here in Montana," they write. "Investment and job growth lead to more investment and employment opportuni-

ties, producing ever more economic benefits and providing much needed tax revenue to local and state governments. Developing a clean energy economy is vitally important for Montana's future."

Golden State Gridlock

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation in April giving his state the most "aggressive alternative energy mandate in the U.S.," the Huffington Post reported.

The law gives California's utilities and electricity providers nine years to ensure that a third of the state's energy comes from renewable resources.

Paradoxically, project after project to help increase the flow of green power has been stymied by special interests, including some in the environmental community.

A prime example is a \$1.8 billion, 118-mile transmission line project to bring solar energy from Imperial County to customers in neighboring San Diego, the eighth largest city in the U.S. Though plans have been in the works since 2005, workers, including Diamond Bar Local 47 members, are just now breaking ground. But the project is encountering more challenges along the way.

"So far we've had to go around a lot of protected land—which has driven up the price—and right now, it's bird egg laying season," said Local 47 Business Manager Pat Lavin. "That means the foliage can't be disturbed. And it puts many constraints on constructing the line."

The project was launched with a multi-billion dollar project labor agreement giving 95 percent of the work to Local 47 members. "When we get it up and run-

ning, it's going to employ at least 350 hands for three years," said Lavin, who is also Seventh District IEC member.

The projected line is anything but straight, weaving around a state park, dipping underground for six miles and avoiding protected habitats for native wildlife like birds, turtles and mice.

"We're going to be jumping around this place trying to get the line built," Lavin said, explaining that helicopters will fly in sections of transmission towers in a fashion usually reserved for more mountainous terrain. "All of these modifications and changes are just going to spike the construction costs, and California's citizens are going to shoulder the burden."

Lavin has testified at hearings along with representatives from project developer San Diego Gas & Electric to try to encourage lawmakers to grant authority for building future sections of the line that—to date—are in legal limbo.

"When those birds' eggs hatch," he said, "we'll have work. Until then, we wait."

Greening Technology

With transmission expansion come many things: less dependence on fossil fuels, increased opportunities for growth in the wind, solar and hydroelectric industries, and reduced carbon outputs that threaten the environment.

"And there's absolutely every reason that we should enjoy those things, while at the same time promoting job growth," said Hunter, the IBEW Utility Department director.

A recent report by a group studying the national grid backs this up. The Working Group for Investment in Reliable and Economic Electric Systems—or WIREs—released findings in May that suggest grid expansion will create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

"A truly 21st century electric transmission grid represents a major potential source of job creation over and above the long-term economic and reliability benefits of a more robust grid," the authors of the report write. In their study, they estimate that transmission expansion to harvest renewable energy could add 130,000 to a quarter-million full-time jobs in the U.S., and as many as 50,000 careers in Canada annually.

All this, Hunter said, is a graspable reality for the thousands of union members eager for work in the growing green sector.

"But we need to keep the pressure on lawmakers to support eminent domain to ensure these projects get from the drawing board to completion—so the cleaner energy generation of the future goes hand-in-hand with well-paying jobs," he said. ■

House GOP Calls for Privatizing Amtrak

House Republicans are once again threatening to dismantle the nation's passenger rail carrier, putting good jobs and customer service at risk.

House Transportation Committee Chairman John Mica (R-Fla.) tells the Hill newspaper that he plans to introduce a bill this summer that would sell off Amtrak's Northeast Corridor to private investors.

Connecting Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York City and Boston, the corridor is Amtrak's busiest and most profitable route.

"If Congress pulls the Northeast Corridor out of Amtrak it will dry up funds for the rest of the system," says IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohné. "The reality is that a lot of these investors would love to take in the ticket money but can't commit to the infrastructure spending necessary to keep a passenger line running."

New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D), who represents many constituents dependent on Amtrak for their daily commutes, told a transportation committee hearing that "if we shut down the Northeast Corridor rail service, you'd have to build seven new lanes on Interstate 95 just to carry all the travelers that use these trains every day."

Congress created Amtrak in 1971 to help keep inter-city passenger rail service alive after years of underinvestment by private carriers.

"Without government support, we would not have passenger rail service, period," Bohné says. "Amtrak was created in the first place because the private sector—the freight railroads—weren't interested in funding it and got out of the business."

A 1998 Federal Railroad Administration report, commissioned by Congress in response to an earlier proposal to sell off Amtrak, found that privatization would result in "inconsistent reservation services, uncoordinated service times and unnecessary gaps in service."

As gas prices hit record levels, Amtrak's popularity continues to grow. The carrier saw an increase of ridership of nearly 10 percent from last year according to the National Association of Railroad Passengers.

Privatization of the Northeast Corridor would also be disastrous for Amtrak's work force. "Taking out the most popular line puts a lot of good rail jobs at risk throughout the country," says Railroad Department International Representative James Meyer.

The IBEW represents more than 1,300 workers employed by Amtrak. ■

Ore. 'Market Advancement Initiative' Nets Small Commercial Jobs

When the Daily Journal of Commerce reported on Portland, Ore., Local 48's efforts to increase electrical construction market share on small commercial jobs like gas stations, restaurants and stores, Local 48 Business Manager Clif Davis told the paper, "I'm not going to sit here and lie and say I didn't get push-back from the members." But, explained Davis, "I don't like failure as much as the next person. In this business, you've got to take calculated risks."

Those risks are paying off as Local 48 journeyman inside wiremen, apprentices and workers in the new classification of construction electrician are gaining work on projects for Starbucks, Target and Ruth's Chris steakhouse.

Member Chad Campbell, a journeyman wireman foreman, had his doubts about Local 48's "Market Advancement Initiative." When his employer, Stoner Electric, picked up work on a local Starbucks, he thought market recovery funds would be used to subsidize the pay of workers assigned to the new job title of construction electrician.

"I was torn about what to think about the program until the misunderstanding was cleared up," says Campbell, who learned that market recovery funds were used only during the first month of implementation of the initiative to facilitate a smoother start-up.

Davis knows the only way that new program will work is when all members like Campbell and signatory contractors are working from the same base of information. In 2010, after the Ninth District rolled out the concept of making IBEW labor more competitive by bringing down composite costs using new classifications, he immediately put the plan before his members. With a wide jurisdiction, Local 48 is signatory to four separate regional recovery agreements. Last March, Local 48 members approved the concept of employing composite crews.

Davis developed an informational presentation on recovery agreements, borrowing some of the materials from a video sent out to members by International President Edwin D. Hill. He assigned Business Development Manager Mike Dutton to meet with estimators and project managers and deliver the information. "The presentations took 20 minutes," says Dutton, "but the discussion took two hours."

By September, the local's recovery plan was ready for implementation. With Target remodeling dozens of stores in the West, Local 48 and signatory contractors seized the opportunity. Three contractors were successful bidders on some of the stores' electrical upgrades. Work has

been completed on eight stores, putting 20 inside wiremen, 25 construction electricians and seven apprentices to work.

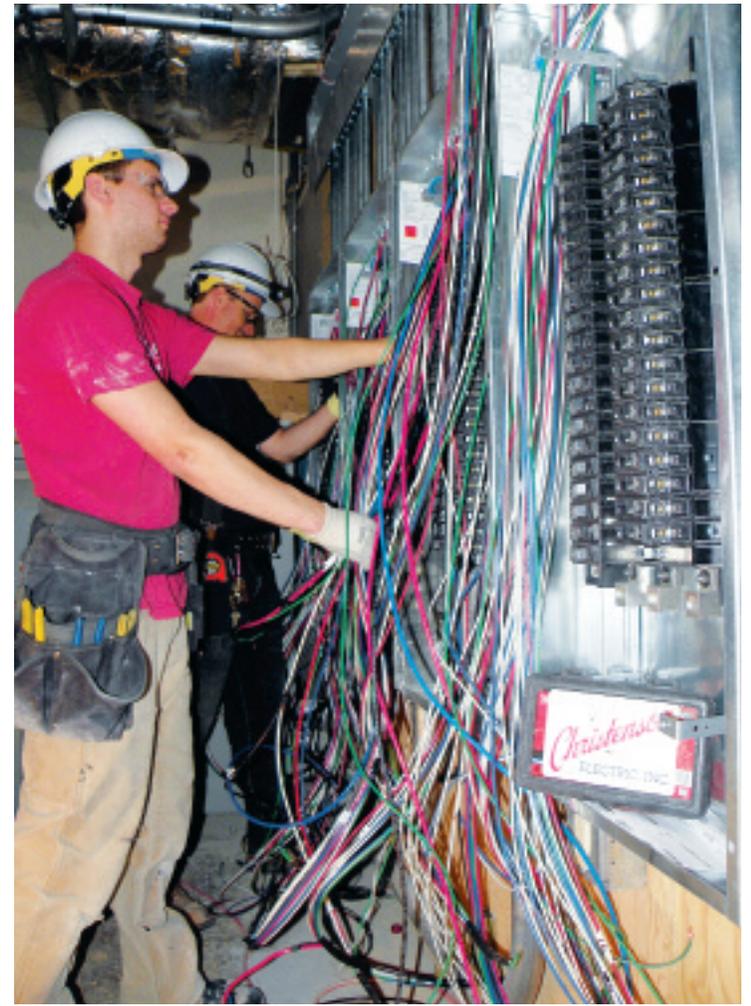
Without the Market Advancement Initiative, says Davis, "We would have had no chance of getting this work." The program has put other members to work on Starbucks coffee shops and a Ruth's Chris steakhouse.

"These construction electricians are good guys," says journeyman inside wireman John Convery, who is working on the steakhouse project. Chip Onslow, an apprentice fresh out of boot camp, says he relies upon Convery and experienced journeymen to learn the trade. And he works side by side with construction electricians to get the job done.

Fifteen unemployed members of Local 48 have returned to work since the recovery agreements were adopted and 12 new members have joined the local.

Davis told the Journal of Commerce, "You know, I don't think it's the ultimate solution. But this is a start and we've gotten a positive response from members and good reports about the performance of the new workers." ■

Members of Portland, Ore., Local 48 are benefiting from competitive bids utilizing composite crews on small commercial jobs.



Members Defend Wage Gains at Public Utility

As more public sector workers try to decide whether or not to join unions, the simplest stories often speak the loudest. That could be the case for unorganized workers in Tacoma, Wash., who are paying close attention to what is happening at Tacoma Power, a municipal utility where workers are represented by Local 483.

The Tacoma city council voted to freeze wages for two years for all non-represented municipal workers. But, in early May, the council passed an ordinance granting IBEW utility workers a 2.8 percent raise. Local 483's contract provided for the increase, which is retroactive to April 1. The collective bargaining agreement runs through March 31, 2012.

Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland answered residents who said that the raise should be denied, telling the News Tribune the city could be forced to answer in arbitration or could face an unfair labor practice charge from Local 483. "In either

scenario," she said, "the city would be at risk of violating the contract and the obligation to bargain in good faith."

"There has been a flurry of organizing activity in Tacoma since the ordinance," says Local 483 Business Manager Alice Phillips, who chairs a health care bargaining committee for a seven-member union coalition that bargains with the city. "We're gearing up for a fight," says Phillips, who says that non-represented workers have asked the unions to hold the line on health care "because they know they are next if our members take cuts."

Phillips defended the raises for her members as making good business sense, not just a legal requirement. During Tacoma Power's wage negotiations, she says, the parties compare the utility's wage earners to their counterparts in four other companies in the I-15 corridor. They include: the Snohomish County Public Utility District, Seattle City Light, Avista in Spokane, and Puget

Sound Energy, all represented by Seattle Local 77 and Portland Electric represented by Portland, Ore., Local 125.

Phillips told the News Tribune: the raises are intended to keep us in the market "so we don't lose the electricians. It's a very competitive trade, and they will go where they're valued. We could have a recruitment and retention problem very quickly if the wage disparity gets very big between Tacoma Power and the other companies."

The union's fight to defend its contractual rights is not over. An anti-union citizen activist has seized on a clause in the city's charter to call for a referendum on all labor contracts. "I believe his request is untimely and unconstitutional," says Phillips, who has met with lawyers and is concerned that effective collective bargaining would be severely undermined if the city council no longer has the authority to reach a settlement at the bargaining table and every contract goes to referendum. ■

Recovery Agreement Boosts Local Economy, Membership in N.C.

With more than three decades in the trade, Steve Price had finely honed his skills as a nonunion electrical contractor. For most of those years, he balanced using his tools with administering payroll for more than a dozen employees in rural North Carolina.

But hard times in the construction industry—along with the outsourcing of the region's textile sector, which had once provided steady work—gave way to a harsh economic reality for Price and his family last year. His company folded, and even with reliable contacts in the area, he was barely scraping up enough work to get by on his own.

Looking to turn things around, Price attended an "industry night"—a job fair bringing nonunion electricians together with contractors—late last year sponsored by signatory contractor Rosendin Electric and Asheville Local 238. The company was hiring qualified area residents as electricians to start work on a massive Facebook data center in Rutherford County in the western part of the state.

The new hires would join the union as intermediate-level construction electricians or construction wiremen (CE/CWs) as part of the IBEW's recovery agreement.

This initiative allows a composite crew—of journeymen, apprentices and CE/CWs—to help contractors bid successfully on previously out-of-reach or overlooked jobs. The IBEW has garnered success with such agreements nationwide, including in right-to-work states, by bringing previously unrepresented workers into the union fold while helping signatory contractors bid more competitively.

Price was curious. "I wouldn't say I'd ever been 'anti-union,' I'd just never had any experience with someone from that world," he said. North Carolina has right-to-work laws on the books and has the lowest union density in the nation, at just above 3 percent. "You never hear anything about how good unions are where I'm from."

With his credentials, Price became the first new employee Rosendin hired for the job—and he brought friends. More than a dozen formerly nonunion electricians, many of whom had worked for Price, joined as CE/CWs on the project, bringing a range of knowledge and experience into a growing local.

"We've got 100 percent employment with our journeymen and apprentices on this project, and with the CE/CW program, we're making our local even stronger," said Local 238 Business Manager Dusty Rhodes. As a result of the contractor securing the bid—which would have gone nonunion if not for the local's flexible crew mix—more than 25



Leaders of Asheville Local 238 used the union's recovery agreement to net a job building a data center for popular social networking site Facebook. The project employs a composite crew of 140 members.

new members joined the local under the new classifications. "We've been able to put area people to work, raise wages for tradesmen in the region and add to our ranks. It's a win-win solution for the union and for the local economy."

Since December, about 140 journeymen, apprentices and CE/CWs have been wiring the new data center. Rhodes said construction of the sprawling, \$60-

million-per-building project should provide work for local members for the next four years.

The work force also benefits from a solid partnership with Rosendin, said Charlie Phillips, the site's job steward. "We work as a team, and there's a great level of cooperation."

Rhodes said the new members and seasoned IBEW veterans work coopera-

tively—and because many new members came in with previous skills in the nonunion sector, many have tested up to higher classifications or have begun their apprenticeships. Along the way, they're picking up on union values, he said.

"A lot of these guys have never worked where they get health care or have a collective bargaining agreement," Rhodes said. "So they see those immedi-

ate benefits. But they're also coming to our meetings and getting educated about the Brotherhood."

Price, the former nonunion contractor, has tested up to the journeyman level and is now overseeing quality control on the project.

"Now when people ask me what I do," Price said, "I'm proud to say I'm a union electrician." ■

IBEW Verizon Employees Mobilize for Fair Contract

Flush times for many large corporations are back—and Verizon is no exception. But when representatives of the company sat down at the bargaining table with union negotiators last month to discuss new contract talks, IBEW members didn't hear any talk about high earnings.

"All of a sudden, when it comes to negotiations, it's doom-and-gloom on the company's balance sheets," said Syracuse, N.Y., Local 2213 Business Manager Mary Jo Arcuri. "And they use that to try to justify winnowing down health care and threatening job loss."

