Vancouver—one of the fastest-growing cities in North America—is hosting the IBEW’s 38th International Convention this month.

Vancouver, British Columbia, is hosting the 38th International Convention at a time of heightened interest in this prosperous and bustling city on the shores of the Pacific. The third largest metropolitan area in Canada, rated as one of the most livable cities in the world, Vancouver recently hosted one of the world’s biggest gatherings, the 2010 Winter Olympics. Located on Canada’s West Coast, two hours from Seattle, Vancouver’s combination of natural beauty, diverse population and a bustling economy prompted the New York Times to describe the city as: “Manhattan with mountains. It’s a liquid city, a tomorrow city, equal parts India, China, England, France and the Pacific Northwest.”

It boasts numerous outdoor and entertainment venues, including a downtown sports stadium, Rogers Arena, which is home to the National Hockey League’s 2011 Western Conference champions, the Canucks. Stanley Park is one of the city’s most popular destinations. The 1,000-acre park—larger than New York City’s Central Park—attracts more than 8 million visitors a year.

If you have watched a movie or TV program recently, there is a good chance that you caught a glimpse of Vancouver. It is the third-largest film center in the world—beat out only by New York City and Los Angeles—and is second in television production.

The city’s strategic location on the edge of the Pacific Rim has made it one of North America’s fastest growing economic centers. The Port of Vancouver does more than $75 billion in trade with more than 130 countries, which has encouraged a downtown building boom that has been going strong for more than two decades.
Modern Vancouver was founded as a settlement to host the terminus of the Canada Pacific Railway in 1886. Vancouver’s roots as a wide-open frontier town are still visible. By 1901, the population had climbed to 100,000.

Vancouver’s roots as a wide-open frontier town are still visible. With one of the busiest seaports on the West Coast, Vancouver would become Canada’s gateway to the Pacific region, servicing the far-flung ports of the British Empire. The end of the war brought prosperity to Vancouver. While maintaining an important place in the economy, traditional natural extraction jobs declined as the service, manufacturing and healthcare sectors grew.

Debate over control of the province’s natural resources heated up in the 1950s and ’60s as the government institutionalized a system to lease provincial lands to logging firms investing substantial capital in infrastructure—a setup that accelerated the trend toward consolidation in the industry.

One of the biggest battles was the fight to bring the province’s energy supply under public control. In 1961, the BC Hydro Act was passed, which amalgamated BC Electric—a private corporation—into a new publicly owned entity, the BC Hydro and Power Authority. BC Hydro services 1.8 million customers and operates 30 hydroelectric facilities. British Columbia’s rivers provide more than 80 percent of the province’s power.

Local 213: Electrifying Vancouver

The IBEW’s relationship with what would become BC Hydro dates back to 1901, when a fledgling Local 213 signed its first agreement with its predecessor BC Electric.

Starting with seven members in 1901, Local 213 today has more than 5,000 working in nearly every sector and industry to make Vancouver one of North America’s most dynamic cities.

Mostly linemen back in the early 1900s, today Local 213 represents workers in inside construction, clerical, the cable and satellite industry and manufacturing at more than 270 different employers.

The local has also been a leader in the metro and provincial labor movement. Until his death in 2010, Business Manager Richard Dowling, a committed and energetic leader who boosted the local’s membership by 1,000 under his tenure, served as Eighth District International Executive Committee member.

Local 213 electricians have been a key part of major projects in the city that have recently showcased the IBEW’s skills and talents to Canada and the world.

Its members put in tens of thousands of man-hours wiring some of Vancouver’s top business and entertainment destinations, including Rogers Arena, the Convention Center, which is hosting the IBEW’s 38th convention, and its biggest project ever: the 2010 Winter Games.

Hundreds of members of Local 213 and Vancouver Local 258 helped power up the games, energizing a new light rapid transit system, setting up a broadcast center and refrigeration units to make artificial snow and lighting ski jumps and bobsled tracks.

Currently, more than 100 Local 213 members are at work on BC Place, a new sports arena that will feature the largest cable-supported retractable roof in the world.

Local 213’s commitment to quality training and on-the-job excellence goes above and beyond provincial standards. All of its electricians are Red Seal qualified, which means they are recognized by the federal government as the best trained workers in the industry.

“We take our commitment to excellence on the job seriously,” says Business Manager Mike Flynn. “Local 213 is known in Vancouver as the place you turn to when you want to get it done right the first time.”

Local 213 has also pioneered efforts to help keep signatory contractors competitive through the Electrical Industry Advancement Fund, which gives them a boost in bidding for projects.

“The union continues to look for ways to help us become competitive and offers new approaches to solving problems in the market,” says Ron Fettback, general superintendent at Western Pacific Enterprises, a signatory contractor.

Local 213’s electricians are recognized as the best trained workers in the industry.
Local 258 has been a force in British Columbia’s life since its chartering in 1962. The local represents members in the utility, outside line, manufacturing, utility arborist and traffic control industries throughout the nearly 565,000-square-mile province.

About half of Local 258 members are employed by BC Hydro, the province’s publicly-owned utility. “We represent workers from British Columbia’s western border on the Pacific Ocean to Alberta on the east, north to the Yukon down to our southern border with Washington, Idaho and Montana,” says Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay.

From clearing trees on utility rights of way, controlling traffic on construction sites, building and maintaining transmission lines and operating power plants to maintaining locks and dams on the massive 1,200-mile Columbia River, the local’s diverse membership is apportioned into six geographically-based units with elected chairs who form the local’s executive board. “We pride ourselves in our service to our members,” says Local 258 President Michelle Laurie. That means holding between 25 and 40 membership meetings a month throughout the province. “It’s a daunting task,” says Laurie, “but our members know who we are.”

Members of Local 258 maintain BC Hydro’s 90 integrated hydroelectric generating stations, two gas-fired thermal power plants and one combustion turbine station, totaling installed generating capacity of more than 22,000 megawatts. Those facilities supply 30 percent of BC Hydro’s power and contribute to British Columbia’s production of 50 percent of all of Canada’s hydroelectric power.

In preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, Local 258 members rebuild the distribution line along Highway 99 (the Sea-to-Sky Highway) into Whistler Mountain, the site of alpine, Nordic and sliding events. Local 258 members were on around-the-clock standby during the games to ensure there were no power interruptions.

More than 100 local union members installed underground and overhead cables to deliver “greener” power to Olympic venues from normal distribution lines, eliminating the exhaust-spewing generators that have polluted the atmosphere at prior games. Adapting to changing conditions is woven into the fabric’s work.

In 1961, privately-held BC Electric and the provincially-owned British Columbia Power Commission merged into BC Hydro. The new entity employed bargaining unit members of several IBEW locals. Local 258 was formed in 1962 to put all bargaining unit members under one roof to negotiate more effectively with BC Hydro. Private sector power line construction maintenance work was still divided between the six locals, but was consolidated under Local 258’s jurisdiction in 1987.

Local 258 initiated an aggressive organizing drive and organized 100 percent of the outside sector in the province under one master agreement.

In the mid-1980s, Local 258 took on representation of tree trimmers and some traffic control companies. These two jurisdictions expanded considerably as the local worked to improve training and working conditions in the sectors. In 1990, Local 258, representing manufacturing workers, merged into Local 258.

In 2007 a joint union portion of apprenticeship training for power line technicians and for utility arborists in British Columbia, and offers a wide range of safety, substation and generation training. Last year, EIT opened a subsidiary in the U.S.