Arcuri is part of the joint IBEW-CWA team bargaining for fair benefits and job security for about 50,000 union members in New England and the surrounding region. Negotiations kicked off June 22 in Philadelphia and Rye, N.Y. The IBEW represents 12,500 Verizon employees in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. The members' three-year contract expires August 6.

Cutbacks in health care coverage could be economically disastrous for the company's retirees in New Jersey, said East Windsor Local 827 Business Manager William Huber, who sits on the negotiating committee. The local represents more than 10,000 active and retired members in the Garden State.

"We understand that rising health care costs are a concern, but we have more than 6,000 former Verizon employees collecting pensions and living on fixed incomes," he said. "If you're in that kind of situation and the company cuts your health care coverage, what are you supposed to do? How can you pay for that?"

Members are mobilizing with pro-worker signs, T-shirt days, informational e-mail blasts and rally preparations—as well as building momentum through social media sites like Facebook. Local 2213 member Barb Carson, who works at Verizon's Binghamton call center, said solidarity is the key in winning greater job security.

"I started working here 12 years ago," said Carson, a shop steward who is active in the mobilization effort. "Back then, there were more than 100 people here. Now there are about 30." Company buyouts have been widespread, and management has increased outsourcing of work to contractors and vendors in right-to-work states like Texas and Arizona as well as overseas. "Verizon is doing what it can to break the union."

Boston Local 2222 Business Manager Myles Calvey said branches of the com-



Mobilization efforts are underway as IBEW negotiators begin talks with Verizon.

pany that specialize in older technologies like copper landlines and newer developments with fiber optics—or FiOS—still have strong union density. But Verizon's most profitable sector has been its wireless division, which has stiff-armed organizing efforts for much of the past decade.

"Verizon is right in the mix of corporate America trying to squash unionism," Calvey said. In the last few years, the union lost thousands of members through buyouts and retirements, as well as from Verizon's sale of landlines to Hawaiian Telcom and FairPoint Communications—deals that ended in bankruptcy for both of the smaller companies. The union also lost about 3,500 members two years ago when Verizon sold landlines in more than a dozen states to Frontier Communications.

"And the company has so far been successful at shutting us out of the wireless side, so it's fair to say the future of our membership is at stake," said Calvey—who is the chairman of IBEW System Council T-6, which holds contract agreements for Local 2222; Braintree, Mass., Local 2313; Middleton, Mass., Local 2321; Middleboro, Mass., Local 2322; Cranston, R.I., Local 2323; Springfield, Mass., Local 2324; and Worcester, Mass., Local 2325. Also covered in the agreement are 300 members of Philadelphia Local 1944.

Verizon recently announced that it tripled its profits in the first quarter of the year, due largely to the company's new iPhone sales.

"We're the ones who help make the profits and play a vital role in keeping the business together—it's only right that we get treated fairly," said Huber. ■

Auto Recovery Boosts Jobs

In 2008, Evansville, Ind., Local 16 Business Manager Paul Green feared that one of the bedrocks of the local economy, General Motors' Bedford powertrain plant, was in danger of shuttering its doors for good.

"It looked like it was gone," Green says of the factory that employs 400 people, including more than 35 Local 16 electricians who help maintain the facility.

Teetering on the edge of bankruptcy after the onset of the economy's nosedive, General Motors, along with Chrysler, was rescued by the federal government in exchange for cuts to wasteful spending and improved products.

The administration argued that letting the big automakers fail would devastate the economic security of thousands of working families whose members assemble automobiles, small businesses in their communities and thousands more workers who produce automobile parts or work on maintenance and construction of facilities.

Now posting its first profits in years, Detroit is putting billions back into the economy—investments that are helping make the Big Three competitive again and putting Americans back to work.

Popular new models and improved older models are selling hot, boosting Ford, Chrysler and General Motors' reputation in the marketplace.

"Many people thought the [GM] bail-out (and a smaller one involving Chrysler, an even sicker firm) unwise ... Yet the doomsayers were wrong," wrote the Economist magazine.

GM is expanding production and adding jobs, announcing in June that it would invest \$49 million in new tooling and equipment for the Bedford plant to produce more fuel-efficient transmissions, which is expected to save or create 91 jobs.

"It shows that the investment the taxpayer put into the auto industry is paying off," says Green. "Those jobs don't just help those workers inside the plant, but the entire community."

The Bedford investment is part of a \$2 billion commitment by the automaker to revamp 17 factories in eight states, which is expected to save or create 4,000 jobs.

Since GM and Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy, the auto industry has created 115,000 jobs. The auto industry's turnaround has already put many unemployed IBEW members to work and hundreds more will reap the benefits of the industry innovation and expansion projects in the works.

"The government's intervention was absolutely key to helping create a chance for GM and Chrysler going forward," says Alan Mulally, CEO of Ford



Photo Credit: General Motors

The resurgence of the U.S. auto industry is one of the few bright spots in the American economy in the last two years.

Motor Company. "That's why I testified on behalf of GM and Chrysler, as you know. The reason we did was that we believed—like two presidents [Bush and Obama]—that if GM and Chrysler would have gone into freefall bankruptcy, they would have taken the supply base down and taken

the industry down plus maybe turned the U.S. recession into a depression."

Chrysler, which recently repaid its outstanding loans to the U.S. treasury six years ahead of schedule, announced its intention to invest an additional \$843 million into its transmission facilities in

Kokomo, Ind., bringing the total investment in that community to \$1.1 billion, and retaining nearly 2,250 jobs.

Kokomo Local 873 Business Manager Joseph Cousino has dispatched members to Chrysler plant upgrade projects for the past two years. Cousino is

hopeful that an expansion of the Jeep plant and an engine plant in Defiance, Ohio, will boost the incomes and security of more unemployed members.

In Baltimore, members of Local 24, who just completed a project installing solar panels on the roof of General Motors' Allison Transmission plant in White Marsh, are looking forward to an expansion of the plant to produce engines for hybrids.

Local 24 Business Manager Roger Lash, who attended a May groundbreaking ceremony with Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, says up to 100 members will be working for a year on a \$50 million electrical contract under the National Maintenance Agreement.

"As the auto industry tottered on the brink, some of our nation's political leaders opposed the Obama administration's rational and effective plan to help the industry in return for helping itself," says International President Edwin D. Hill. "They were dead wrong. All IBEW members owe a debt of gratitude to President Obama and those leaders in Congress who showed their respect for American workers by helping save the U.S. auto industry." ■

Transforming Maryland Lives with Training

Last January, when the state of Maryland received a \$5.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration to prepare more than 1,500 Marylanders for green jobs, Washington, D.C., Local 26 and the National Electrical Contractors Association stepped up with a plan for success.

They asked their Electrical Alliance's Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee to design a 15-week, 90-hour course to attract Prince George's County, Md., residents into the field of electrical construction and solar generation, using funds from the Maryland Energy Sector Partnership.

On April 28th, a recognition ceremony was held at the JATC's facility in Lanham, Md., for the first group of 30 entry-level residential trainees who have all been placed with electrical contractors. Maryland State Secretary of Labor Alexander M. Sanchez was the keynote speaker.

English Harper, who had previously applied to Local 26's apprenticeship program, was one of the "Go Solar" graduates. A few weeks ago, says Harper, 18, "I was unloading trucks at Macy's and had zero experience with anything electrical." When he finished his classes, he says, "I knew about boxes and services, wiring devices and bending pipe. This was the way to get a jump start." Harper, who is working for Contemporary Electric in Arlington, Va., hopes to start the apprenticeship in September.

"We gave the trainees the basics and then we sent them to work. We advised them to use their performance in the classroom and on the job to make themselves as attractive as possible to prospective employers," says Sean Myers, special projects coordinator at the JATC. All of the program's graduates, taught by veteran Local 26 instructors Ralph Neidert and William Murphy, have applied for the inside wireman apprenticeship. To date, six have been accepted into the next class.

While some state-licensed pre-apprenticeship programs provide as much as 480 hours of preparation, says Myers, they often don't have the success rate at placing graduates that has already been achieved at Local 26. "The outcomes are here," says Myers. Drawing from a population of veterans and reservists, low-wage workers and ex-offenders, 35 candidates began the program; only five dropped out.

"They are going to work making \$32,000 a year, with benefits, and the chance to make much more in the future," says Myers, who is already preparing for a second class.

Dwayne Stout, another graduate, is working for Perlectric installing lights,



Dwayne Stout receives congratulations from Maryland Secretary of Labor Alexander Sanchez after completing a Washington, D.C., Local 26 pre-apprenticeship program.

receptacles, fire alarms and security card readers. "I was in the right place at the right time," he said about the training program. Stout had worked for years for DirectTV, Comcast and Mr. Tire, but he was still without a career. "When I first started the program," says Stout, "I thought it was just a beginner's class." But Stout, who will enter Local 26's apprenticeship in September, says instructors were anxious to pass on as much information as they could squeeze into 15 weeks.

In addition to fueling training for newcomers to the trade, the energy partnership's funds have been used to train 100 incumbent Local 26 members in alternative energies.

The pre-apprenticeship program aims to train 480 new and incumbent workers. It is one of four funded by the Maryland Energy Sector Partnership that aims to help create at least 100,000 green jobs by 2015. ■



Working Families Confront Canada's New Political Landscape

Few Canadians expected that the May 2 federal election would end up being one of Canada's most historic, potentially altering the country's political dynamics for years to come.

Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper achieved his long-sought goal of forming a majority government, while the pro-labour New Democrats rode a wave of voter dissatisfaction and economic anxiety to become the official opposition for the first time in the party's history. At the same time, the once dominant Liberals and the Quebec sovereigntist Bloc Québécois suffered massive losses that call into question their future relevance.

"It is a whole new situation for us," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "Harper has headed up one of the most right-wing Tory governments in our history and now he has a lot more power to carry out his agenda, but the strong showing by the New Democrats means that issues of concern to working families—health care, retirement security, and job creation—will be heard in Ottawa with a clarity we haven't had in years."

Harper's election gains mean the Tories' goal of slashing public services—previously hampered by the party's minority status—is now on the table.

"Working people will be in for some pain," says Canadian Labour Congress Political Action Director Danny Mallett. "Harper's cutbacks will mean more Canadians will be added to the unemployment rolls."

And there are signs that the Conservatives are looking to take on Canada's public sector unions, just as newly elected Republican governors have attempted to do in the United States. Employees at Canada Post are already under fire from a federal government pushing a concessionary contract that includes a two-tier wage system and cutbacks to their pension plan.

The Fraser Institute, a right-wing think tank that has been closely linked with Harper and the Tories, put out a statement only days after the election encouraging Canada to follow in Wisconsin's footsteps in rolling back public worker benefits. That state was the site of massive demonstrations in the wake of controversial legislation pushed by Gov. Scott Walker that revoked collective bargaining rights for government workers.

Catherine Swift, president of the right-leaning Canadian Federation of Independent Business, has also chimed in, calling for scrapping public worker pension plans and raising the retirement age.

While threatening the benefits of public sector employees, the Conservatives are blocking efforts to expand the underfunded pension plans of Canada and Quebec.

The 2008 recession revealed the inadequacy of Canada's retirement system, with more than 1.6 million seniors still mired in poverty.

"The situation promises to get worse in the future because many young workers are not able to save enough for retirement," says CLC President Ken Georgetti in a statement.

On the jobs front, Harper's emphasis on fiscal austerity is causing concern that

federal support for infrastructure investment and job creation is at risk, threatening Canada's economic recovery and adding to its manufacturing sector woes.

"Much of the job growth in construction and other fields was due to federal stimulus spending, and we need to keep that on track," Vice President Flemming says.

But despite the looming threat of cutbacks, many labour activists feel that the new political alignment in Ottawa opens up new opportunities for working families in the legislative arena.

"Sometimes the Liberals would back our issues, but in a mushy, compro-

promising way. The NDP has spoken with much more clarity on the things that are important to workers," Mallett says.

Many of the newly elected New Democrat MPs are union members themselves, and party leader Jack Layton won rousing support at the CLC's May convention with his call to make the needs of working families Parliament's top priority.

"We've steadily grown the union vote each election cycle, with the majority of votes going to the NDP," Mallett says.

But regardless of party label, union members say the most important thing is to keep the focus on the key issues, working with members of both the

majority and the opposition.

"We are reaching out to every MP," Vice President Flemming says. "And we won't let partisanship prevent us from supporting elected officials who work with us on the items that are the most important to our members. Things like support for the energy industry, more job training, tax legislation to encourage full labour mobility and policies that create jobs. Politics isn't something unions do just around election time, it is something we have to do every day." (See "Federal Elections 2011: Activists Keep Spotlight on Jobs", Electrical Worker, May 2011) ■

Les Familles Travailleuses Devant Un Nouveau Paysage Politique Au Canada

Peu de Canadiens auraient pensé que l'élection fédérale du 2 mai finirait par être une des plus historiques au Canada pouvant potentiellement changer la dynamique politique du pays pour les années à venir.

Le Premier ministre conservateur Stephen Harper a atteint son objectif de longue date de former un gouvernement majoritaire, alors que l'incertitude économique et l'insatisfaction des électeurs a permis aux néo-démocrates pro-syndicalistes de former l'opposition officielle, une première dans l'histoire du parti. De leur côté, les libéraux qui ont déjà dominé, ainsi que les souverainistes du Bloc Québécois ont subi de lourdes pertes qui remettent en question la pertinence future de leur parti.

« C'est un nouveau contexte pour nous. Harper a dirigé le gouvernement conservateur le plus à droite de notre histoire et il se retrouve avec encore plus de pouvoir pour réaliser son programme; toutefois, nous sommes confiants qu'avec la solide performance des néo-démocrates, les questions d'intérêt pour les familles travailleuses—les soins de santé, la sécurité de la retraite et la création d'emploi—se feront clairement entendre à Ottawa, ce qui ne s'est pas vu depuis plusieurs années » déclare Phil Flemming, Vice-président du Premier District.

L'objectif des conservateurs d'amputer les services publics—ce que leur statut minoritaire les empêchait de réaliser—se retrouve maintenant sur la table, avec les gains obtenus par Harper.

« Les travailleuses et les travailleurs souffriront si le gouvernement fédéral sabre dans les services publics. Avec les coupures prévues par Harper, plus de canadiens viendront s'ajouter aux rangs des chômeurs » affirme Danny Mallett, Directeur, Action Politique, au Congrès du travail du Canada.

Et certains signes laissent présager que les Conservateurs tenteront de s'en prendre aux syndicats du secteur public canadien, comme ont cherché à le faire les nouveaux élus du Parti républicain aux États-Unis. Les employés de Postes Canada subissent déjà les attaques d'un gouvernement fédéral, poussant un contrat de travail à la baisse avec un système de rémunération à deux niveaux et des coupures dans le régime de retraite.

Quelques jours seulement après l'élection, l'Institut Fraser, un groupe de recherche de droite étroitement associé à Harper et aux conservateurs, diffusait un communiqué incitant le Canada à suivre l'exemple du Wisconsin en réduisant les avantages sociaux des travailleurs de la fonction publique.

Des manifestations imposantes ont eu lieu dans cet état à la suite du projet controversé du gouverneur Scott Walker qui dépouillerait les fonctionnaires de leurs droits à une convention collective.

Catherine Swift, présidente de la Fédération canadienne de l'entreprise indépendante, sympathisante de droite, est également intervenue demandant d'abolir les régimes de retraite des employés de la fonction publique et d'élever l'âge de la retraite.

Les Conservateurs menacent les avantages sociaux des employés du secteur public, empêchant ainsi tout effort visant à bonifier le régime de pension du Canada et du Québec insuffisamment financés.