To better embrace the growing diversity of occupations and workers represented, the officers convene shop stewards meetings every two years and strategic planning sessions every four years directly after union elections. The Hotline, Local 258’s newspaper, and its Web site keep members connected across the province.

Local 258 enjoys a high-profile, progressive image in the province, encouraging members to engage in politics at all levels within and outside the labor movement.

From winning a United Way Spirit Award for community involvement to its presence at the national day of mourning to commemorate workers killed on the job to a rally on the U.S.-Canada border in support of union members in Wisconsin, solidarity flows through the local union’s life.

Members of Vancouver Local 258 brave brutal winters to maintain transmission lines for BC Hydro.

High Wire to Hydro, Local 258 Covers Vast Territory

The rich history of shipbuilding is written on the shores of Victoria, B.C., Local 250. The lush, coastal capital city of the province sits three hours south of Vancouver across the narrow Salish Sea. Home to nearly 400,000 residents in the greater area, Victoria represents the lion’s share of the region’s maritime marketplace.

That’s good news for the local’s 1,200 members—a large portion of whom maintain everything from battle vessels for the Canadian navy to the 35 passenger ferries that make up the largest fleet of its kind worldwide.

“We have a very busy seaway keeping us supplied,” said Local 250 Business Manager Phil Venoit. “There’s a huge array of different crafts in the water, from freighters to cruise ships. And if they have any problems, our guys typically do the work.”

And there’s plenty of it. The local recently secured a seven-year deal wiring ships for the navy—a massive job that will put 400 workers to work until the close of the decade. The local is also lobbying hard for additional jobs from the navy and the nation’s coast guard. Of several packages up for consideration, one boasts a $5 billion price tag.

“If we get that, we’ll not only have work, but we’ll be boosting our membership significantly just to keep up,” Venoit said. “We’re not just building ships. We’re building careers.”

The local is the second oldest in British Columbia and the third oldest nationwide, after Hamilton, Ont., Local 105 and Vancouver Local 223. Chartered in 1902, Local 230 began establishing itself in the marine industry during the shipbuilding boom of the late 1930s.

Construction still accounts for a vast percentage of the local members’ employment. About 40 signatory contractors in the area employ hundreds of electricians at companies like Canem Systems, Houle Electric and E.J. Emery Electric, Ltd. Emery has been with the local for 80 years and has provided work for four generations of Local 250 members.

Members recently completed a two-year-long job wiring an acute care hospital facility for contractor Western Pacific Enterprises, which provided more than 300,000 man-hours for the local.

As many locals throughout North America are getting journymen off the bench thanks to the recovery agreement program—utilizing composite crews with new classifications, including construction electricians and construction welders—the leaders of Local 250 have been aggressively pursuing small construction work at chains like Subway and sandwich shops and Starbucks coffee stores for most of the past decade.

“In 2003 we saw something of a resurgence in the small works area,” Venoit said. The local restructured its classification ratios to be more competitive and were able to bring in 250 residential welders over the past few years.

Local 230 has expanded into such trade classifications as communications, cable television, electrical manufacturing, utility and railway.

The second largest city in the province, Victoria is home to workers who have a history of strong allegiance to the trade union movement. “We don’t forget those who helped pave our way,” said Venoit.

That sentiment has run true for generations. In a 1992 Local Lines article published in the IBEW journal, the press secretary commended the charter members on their tenacity during tough economic times. Announcing an upcoming ceremony for those still living, the writer tells readers of “the great obligation we have toward the men who founded and carried on this local, despite the hostility of governments and employers.”

The local celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. “We’re proud of our history and excited about the future,” Venoit said.
IBEW, Rail Unions Awarded $126 Million High-Speed Train Job

IBEW electricians in Delaware had always taken pride in their overhauls of hard-run Amtrak locomotives. But, in 2000, when Amtrak launched the high-speed Acela, serving passengers on the Northeast corridor, five-year overhauls were assigned to the manufacturer of the new cars, Bombardier.

In July, following months of discussions between Wilmington Local 2270, other railroad unions and Amtrak, the carrier awarded a $126 million contract to Delaware’s organized shops for extensive 10-year overhauls to Acela equipment.

Local 2270 President Frank Gentry said he was “relieved” to win the contract, because it had appeared that furloughs could be announced without new work coming into the Wilmington and Bear, Del., shops. But, even more importantly, says Gentry, the Acela contract will help secure jobs over the long haul. “We can’t work on conventional trains forever. High-speed trains are the way of the future, and now we can get in the door on the newest high-tech equipment.”

IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne praises Amtrak CEO Joseph Boardman for fulfilling a pledge to permit the union shops to bid against contractors and make their case for efficiency, productivity and quality. “This is not just a victory for Local 2270,” says Bohne. “Amtrak saves money and time by keeping the work in-house.”

The Wilmington shop employs 97 electricians. Eighty-seven IBEW members work in Bear. Overhauls, covering 70 train sets and power units, will be completed over the next three-and-a-half years.

“Il’s a big plus for Local 2270 that our members will replace non-union workers to overhaul Amtrak’s equipment, leading to greater contributions to the Railroad Retirement Fund,” says the local’s vice president, David Hamm. Unions, including the IBEW, sheet metal workers, transport workers, International Association of Machinists and the American Railway and Airway Supervisors Association, lobbied the Delaware congressional delegation in support of their members gaining Acela work. They succeeded in winning $500,000 in state funds to match Amtrak’s investment in a feasibility study on building a new high-speed rail facility in Wilmington. The shop would employ 50 to 2,000 outside union trades.

Gentry said he is hopeful that showcasing the union shops’ expertise will not only bring back work previously contracted out, but attract new customers. Union members will staff a table at an upcoming railroad conference in New Orleans. “We’ll sell our shops,” says Gentry.

Staff from the state’s three-person congressional delegation toured the shop July 22. Sen. Tom Carper said in a statement that “Delaware has a talented and highly skilled union work force and these workers will be supplied with good jobs for years to come.”

U.S. Invests in Domestic Train Manufacturing

On Aug. 3, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that five states will share more than $536 million in federal funds to purchase next-generation, American-made trains to modernize their intercity passenger rail systems. The funds are another installment in $15 billion invested by the Obama administration to build a national high-speed passenger rail network.

Under “Buy America” requirements, domestic or foreign firms will be required to locate manufacturing in the U.S. to produce 33 quick-acceleration locomotives and 120 bi-level passenger cars. The trains will be designed to travel more than 110 mph.

In 2009, LaHood secured a commitment from 30 foreign and domestic rail manufacturers to employ American workers and locate or expand their base of operations in the U.S. If they are selected for high-speed-rail contracts.

California, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Missouri will share the latest federal investment. Combined with previous grants, those states and Washington state will receive $278 million.

Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Szabo, a former leader of the United Transportation Union, says, “Building a nationwide rail network is critical to America’s long-term economic success. More people are choosing to take the train and this year Amtrak is projected to set an all-time record by topping 30 million annual riders.”

In June, the transportation department announced a $562.9 million loan to Amtrak to finance the purchase of 70 high-performance, electric locomotives from Siemens Industry USA, creating 252 new manufacturing jobs in California, Ohio and Georgia.

While prior federal grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act didn’t require states to put up funds, the latest federal allocations require matching state contributions of 20 percent. By pooling orders for locomotive equipment, states and the federal sector will enable manufacturers to achieve economies of scale. The goal, says FRAs Mike Murray, is to keep plants operating smoothly, create good jobs and not have the starts and stops in production that have characterized U.S. locomotive manufacturing.

Transitions

DECEASED

John Carr

In retirement, Carr spent time with his family and enjoyed many outdoor activities, including golf and jogging.

The members, officers and staff of the IBEW send our condolences to Brother Carr’s wife, Joan, and their many children and grandchildren.

Frank Kildau

DECEASED

Retired Sixth District International Representative Frank Kildau died on July 12 at the age of 91.

Kildau was a native of Silverwood, Mich., Kildau was initiated into Amalgamated Local 252 in 1946. He served as the local’s business manager before being appointed International Representative in 1965. He retired in 1980.

Frank was a real force in the Sixth District, a great guy and a good, tough representative,” says former Sixth District International Vice President Pat Curley.

In 2009, Vpsiland’s historical society published an oral history covering Kildau’s experiences in World War II. Kildau, who served in an Army artillery unit in Africa and Italy, recalled seeing a “smirk” on the face of a German pilot who strafed his battalion’s position as it battled to take the town of Pisa, Italy. Challenged by the air assault to fight even harder, the battalion succeeded in taking the town and Kildau was designated by his battalion to raise the U.S. flag above its famous tower. In retirement, Kildau remained in Michigan while wintering in Florida with his wife, Dorothy, who passed away in 2005. He is survived by a daughter, Bonnie Soucie, a son, George, four grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

George, a 38-year member of Local 252, says: “My dad’s word was his bond. He was a fair person who would listen to both sides and then render a fair decision.”

“He was totally a union man,” says Bonnie Soucie, who recalls her father insisting that her mother buy union-made products.

In retirement, Kildau took his doctor’s advice and engaged in regular exercise, says George, adding, “He never sat still for too long and was always helping his neighbors.”

On behalf of the membership of the IBEW, the officers send our condolences to the Kildau family.

Sterling Rapposelli, left, and Tommy Rapposelli, members of Bear, Del., Local 2270, maintain Amtrak locomotives. Their shop will play a key role in overhauling high-speed rail cars, work that was previously outsourced.
New Web Site Highlights “Vivid” Telecom Careers

The telecommunications industry remains strong despite today’s weak economy, and the graying of the baby boom generation means new career opportunities are opening up in the industry every day.

The National Coalition for Telecommunications Education and Learning has launched the VIVIDFuture.org Web site to assist anyone interested in working or advancing in the industry.

NACTEL is a partnership between the telecommunications industry and unions working with educators to create and sponsor online education programs that meet the needs of current and future telecommunications professionals.

“Our industry depends on highly skilled workers,” says IBEW Chairman Randall Stephenson. “And VIVIDFuture.org is a great training and educational resource for new telecom job seekers as well as those wanting to grow within the industry.”

VIVIDFuture.org features a job-matching tool that helps seekers match their skill and education level—along with interests and location—with desired positions.

The site also contains a career-mapping tool that shows new telecom workers the kind of career path they can pursue with the right training and experience.

The Web site lists more than 300 education and training programs—from cable and satellite basics to broadband fundamentals.

“Our members are continually searching for education that will prepare them for new directions in telecommunications,” says IBEW Media Department Director and NACTEL co-chair, Jim Spendlove. “The fact that VIVIDFuture.org houses educational resources and lists open telecom jobs makes it a most valuable asset for our industry and for those seeking to enter or advance in this dynamic field.”

One member who recently used the Web site to advance his future is Scott Blauth. The East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 member who just earned his bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from NACTEL, says that “VIVIDFuture.org opens up a new variety of jobs for people.”

Go to www.vividfuture.org to learn more.

Rochester Local Scores Victory for Fair Bargaining

In a victory for collective bargaining rights, members of Rochester, N.Y., Local 36 got Rochester Gas & Electric Co., to reverse its policy regarding the use of GPS tracking devices—a major sticking point between the union and the company for more than a year.

The utility installed the devices in 20 of its service vehicles in 2010 without consulting with the local. “Management told us they didn’t have to bargain and it was a done deal,” says Business Manager Rick Irish.

Employees were concerned about the lack of any kind of disciplinary policy regarding GPS use, with many questioning the accuracy of the devices.

“There was a lot of unnecessary uncertainty and anxiety because the company didn’t sit down with us first,” says Irish.

The local accused the utility of refusing to bargain in good faith, filing unfair labor charges late last year. The National Labor Relations Board agreed in a May ruling.

“We will bargain with the union over the installation/activation and use of GPS tracking devices in company vehicles prior to installing such devices,” the company—which promptly removed the devices—announced in an official NLRB notice to employees.

For Irish, the settlement is a timely reminder of the importance of having a contract and fair bargaining procedures.

“It is simple fact that if they had acknowledged our rights in the beginning and sat down and bargained, it would have saved everybody a lot of time and money,” he says.

Amid Celebrations, Shipyard Apprentices Face Uncertainty

More than 160 shipyard workers graduated from the Ingalls Shipbuilding’s Apprentice School July 9.

Sponsored by Huntington Ingalls Industries, graduates represented 13 different crafts from the Ingalls and Avondale shipyards—including many IBEW members from Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733. The apprenticeship program is a two- to four-year curriculum for workers looking to expand their careers in the shipbuilding industry.

Students take classes while working full time. Management allows them two hours of classwork on company time, but most studies are done off the clock, Local 733 Business Manager Jim Couch says. The curriculum consists of both on-the-job training and classroom time at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

With more than 120 classes available, graduates find shipbuilding positions in everything from electrical engineering to executive management—helping to build America’s maritime future.

One former IBEW graduate is Melissa Boykin. A high-school dropout, her professional options were limited.

“But I knew I liked to work with my hands, math and solving problems,” she says.

So she jumped at the opportunity to enroll in the electrical apprenticeship program. After working for eight years at the Ingalls shipyard at Pascagoula, she entered the school’s engineering apprenticeship program. Today she works as a designer for Huntington Ingalls Industries, drafting plans and doing technical writing for upgrades to Navy ships.

“When I first started working at the yard, I could have never imagined being where I am today,” says Boykin. “The shipyard program was my stepping stone to a great career.”

But the celebration may be short lived for Avondale employees. The Northington-Gramman facility, located outside New Orleans, is set to shut down by next year, threatening the jobs of more than 5,000 skilled workers on the Gulf Coast.

Cutbacks to the Navy’s budget put war ships produced by Avondale on permanent hold, threatening the economic future of a region that was badly battered by Hurricane Katrina and last year’s BP oil spill.

IBEW Government Employees Department Director Chico McGill said the skills offered by the program could easily be used to help civilian and other maritime manufacturing efforts.

The Save Our Shipyards blog, published by the AFL-CIO’s Metal Trades Department, writes that with the new federal American Marine Highway Initiative to help encourage intranational maritime trade, a new market for U.S.-built commercial cargo vessels is likely to open up on American waterways—a niche that Avondale could easily fill.

“The skills these students have gained are invaluable to not only shipbuilding but to reinvigorating our manufacturing sector and we need elected officials to prioritize getting them to work rebuilding a strong economy,” says McGill.