La récession de 2008 a démontré la faiblesse du système canadien de revenu de retraite, alors que plus de 1.6 million d'aînés vivent encore sous le seuil de la pauvreté.

« La situation ne pourra qu'empirer parce que beaucoup de jeunes travailleurs sont incapables d'épargner suffisamment pour la retraite » déclarait Ken Georgetti, Président du CTC, dans un communiqué.

L'emphase mise par Harper sur l'austérité fiscale met en péril l'appui fédéral pour les placements en infrastructures et la création d'emplois, menaçant la reprise économique du Canada et s'ajoutant aux malheurs que connaît le secteur manufacturier, une situation très préoccupante.

« La croissance de l'emploi qu'ont connu le secteur de la construction et les autres secteurs était due, en grande partie, au financement fédéral du plan de relance économique et nous devons nous assurer qu'elle restera sur la bonne voie » ajoute le Vice-Président Flemming.

Bien que la menace des coupures soit imminente, plusieurs militants syndicaux pensent que le nouvel alignement politique à Ottawa ouvrira de nouvelles opportunités pour les familles travailleuses dans l'arène législative.

« Il est arrivé que les libéraux nous appuient, moyennant certains compro-

mis; alors que le NPD s'est toujours exprimé clairement sur les enjeux qui sont importants pour les travailleurs » ajoute le confrère Mallett.

Plusieurs des nouveaux députés néo-démocrates élus sont eux-mêmes membres d'un syndicat. Jack Layton, leur chef, a reçu un appui enthousiaste lors du congrès du CTC au mois de mai, alors qu'il réaffirmait que sa principale priorité au Parlement serait de faire passer l'intérêt des travailleurs canadiens avant tout.

« À chaque élection, nous avons toujours fait augmenter le vote des syndiqués et la majorité des votes allait au NPD » poursuit Mallett.

Quel que soit l'étiquette du parti, les syndiqués sont d'avis que le plus important est de se concentrer sur les principaux enjeux, en travaillant autant avec les membres du parti majoritaire que ceux de l'opposition.

« Nous voulons rejoindre tous les députés et nous ne laisserons pas la partisanerie nous empêcher d'apporter notre soutien aux représentants élus qui travaillent sur les points importants pour nos membres; notamment le soutien à l'industrie de l'énergie, une formation continue accrue, des mesures fiscales facilitant la mobilité de la main-d'oeuvre et des politiques visant la création d'emplois. Les syndicats doivent s'impliquer en politique au quotidien et non seulement en période électorale » conclut le Vice-Président Flemming. (Voir « Élections fédérales 2011 : Les emplois dans la mire des militants », Journal l'Electrical Worker, mai 2011) ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

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

Workers' Battleground

From Wisconsin to Maine, anti-worker politicians are coming after our rights and hard-won benefits. Keep up with latest news and learn to how to join the fight back at www.ibew.org/articles/WorkersBattleground/.

YouTube

Every worker needs a voice on the job, even lawyers. The IBEW video team talks to state attorneys in New Jersey who recently joined the Brotherhood. www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker

HourPower

In our latest video on IBEW Hour Power, learn more about our 2010 journeyman mentor of the year, Dave Nisley. www.IBEWHourPower.com



ElectricTV

Having productivity problems on your job? The solution may lie in our newest video on Electric TV—all about 3D Building Information Modeling. electricTV.net



Circuits

Lending a Helping Hand to the Homeless

Members from Gulfport, Miss., Local 903 volunteered to wire a shelter for homeless women and children.

"We try to help out as much as possible," said Local 903 Business Manager Curtis Murphy. "At a city council meeting a request for volunteers was made to help with renovations for a new homeless shelter."

Local 903 covered the cost of the wiring while three members working for signatory Crews Electric Co. supplied the manpower for the shelter that

opened May 12.

The Moss Point shelter, which provides temporary quarters for homeless women and their children, was a former city building that was damaged in Hurricane Katrina.

Local 903 members also support the community by working regularly with Habitat for Humanity. ■

High School Girls Explore Careers in Nuclear Energy

For the second year in a row, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 demonstrated

its strong support for promoting the many career possibilities in trades and technology by sponsoring and participating in the 2010 New Brunswick Skills Networking Dinners for Young Women.

The dinners, hosted by the New Brunswick Chapter of Women in Nuclear, are designed to bring female students from grades nine through 12 together to learn from professional female mentors, many of whom are Local 37 members who work in non-traditional fields such as electrical technology, chemical technology, instrumentation, power engineering, welding, pipefitting and nuclear security, among others.

"I wish that I had something like this back in my day," says Bernice Lanagan, a 20-year Local 37 member who works as a chemical technologist at NB Power's Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station and chairs the province's 46-member chapter of Women in Nuclear. The chapter also sponsors educational activities for young people on Earth Day.

Young girls often don't have contacts or know anyone in the trades, says Lanagan. "We don't want them to limit themselves in any way, and want them to know that by keeping up their math and sciences, they will open up

Transitions

DECEASED Wesley I. Taylor



We regret to report that retired International Executive Committee Chairman Wesley I. Taylor died May 10. He was 89.

A Kentucky native, Brother Taylor was initiated into Indianapolis Local 481 in 1948.

Elected business manager-financial secretary only eight years later, he served in that role until 1977, following his appointment to the IEC.

In addition to his positions in the IBEW, Taylor was active in the Indiana labor movement, serving as president of both the Bartholomew County and Marion County building trades councils and vice president of the Indiana State Building Trades Department. He was also president of the Indiana State Electrical Workers.

Brother Taylor was appointed International Executive Council chairman to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of E.J. Fransway in 1976. He was subsequently elected at the 1978 and 1982 conventions. He also served as a trustee of the Electrical Workers Benefit Association and as a member of the National Electrical Benefit Board. He retired in 1986.

In his spare time he enjoyed golfing and hunting. He is survived by his wife, Helen.

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW convey our deep condolences to Brother Taylor's friends and family. ■

DECEASED Joseph F. Lohman



We are sorry to report that retired Sixth District International Vice President Joseph F. "Jeff" Lohman died suddenly on May 27—less

than a year after his retirement.

A native of Indianapolis, Brother Lohman initiated into Local 481 in 1966 as an inside wireman apprentice. He went on to serve as the local's business agent and vice president before his election as business manager in 1983.

In 1988, Lohman was appointed a Sixth District International Representative. Three years later, he was named the organizing coordinator for the district and helped prompt a spike in the union's market share, which climbed from 45 percent in 1995 to 70 percent just five years later. He also played a vital role in the development of the union's COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training) program.

Brother Lohman, who served as secretary of his home state's building trades federation and was a board member of the Central Indiana Labor Council, was appointed International Vice President for the Sixth District in 2005 and served until his retirement last September.

"Jeff's calm demeanor and sharp decision-making skills helped move the union forward," said Lonnie Stephenson, who worked as Lohman's assistant for five years and succeeded him as Sixth District International Vice

President last year. "People respected his decisions, whether they agreed with him or not, because he always thought things out clearly and asked for input."

Holding a bachelor's degree from the National Labor College gave Lohman an edge in organizing, Stephenson said. "COMET, and boosting the movement overall, were his lifeblood. Jeff worked hard right up to his last days, even in his retirement."

Local 481 Business Manager Sean Seyferth knew Lohman for 22 years and called him "a confidant and a mentor."

"When I first became an organizer in 1994, Jeff was coordinating statewide organizing for all the building trades," Seyferth said. "He would educate us on the NLRB and give us the 'dos and don'ts.' He was the one who taught me what I know—and he was incredibly intelligent and lived by example."

More than 450 attendees at May's Sixth District Progress Meeting in Indianapolis honored Lohman for his dedication to the IBEW and the larger labor movement.

In retirement, Lohman enjoyed playing golf and fishing—two longtime hobbies—and spending extra time with his family.

"Jeff was always very family-oriented," Stephenson said. "He really showed how you can effectively contribute to the labor movement while making sure that you are always there for your loved ones and your friends."

On behalf of all members of the IBEW, the officers and staff send our condolences to Brother Lohman's wife Jan, his mother Ruth, and his many children and grandchildren. ■

DECEASED Thomas Hammer



Retired Seventh District International Representative Thomas "Tommy" Hammer died May 26 at the age of 78.

Born in Livonia, Mich., Hammer was initiated into Fort Worth, Texas, Local 116 in 1952. He served the local in many capacities, including as vice president, president and business manager.

In 1973 he was appointed International Representative, servicing inside locals throughout the Dallas and Fort Worth area. He was also assisted organizing efforts.

"He did his job and did it well," says Seventh District Vice President Jonathan Gardner.

Brother Hammer was deeply involved with community organizations and the local labor movement. He served as president of the Texas State Association of Electrical Workers, vice president of the Texas AFL-CIO and president of the Fort Worth Building Trades Council.

In his spare time he enjoyed outdoor activities, including hunting and fishing.

He retired in 1993. Hammer is survived by his wife Jackie, four children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the members of the IBEW, the officers and staff send condolences to Brother Hammer's friends and family. ■

all kinds of wonderful and exciting career opportunities.”

Many students come to the dinner and then go away saying, “I can do this,” says Lanagan. With a slow job market for university graduates and nearly full employment for women in the trades, the skills dinners can be the first step up the economic ladder for more New Brunswick residents.

Dressed for work and joining Lanagan at the dinner were Local 37 members Nora Walsh and Cricky Smith, who work as nuclear security officers, and Stacey Kane, a member of the nuclear response force team.

Founded in 1993, Women in Nuclear currently has around 2,500 members in 68 countries. For more information, visit: www.win-global.org/about.htm. ■

Caribbean Diary: Retiree Reflects on Peace Corps Experience

Detroit Local 58 retiree David Nedwick and his wife took on the challenge of a lifetime when they joined the Peace Corps and headed to St. Kitts, one of the poorest countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

Almost two years later and at the end of their term of service, David and Ingrid count among their accomplishments spearheading ecological and environmental projects, offering a helping hand at a local orphanage and schools in the village of Middletown. They have also helped to restore a historical site and collaborated on HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

“As they say in the Peace Corps, it is the hardest work you’ll ever love,” David said.

The idea of becoming Peace Corps volunteers appealed to the Nedwicks



Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 members Nora Walsh, left, Cricky Smith and Stacey Kane discuss their training and responsibilities at the Point Lepreau nuclear plant.

after reading an article about positive experiences of other seniors who joined. According to the American Peace Corps Web site, 7 percent of volunteers are over the age of 50.

“After a couple years into retirement I realized I was not ready to hang up my boots so after some deliberation and being of sound mind and body with lots of energy to spare, we decided to apply for the Peace Corps,” said David, who is a 48-year IBEW member who travelled to Arizona, California, and Alaska during his career.

St. Kitts is on the eastern edge of a string of tropical islands blessed with natural beauty and challenged by poverty, lack of comprehensive public health program and a high rate of HIV/AIDS. With a population of 35,000, St. Kitts is increasingly dependent on tourism.

Their initial weeks on St. Kitts staying with a local family set the tone for the remainder of the Nedwicks’ assignment on the island. “This family opened their home, introduced us to neighbors, new foods, customs and a new dialect.

They truly made us feel welcome,” David said. “This feeling of hospitality and welcome has carried through our entire time in St. Kitts.”

In honor of Earth Day April 22, the Nedwicks coordinated the cleanup of a local cemetery that had become an informal dump. By the end of the day, a dumpster brought in for the event was full of household appliances, bottles and cans, pieces of old metal roof and household trash.

“While these moments are so rewarding and we are making some headway, there is still a lot to do,” Nedwick said. He and Ingrid, a freelance interior designer and architect, will leave their assignment in October and return to the United States to spend time with their three grown sons and five grandchildren.

David is interested in whether other IBEW members have participated in the Peace Corps. He asks that people interested in sharing their stories e-mail him at dnedwick@gmail.com. ■



Detroit Local 58 retiree David Nedwick, with his wife Ingrid, at the 2011 Peace Corps Day in Independence Square, St. Kitts, a Caribbean island.

We'll Be Back in a Flash!

With the 38th International Convention in our sights, our annual photo contest is on hold.

IBEW PHOTO CONTEST

Don't pack away your cameras... we'll return in 2012.

Until then, keep shooting!



Support Conservation.
Win a Trophy Elk Hunt!



Enter to Win a Nevada Trophy Elk Hunt!

USA's Boots on the Ground conservation program is creating a community of skilled Union volunteers to tackle hunting and fishing access and wildlife habitat projects. Your donation will help get Boots on the Ground on its feet and could earn you the ultimate North American adventure - a Western backcountry elk hunt guided by leader hunting in the Nevada mountains, where bulls typically score 330-360 B&C!



To enter go to www.UnionSportsmen.org/elkhunt

Local Lines

Attention Press Secretaries:

Please note that Local Lines will not be published in a combined October/November post-convention issue of the Electrical Worker.

Rebuilding Together St. Louis

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Thanks to the nearly 100 IBEW Local 1 members who donated a Saturday in April for the annual Rebuilding Together St. Louis Campaign. Members volunteered to help those in need with residential electrical issues. Volunteers worked on more than 49 homes, installing ceiling fans and porch lights, and making repairs.

Since 2003, Local 1 has volunteered with the Rebuilding Together St. Louis campaign. Every year the number of members has grown, as well as the need for help. Numerous contractors donated tools and vehicles to complete the projects. Metro Electric Supply provided ceiling fans and porch lights to the Rebuilding campaign.

This year, the majority of the work was centered around the Fairgrounds Park area, in the 21st and 4th wards of St. Louis. In addition, a few homes were helped in the North County area. Thanks to all the volunteers for a wonderful day.

We mourn the death of members Curtis Cookson, Vincent Morrell, Lawrence Campbell, Bill Lindsay, Tony Zakibe, Dennis Murphy and Lawrence Killian.

Matt Gober, P.S.



Local 1 journeyman wireman Kevin Renaud (left) and Bus. Agent Tom Sansevere volunteer for Rebuilding Together St. Louis project.

Career of Union Service

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—Congratulations to Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Kane, who retired after 45 years of membership. Paul has been a member of Local 9 since February 1966. He has served the membership for the past 16 years as an assistant business manager. Paul will be missed by all. Best wishes, Paul!

Robert W. Pierson, B.M.

City of Carson Approves PLA

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—The City of Carson recently approved a project labor agreement covering approximately \$66 million of work for the Housing Authority. Members attended many meetings in support of the measure and we are grateful for their support.

Members are reminded to keep their California State Certification up-to-date, as the state recently released information that pass-rates have fallen from previous years. Certification Preparation classes and ongoing training are being offered through the Electrical Training Institute. Take advantage of these valuable resources available to our members.

Thank you to the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus members who participate in mentoring candidates every month at the Electrical Training Institute. Mentoring helps individuals prepare for a successful electrical career. Many candidates credit EWMC mentoring as vital to their entering the apprenticeship program. EWMC members also remain active in community outreach at the Los Angeles Downtown Mission. This is the fifth year Local 11 members have supported the Skid Row Career Fair.

Plans are being finalized for the 2011 Annual Local-Wide Picnic in late October. This year's picnic will be bigger and better than ever. We have outgrown the facility at the L.A. Police and Revolver Club and are seeking a new, larger location that will accommodate our growing numbers.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Utility Local Update

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—The City of Chicago has a proposed Clean Air Ordinance that, if passed, could force the closure of Fisk and Crawford power stations by July 2012. Hundreds of our members attended a city meeting to oppose air pollution standards that are impossible to meet in the given time frame. As of



Local 15 members rally to save jobs.

press time, there was no vote on the ordinance so the council would have more time to study the issue.

This year Local 15 is offering 13 \$500 scholarships to our members or their families. Ten of the scholarships were approved by the membership and three are the result of donations from members. Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dean Apple appointed a committee of five from across the divisions to select the recipients.

On the nuclear side, two of our business reps attended a Nuclear Energy Institute workshop on the "new" work-hour rules. At our semi-annual State of Nuclear meeting, top level representatives from Local 15 and Exelon discussed the biggest issues we face.

Many Local 15 members attended rallies for workers' rights. Our local sent a bus to Wisconsin, and members also attended "We Are One" rallies across Illinois in April.

Members attended the IBEW Utility Conference in Maryland, the Illinois State Conference and a "Taking Back Your Workplace" workshop. Additionally, our BAPP (Behavioral Accident Prevention Process) facilitators went to a safety conference in Tennessee.

Our Johnson Controls members ratified a five-year contract, giving them a 13.5 percent wage increase over the term of the agreement.

Doug Vedas, P.S.

Power of Collective Bargaining

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—It's just my opinion, but I sometimes think that even union members underestimate the value of collective bargaining. Nonunion workers obviously don't have a clue. According to a 2005 Stanford University study, union membership wages and benefits are 43 percent higher on average than nonunion workers for the

same job. Watching Republicans launch a full-blown attack against unions across the nation to limit our rights at the table indicates the power of collective bargaining. When the union sits down at the negotiating table and speaks on behalf of the entire group and has done all the necessary research and preparation—that, my brothers and sisters, is power. Going in alone and unprepared is a recipe for disaster.

As of this writing, employment remains strong for our LCTT agreement with nearly 600 members working. Our 6-17-A Contractor brothers are starting to see some signs of life also with fewer than 40 members on book one. Our Traffic Signal and Commercial agreements are doing fairly well with most members working in our jurisdiction. DTE Energy hired nearly 25 journeyman linemen this spring and is expected to hire apprentices later this summer. At press time, we were looking forward to another Softball Summer Classic in June. Special thanks to Chuck Dortenizio for organizing the game every year.

Dean Bradley, P.S.

'Charged Up for Change'

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Recently the IBEW Local 37 Training Trust Fund held a conference, "Charged up for Change." With nearly 100 members and invited guests in attendance, the conference was the first event of its kind for the Training Trust, and it was a fantastic event!

Friday night's banquet dinner was followed by comedian Marshall Button, who had everyone in stitches. Internationally renowned speaker Jim Clemmer gave Saturday morning's keynote address, "Growing @ the Speed of Change." His insightful, entertaining presentation was well-received and his

Trade Classifications

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

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



Attendees gather at Local 37 Training Trust Fund conference.

friendly approach encouraged participation.

Breakout sessions on various change-related topics got positive reviews. Professional speaker Carol Lesbirel gave a funny and engaging closing keynote address on "Choices Today Impact Tomorrow." She kept the room in stitches while she doled out thought-provoking insights.

Kids who attended with their parents spent the day making art projects and visiting a fun, interactive science centre. The kids loved the entertaining and educational activities!

This was a great event and its success has Local 37 looking forward to doing it again this fall!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

Summer Work & Union Events

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Our union hockey team, which was formed only last year, participated in the 48th Annual OPC Hockey Tournament, held April 29-30 in London, Ontario. The team has grown from 12 to 17 players including journeymen and apprentices. It's always exciting to see camaraderie in the Brotherhood growing.

As summer is in full swing, so is work in our area. Thanks to the traveling brothers and sisters who have helped man our jobs.

Along with our summer being busy with work, it is also filled with local union sponsored events: July 22—Buffalo Bisons game; Aug. 5—Miss Buffalo Cruise; Aug. 20—our Annual Union Outing; and Sept. 17—the Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Anyone interested in attending these events, please contact the union hall for more information. Please take the opportunity in attending these events to meet new brothers and sisters.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

'Days of Action' Rallies

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Independence Day—the day set aside to celebrate ourselves, our ideals and our country. It is a day to acknowledge men and women, past and present, who have served in the Armed Forces to defend our freedoms. This year we all owe a special appreciation to Navy Seal Team 6.

Work remains steady at the local. A few construction projects have been delayed while environmental and other issues are worked out, but others are already in progress.

We held our annual Desert Days in April. More than 200 members enjoyed a weekend of off-road recreation. Local 47 members on dirt bikes, dune buggies and quads, were all over the Stoddard Wells area.

Local 47 members remain very active in "Days of Action" rallies. The attack on organized labor is real and we must fight back before it's too late.

The local has taken a lead role against an effort to disincorporate the City of Vernon. We represent the workers at the city-owned utility.

We mourn the passing of members Ryan Bennett, Pauline Walker and Ron Green. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Work safe, live well, work union.

Stan Stosel, P.S.



Local 47 Bus. Mgr. Pat Lavin (left) and Rec. Sec. Chris Avila (center) present a \$35,000 check to Riverside, CA, Mayor Ron Loveridge for the Sendai (Japan) Relief Fund to aid earthquake/tsunami victims.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—The 128 employees who perform operations and maintenance work at the E.D. Edwards and Duck Creek power stations won their NLRB election with 97 percent of these employees voting in favor of joining the IBEW. Contract negotiations have started with the company, AmerenEnergy Resources. We welcome our newest brothers and sisters into the local union.

Congratulations to Sister Sarah Sylvester Drake, customer service representative at Ameren Illinois, for winning the 2011 Women of Excellence Helen Duncan Labor Award.

Work is looking up for our construction members this summer. We currently have one wind project underway, another starting mid-June, and various transmission maintenance jobs to look forward to.

Have a safe summer and please attend your monthly unit meetings!

Karlene Knisley, B.R.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

L.U. 55 (lctt,o&u), DES MOINES, IA—On March 18, Local 55 held a groundbreaking ceremony for our new union hall, which will be built on the lot adjacent to our existing building. Construction began in June, using an all-union work force, including IBEW Local 347 brothers and sisters. We are shooting for a completion date in December.

We have been fortunate to keep our Book 1 members working through the winter and spring, as well as many from Book II. The summer work outlook seems very encouraging.

Our Unit Rep. Allan Meacham has been working hard to settle several of our unit agreements. As organizer, I have been following up on leads and cold leafleting several nonunion tree contractors in our state. As a result, at press time a representation election was scheduled to be held June 28 for Asplundh



Attending Local 55 groundbreaking ceremony, from left: Ken Sawyer, retired International Representative; Local 55 Pres. James Blair; Phil Stender, former business manager; Bus. Mgr. Michael Brookes; Don Barrow, former business manager; and Dave Turner, former president.

Tree on MidAmerican property, in Waterloo, Iowa.

Our members have attended several rallies at our state Capitol in support of public sector workers in Wisconsin and Iowa. I am proud, as I attend these rallies, to see a mix of people coming together, in the face of oppression. History has taught us that we will win, and now is the time to stand up and fight. "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it is taken by the oppressed."— Dr. Martin Luther King

Rusty McCuen, A.B.M.

Volunteers

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—IBEW Local 57 members working for Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Falls Power continue to volunteer in their communities, recently preparing and serving a community dinner at the City of Refuge in Idaho Falls. Members have committed to providing the meal every month. We are striving to help out in the community, while getting name recognition in our communities. Many who participate in the meal ask who we are and what IBEW stands for.

We are also helping out at the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters golf tournament with a hole sponsorship and volunteers. Get out and participate in the community. Many of our members have quietly supported and volunteered in their communities. This



IBEW Local 57 members volunteer at the City Of Refuge in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

can, potentially, be one of the best ways to promote ourselves and the union movement. The time is right.

On the work outlook, construction is slow with the potential for work to pick up this summer. The light rail project should start up this summer, as well as a 345kV transmission project, outside of Salt Lake City.

Scott Long, P.S.

Solar Energy Project

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—At this writing it is a very busy time what with elections, contract talks, a graduating apprentice class and more.

Bro. Mike D'Amio and many Local 99 volunteers were again a big part of Rhode Island's Rebuilding Together campaign. Their hard work to help those less fortunate certainly merits recognition. Bro. D'Amico's dedication to this annual event is unparalleled.

The Local 99 JATC graduated 32 inside wireman "A-rate" apprentices and nine teledata technicians on June 2. We wish these fine young graduates good luck in their careers.

Although work remains slow in our area, several projects are in the works. One is a renewable energy project at a local manufacturer. Toray Plastics Inc. will have one of the largest solar arrays in Rhode Island to date. E.W. Audet will be the contractor in charge of the 1,600 panel installation.

The National Electrical Code cycle has begun again at Local 99's union hall. Local 99 is also offering a Contractor Business course for members on how to run successful union shops. JATC Dir. Joe Anderson has other journeyman courses available on an "as filled" basis.

Efforts continue at Local 99 to strengthen Electrical License laws. Bus. Mgr. Al Durand and Organizer John Shalvey, with lobbyist Paul MacDonald, continue to push for increased fines for violations of the Rhode Island Electrical Licensing laws. The continued disregard of rules by many nonunion shops must be

Local Lines

stopped. All the membership needs is a level playing field to outperform the nonunion competition.

S.P. Callaghan, P.S.

All-Member Meeting

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Local 125 hosted annual training for unit chairs, unit recorders and shop stewards on April 15 and its All-Member Meeting on April 16. To help fulfill their roles and responsibilities, participants received instruction, suggestions and information on current topics, basic labor relations fundamentals and upcoming issues.

On behalf of the Executive Board and staff, thank you to our members who participated in this year's events. These are difficult times which require the commitment, presence and unity of the membership. The local thanks John Bishop, John Mohlis, Int. Vice Pres. Mike Mowrey, Christy Piti, AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Liz Shuler and Steve Wright for addressing the membership during the meeting. (Shuler participated via video.)

Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri shared information on current events, finances, negotiations and safety. "This was a good opportunity for members to learn from each other and hear what is happening throughout the local," said Eri. During the meeting, Eri fielded questions from the membership and inquired whether the meeting should be held in the future. Attendees overwhelmingly supported a meeting in 2012.

Thank you to everyone who donated items and those who made purchases which generated \$1,800 for the Brotherhood Fund.

Visit the local's Web site www.ibew125.com for information about these events.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

Protest/Unity Rallies

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Protest/unity rallies continue at our state Capitol. At press time, the biggest issues include recall efforts. Democrats won back a seat in the state Senate that was vacated by an appointment to the governor's staff. Unfortunately, Republicans remain in control of both the state Senate and Assembly.

On May 14 another huge rally took place around our Capitol square. The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, local labor organizations and unions are working to keep the issues of working people alive and to keep the momentum going through the 2012 national elections.

The work outlook remains slow for all sectors, but we are putting out more referrals currently than last year at this time.

Our 18th Suchoman Scholarship Golf Outing—now known as the Robert Palmer Classic, in memorial tribute to our former business agent—will be held Aug. 20. All proceeds go to our scholarship fund for members or their children attending college.

Father's Day was celebrated by Local 159 members and their families/guests at the annual IBEW Day at the Mallards, our local semi-pro baseball team.

Thanks again to all the IBEW members from locals across the country who have sent their support to Wisconsin. All your efforts in this fight are greatly appreciated and have helped make a difference. We sincerely thank you.

Joel Kapusta, B.A.

Solar Contractors Signed

L.U. 163 (ees&i), WILKES-BARRE, PA—Greetings. 2011 has engaged us in many new and challenging projects. Our fifth-year apprentice class is in the process of taking the craft certification hands-on performance evaluations.

Construction is complete on our new solar systems and they are online generating power. The system consists of a 2 kW tracking array for training and a 36 kW system to power our building. This solar system will give us firsthand knowledge of the new technology and a presence in the solar construction market. Thank you to all who have donated their time. Bus. Mgr. Michael Kwashnik and Member Development Rep. Jeremy Moderwell have been active in organizing area solar contractors and have signed Endless Mountain Solar and Mid Atlantic Solar. We welcome our new contractors.

In November 2010, we held our annual retiree dinner. Our retired members shared their insight and stories, danced and had a wonderful time. And finally, Santa visited our members' children at our annual Christmas party. The children enjoyed a puppet show, participated in a Christmas play, and received a gift and picture with Santa. Visit us at our Web site www.ibewlocal163.com.

David Novak, P.S.



Local 163's new solar array.

2011 Graduating Class

L.U. 175 (c,em,i,lctt,mt,o&u), CHATTANOOGA, TN—Congratulations to the Local 175 inside apprenticeship class of 2011. The 2011 graduates are Pete Adkins, Tim Anderson, Justin Baggett, John Barker, Jon Barnes, Jay Birdwell, Brian Blevins, Matt Borden, David Bunch, Kris Calhoun, Matt Collins, Cain Collison, Michael Corvin, Nick Cunningham, Coby Curvin, Nick Davis, Almir Dizdarevic, James Edwards, Nathan Evers, Ronald Forrest Jr., Jimmy Frederick, Ronald Galloway, Jeff Gentry, Kris Gilreath, Ricky Gladden, Scott Hastings, Travis Hicks, Clifton Hookey Jr., Brandon Jenkins, Jason Jordan, Ryan Kelley, Chatt Lavender, Tony Lovelady Jr., Joey Massey, Sergey Maystruk, Josh McAlpin, Micah McKinney, Michael McNabb, Luke Moyes, Dale Mull, Jeremy Nolan, Tracey Price, Jason Ricketts, Cory Rigsby, Jameson Rogers, Chris Rose, Jasmin Sahbaz, Chip Saucier, Max Scoggins, Rusty Sells, Heath Shoemate, Casey Shotts, Eric Smith, Stacy Smith, Michael Spade and Derek Wilburn. We wish all these new journeymen the best of luck in the future.

Support your local union. Meetings are the first and third Monday of each month.

Keith Owensby, P.S.

'Fight Back Florida' Rallies

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL—Although the work picture in our area hasn't improved and doesn't show much promise for the



Local 177 Bro. Rahman Noorali attends "Fight Back Florida" rally in downtown Jacksonville, FL.

near future, Local 177 has been heavily involved in the fight for working people in our state. The middle class is under attack across the country and the Florida governor and his cronies have been taking lessons from politicians in Wisconsin and Ohio in the attempt to eliminate unions and the middle class.

Thanks to retired member Marvin Murphy for his work as the volunteer mobilization coordinator for the North Florida Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, during the Florida legislative session. Bro. Murphy has been doing a great job organizing and recruiting members to attend rallies every week of the session to show the politicians that we will be heard and we will fight for Florida. Bro. Murphy will carry this momentum on even after the legislative session is over.

Bros. Ron Scarle and Charles Moody were in an accident recently and both received second- and third-degree burns from a 4,160 volt flash. Both brothers are overwhelmed by the cards and gestures of brotherhood from around the country and wish to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers. Both are continuing to heal at home now and look forward to returning to work as soon as their lengthy recovery allows.

Alan Jones, Pres./P.S.

2011 Summer & Fall Events

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Local 191 invites all members to come enjoy family fun this summer and fall. Come invigorate unionism and solidarity to help build a stronger union family. Following is the schedule of our upcoming events.

- July 16—Westside Golf Tournament at Avalon Golf Course, 8 a.m., in Burlington, WA.
- Aug. 6—Eastside Picnic at Hydro Park, 12 noon, in Wenatchee, WA.
- Aug. 13—Eastside Golf Tournament at Highlander Golf Course, 8 a.m., in Wenatchee, WA.
- Sept. 18—Westside Picnic at Hillcrest Park, 12 noon, in Mt. Vernon, WA.



Local 193 Bros. George Moore (left) and Mike Conklin (second from left) judge residential wiring competition at SkillsUSA Championship.

- Sept. 24—Retiree & Service Pin Dinner at Angel of the Winds Casino, 11 a.m., in Arlington, WA.
- Sept. 30—Apprentice Graduation at Tulalip Casino, 6 p.m., in Marysville, WA.
- The EWMC will have upcoming Union Solidarity events for the North End and Eastside. Please contact Jodi Howson (360) 391-9990 for information.