Correction:

In our August story “IBEW Members Ratify GE Contract” we incorrectly state that under the new GE contract, current retirees will receive an extra pension check each year. They will receive an extra check for this year only. We regret the error.
Officers Elected

L.U. 1 (acs,ces,el,em,es,et,bs,se,spa,stk,wo), ST. LOUIS, MO—On June 4, Local 1 members headed to the polls for the local union elections. Thanks to all the candidates who ran and congratulations to those elected. Elected were: Bus. Mgr. Greg Booth, Pres. Tom George Sr., Vice Pres. Jim Douglas, Rec. Sec. John Kahrhoff, Fin. Sec. Frank Jacobs, Treas. Dave Roth; Executive Board members Rob Dussold, Ken Landwehr, Steve Muehling, Tim Murray, Paul Reinhheimer; and Examining Board members Don Bresnan Jr., Roxana DiMariano and Greg Schwartz. Delegates to the 38th International Convention are: Lou Cunningham, Tom George Jr., George Granickey, Ed Hoock III, Matt O’Neill, Nick Pantaleo, representing Local 1 in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in June.

We mourn the death of the following members: Jerry Louks, Arnold Morrison, Salvatore Pusateri, Eugene Bene, Bobby Prince, Larry Riess, Richard Sellman, Buford Capstick, Earl LaRue, Walter Owens, Lawrence O’Brien, Eugene Cooper, James Meyer, Jack Campbell, Steven Hoke, Leslie Jakowski, Norvel Bauman, William Fischer, Kenneth Nicholas, Thomas Hicks, Thomas Kallaiber, Norman Winkel and Kenneth Fitzler.

Officers and Graduates

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Garrett Carpenter and Ronald Shockley hoped for a quiet day after working an all-nighter at AT&T. They were jolted into the spotlight in the quiet Chicago suburb of Park Forest. While in their tent, the University Park technicians heard screams for help. Instantly, they ran to a home just ripped apart by a massive gas explosion. A woman was screaming from her blown-out second floor doorway, too scared to jump. Realizing the grim reality that she had no way out, both men took action immediately. Bro. Carpenter ran to his truck and grabbed his extension ladder as Bro. Shockley took a ladder from a nearby construction crew. Shockley quickly went up the ladder and carried the woman down to safety. Seconds later, Garrett pointed for Ron to look up; the doorway was engulfed in flames and within minutes the house was a complete inferno.

The Local 21 contingent walks in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Memorial Rededication

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Local 15 members attended the IBEW Sixth District Progress Meeting and Women’s Conference held in late May in Indianapolis, IN.

On May 1, Pres./Bus. Mgr. Dean Apple and Local 15 members joined hundreds of our union brothers and sisters at Waldheim Cemetery in Forest Park, IL, to attend the rededication of the Haymarket Martyrs’ Memorial.

On the work front: On the commercial physical side, talks are continuing on the Underground Department reorganization. The nuclear side is in ongoing discussions about outage agreements, an operations package and the “working foreman” issue. On the fossil side, the Midwest Generation collective bargaining agreement expires at the end of 2011. Local 15 was honored to award 13 $500 scholarships this year.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

IBEW Lifesaving Heroes

L.U. 15 (u), DONOVEN GROVE, IL—Garrett Carpenter and Ronald Shockley hoped for a quiet day after working an all-nighter at AT&T. They were jolted into the spotlight in the quiet Chicago suburb of Park Forest. While in their tent, the University Park technicians heard screams for help. Instantly, they ran to a home just ripped apart by a massive gas explosion. A woman was screaming from her blown-out second floor doorway, too scared to jump. Realizing the grim reality that she had no way out, both men took action immediately. Bro. Carpenter ran to his truck and grabbed his extension ladder as Bro. Shockley took a ladder from a nearby construction crew. Shockley quickly went up the ladder and carried the woman down to safety. Seconds later, Garrett pointed for Ron to look up; the doorway was engulfed in flames and within minutes the house was a complete inferno.

Children of Local 11 members attend last year’s union picnic.

Fire personnel who showed up on the scene heard our brothers’ heroes. They went to look for the two and found them—back working in their tent like nothing happened. In May at the Unit 2 meeting, Garrett and Ronald received our union’s highest honor the IBEW Lifesaving Award.

Thomas Hopper, P.S.

Donation to Hospital Campaign

L.U. 43 (em,es,et,bs,pp,sp,sk), SYRACUSE, NY—Our work picture picked up significantly in mid-June and will continue through the winter. PLA projects mentioned in the March issue for both Utica and Syracuse schools finally started. This has been a big help in putting out not only our members, but traveling brothers and sisters as well.

Local 43 has a long history of partnership with our NECA chapter and also of charitable support in

Trade Classifications

| (as) | Alarm & Signal |
| (ars) | Atomic Research Service |
| (bo) | Bridge Operators |
| (cs) | Cable Splicers |
| (cah) | Cable Television |
| (c) | Communications |
| (cran) | Cranemen |
| (ees) | Electrical Equipment Service |
| (es) | Electrical Signs |
| (et) | Electronic Technicians |
| (fm) | Fixture Manufacturing |
| (govt) | Government |
| (fl) | Instrument Technicians |
| (lctt) | Line Clearance Tree Trimming |
| (m) | Maintenance |
| (mm) | Manufacturing & Operations |
| (mow) | Manufacturing Office Workers |
| (mar) | Marine |
| (mgp) | Motion Picture Studios |
| (nfs) | Nuclear Service Technicians |
| (o) | Outside |
| (p) | Powerhouse |
| (pgt) | Professional, Engineers & Technicians |
| (ph) | Professional, Technical & Clerical |
| (rr) | Railroad |
| (rb) | Radio-Television Broadcasting |
| (rpm) | Radio-Television Manufacturing |
| (rf) | Radio-Television Service |
| (so) | Service Occupations |
| (spa) | Sound & Public Address |
| (sph) | Sound Technicians |
| (t) | Telephone |
| (u) | Utility |
| (uw) | Utility Office Workers |
| (ws) | Warehouse and Supply |

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

Attention Press Secretaries:

Please note that Local Lines will not be published in a combined October/November post-convention issue of The Electrical Worker.
the community. Here is a recent example. One of our local hospitals, St. Joseph's, is in the middle of a large renovation project. IBEW/NeCA teamed up and donated $7,500 to a campaign for the hospital's new elevator lobby. As a result, besides getting the work, this new lobby will be named in appreciation of IBEW/NeCA.

Among those included in the opening ceremony were our Local 43 Bus.Mgr. Don Morgan and executive manager for NeCA's Finger Lakes Chapter, Marilyn Oppedisano. When visitors to St. Joseph's walk through the new lobby to ride in the elevators, they can feel good knowing that IBEW/NeCA made the elevators work ... in more ways than one.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

**Election of Officers**

L.U. 47 (ctt,mo,ok,uw), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Labor Day is Sept. 5. Enjoy the day brought to you by L.U. 47 (catv, lctt, o, rtb, t & u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—We the community. Here is a recent example. One of our local hospitals, St. Joseph’s, is in the middle of a large renovation project. IBEW/NeCA teamed up and donated $7,500 to a campaign for the hospital’s new elevator lobby. As a result, besides getting the work, this new lobby will be named in appreciation of IBEW/NeCA.

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Among those included in the opening ceremony were our Local 43 Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan and executive manager for NeCA’s Finger Lakes Chapter, Marilyn Oppedisano. When visitors to St. Joseph’s walk through the new lobby to ride in the elevators, they can feel good knowing that IBEW/NeCA made the elevators work ... in more ways than one.

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Jim Corbett, P.S.
Welcome to EWMC Events
L.U. 39 (I,j,mm,nt,mt,mt,pt,spakul), COLLINSVILLE, IL—A graduation party and dinner were held May 14 at Sunset Hills Country Club to honor apprentice graduates in the telecommunications and inside wireman branches. Receiving diplomas were: Nick Doyle, Luke Ledricky, Paul Magruder, Mark Parrott, Carlos Perez, Mike Ratz, Robin Rhensien, Emily Riebeling, Josh Ritzheimer, Andy Stella, Brian Stuart, Cory Swiney, Corey West, Nick Bond, Lamont Edwards and William Nobbe.

The local union election was held June 6. Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin./Sec. Scott Hassall, Pres. Chris Burns, Vice Pres. Mike Hayes, Rec. Sec. Kevin Williamson, Treas. Larry Aleksandrian; Executive Board w m r c—Chris Huikins, Dan Sodom and Josh Wiegens; Executive Board w r—Quinton Fluss, Brandon Graovat and Dave Hall; Executive Board A t Larg e—Mike Faust and Chris Snyder; and Examining Board w rome—Nik Schroeder and Jason Stiel. Delegates to the International Convention are: Tim Evans, Chris Huikins, Scott Tweedy and Chris Wei. Congratulations to all officers and delegates.

Apprentice Graduation
L.U. 39 (I,j,mm,nt,mt,mt,pt,spakul), COLLINSVILLE, IL—A graduation party and dinner were held May 14 at Sunset Hills Country Club to honor apprentice graduates in the telecommunications and inside wireman branches. Receiving diplomas were: Nick Doyle, Luke Ledricky, Paul Magruder, Mark Parrott, Carlos Perez, Mike Ratz, Robin Rhensien, Emily Riebeling, Josh Ritzheimer, Andy Stella, Brian Stuart, Cory Swiney, Corey West, Nick Bond, Lamont Edwards and William Nobbe.

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Our local PAC Golf Tournament was held June 24. As in previous years, it was well-attended and a big success.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

2010 Retirees Honored
L.U. 351 (l,c,i,ltt,mm,mcse,spakul), TOLIUSOM, WI—At our April 2011 general meeting, we honored all our retirees who retired during 2010. Our retired honorees were given EBFW watches engraved with their names and retirement date. We congratulate them and wish them the very best in their retirement. We hope they all remain active in the local and participate in our many upcoming union functions.

We also held a special remembrance for our Bro. Bobby Carter, who was killed on a job site accident. In remembrance of Bro. Carter, a chair was left empty for the group photograph (see picture). Bobby was an awesome guy and a great EBFW member, who will be sadly missed.

Daniel Cooper, P.S.

Dinner to Honor Retirees
L.U. 269 (I,c), TRENTON, NJ—The Stone Terrace by John Henry’s in Hamilton Township was the site of our 2011 Retirees Awards Banquet. We had 115 members in attendance honoring 63 retirees.


The Good of the Union Committee continues its efforts to serve our local community, and a blood drive was held in June. Thirty-one units were collected for The Community Blood Council of New Jersey, our area blood bank that provides blood support to approximately 24 area hospitals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The summer brought with it some temporary relief for some members, with jobs at our local universities. We hope our future will begin to look brighter as our economy starts to recover.

D. Brian Proctor, P.S.
Remember who these people are at election time. We will support those who support us, but our enemies we will defeat.

Local 359 elections resulted in a few new faces. Doug Sawyer goes from treasurer to vice president, and Walter Lamb is the new treasurer. We have some changes on the E-Board: the Undergound rep is Justin Stockton, who was also elected System Council rep for the Underground Dept. Delegates to the International Convention are: Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dwight Mattow, Steve Flynn, Alice Keller, Doug Sawyer, and alternate Kevin Buchwald. Our Community Affairs directors have been busy. Alice Keller coordinated a group of 70 volunteers for a big Habitat for Humanity project. Also, our nuclear plant members participated in a United Way project with our coordinator Eddie Nettles. Forty Local 359 volunteers helped refurbish a mental health facility and we also had groups from T&D, who provided heavy equipment. Hats off to all volunteers.

The System Council is negotiating with the Florida Power & Light group. We need to support this committee by staying united and providing information on issues if asked.

Steve Flynn, F.S., PS.

**Bus. Mgr. Maria Retires**

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—Hello to our fellow brothers and sisters from Local 363. Our congratulations go to former Bus. Mgr. John Maroia, who announced his retirement effective July 1, 2011. We extend our gratitude to Bro. John Maroia for his dedicated service to Local 363. John has served our local for 40-plus decades, in many ranks, general foreman, assistant business manager, and, finally, as business manager for the last seven years. We are fortunate to have such a strong leader to carry us through the most difficult economic and political times our union has ever seen. We at Local 363 thank John and wish him and his family well.

Our Executive Board unanimously voted to appoint Sam Fratto III as Local 363 business manager for the remainder of the unexpired term. Sam has been a fixture in the labor movement for more than 24 years, since first being appointed as a business representative in 1987. He was previously elected business manager of former Local 635 in 1992, prior to a merger with Local 363. We are sure that our union will continue to move forward and gain strength under Sam’s strong leadership.

Kevin Kleeig, PS.

**Retiree Awarded Trophy**

L.U. 379 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), CHARLOTTE, NC—Many know retired Bro. Tony Quaino from his days with the Preferred Electric shop, where he worked for 11 years. In the past eight years however, Tony has built a reputation as an award-winning turkey call maker. In 2010, Bro. Quaino was awarded a first-place trophy for his decorative set of turkey calls at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention held in Nashville, TN. In February of this year at the NWTF National Convention, he received another first-place award, this time for his one-sided turkey box call.

Since entering competitions, our brother has received more than 50 other NWTF awards at the nationals in Nashville, the Midwest Call-Making Competition in Wisconsin, and the North Carolina and Southeast competitions in Raleigh, NC. Tony and his wife, Rosemary, currently live in historic Washougal, NC, where he continues with his passionate hobby making some of the finest turkey calls around! Circuit 379 open for now ...

Guy B. DePasquale, P.S.

**Local 379 Retiree Tony Quaino displays his first-place NWTF trophy.**

**Apprentice Graduation**

L.U. 413 (em,a), SANTA BARBARA, CA—Congratulations to our 2011 graduating inside apprenticeship class (see photo). Chris Thomas was named Outstanding Graduate and Jack Bean received the Dedication Award. Jack Bean and Cory Philley garnered the Community Bank Achievement Award. The future of our industry is certainly in excellent hands! Newly elected officers for Local 413 are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Chuck Huddleston, Pres. Joseph M. Furino, Vice Pres. Rockie Ginter, Rec. Sec. David Poorbaugh, Treas. Jon Paula; Executive Board members David Byea, Roger Cheatham, Fredy Gutierrez, Don Hay and Ricki King; and Examining Board members Tim Bennett, Brian Gregory and John Hughes. Elected for a three-year term, the officers were installed in July. Thanks to the outgoing officers for their service to Local 413.

Chuck Huddleston, B.M./P.S.

**Local 379 celebrates the 2011 apprentice graduating class.**

**Progress Meeting**

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—The Eighth District Progress Meeting, held in Sun Valley, was a success. A lot of good information was given out by the International. Congratulations to our own Mike Miera and his band for representing the Eight District in the IBEW Has Talent event at the convention in Vancouver.

I wish to thank all the contractors and their employees who have helped in getting the information to fill out the Davis Bacon survey that the Department of Labor is conducting this year. It is a huge undertaking, but it has to be done to keep our prevailing wage up and give our contractors a level playing field with the nonunion. Failure to do the reporting can be devastating to the members and the contractors on Davis Bacon jobs.