You should receive all the information in the mail. Make sure the union hall has your current address. Please call the Everett Hall at (425) 259-3195 to RSVP for all events. We encourage all members to get involved. Volunteers are needed for all events. If interested, please call the Everett Hall. Thanks to all who volunteer.

Rob "Bulldog" De Velder, P.S.

SkillsUSA Championship

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Bros. Mike Conklin and George Moore volunteered as judges at the Illinois SkillsUSA Championship held April 14-15 in Springfield. SkillsUSA, a national student organization, complements technical skills training with instruction in employability skills at public high schools and colleges. The event begins with contests in classrooms, and winners advance through district and regional events, to state competition. IBEW Local 193 is proud to sponsor the Illinois SkillsUSA Championship, which shows everyone how vital career and technical education is to America's future.

The "We Are One Rally for Workers' Rights" hosted by the Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council on April 7 on the Illinois State Capitol steps was well-attended. Our own Local 193 Bus. Mgr. David Burns was one of the union keynote speakers. Thanks to all participants for attending and standing against the assault on America's middle class.

Congratulations to all the City Water, Light & Power, Inside, Voice Data Video, and Residential apprentices who graduated this year. Twelve new Inside apprentices and three VDV apprentices have been started. Nelson Tree Service has hired six line clearance tree trimmers.

Our condolences go to the family of our Bro. Jessie Griffin, who passed away.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Work Picture Improves

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—Our local's work picture is really picking up. We have several wind projects and associated work in conjunction with the wind generators.

More good news: Local 245 worked with Quanta Services and Quanta's Labor Relations Dir. Bob Asher to bring into the IBEW another Quanta family acquisition, the Can-Fer Company. We also brought into Local 245's membership 20 new members from Can-fer. Congratulations to Quanta and to our newly organized Can-Fer members.

Congratulations to Local 245's new ALBAT graduates: journeyman linemen Jason Kehres and Jonathan LaCourse, and Traffic Signal & Lighting journeyman Michael Tscherne.

Our district has gained a new vice president. Kenneth Cooper was appointed Fourth District International Vice President. Cooper replaces Salvatore "Sam" Chilia, who was appointed International Secretary-Treasurer. We congratulate both Vice Pres. Cooper and Int. Sec.-Treas. Chilia. We wish Sec.-Treas. Chilia the best and look forward to working with Vice Pres. Cooper.

Local 245 is working with state and local AFL-CIO labor organizations to gather signatures for the petition drive to put the Ohio Senate Bill 5 referendum on the general election ballot in November. To help gather petitions and register voters, please contact our office. Please sign this petition. Your basic rights to bargain are next to be targeted.

Our Treas. Lisa Tracy is throwing a benefit for her sister-in-law Heather, who has leukemia. Please call our office to purchase tickets or assist.

Philip C. LaCourse, Pres.

Pitching In

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Local members and their family members, along with community volunteers from the Friends of the Delaware Canal, teamed up to provide a needed cleanup of the Delaware Canal State Park in Morrisville, PA. Morrisville Borough Council Pres. Dave Rivella, a Local 269 member, organized the event with a lot of help and support from local members. This event was another example of the local's commitment to serve the communities in which they work and live.

On the work front, crews have started work on the new Mercer County Courthouse located in downtown Trenton, NJ. Having good paying jobs in high-profile, downtown locations has always been a staple of union employment and it is nice to see this trend continue, especially with so much anti-union rhetoric hanging in the air around our city and town halls. Also, the various ongoing solar projects throughout our territory will give our members a chance to apply what they have learned from the recently offered solar training courses. Local leaders are working hard to keep project labor agreements intact for the upcoming summer work on area public schools and facilities.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

80th Anniversary

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Local 357 celebrates its 80th anniversary this month and we are proud of everything our local has evolved into. Our



Local 357's graduating class of 2011, joined by JATC Dir. Madison Burnett, Assistants Robert Buntjer and Jerry White, Bus. Mgr. Al Davis and Int. Rep. David R. Jones.

membership and our leaders have accomplished so much over the last eight decades.

We thank our JATC for the many hours of instruction and education they provide for our members. Local 357 is honored to have graduated the class of 2011 on May 14. With 127 journeyman wiremen and 23 installer technician graduates, this class is our largest yet.

With this new decade of representation also comes new leadership. After serving Local 357 as business manager/financial secretary, Bro. David R. Jones was appointed International Representative assigned to the Ninth District. And Bro. Al D. Davis was appointed by the Executive Board on April 26 to lead the local as business manager/financial secretary to fill Bro. Jones' unexpired term. We thank all of our leadership past and present for fighting for a living wage, better conditions and a safe workplace.

Aaron L. Jones, P.S.

Standing Strong for Workers

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—There has never been a more critical time for all union members to band together than the time we live in now. Unions are under attack from all angles and directions. The corporations have taken control of the Republican Party on a national level and they are not shy in expressing their hatred for all unions. The most popular Republican proposals of the year would take us closer to a past where there was no unemployment insurance, no Social Security, no pensions, no health care and no right to organize.

With that said, you can rest assured that Local 363 members will do everything possible to educate all working people about the importance of standing strong for the rights of American workers. There is no time in the history of our country where the anti-union movement has been so blatant in their open disdain toward the middle class.

The distinct difference is now they are trying to take away what rights were fought for and won by our forefathers.

Let's unite and organize ourselves now to defeat the political corporate shills who are calling for our demise.

Kevin Keeley, P.S.



Local 379 retired member Earley Brown (center) with family and friends.

Veteran Receives Medals

L.U. 379 (i,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC—Retired member and Korean War veteran, Bro. Earley Brown, was recently presented seven medals by the Korean War Veterans Association, Golden Circle, Chapter 244. Family and fellow IBEW members were there for Earley's big day. [See photo below.] The medals he received are as follows: Korean Peace, Korean Defense Service, National Defense, Good Conduct, USA Korean Service, United Nations Korean Service and Purple Heart. Some of these medals were developed since the time of the war and were overdue, and some were replaced after an unfortunate fire.

Bro. Brown is from "The Electric City," Anderson, S.C., and it's very fitting that he became an electrician. He was originally initiated into then-Local 908, Greenville, SC, on Feb. 10, 1964. His three sons, Edgar, Mike and Earl "Nick" Brown, followed their dad into our Brotherhood and their family has 132 years of service combined! When discussing his electrical career, he states, "I am the proudest man to be in the IBEW, and won't forget what [the Brotherhood] did for me."

Earley, we won't forget what you did for us. We thank you for your honorable service to our country and the IBEW!

Circuit 379 open for now. ...

Guy B. DePasquale, P.S.

Transitions Reported

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Local 449 thanks former business manager Bob Bodell for the years he dedicated to Local 449 and wishes him the best of luck in his new position as the Idaho National Laboratory site labor coordinator. INL is a nuclear R&D facility outside Idaho Falls. The Executive Board appointed Rodney James as

business manager, Mike Miera as president and Zeke Martin as vice president.

With the current attack on the labor movement across America, I urge all members to participate in rallies and volunteer when needed in pro-union activities to help protect the rights our forefathers fought and died for.

The membership congratulates the following apprentices on completion of their apprenticeships: Chris Brunson, Isamu Burton, Cain Calzada, Luke Carpenter, Aaron Dill, Wesley Freeman, Cory Gneiting, Ross Harrington, Brandon Harris, Wayne Harris, Kyle Jones, Vickie Lish, Scott Mackowiak, Travis Newsom, Jake Stevenson, David Taufui, Brody Winmill, Kelly Worthington and Scott Yearsley.

Congratulations and best wishes to Arlyn McCulloch, Laurel Orr, Alan Christensen and Torry Peterson on their retirement.

Local 449 members extend condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Bros. Harry Blessinger, Marshall Rapp, Harlem Wilson, Eugene Campbell and Bobby Smout.

We congratulate former Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell Lee on his retirement and thank him for his service to the IBEW.

Mike Miera, Pres./Organizer



Local 455 former business manager Bill O'Rourke and wife Joanne.

Bus. Mgr. O'Rourke Retires

L.U. 455 (em&u) SPRINGFIELD, MA—Bill O'Rourke, pictured above with his wife, Joanne, retired effective March 1 as business manager/financial secretary of Local 455 after 22 years of service to the local.

Bill holds the distinction of longest serving business manager in the local's history, which is a testament to the job he did fighting for better wages and benefits for his brothers and sisters. Bill will be missed by all of us here at Local 455. We thank him for all the years of hard work and wish him well in his retirement.

Following Bill's retirement, Brian Kenney was appointed business manager to fill the unexpired term; Jim DiBernardo was appointed president; and Tom Albano was appointed recording secretary.

Jim DiBernardo, P.S.

Attacks on Workers

L.U. 531 (i), LAPORTE, IN—The GOP in Indiana, as in many other states, has become emboldened as a result of the last election. In the past when our friends controlled at least one of the legislative bodies, we were able to fend off many of the attacks by

Local Lines



Local 531 contingent attends March union rally.

the right wing. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Democrats who fled the state to stop the anti-worker legislation and also to those few Republicans who do understand and support our positions. The GOP's whole strategy now is to eliminate collective bargaining and weaken the voices of the middle class. I thank all of our members who joined us at the Indiana Statehouse for demonstrations.

As important as politics are to our local unions, it is just as important to be involved in our communities. Thanks to our members who participated in the United Way Dodge Ball Challenge, Rebuilding Together in Valparaiso, and the L.U. 531 Annual Blood Drive. The leaders in our communities recognize IBEW Local 531 as a force in the community because of what you do.

Welcome to our new Local 531 apprentices: Bryan Michalski, Mike Camplan, Johnathon Appelman and Adam Levandoski.

Dean Harmon, Pres.

Keith Bergeron Retires

L.U. 547 (rr), GALESBURG, IL—IBEW Local 547 Local Chairman Keith Bergeron retired June 9 from the BNSF Railway after nearly 37 years of service. Bro. Bergeron served our local for more than 15 years in various positions including president, local chairman, financial secretary and Executive Board member. Keith retired as an electronic technician foreman and had previously held the telecom line foreman position. The knowledge and service he so tirelessly provided to the members and officers of our local will not be forgotten or easily replaced. Bro. Bergeron, we hope you and Roberta only the best in your much deserved retirement. Thank you, from all Local 547 members.

Terry R. Pind, P.S.



Attending Workers Day rally, from left: North Bay Labor Council Exec. Dir. Lisa Maldonado, IBEW Local 551 member Russell Heath, California Assembly member Michael Allen, Local 551 Pres. Jim McQuaid and member Dan Carroll.

Workers Day Rally

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—I wish to express great gratitude for the brothers who came out for the International Workers Day march and rally on May 1. We marched two miles through the streets of Santa Rosa. The march ended in Julliard Park, where we enjoyed entertainment and some fine wild turkey barbecued by Bro. Russell Heath.

Every union member should know the importance of this day. The plight of Wisconsin is a clear step backward. Yes, back in time—where workers had no rights, were forced to work 12-16 hour work days. No weekends, no overtime, and of course no safety standards. Local 551 will not stand idly by and let this happen again. I urge all IBEW members to attend every rally you can get your feet and voice in.

A big thank-you to Charlie O'Neil, who took charge of wiring the two solar Habitat for Humanity homes in Healdsburg! Your volunteerism and skilled commitment are the best of the best! What? You missed this build? Not to worry—two more solar homes are breaking ground now, and we will be looking for volunteers in July; give your hall a call.

Be active in your union; be safe—without "U" there is no union.

Denise D. Soza, P.S./B.R.

OSHA & Steward Training

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC—In April Local 553 held OSHA 10-hour training for our members to be on board with safety training requirements for jobs with our contractors.

Also, the local had a steward training class, which provided valuable instruction for stewards who represent our members. Thanks go to Int. Reps. Carmella Cruse and Benny Hunnicutt for teaching the informative steward training class.

Contractors have been calling from other areas of the country for a wage package, indicating that maybe they will be on work in our jurisdiction for future projects. Maybe our members can prosper at home, instead of having to work in other jurisdictions.

The AFL-CIO held a labor rally at the state Capitol in Raleigh. Labor unions joined together to show solidarity and support for the rights of working people. The business manager and the organizer of Local 553 attended the labor rally in support.

David A. Ingram, P.S.



Int. Rep. Benny Hunnicutt instructs a Local 553 steward training class.

Promising Spring & Summer

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—As nice weather moves into Michigan, Local 557 looks forward to what could be a promising summer. After a tough winter for much of the local, we are excited for some projects to come our way.

Nearby Gratiot County will play host to a new state-of-the-art windmill farm. This will be the first big venture into the new "green" energy wave for our local. Many members are excited to have a chance to work on this rare project. Funding is finalized and our local is ready to spring into action to help build these magnificent structures.

With summer, come school projects. Several key remodels and additions are coming up in the area. These projects can be counted on every summer to help keep our members busy with work that benefits the community.

Perhaps the most intriguing project in the area is the construction of a brand new International Airport Terminal. MBS International Airport is currently constructing a brand new state-of-the-art airport terminal in Freeland, MI. The 75,000 square foot terminal should attract many business travelers to our area. Having a wonderful new, easy to use airport is an invaluable tool to attract new business to the area. Local 557 is proud to be part of this construction and will guide the project to completion.

Evan Allardyce, P.S.

New Climbing Tower

L.U. 573 (as&i), WARREN, OH—At Local 573, we are having a busy year. In May construction of our Climbing Tower was completed by local union contractors under the direction of our Training Dir. Eric Davis. The 60-foot tall tower has a 12-foot diameter and three interior ladders with cages. It will be used by our members to train for the wind turbine certification; and when not in use, local safety forces will utilize it for training. The tower is one of only two in our state and only a few nationwide. It was funded by a grant and we partnered with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. We are excited and proud to offer this training to our members and enable them to receive their Capstone certification. All classes required for Capstone are now offered through our local, and our training director already has many classes filled to capacity.

We have also been active with our Relay-For-Life fundraising, and many Local 573 members have attended rallies protesting Senate Bill 5, which would strip state union employees' collective bargaining rights. Our governor wishes to remove all collective bargaining and attack prevailing wage and project labor agreements in Ohio. A petition drive to put SB 5 on the general election ballot is circulating and we all need to do our part to repeal this bill. We thank all our fellow locals that have supported this endeavor.

David Bush Jr., P.S.



Local 573's new training tower.

Oakland 'We Are One' Rally

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—Local 595 members joined hundreds of trade unionists and supporters at the April 4 "We Are One" rally at Oakland's City Hall Plaza. Local 595 member Lawrence Sanders, whose wife is a public school teacher, urged all union members to stand together and fight the anti-union, Republican-led war against workers. Thanks to all who rallied to stand in solidarity with Wisconsin's workers.

The work situation remains slow; job dispatches are trickling out to a few large area proj-



Local 595 member Lawrence Sanders (at podium) addresses "We Are One" rally at Oakland's City Hall Plaza.

If you recently moved or changed your phone number, please call the union hall to update your information. This is a convention year and we need every member counted so we can have as many delegates as possible.

This year's annual picnic is now in July. Make every effort to attend.

Also remember to attend union meetings, held the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (In a previous article, the day for meetings was mistakenly listed incorrectly.)

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Jerry M. Gonzales, Eugene F. Getz, James E. Smith and Herman L. Sieboldt.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Local 611 members Guillermo Trujillo (left) and Adolph Chavez attend Jobs Day Rally.

Worker Solidarity Rally

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—IBEW Local 617 members proudly stood with brothers and sisters of all unions at the April 4 San Mateo County We Are One events. Wisconsin tactics have surfaced in our county and we are joining public workers to protect the rights unions have won for the American people. Local teachers, first responders and municipal workers know they can count on determined IBEW support in the battle to secure decent wages, pensions and health care for families who live in this county.