Thanks also go to our JFTC Training Dir. John Baker, his staff and the apprentices for their hard work and dedication in getting our new training center up and running.

Congratulations and best wishes to Ronald Parsons and Aaron Witherspoon on their retirement.

Remember that with the fight against the middle class, it is no time to become complacent. Fiscal irresponsibility was created by those who say they are being responsible.

Chris Lochride, A.B.M.

**‘Bringing Back Lost Projects’**

L.U. 495 (em,i,o,rtb), WILMINGTON, NC—Morgan Mechanical Contractors Inc. and members of IBEW Locals 495 and 542 (Winston-Salem, NC) completed a new McDonald’s in Surf City, NC, and also the renovation of another in Wilmington, NC. We look forward to Morgan coming back into our jurisdiction very soon to start work on a new McDonald’s in Hampstead, NC, and another renovation in Carolina Beach, NC.

Additionally, our members saw the completion of a Habitat for Humanity House, which was dedicated June 11, for the Blevins family (Rachael, Christina and Laura) in Newport, NC. With the tough economy, work had stopped on this project for a while; however, the electrical side stayed ahead of all other crafts. Special thanks to Local 495 member Dave Poorbaugh, Treas. Jon Paula; Executive Board members David Byea, Roger Cheatham, Fredy Gutierrez, Don Hay and Ricki King; and Examining Board members Tim Bennett, Brian Gregory and John Hughes. Elected for a three-year term, the officers were installed in July. Thanks to the outgoing officers for their service to Local 413.

Chuck Huddleston, B.M./P.S.

**Local 531 celebrates the 2011 apprentice graduating class.**

**Community Involvement is Key**

L.U. 531 (i,o&rtb), LAPPORTE, IN—In the summertime we again step up our efforts in community involvement. In June, Local 531 and our Building Trades participated in a street collection for United Way at one of the busiest intersections in our jurisdiction. We also participate in a United Way Dodge Ball Tournament, Rebuilding Together, Relay for Life and Habitat for Humanity. We provide electrical support for many community festivals, and we are always ready and able when asked by our friendly politicians for a helping hand on projects that need our expertise.

We had an entry in the LaPorte Fourth of July parade and as always we were well-received. Parades and marches are an excellent way to keep our organization in the hearts and minds of the public. Our participation in such events serves as a reminder that we are our neighbors, friends and family. Community involvement is key. It is of utmost importance that we are seen as volunteering our time for the good of the communities where we live. Congratulations to our 2011 apprentice graduates. (See photo at top.) The new journeymen are: Jonathan Baburek, Thomas Foreman, Dave Harmon, James Harrington, Wendell Hervey, Jon Iacovitti, Daniel Minix, Jeremy Rayner, Kris Reed, Michael Rose, Rick Sojka, Troy Swanson and Joshua Werth. May you all have long and rewarding careers.

Dean F. Harman, P.S.

**Gary Winfield Retires**

Gary Ball for coordinating the project and to Dan Able for getting the final finishing touches completed to have the house ready for the dedication.

Graham Blackburn, B.M.

**Members of IBEW Locals 495 and 542 working with Morgan Mechanical Contractors Inc. completed several McDonald’s projects.**

**New Local 363 Bus. Mgr. Sam Fratto III (left) and retired business manager John Maroia attend a union clambake.**

Graham Blackburn, B.M.

**Current Local 363 Bus. Mgr. Sam Fratto III (left) and retired business manager John Maroia attend a union clambake.**

Graham Blackburn, B.M.
the summer season, our work picture and books
L.U. 553, (Lmt, O&w s), RA LEIGH, NC—A national Solar Project at Quarry Board member. Additionally, he was on the Executive Board of the System Council and a delegate to the International Convention. Bro. Winfield served later in his career as an advisor to many local officers and was well known in his day to never be intimidated while fighting for the local’s causes.
Local 577 officers and members wish Gary a long and happy well-deserved retirement. The local extends deepest gratitude for his dedicated service on behalf of the membership.

Terry R. Pind, R.S.

Solar Project at Quarry
L.U. 553 (Lmt, O&w s), SANTA ROSA, CA—As we head into the summer season, our work picture and books are still moving slowly. Although our contractors have picked up work here in the North Bay, it is still slower than we have seen in past summers when our books were usually clear. We hope the Geothermal Plant will get rolling by fourth quarter, which will put our members to work.
Napa Electric finished a project to give title to a local quarry to be reportedly first in the world to go 100 percent solar. On May 11, Mark West Quarry flipped the switch to remove grid power and had full quarry operation. The system is capable of generating 1,165,000 kilowatt hours. Approximately 200 dignitaries and guests were in attendance for the ceremonial switch.

Denise D. Saa, PS/B.R.

Solar Conference in Raleigh
L.U. 553 (Lmt, O&w s), RALEIGH, NC—A national solar conference sponsored by the American Solar Energy Society took place in Raleigh May 17-21. Green energy technology is an industry important to the IBEW and is to be taken seriously. We must work to harness this market rapidly before we lose it. I saw this situation for myself when I attended the conference with the goal of representing Local 553 and the IBEW at the event. We need to act before roofing contractors and other trade contractors win this market.

The jurisdiction has more electrical contractors coming to the area. More opportunities are being developed.
At press time, the local also was making preparations for our 2nd Annual Cookout, which we hope many of you had a chance to attend.
Recently, the local had a very unfortunate occurrence on a line project with a line contractor. One of our members, Tim Moldenhauer, was seriously injured. The local’s thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with his brother and his family as he recuperates.

David A. Ingram, P.S.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
IBEW MERCHANDISE

Moisture Management T-Shirt
100% polyester, black t-shirt with IBEW initials. Wicks moisture away by using rapid dry interlock fabric.

4GB Flash Drive
Four GB flash memory - storage / transport stick. Blue with white IBEW and logo.

Union Yes Bumper Sticker
Weather proof vinyl bumper sticker with “Union Yes” and the IBEW logo. Measures 3” x 1 1/2”.

$17.00 $14.00 $25.00

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

Success Story
L.U. 557 (Lmt, O&w s), SAGINAW, MI—In summer 2009, a major bond vote was held in the Saginaw Township. Township schools hoped to pass a $40 million bond to perform needed work on aging schools over a three-year period.

With the aid of many Local 577 members, the bond passed. This step was just the starting point for our local. The first year, six electrical projects were to be completed. Local 577 was fortunate to perform the work on two of the six. Thanks to top-notch quality work performed by our membership, we gained five of the six electrical projects the next summer. Our local is very proud that in the summer of 2011, all the electrical work done at the Saginaw Township schools was done 100 percent union labor. Our local successfully gained the entire market share in one of the largest school districts in Michigan.

How did we manage to be so fortunate? Simply by utilizing our quality IBEW work force. Our local proved that by completing work on time and under budget, you can still achieve a good name and earn repeat business. In all, nearly $3 million worth of electrical work was done at the schools. Our local was proud to have $2.4 million worth of that work, leaving only $400,000 left over for the nonunion side.

If there are some skeptical members who don’t think that hard work and staying on top of something can pay off these days, look no further than the countless local members who were proud to work on these local projects. This was a truly successful venture for Local 557.

Evan Allandyce, P.S.