Local 617 Bro. Steven Booker addresses We Are One rally.

Under the direction of our local's officers, staff and EWMC Chapter, the Rebuilding Together program continues to thrive. Thank you to Bus. Mgr. Dominic Nolan, Pres. Mark Leach, Sec.-Treas. D.J. Siegman, EWMC Pres. Joe Sweeting and Local 617 members Irving Hemingway, Jadaun Williams, Art Lee, Abe Kasitalea, Jim Robertson, Jerry Accristo, Daniel Eaves, Robertson Gembe, Ruben Pacheco, Dave Huston and Steve Kennedy for all their efforts and hard work. We also thank local contractors Armor Electric, Liberty Electric, Palmer Electric, Morrow Meadows and Redwood City Electric.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

Summer Work Picture

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—On July 11 this year, the 115th anniversary of the untimely death of our founder Henry Miller will be marked. I urge all IBEW members to wear your local's shirt, hat, jacket, etc. and go donate blood in Brother Miller's honor.

The offshore gas development work should pick up in July or August with the arrival of the production facility for Encana's four-well Deep Panuke Project. Maybe this will pick up the slack from the waning gas wells operated by ExxonMobile on the Sable Island Scotia Shelf.

An expansion at the Springhill Institute Federal Penitentiary, and construction of a new provincial corrections facility in Thorburn, should provide for some hiring provided both are awarded union. These jobs will come to Unit #2, which to date still has 80 members employed at the Truro Hospital.

Retired member Clayton Brown passed away May 4, 2011. He was 85. Our condolences go to his family.

Congratulations to our newly certified journey persons: Corey Graves, Jason Stewart, Sander MacMillan, Addison Hawes, Chris Goodie and Duncan MacEachen. Well done, brothers.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

California Valley Solar Ranch

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—We thank the traveling brothers and sisters for their help during the recent refueling outage at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. The California Valley Solar Ranch project was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on a 5-0 vote in April. It is a 250 megawatt photovoltaic power plant, built by union electricians. Check our Web site for information on this and other large projects that we might have at www.ibew639.org. This large solar installation will put San Luis Obispo County on the map as a leader of large-scale photovoltaic projects installed by union labor.

Local 639 has been busy in the community, with journeyman wiremen and apprentices working with Habitat for Humanity in San Luis Obispo. Local 639 has worked with Habitat for years to serve the community. Organizer Mark Satterfield was featured on the cover of Local 639's newspaper, New Times, making the case for union workers.

The San Luis Obispo JATC is busy completing another year of apprentice training and offering a special program in cooperation with the local Unemployment/One Stop office to offer a pre-apprentice, multi-trades 10-week course to 25 local unemployed people with an interest in a future in one of the building trades. The course is unique in our area and we look forward to many new apprentice applicants.

Our May meeting featured officer nominations and at this writing, elections were scheduled for June. Please drop by our July 21 meeting to congratulate our newly elected officers. A barbecue starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting is at 6:30 p.m.

John Ponzetti, P.S.

'The Battle Continues'

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—The battle for Ohio continues. We've lost a few skirmishes but not the war. Union members have attended multiple rallies at the Statehouse. The next battle is to gather enough signatures to get Ohio Senate Bill 5, the attack on collective bargaining, on the ballot in November. The law was passed by the Republican controlled House, Senate and governor. By getting this on the ballot we will let the voters decide. We need to get the word out that the Republicans are attacking workers, not just unions, all over the country. The only firewall some states have is that one branch of their state government is controlled by Democrats. They can put in roadblocks to prevent the legislation even coming to the floor for a vote. Ohio has none. We need to protect what was fought and sometimes died for by our past brothers and sisters. We need to come together not just as union members but as Americans to stop the greed of corporations and Wall Street manipulation.

We extend our condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Frank W. Kollmer Jr., Richard M. Miller, Thomas H. Savage, Dolph D. Slone and Cecile M. Jeffers.

Rick Deime, Exec. Brd./P.S.

Service Pins & Cookout

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our annual April cookout and service-pin presentation brought out the brothers and sisters ranging from those with 55 years of service down to first-year apprentices. The cooks did a great job. The brotherhood and fellowship among attendees was a joy to be a part of. Thank you to all who pitched in to make the event a success.

Congratulations on 55 years of service to: Bros. Armand Chaves, Glenn Lane and Howard Ritchie. Our 50-year award recipients were: Bros. Alton Banks and Kenneth Letzring. For 40 years' service: Bros. Robert Bass, Russell Dehmel, William Dever, Harold Kronz, Dennis Kuhn and Greg Labuda. For 35 years of service: Bros. James Lyle and Richard Smith. For 30 years: Bros. Steven Lariviere and Roosevelt Lawrence. Congratulations also to all the others who received service pins and thanks to all for your commitment to the IBEW.

Our "Brother of The Year" Award went to Sister



Local 915 Bus. Mgr. William Dever (left) and Pres. Randall King congratulate award recipient Sister Linda Campbell.

ects. Like many locals, we also have hard decisions to make regarding funding of our Health & Welfare plan. The H&W plan recently mailed information to all members; at our May 12 meeting, attendees discussed the H&W survey and made recommendations to the trustees.

We are holding CALCTP classes at our training center and encourage members to get this certification. We foresee an increase in hiring in this area as our contractors do more of the work greening our buildings. Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 2X, which increases renewable energy mandates from 20 percent to 33 percent by 2020. This will bring increased production of renewable energy and create jobs in the process.

Plans for our new JATC build-out are progressing with a projected completion date of summer 2012. The state-of-the-art facility aims for a "net zero" energy use goal and will serve our industry for years to come.

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.

Prospects for Future Projects

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—As of this spring writing, the work situation in our area is still slow. There are some prospects for improvement with five wind farm projects slated to start in 2011 that will produce 593 wind turbines. Carle Hospital has plans for a large addition that will start soon, which will help clear some of the 65 members we have on Book I. At press time, we still have eight apprentices out of work and Book II has 241 brothers and sisters looking for work.

Our local has approximately 100 electricians working at the University of Illinois Physical Plant. While there are several small remodel jobs, there are no plans of any big projects in the near future.

The annual Local 601 Steak Stag was held April 9. Once again many members, both active and retired, stepped up to make the event a great success. The large group shared in the great food and fellowship.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

Jobs Day in Santa Fe Rally

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—This year's Jobs Day in Santa Fe rally drew its usual large crowd. The unions met at the Eagles Club where we were treated to great food, speeches by a congressman and the Santa Fe city manager, and then the crowd marched to the state Capitol to show union unity.

Local Lines

Linda Campbell. Sister Campbell has dedicated herself to her union with her whole being. She is a fine example of what giving back represents. We are proud to have Linda be the first sister to receive this accredited award.

Theresa King, P.S.

Stand for Workers' Rights

L.U. 965 (em,govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—At press time, we are continuing to negotiate with Everbrite, our manufacturing sub-unit in Pardeeville, WI. We continue to work through language issues but the big ticket items, medical, wages and other current benefits, are tough to get to an agreement.

A tentative agreement was reached with Alliant Energy. At this writing, the membership was scheduled to be voting throughout the month of June, and votes were to be counted on June 30, 2011.

As Bus. Mgr. Tony Bartels posted on the local's Facebook page: "It has become very apparent in these negotiations how important it would be to elect labor friendly politicians. The state of Wisconsin anti-worker rights [attacks] led by the current governor are certainly hindering our ability in these negotiations. ... I hope labor is awake and ready to right this wrong in the next election, or we will have a lot of lean years ahead of us. Weakening labor unions through an attack on workers' rights will take from the workers and give to the rich and businesses."

This year's Solidarity Picnic will be Sat., July 23, at the Local 965 office in Madison.

Kurt Roberts, P.S.

'Labor is the Solution'

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—Local 1049 represents more than 3,500 members who work under 11 collective bargaining agreements. In 2010 we renegotiated seven of those agreements. We recently completed negotiations for members in the Electric Craft Division (NECA). This two-year agreement includes general wage increases as well as employer funded increases to the Health and Welfare Fund, Health Reimbursement Accounts and the Annuity Fund. We also introduced a new 401(k) plan. At this writing, we are negotiating on behalf of our Gas Craft members.

With the bulk of our negotiations complete, Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand has taken the opportunity to communicate information about the current state of affairs of labor in America. For too long, we have allowed ourselves to become scapegoats for the economic woes this country faces—when, in fact, labor is the solution. Once again labor can, and should be, the voice of all working Americans. I encourage members, on the third Tuesday of each month, to attend a general meeting—where we can get the facts and discuss real solutions to the problems labor faces.

At the March general meeting Bus. Mgr. Shand, all incumbent officers and Executive Board members were re-elected to new three-year terms. On behalf of the business manager, the business staff, my fellow officers and the Executive Board, I thank the membership for their vote of confidence.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Rollins Mountain Wind Project

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—The Rollins Mountain wind turbine project is nearing completion at the time of this writing, but we expect it's the beginning of a long-term relationship with signatory contractor Three Phase Line Construction of New Hampshire. The First Wind project near Lincoln employed a number of members over the winter months.

We're saddened by the death of retired member Michael Perry Sr. and extend our sincere sympathy to his family. A longtime member, Mike will be missed.

Plans are underway for our Annual Family Picnic, to be coordinated by the third-year apprentices.

Enjoy the summer months and stay safe!

William Gifford, P.S.



Secondary terminations at Local 1253 Rollins Mountain project.

Seven Retirees Recognized

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—With this article we recognize seven Local 1307 retired members: John "Jay" Truitt, Gary Caldwell, David Coulbourne, Joseph Fooks, Patricia Foxwell, Gloria Maull and Vance Elbert.

Bro. Truitt began work at Delmarva Power in 1970. He worked as meter reader, engineer's helper and engineering fieldman 1st class. He retired April 1, 2010.

Bro. Caldwell began at Delmarva Power in 1981 as an apprentice lineman and advanced to journeyman. He was a lead lineman, meter reader, senior lineman in the Training Dept., and trouble serviceman. He retired May 1, 2010.

Bro. Coulbourne started with Delmarva Power in 1993. He was a journeyman lineman and lead lineman. He retired Feb. 1, 2009.

Bro. Fooks started at Delmarva Power in 1973. He entered the apprentice lineman program and became a journeyman lineman, lead lineman and a trouble serviceman. He retired March 1, 2009.

Sister Foxwell started in 1972 as a junior clerk in Salisbury and became a customer information specialist. She retired Oct. 1, 2008.

Sister Maull began as a junior clerk with Delmarva Power in 1969 and became an engineering fieldman. She retired April 1, 2010.

Bro. Elbert started at Delmarva Power in 1969. He worked as engineering fieldman and engineering fieldman 1st Class. He retired Feb. 1, 2009.

May these retirees enjoy a happy retirement.

E.D. Sparks, P.S.

'We are Indiana' Rally

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Numerous IBEW Local 1393 members participated in the "We Are Indiana" rally March 10 at the Indiana Statehouse with thousands of other union

sisters and brothers protesting anti-union legislation in the 2011 Indiana General Assembly.

Thanks to George Arhos, ALBAT area coordinator, for providing OSHA 10-hour and OSHA 30-hour classes for our outside construction members last fall and again this spring of 2011.

Union sisters and brothers of Duke Energy in the Terre Haute district demonstrated union brotherhood recently. When a fellow union brother was suspended by Duke Energy unjustly, the union members at this location collected money and donated to the brother so he would not experience any loss of wages while his grievance was pending. This has been a long-standing practice in this District.

On September 3-5, members will participate in the 125th Labor Day Celebration at the Princeton, IN, fairgrounds; this is possibly the second oldest Labor Day celebration in the nation. For more information, go to www.labordayassoc.com.

Robert C. Fox, P.S.

Rodeo & Storm Restoration

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—St. Louis was proud to sponsor four apprentice linemen at the 1st Annual IBEW 702 Lineman's Rodeo in DuQuoin, IL, on Saturday, April 30.

Outstanding performances by Nathen Reed and Phil Barnowski almost resulted in trophies, and also noted were great performances by Ryan Czajkowski and Steve Sach. They competed in Hurt Man Rescue, two mystery events and the "egg-ceptional" speed climb. This outing is great training for the upcoming 28th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, KS, on Oct. 15, 2011. At the International Rodeo event, Local 1439 has won first place for journeyman team and our apprentices consistently place in the top three.

Our journeyman teams were called away for storm restoration in Alabama and they also assisted in restoration following the two tornados that ravaged St. Louis on Good Friday. Local 1439 members worked safe and with no accidents.

Mike Walter, B.M.



Local 1439 apprentice linemen Nathen Reed (left), Phil Barnowski, Ryan Czajkowski and Steve Sach participated in the Local 702 Lineman's Rodeo.

Labor Council Conference

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—The 20th Annual Leadership Conference of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions was held Jan. 5-7.

In attendance were Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie and the undersigned, Rec. Sec. Thomas Rostkowski. The conference, under the dynamic leadership of Council Pres. Ernie Grecco, draws delegates from AFL-CIO unions in the area as well as federal and state officials.

The conference, which covered issues important to labor, was opened by Maryland Attorney Gen. Doug Gansler. His remarks were well-received. Keynote speaker was Gen. Pres. Jimmy Williams, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. Agenda items included: health care reform and union health care benefits; workers' compensation benefits and clarification of occupational disease; and, for those delegates covered by the Federal Employee Compensation Act, "Your Rights and Benefits." Presenters included the law firm that represents Local 1501, Abato, Rubenstein and Abato. Most informative was the Q&A session, which showed that similar problems are encountered by many of the unions. With labor benefits and unions under attack, it is more important than ever for union representatives to meet together with the goal of being informed of the latest laws and their interpretation in order to better serve the members.

Thomas Rostkowski, R.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie (second from right) joins, from left, Joe Hiltz, Dianna Guthrie, Metropolitan Baltimore Council Pres. Ernie Grecco and Local 1501 Rec. Sec. Thomas Rostkowski.

Wichita River Festival

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—The River Festival has been going strong here in Wichita since 1971 and Local 1523 members have volunteered in many ways throughout the years. Anywhere from selling tickets at the food court to selling buttons, and of course leading off the Sundown Parade in 2010 and 2011. [Photo, pg. 17] We were scheduled to lead the 2009 parade, but the weather didn't cooperate.

Being part of the community is who we are. Our members' participation ranges from storm restorations, to having a great time supporting city events.

We have been able to weather the storms that come our way and hold steadfast to our solidarity. With strong ethics and a will to succeed, that's what it takes to be winners—and winners we are. Be safe, be happy and be content. Hope all are having a great summer.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.



Local 1547 Electrical Training Center graduates.

2011 Graduating Classes

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—Local 1547 graduated two classes from the Tom Cashen Electrical Training Center in Anchorage.

The 2011 third-year telephone class was instructed by Bill Merry and Tim Digan. The graduating students are: Chris Bond, Brandon Duvlea, Hunter Hegge, Jeremy Heral, Adam Moore, Tyler Nelson, Shane O’Leary, Michael Pfalmer, Tim Rathbun, Michael Rogers, Dana Sherfick, Kevin Stevens and Brian Wood.

The 2011 third-year lineman class was instructed by Pete Leov. The graduating students are: Jon Birkholz, Sam Clyde, Jacob Fraley, Rocky Fraser, Byron Grenier, Esau Lealaisalanoa, Joe Peters, Aaron Reynolds and Nick Smith.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Organizing Success

L.U. 1579 (i&o) AUGUSTA, GA—It has been 16 months since the National Nuclear Powerhouse PLA was signed. That was the time when the Vogtle Project made a transition from nonunion to union. Although that transition was rocky, current conditions are good and continue to get better.