Protect California Green Jobs
L.U. 569 (Lmt, O&w s), SAN DIEGO, CA—On June 10, our local was proud to hold our annual apprentice graduation ceremony. We had 85 Inside Wireman and 10 Sound graduates. More than 500 guests attended. Along with proud families and friends, many dignitaries attended including U.S. Rep. Bob Filner. Award winners were as follows: Outstanding Inside Wireman Graduate—Tony McGovern; Outstanding Inside Wireman Graduate runner-up—Scott Millrum; Outstanding Sound Technician Graduate—John Todd; Lifelong Learning Award recipient—Marvin Allen; IVIC Scholarship winner—apprentice Ronnie Maynard; and IBEW Volunteer Service Award recipient—Amy Robershaw. Congratulations to award recipients and to all apprentice graduates.

We continue working to protect California green jobs by opposing Sempra Energy’s proposed cross-border transmission line to connect energy projects in Mexico with California’s grid. This undermines U.S. environmental and labor standards and outsources jobs. Our jurisdiction includes Imperial County, a hard-hit region with 28 percent unemployment. Fortunately, Imperial has plentiful renewable resources for green energy projects that can put members to work. We are working with elected officials, community partners and locals statewide to prioritize California green energy and create jobs. During this recession, outsourcing even one job, as Sempra is proposing to do, is one job too many.

David Taylor, RS.

Paperfest Festival a Success
L.U. 577 (Lmt, O&w s), APPLETON, WI—Local 577 once again volunteered union labor to power the Paperfest Festival held at Sunset Park in Kimberly, WI. Paperfest is a fun, family oriented festival that raises money for non-profit and civic organizations in Fox Valley. Spanning four days each July, it offers fun for all ages through games, sports, music and food.

This year marked the 14th consecutive year Local 577 members have volunteered their time and expertise in building and maintaining temporary power panels/generators for the celebration. A special thank-you to Local 577 members who volunteered their time for the Paperfest Festival. (See photo on pg. 11.)

Elected to three-year terms were: Bus. Mgr. Greg Young, Pres. Dan Rickel, Vice Pres. Brian Mason, Rec. Sec. Jamie Darrow, Fin. Sec. Tom Schmeller and Treas. Steve Schanke. Elected to the E-Board were: Kevin Johansen, Joe Welting and Jim Gorski. Elected to the Exam Committee were: Gary Weber, Rick Smart, Jeremy Clark, Bob Hoehl and Jerry Booth.

Congratulations to all.

Dan Rickel, B.R.

Local 577 members working for Nelson Electric at White Pine Middle School, from left: Scott McFarland, Bernnie Awalter, Chad Throop, Scott Sova, Keith Mercier and Ben Small.

San Diego Local 569’s 2011 apprentice graduating class. Photo courtesy of MH Photography.
Scholarship Winners Announced

L.U. 595 (c, gov,t, i&rtb), DUBLIN, CA—Congratulations to the 2011 Thomas J. Sweeney Scholarship Award recipients: Alicia Marie DeSoto Bumari, Erik Leyva, Kyle Murray, Amanda Owayony, Austin Price, Caitlin Denning, Gabrielle Koizumi, Paige Perkey, Cody Walker, Cheyenne Barmard, Alicia Bernardino, Devin Bratsel, Karin Torres, Maxwell Kellogg, Vito Lee and Joanna Tran-Flits. The recipients are local 595 members or their dependents.

We concluded our elections in June. Congratulations to newly elected officers, sworn in at the July union meeting.

The first annual IBEW 595 Safety Fair was held at our union hall in early June. An enthusiastic crowd of more than 200 participated, despite unseasonably wet weather that Saturday.

Participants attended safety seminars and visited booths to learn about the latest safety tools and equipment available in the industry. (Photo, below.)

Fantastic graduation ceremonies recently were held for our East and West apprentices in both the Inside and Sound and Communication programs. We wish these new graduates great IBEW careers.

Local 577 Paperfest Festival volunteers, from left: Steve Schanke, Tony Hardy, Bill Becher, Jerry Booth, Dave Vandevyver, Dan Ricken and Dennis O’Kane.

Preparation and cleanup. We thank the committee and their helpers for the great job they did. The steaks were cooked to perfection. In addition to the great meal we enjoyed, there were drawings for prizes.

Several of our retired members came out to enjoy the food and the great time, it was great to see them.

Our work situation is not looking much better. There are 35 members on book one and 566 travelers on book two. Due to the slow recovery of our economy, it may be a while before all of our members are back to work.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

Apprenticeship Class of 2011

L.U. 672 (c,l,mut, ax), SAN MATEO, CA—Congratulations to the graduating Apprenticeship Class of 2011! The local welcomes its ranks: new inside wiremen: Edgar Alcanta, Ryan Alton, Scotty Allen, Arley Arnold, Daniel Brown, David Brown, Lebron Brown, Justin Clark, Latanna Edwards, Juan Felix, Kevin Garibaldi, Michael Giusti, Nicholas Herbert, Stephen Hill, Dustin Katz, Ronald Labayan, Jared Lamb, Mitch LeBlanc, Gabriel Lopez, Jessie Magana, Jonathan Marcal, David McMuro, Mayo Ortiz, Ramon Regoso, Leah Sachs, Sara Serrano, Eric Sloan, Abraham Talakal Jr., Perry Thompson, Christian Thomsen, Stephen Weikel and David Wilson; and new Sound and Communications installer Brian Draggis. Scotty Allen received special recognition as Outstanding Electrical Apprentice of the Year. We are proud of you all.

From June 11-19, the apprentice-built Solar Trailer was on display at the San Mateo County Fair under the leadership of Leah Sachs. The local enjoyed its annual picnic on Aug. 20 and the Sixth Annual Day at the Range on Aug. 27. None of these events could enjoy the success they do without the incredible generosity and commitment of the volunteer brothers and sisters who staff them. The membership recognizes their efforts and hard work with heartfelt gratitude and a big round of applause.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

Work Picture Promising

L.U. 693 (i&rtb), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—The local held elections for officers, and ballots were counted June 18. Congratulations to those elected: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mark Simonin, Vice Pres. Brett Malone, Rec. Sec. John Ponzielli, E-Board members Tim Friend, Tom Monroe, Jeff Mosher and Sean Perry. At this writing, the position of election judge and to election tellers Jesse Campos and Clint Cochran.

The work horizon looks promising in our jurisdiction for the rest of the year and into the beginning of 2012. At press time, there is a good possibility of dispatching some traveling brothers and sisters late this summer and into fall when the California Valley Solar Ranch project breaks ground.

On Labor Day this year take a moment to think of the sacrifices many brothers and sisters who came before you made so that you and your family could enjoy the quality of life you have today. It was less than 100 years ago that men, women and children died trying to organize and start unions to improve their quality of life. That truly deserves more than a moment of thought. Don’t drop your guard; the Republican agenda is trying to turn back the clock 100 years by throwing working families under the bus again.

John Ponzielli, P.S.

Apprentice Graduation Banquet

L.U. 95 (i&m t), TAMPA, FL—Our 2011 JATC Banquet and Graduation Ceremony was held in May and chaired by Bns. Randall King. We had a combined class of 27 graduating to inside journeyman wireman status.

Two graduates had perfect attendance for all five years of apprenticeship: Jeffery Moratta and Robert Scanlon. Scanlon Songdaher had perfect attendance his third, fourth and fifth years. Mark Brady had perfect attendance his fourth and fifth years.