There were 15 nonunion electricians on that project who stayed on the project during and after the transition. Since Georgia is a so-called “right-to-work” state, these electricians had the option to stay or go. At first that went over like a lead balloon. Bus. Mgr. Kenneth Ward, the job steward and the organizing staff did an excellent job identifying potential qualified electricians and apprentices for

organizing into the IBEW. That project is now 100 percent IBEW. This is an organizing success.

Bus. Mgr. Ward was injured in an accident that caused him to fall about 10 feet. He was in the ICU Trauma Unit at the Medical College of Georgia for some time. He is now recovering at home, receiving physical therapy and getting stronger every day. Bus. Mgr. Ward asked me to let everyone know that he appreciates all the flowers, cards, calls, thoughts and prayers.

A reminder to all: If you are fortunate enough to have a job, do your best, be thankful, come to work on time and give eight for eight. Many IBEW members are still desperate for a job.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Organizing Activities

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam recently to our fifth-year apprentices; the board reports all passed and most have taken and passed the Kentucky state licensing exam. Good luck, brothers, as journeymen—and let’s not forget to pass on our knowledge and skills to our upcoming apprentices.

Bus. Mgr. Larry Boswell reports our inside negotiations are continuing and we hope to have a new contract by press time. We thank the negotiating committee brothers—Bus. Mgr. Boswell, Mike VanWinkle, Pres. Scott Coleman and Executive Board member David Carrico—for their time and efforts.

Membership Development Coordinator Mike VanWinkle reports we have ongoing organizing activities with Tag Electric, Peay Electric and Luthan Technologies. We have NLRB charges filed on



Local 1739 hockey team members.

Luthan and should be hearing from a board agent soon. Bro. VanWinkle asks that if anyone knows of a nonunion electrician interested in becoming an IBEW member or anyone interested in salting, to please contact him at the hall.

A workers memorial was held at the Owensboro-Daviess County courthouse lawn on April 29. Local 1701 was well-represented and we thank all who attended.

In sadness we report the passing of retired Bro. James Gay. May he rest in peace.

Tim Blandford, R.S.

2011 OPC Hockey Tournament

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 1739’s hockey team attended the 48th Annual OPC Hockey Tournament held April 29-30 in London, Ontario, Canada. Our local is very proud of our team. [Photo, above.] Thanks go out to IBEW Local 120 of London, Ontario, for hosting an entertaining and fun weekend. The competition and brotherhood amongst the 20 teams involved was nice to see.

Frank Kastle, P.S.



Local 1701 graduating class of 2011, from left: Matt Royal, Kurtis Frederick, Jason Sharp, Travis Hendrix, Andy Daniel, Matt Roe, Keith Jernigan (kneeling), Cody Manley, Donovan Kirtley, Justin Boggess and Matt Bayles.

United in Solidarity

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—The local has been actively promoting solidarity with strike preparation activities and community events. Every Thursday, members are wearing red, walking into work locations together and observing a moment of silence.

Our bargaining team is fighting for our livelihoods in negotiations with Verizon. Check the Web site www.ibew2325.com, the audio tape, Facebook or Twitter for updates. Stay tuned for details on upcoming events. A final rally before contract expiration will be held in Boston and the strike authorization vote will be mid-July.

Brothers and Sisters, we and our brethren in the public sector are under attack. We have been unfairly vilified in the media; been blamed for the current economic crisis; and been the target of atrocious legislation.

So what do we do? We become activists. Be: • An advocate for the middle class, • Organizer to the unorganized, • A protester to injustice, • A lobbyist to legislators, • A mentor to the future of labor, • Press agent to the public, • A recruiter for the cause, • A vocal constituent to elected officials.

We are hard-working, middle-class, American union members and it is our time and our responsibility to ensure the middle class and the labor movement survive this assault. Participate in your survival now. United, we shall overcome. We are one.

Dawn Nelligan Rosa, P.S./R.S.



IBEW Local 1523’s float leads parade in Wichita, KS.



Local 2325 members wear their solidarity colors in Marlboro, MA.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Salvatore J. Chilia
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THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor

Edwin D. Hill**C. James Spellane****Mark Brueggjenjohann****Malinda Brent****Len Shindel****Carol Fisher****Alex Hogan****Lucas Oswald****James H. Jones****Len Turner****Tim Prendergast****Curtis D. Bateman****John Sellman****FROM THE OFFICERS****Real Mechanics Needed to Fix Economy**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Anyone who has ever repaired an automobile or a broken appliance knows that sometimes the failure of one part is caused by our lack of attention or maintenance to another. If only that simple truth was more evident in our national politics.

Democrats and Republicans are in agreement that the U.S. economy is broken. The failing part, say leaders of the Republican Party and even some Democrats, is that government is spending too much money, leading to deficits at the federal level. Cut spending and lower taxes, they say, and the economy will be fixed.

They are jacklegs. More competent troubleshooters would ask why budgets keep going in the hole. And I think we would find that the red-hot bearing seizing up our economy is to be found in the 75,000 factories that have shut down over the last 10 years. Our nation simply won't see budget surpluses when millions of hard-working Americans who once took home good paychecks and fueled the consumer economy are sitting at home wondering if they will ever work again.

This all makes sense to millions of Americans, especially those who work with their hands. But large corporations that have grown more profitable by outsourcing operations and politicians who benefit from their donations endlessly talk about budgets, not jobs. Like the great writer Upton Sinclair said in "The Jungle," "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

Congressional Democrats, many elected with strong support from our labor movement, with some support from Republicans, have packed a toolbox to help fix the U.S. economy. It's a series of bills called the "Make It in America Plan." If passed, those bills would include mandates for: more U.S. made materials for government-funded projects, a tougher bargaining stance with China on currency manipulation, which keeps the price of their products artificially low, and more federal support for research and development to support domestic manufacturing.

President Obama has abundant abilities as a communicator. His political future, his legacy and our nation's economy now hinge on his convincing Americans that he and his party have a real plan for fixing what is broken.

The president showed great courage in saving the U.S. auto industry. We are ready to stand by his side if he takes the next big step in revitalizing American manufacturing by using the full power of his office to promote the Make It in America Plan. ■

Deception on Medicare

Powerful House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan has been busy the past few months touting his budget bill, which would privatize Medicare for a growing population of retirees.

But don't fret, the Wisconsin congressman says, as the changes won't affect anyone inching closer to retirement. "We propose to not change the benefits for people above the age of 55," Ryan said last month, allowing for ample time to restructure the system to make health care affordable and available for the next wave of retirees. Sound good?

Not so, says a recent analysis in National Journal magazine. An article in last month's issue reports that Ryan's budget, which would scrap the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, threatens to open a chasm in the Medicare coverage system—another version of the dreaded "doughnut hole." Remember that? When President George W. Bush and his congressional allies enacted changes in Medicare's prescription drug system, they created a lapse in coverage that forced seniors to pay all of their prescription drug costs after yearly totals top out at over \$2,800 and not get additional federal subsidies until the amount reaches \$4,550.

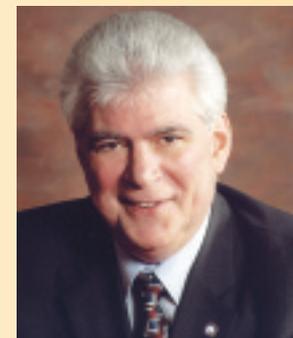
Ryan's proposals would put nearly 4 million seniors in this Bermuda Triangle of health care coverage who would immediately find themselves staring at potentially skyrocketing out-of-pocket costs.

Ryan's plan would force seniors into paying more for health care with underfunded vouchers, putting retirees at the mercy of private insurance companies, which are free to raise rates and block coverage. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the Republican budget would vault seniors' average health care spending over the next decade to greater than \$12,000 annually, more than double the current rate.

Everyone knows health care is expensive, and the costs are growing. But Ryan and his allies are trying to balance a budget on the backs of some of the most vulnerable Americans while offering billions in tax breaks to large corporations and the already wealthy.

Is this how we take care of our seniors? Should the elderly have to work at the age of 70 just to pay for increasingly expensive prescriptions drugs and procedures that are the inevitable result of growing older?

Even glib politicians like Paul Ryan don't have the answers for those questions. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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Letters to the Editor

In a Union Worker's Shoes

When he was running for office, President Obama said that he would be willing to put on a comfortable pair of shoes and walk a picket line if working families needed his help. I think it's pretty clear that we need his help now with all the anti-union attacks in Wisconsin and around the country.

All of us should send President Obama an old pair of shoes to remind him of his promise. If a pile of shoes showed up at the White House, it would help make the point that promises need to be kept—especially when it involves something as important as standing with working men and women and their unions.

I noticed that people in Egypt took off their shoes to show their disgust when President Mubarak refused to resign. The situation is different here, but the same rule applies. Politicians who don't keep their promises don't deserve our respect. Any official who refuses to stand with the working class and defend our unions deserves to get our shoes—or the boot.

Larry Metzger
Local 30 retiree, Corvallis, Ore.

A Better Life for All

I've been retired since 1996 and to help keep myself current, I joined a weekly discussion group at our community center. The group consists mostly of conservative Republicans and two of us are the only Democrats. We have a moderator and our discussions are kept civil.

Recently there was a discussion on unions and as you can probably guess, much of the sentiment was anti-union. One man commented that he had been driving past some road work and saw two workers with shovels just talking next to a hole in the road. An hour later he passed the same site and the two were there in the same spot, still talking, obviously not getting anything done.

When it was my turn to speak, I said, "When I worked in New York City ... if there was a hole in the ground, two years later, there would be a 50-story building on the same site filled with working people. This is the union I belong to."

My message to you: don't let anyone put down unions. Remind them of how much unions have accomplished: the elimination of child labor, increased safety at work, pensions, vacations, health care coverage, and much more. The union movement was responsible for the creation of a thriving middle class and a better life for all.

William Bartnick
Local 3 retiree, New York

Old Boys' Club?

In the May issue of *The Electrical Worker* you featured the retirement of the International Secretary-Treasurer (Lindell Lee). It's not surprising to me that once again an International Executive Council member has retired before his term in office has ended. And once again, it's not surprising that another executive was appointed to that position just months ahead of the International Convention. This action will ensure that the appointee will be elected at the Convention. This tactic has been repeated for the 43 years that I have been a member. It's so common now that the executives of locals are also using this process to get the members they want elected. I am of the opinion that this practice might be morally wrong for a labor organization that stands for fair democracy for all members.

This practice, for the sake of continuity, I think takes away a little bit of our union's soul. For it is perceived that unless you belong to the old boys' club, you do not stand a chance of being elected to a position.

We have made great strides in the last decade on the outside; we must now look to improving the inside of our organization both at the International and local level. We must reach that point where all the members of our great IBEW are made to feel that they are truly all equal and are exposed to the same opportunities.

Louis Marino
Local 353 member, Toronto

Who We Are

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

For Las Vegas JATC Director, Passion Key to Success

When Madison Burnett was appointed assistant apprenticeship director in 2000, the 10 "labs" at the Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee of Southern Nevada were empty rooms.

So he asked the JATC trust committee for permission to solicit vendors and contractors for donations of equipment to turn the labs into hands-on learning centers. Today, the 25,000-square-foot training center contains labs on programmable logic controllers (PLCs), motor controls, voice-data-video, fire alarms, transformers, networking platform LonWorks, photovoltaics, wind generation and instrumentation.

"I looked around at what I lacked as an apprentice, where I could have used practical training to accompany theory," he said, recalling six-month stretches of running cable.

Now director of the JATC, Burnett has won far-reaching recognition coordinating the work of 32 instructors, members of Las Vegas Local 357 who mentor and teach one of the Brotherhood's most diverse student populations, including 400 apprentices, construction wiremen, construction electricians and journeymen seeking to upgrade their skills.

Al Harris, a six-term member of Local 357's executive board, said that humility is Burnett's greatest strength. Harris met Burnett in 1989, convinced him to apply to the apprenticeship and has been one of his strongest supporters since.

"It's a communication thing with Madison," says Harris, who said Burnett is an "everyday person" who never talks down to his peers or his students. Harris said he remembers Burnett going online to help a student with his homework on a Sunday morning, while attending a conference in Hawaii, and taking calls at midnight from apprentices facing personal challenges.

Early in his career, Burnett worked at the Nevada Test Site, the 1,360-square-mile expanse of desert and mountains where the U.S. Department of Energy had been conducting nuclear tests since the 1950s. As an electrical inspector, Burnett, then 26, met IBEW electricians for the first time. "They were craftsmen," he says.

Turning out in 1994, Burnett worked as a general foreman on the construction of the Monte Carlo Hotel casino, the Luxor and the celebrated Paris. In 1995, he was hired as an apprentice instructor.



Madison Burnett, director of the Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee of Southern Nevada, says, "It's rewarding to see apprentices mature, learn the trade and make their rites of passage."

Jose Delgado, a fourth-year apprentice, first met Burnett as a 16-year-old at the area's technical trade high school. Delgado says his mentors and the JATC, which donated electrical equipment to the high school, "changed my life and made me a better person and apprentice."

Burnett visits high schools, middle schools and even elementary classes to talk about careers in the trade. A former member of the board of directors of Build Nevada—an effort to assist future trade applicants obtain GEDs and master the math necessary to enter training programs—he also visits prisons and works with the College of Southern Nevada's re-entry program.

"I really push to educate the public and our community about what we do," said Burnett, an African American. "Naturally, that brings in more women and more ethnicities." The JATC's student population is 35 percent Hispanic and 25 percent African American. Ten percent of the students are women. Burnett partners with Jessie Walker, a longtime Local 357 activist, who works as a Build Nevada program administrator to enhance the local's outreach.

A nagging recession in construc-

tion, says Burnett, can make it difficult to balance tasks. "It's a challenge to still provide hands-on, quality training and not go in the hole because of budget problems caused by lower employer contributions," says Burnett.

When he interviews instructors, says Burnett, "I want members who are coming for more than a paycheck." He understands the challenge of teaching up to five hours after working a full day in the field. But, he says, "I want people who have a passion to share their knowledge." Of the JATC's faculty members, he adds, "each bring some uniqueness to the training" and he's always open to suggestions about new course offerings.

He recently returned from Chicago, where he previewed a curriculum to prepare electricians for developing and maintaining charging stations for electric vehicles. "We need to be proactive and not wait for the market to demand training," he says.

Burnett, says Harris, the executive board member, never forgets the key factor in his success and the main ingredient in a brighter future for his students. "He tells his students from day one that he is an IBEW member, first and foremost." ■

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in May 2011

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Fischer, W. K.	3/5/11	26	Abel, C. P.	4/3/11	126	Lecompte, M.	2/2/11	349	Hartman, L. B.	1/27/11	532	Stansell, E. L.	3/4/11	969	Jenschke, K. E.	4/8/11
1	Mauchenheimer, H. A.	1/14/11	26	Chafin, T. N.	3/7/11	126	Moser, R. H.	4/11/11	349	Wilber, J. R.	2/4/11	540	Jones, H. V.	1/29/11	1049	Habersberger, J.	3/5/11
1	Morrell, V. J.	3/15/11	26	Newberry, J. A.	10/22/10	130	Gunn, E. J.	12/9/10	353	Dunn, J.	3/27/11	540	Yanice, J.	12/21/09	1186	Stock, T. P.	12/19/10
1	Prunty, J. C.	5/2/10	34	Clifford, K. D.	3/27/11	134	Agosto, E. P.	3/17/11	353	Gillespie, J.	3/22/11	557	Eurich, F.	3/6/11	1186	Teruya, E.	12/12/10
1	Zakibe, T. A.	4/8/11	34	Nizzia, D. L.	3/15/11	134	Alevizos, K. J.	3/13/11	353	Knott, R. A.	1/10/11	558	Burns, R. E.	4/11/11	1205	Green, J. W.	2/28/11
2	Conner, H. E.	3/29/11	35	Driscoll, V. L.	1/29/11	134	Aylward, W. R.	4/2/11	353	Nelson, A.	3/28/11	568	Brousseau, J.	8/17/10	1205	Hendry, R. H.	2/15/11
2	Ketchum, D. A.	1/4/11	41	Platko, R. G.	1/21/11	134	Bender, F. H.	4/12/11	353	O'Donnell, J. J.	12/24/10	569	Early, F.	3/25/11	1245	Rowland, E. M.	2/16/11
3	Bader, E. W.	12/17/10	43	Bronzetti, V.	3/11/11	134	Christensen, R. R.	4/5/11	353	Pfeiffer, F. C.	3/23/11	569	Finch, R. L.	12/22/09	1245	Smith, T. H.	3/7/11
3	Barberi, J.	4/17/11	43	Korycinski, C.	2/16/11	134	Delong, T. G.	2/1/11	353	Smutylo, S. P.	12/6/10	569	Lawhorn, C. F.	3/31/11	1253	Perry, M. J.	4/22/11
3	Bellantone, M.	1/1/11	43	Williams, W. W.	2/7/11	134	Embery, F. X.	2/28/11	353	Walker, R.	3/8/11	569	Ogden, R. J.	1/15/11	1340	Conner, W. A.	2/8/11
3	Bourazeris, C. D.	1/5/11	44	White, D. E.	4/6/11	134	Fergus, J. J.	2/25/11	357	Galvin, E. C.	12/23/10	569	Paolino, T. J.	3/15/11	1377	Grzywaczewski, J.	3/7/11
3	Bulger, E. P.	3/11/11	46	Edwards, F. C.	4/11/11	134	Filipowicz, B.	3/7/11	357	Kleinman, S.	12/3/10	569	Thomas, C. J.	1/31/11	1379	Schroeder, M. L.	4/13/11
3	Endrulat, P. E.	12/10/10	46	Leu, G. V.	3/23/11	134	Formentini, L. A.	3/7/11	357	Laub, D. E.	4/15/11	570	Ferguson, W. H.	4/12/11	1393	Hundley, R. G.	4/4/11
3	Faraci, J. P.	3/11/11	46	Lynch, O. G.	3/15/11	134	Gannon, J. W.	3/27/11	357	Lionel, C. E.	1/9/11	583	Dietz, C. H.	3/18/11	1393	Parker, R.	1/14/11
3	Freed, R. F.	1/23/11	46	Stevenson, L. C.	3/1/11	134	Gisch, F. J.	3/2/11	357	Pease, R. R.	4/17/11	584	Dawson, J. G.	3/16/11	1412	Mathews, J. J.	6/16/10
3	Gettleman, H. D.	3/27/11	46	Williamson, L. W.	12/2/10	134	Grendzinski, G. S.	12/3/10	357	Wynn, W. R.	3/11/11	584	Lowry, A. M.	3/9/11	1426	Haltii, R. A.	3/9/11
3	Hennessy, R. J.	3/13/11	48	Dickinson, M.	4/3/11	134	Hargrove, J. D.	3/12/11	363	Gillow, P. D.	2/27/11	586	Holt, J. W.	3/5/11	1501	Wakefield, D. W.	1/26/11
3	Hines, R. J.	2/2/11	48	Eggiman, O. A.	3/27/11	134	Jeschke, J.	3/29/11	363	Macri, S.	1/16/09	595	Albers, H.	2/21/11	1516	Laughinghouse, R. L.	4/14/11
3	Johnson, W.	3/27/11	51	Dennis, C. W.	3/25/11	134	Korcyl, M. S.	4/7/11	364	Carey, J. R.	2/28/11	595	Chloupek, E. V.	2/7/11	1547	Busek, A. H.	3/16/11
3	Krawiec, R. F.	2/25/11	51	Megredy, W. R.	2/11/11	134	Oconnor, D. L.	3/4/11	364	Johnson, D. R.	3/13/11	595	Deviin, R. L.	3/12/11	1547	Elliott, R. H.	3/4/11
3	Lanza, F. A.	3/1/11	55	Houston, G. S.	4/2/11	134	Pizzitola, P.	4/1/11	365	Woodward, G. F.	3/6/11	595	Eskew, O. W.	3/7/11	1547	Garrett, C.	9/30/10
3	Mc Spedon, T.	11/2/10	58	Antonishek, J. J.	2/25/11	145	Fitzwater, B. J.	3/12/10	369	Bowles, K. C.	3/7/11	595	Germany, T. L.	12/11/10	1547	Gruca, W. T.	3/13/08
3	McGuire, R. F.	4/7/11	58	Beauvais, R. P.	4/11/11	145	Spurgeon, G. A.	2/16/11	369	Ellwanger, J. W.	3/23/11	595	Jordan, C.	3/7/11	1701	Jay, G. H.	3/23/11
3	Mezzouiso, F.	4/3/11	58	Dennis, C. J.	1/5/11	146	Chesnut, J. M.	3/13/11	369	Jackey, K. T.	3/30/11	595	Moore, J. S.	10/12/10	1710	Knorr, J. P.	12/24/10
3	Molinari, I. F.	12/16/10	58	Ellison, J. M.	3/19/11	150	Jemlich, A. C.	3/16/11	369	Miller, E. A.	3/15/11	601	McDonald, E. D.	3/24/11	1925	Nanney, G. M.	3/10/11
3	Mott, R. W.	1/21/11	58	Forbes, J. W.	3/30/11	150	Kidd, F. D.	3/6/11	369	Royalty, H. C.	4/5/11	601	Stirewalt, D. B.	3/18/11	1925	Norfolk, J. H.	6/25/10
3	Nasta, K. C.	4/8/11	58	Holmquist, D.	3/17/11	150	Love, J. L.	8/10/10	369	Scott, W. E.	4/7/11	602	Dickey, W. T.	1/2/11	2077	Youngblood, W. R.	1/1/11
3	Polchinski, T. R.	2/18/11	58	Lahr, C. A.	2/27/11	153	Harman, D. E.	4/6/11	379	Lamson, J. W.	7/10/08	606	Odum, J. L.	3/7/11	2113	Bryant, J. H.	3/23/11
3	Prassas, J. D.	2/14/11	58	Lipenholtz, G.	4/3/11	153	Ritchie, W. A.	11/24/10	380	Rhodes, A. E.	3/3/11	611	Caddell, T. G.	3/1/11	2150	Larkin, W. T.	4/5/11
3	Sanders, F.	2/22/11	60	De Los Santos, R. H.	2/14/11	160	Kauppi, H. W.	3/29/11	387	Caballero, R. R.	1/9/11	613	Anderson, S. E.	2/15/11	I.O. (18)	Howard, M. F.	3/30/11
3	Siegmund, R. W.	3/10/11	66	Bamburg, L.	3/22/07	164	Davis, J. A.	3/1/11	396	Behrman, R. M.	2/2/11	613	Cabe, J. W.	3/25/11	I.O. (126)	Miller, C. A.	3/30/11
3	Tarallo, L. C.	1/24/11	70	Hager, T.	4/14/11	164	Foehner, R. G.	3/6/11	400	Graham, E.	2/16/11	613	Hart, V. W.	3/14/11	I.O. (134)	Dominy, J. S.	3/8/11
3	Ylagan, M. M.	3/29/11	70	Jones, R. C.	3/17/11	175	Graham, J. M.	7/17/10	405	Martin, R. L.	3/16/11	613	Lewis, M. R.	12/26/10	I.O. (134)	Gallagher, D. J.	3/7/11
5	Gedid, G.	3/30/11	73	Dezellem, C. S.	2/10/11	175	Pennington, R. S.	3/15/11	413	Goninan, C. L.	1/17/07	613	Statham, H.	2/25/11	I.O. (134)	Horwitz, H. L.	3/9/11
5	Neil, T. S.	4/12/11	73	Zintek, W. W.	3/11/11	177	Roberts, B.	10/14/10	415	Stoneypher, T. E.	1/1/11	632	Sullivan, R. O.	3/9/10	I.O. (134)	Nevin, T. G.	2/17/11
5	Walter, R. M.	1/10/11	76	Bergman, R. J.	4/10/11	177	Woodham, A. H.	4/13/11	420	Innes, B. A.	3/1/11	640	Carroll, J. D.	3/13/11	I.O. (464)	Mowles, J. E.	10/10/10
7	Williams, R. C.	3/1/11	76	Grunwald, R. C.	5/6/11	193	Griffin, J. G.	3/26/11	424	Billard, D. W.	2/24/11	640	Lawton, K. A.	3/7/11	I.O. (1249)	LaParr, G. H.	3/13/11
8	Klorer, C. M.	3/30/11	76	Hecox, F. T.	3/24/11	196	Schneiderman, M. D.	3/11/11	424	Budnisky, L.	4/22/11	648	Minor, E. C.	3/3/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Ball, W. F.	3/14/11
8	Shanteau, C. A.	1/30/11	76	Helland, S. J.	11/29/10	197	Bales, E. E.	3/23/11	424	Cooper, M. D.	3/12/11	659	Erickson, R. D.	3/26/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Bandy, C. R.	1/10/11
9	Mack, N. J.	1/1/11	76	Moultrie, M. L.	3/9/11	203	Krom, V. J.	12/8/10	424	Duffield, W. J.	2/27/11	659	Smith, O. L.	1/4/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Bonnemaison, S.	4/12/11
9	Powell, R. E.	3/30/11	76	Peterson, W. O.	3/1/11	203	Silverthorn, L. H.	2/25/11	424	Sunquist, R.	4/1/11	661	Bartlett, W. C.	3/23/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Brunett, R. R.	3/10/11
9	Sessa, J.	3/30/11	76	Terrien, E. R.	3/1/11	212	Donaldson, F. E.	7/30/10	426	Tunge, D. D.	3/11/11	663	Maziasz, J. A.	3/14/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Bruns, M. F.	3/27/11
11	Fouts, W. J.	9/18/10	77	Gilbert, F.	3/7/11	212	Farmer, G. J.	3/19/11	429	Anderson, B. D.	11/9/10	667	Lorenz, A. J.	3/1/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Butzer, R.	3/11/11
11	Galicinao, P. A.	3/24/11	77	Green, G.	2/4/11	213	Kather, D. E.	1/11/11	429	Biggs, M. B.	2/7/11	673	Miller, J. S.	12/19/10	Pens. (I.O.)	Capozziello, L. R.	3/23/11
11	Hillegas, P. E.	8/4/10	77	Lance, D. A.	4/1/11	213	Moewes, H. J.	3/18/11	429	Gwaltney, J. E.	3/12/11	683	Slone, D. D.	3/13/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Cowley, G. E.	2/8/11
11	Householder, D. W.	3/6/11	77	Morris, H. H.	3/28/11	213	Shepherd, J. W.	2/21/11	429	Sells, T. E.	3/18/11	683	Stenson, J. F.	12/19/10	Pens. (I.O.)	Dalton, J. E.	12/31/10
11	Jackson, J. P.	3/26/11	80	Anderson, W.	2/10/11	223	Ferguson, E.	1/21/11	429	Smith, C. T.	11/15/10	692	Kimberlin, H. H.	3/26/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Fugere, C.	10/24/10
11	Jones, H. A.	3/26/11	80	Ratcliffe, M. E.	4/16/11	223	Minichielli, E. G.	3/3/11	429	Woodside, B. E.	3/7/11	697	Becker, I. P.	2/5/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Harris, R. B.	2/1/11
11	Leskera, P. R.	4/2/11	81	Konish, S.	4/8/11	234	Smith, L. W.	3/19/11	443	Gantt, W. T.	4/13/11	697	Weffenstette, W. E.	3/11/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Hufner, W. D.	3/24/11
11	Long, W. B.	11/7/10	81	Sporer, P. G.	3/4/11	242	Pearson, T. A.	11/18/10	456	Kohn, W. F.	1/6/11	700	Coward, L. E.	2/3/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Ikner, J. W.	3/7/11
11	Matteson, M. M.	1/16/11	86	North, S. R.	3/11/11	245	Beatty, S. J.	2/3/11	459	Howell, R. E.	3/1/11	701	Ervin, R. W.	11/19/10	Pens. (I.O.)	Jarrett, E. P.	11/3/10
11	Meadows, J. R.	3/22/11	96	Adams, W. C.	2/19/11	252	Schek, H. T.	3/19/11	461	Kluber, D. R.	4/10/11	702	Cissell, H. L.	3/1/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Jurglanis, C. R.	3/23/11
11	Mowry, K. C.	4/23/10	97	Alexander, C. W.	1/3/11	254	Moppett, B.	7/6/08	474	Escue, R. L.	3/25/11	716	Guynn, J. M.	3/29/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Kauffroath, L. L.	2/2/11
11	Raisola, D. J.	2/3/11	97	Neville, W. C.	3/13/11	258	Kruckemeier, K.	2/11/11	474	Kee, R. L.	3/17/11	716	James, J. L.	9/16/09	Pens. (I.O.)	Kinling, C. E.	2/25/11
11	Roche, T. J.	2/19/11	98	Doughty, S. M.	2/12/11	258	Smith, T. I.	12/4/10	474	Powell, R. P.	4/16/11	716	Juma, R. A.	4/1/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Kurceba, J.	1/6/11
11	Shinbane, B. L.	2/1/11	98	Katz, N. P.	12/29/10	265	Brase, D. D.	1/4/11	474	Travis, J. M.	3/17/11	716	Mizell, R. H.	4/13/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Madsen, R. N.	4/14/11
17	Alexander, B. W.	4/11/11	98	Kolman, A.	12/28/10	265	Chisholm, V. E.	3/25/11	477	Elledge, L.	12/19/10	716	Phillips, B. G.	2/21/11	Pens. (I.O.)	McClymont, J. F.	3/3/11
17	Lambert, J.	1/19/07	99	Bell, G. H.	2/10/11	269	Seltner, M. A.	4/10/11	477	Popejoy, T. W.	2/23/11	728	Campbell, C. A.	3/27/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Mortimer, E. J.	10/19/10
17	Maclay, P. N.	12/6/10	100	Orona, R.	1/11/10	271	Bates, H. W.	12/10/10	477	Wheat, L. E.	3/29/11	728	Cox, G. F.	3/24/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Nehring, C. L.	3/1/11
17	Statham, J. H.	2/16/11	102	DeFino, P. M.	2/11/11	271	Goodman, N. D.	2/16/11	479	Deaton, J. R.	4/2/11	760	Collins, D. R.	3/8/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Pica, F. J.	3/25/11
17	Sugden, N. E.	10/1/10	103	Coco, N. J.	2/13/11	271	Sandoval, J.	2/21/11	480	Upton, C. M.	4/2/11	760	Cross, A.	4/2/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Ruhland, F. J.	2/26/11
18	Heaton, H. H.	3/27/11	103	Hickey, J. W.	3/18/11	275	Schafer, S. F.	1/13/11	481	Webb, T. W.	1/1/11	769	Bellows, J. C.	3/1/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Russo, H. N.	2/19/11
18	Jones, J.	11/4/10	103	Lyko, A. J.	3/5/11	280	Reynolds, B. M.	3/31/11	488	Lawlor, J. F.	3/27/11	773	Smith, R. G.	3/2/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Schmeltzer, J.	4/1/11
20	Black, R. E.	3/12/11	103	Marsh, B. J.	3/26/11	291	Lang, C. N.	3/11/11	494	Maley, T. M.	3/9/11	784	Wertman, L. W.	2/3/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Slaughter, E. W.	3/15/11
20	Blackwell, B. J.	3/19/11	103	Richardson, N. L.	4/3/11	292	Price, R. J.	3/31/11	494	Werner, K. A.	4/12/11	816	Jackson, B. E.</				