We had two graduating apprentices, representing their respective graduating classes, who were recognized as leaders—academically, on the job, and on the local union level. The JATC recognizes the exceptional attitude, skill and knowledge that propel an apprentice to the top of the class. The outstanding
Gerardo Negrete, Eduardo Gonzalez, Horacio Garcia, Aaron Bazan, Silvestre Barrera, Guadalupe Hernandez Jr., Francisco Hernandez, David Vasquez and Miguel Sanchez.


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Local Lines

Apprentice for the December 2010 class is Mark Brady and for the April 2011 class, Jeffrey Manotta. This year's Brad Felker Memorial Award recipient has overcome many obstacles in his life and has become a fine example of what true dedication and loyalty exemplify; he is a great role model, a valuable asset and represents the IBEW with character. This award goes to Jeff Davis.

Local 953 extends our best wishes to all the graduating apprentices for a successful, prosperous career.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Theresa King, P.S.}
\end{quote}

Contracts Ratified

L.U. 965 (em, pgt, ptc), MADISON, WI—The members at Rock Energy Cooperative ratified a new four-year agreement effective June 1, 2011. The agreement includes wage increases in each year of the agreement.

On June 23, 2011, the members at Everbrite manufacturing voted to accept a last, best and final offer given by management. The new five-year contract includes significant increases in medical premiums, reduction in floating holidays, reductions in pension contributions, loss of paid lunch period and no wage increase in year one followed by small increases in wages each of the next four years.

On June 30, 2011, the votes were counted and the members accepted the agreement with Alliant Energy/Wisconsin Power & Light effective through May 31, 2016. Among the many changes are: a small increase in overtime pay to offset the loss of meal allowances, more medical costs being transferred to the employee, elimination of company sponsored life insurance for retirees, and changes to the “Reduction in Forces” process. The agreement also included small wage increases in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Kurt Roberts, P.S.}
\end{quote}

Solar Technology Training

L.U. 1015 (em,jl), WESLACO, TX—Members of IBEW Local 1015 completed a 48-hour PV 400 Utility Scale PV System Design & Installation course held in June at the Rio Grande Valley/Laredo JATC. The course was provided by Imagine Solar. It was a great experience in training members and provided hands-on training labs that allowed participants to install a grid-tied PV system, conduct site assessments, and learn the technical aspects of photovoltaic modules.

Solar training is very important for Local 1015, as this specific type of work is in our jurisdiction and will grow even larger in our area. Thanks to training like the PV 400 course, members will be prepared to take on job assignments in such work. Training is the key within the IBEW. Likewise it is what qualifies contractors and their employees to perform all aspects of electrical industry work.

Training brings expanding work opportunities, allowing us to provide a total package as none other. “We are the IBEW.” Thank you to Imagine Solar for giving Local 1015 the opportunity in training our qualified work force in emerging solar energy technology.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Ray R. Duran, Training Dir.}
\end{quote}

Kudos to Recent Retirees

L.U. 1017 (o), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1017 recognizes seven members who retired March 1: Barbara Powell, Brenda Riley, Patrick Sharkey, Charles Turner, Gerald Wheatley, Wade Willey and Brian Sattenwhite.

Sister Powel started at Delmarva Power as a junior clerk in 1971 and later held clerical associate II and service associate jobs.

Sister Riley began at Delmarva Power In 1966 as an intermediate senior clerk. She later worked as a senior clerical associate and as a service associate specialist.

Brother Sharkey started work in 1988 as a groundman. He completed the apprentice linemen program and became a journeyman lineman in 1998.

Brother Turner started as a groundman with Delmarva Power in 1976. Charlie completed the apprentice lineman program and became a journeyman lineman. He later held a trouble servicer position.

Brother Wheatley began at Delmarva Power as a laborer in 1980 and became a meter reader.

Brother Willey started at Delmarva Power as a coal handler in 1971 and subsequently worked as an engineering fieldman for many years.

Brother Sattenwhite started as a meter reader with Delmarva Power in 1979. Brian transferred into the line crew, completed the apprentice lineman program and became a journeyman lineman. He was later awarded a trouble servicer position. He is well liked to these members for a long and happy retirement.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Edward D. Sparks, P.S.}
\end{quote}

Brother Displays Union Pride

L.U. 1393 (cat,v,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Bro. Mark Davis displays his union pride every time he enters fishing tournaments—he wrapped his boat with IBEW logos. (See photo above.) “The reason I wrapped my boat was to bring the trade more into the public eye; I am very proud to be a journeyman lineman,” Davis says.

Vector Energy Delivery closed 16 of 29 field offices in April. Local 1393 is currently challenging this action with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission as it relates to safety for the customers and members.

The current work outlook is very good for our construction members out of the hall. Any members wanting to work right now have been dispatched.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Robert C. Fox, P.S.}
\end{quote}

Memorial Golf Tournament

L.U. 1439 (o), ST. LOUIS, MO—The 16th Annual Tom Kraus Memorial Golf Tournament was held Saturday, June 11. Sunshine, 80 degrees, a light breeze—it was wonderful watching and playing golf at Sunset Lakes Golf Course. We heard comments such as, “This is the best weather ever…” and, “Did Kraus order this weather from heaven?” We believe he did and everyone enjoyed it.

Our players stepped up and donated big time. Some 124 golfers had a great time; they also bought “Pot of Gold” tickets and participated in the Skins Game, where most winners donated their winnings back to Hope Lodge! IBEW Local 1 sponsored our Margarita Hole, and we collected a tidy sum for the “IBEW Relief Fund” as well.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Trophy winners at Local 1439’s Tom Kraus Memorial Golf Tournament, from left: Rich Gragg, Adam Rutz, Terry Wall and John Seiter.}
\end{quote}

Local 1307 members help restore power after a major snowstorm hit the Washington, D.C., area.

\begin{quote}
\textit{Local 1993 journeyman lineman Mark Davis displays IBEW logo on his fishing boat.}
\end{quote}

Our volunteers are terrific. They cooked brats and pork steaks; helped set up and tear down; brought coolers and ice, etc.

Those talented Jefferson County boys—Rich Gragg, Adam Rutz, John Seiter and Terry Wall—won 1st Place "A" Flight with a cool 58. And our own Mike Walter, John Desmond, Doug Mueller and Matt Kopecky won 1st Place "B" Flight with a 73.

We presented a check to Hope Lodge for $1,697.60. Thanks to all participants for their support of the tournament. I know Tom Kraus is proud of our camaraderie and solidarity. Our contributions to local charities set us apart. We couldn’t do it without you—see you next year!

Mike Walter, B.M.

Amtofte & Racing Industry

L.U. 1501 (es,em,mo,pet,rt,s&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Our members employed by Amtofte, who work in the racing industry, take pride in the fact that Harry Strauss invented the Tate and Oscar Levy invented Automatic Odds, which revolutionized wagering. Since 1933 the firm has been headquartered in Maryland and provides pari-mutual machines and operators at racetracks and off-track betting around the world. The invention, marketing and servicing of Amtofte machines throughout the industry is part of the American expertise that helped make America great, providing good jobs for our members and a decent standard of living for their families.

The decline in betting has been an industry-wide problem, which in most states was met with the introduction of slots at racetracks. The state of Maryland stood and watched. The change of fortune at the tracks in neighboring states was dramatic. The infusion of slot money meant richer purses and anti-worker legislation has been thwarted for now, with many new officers, board and committee members. Retirees observed with interest and pride democracy in action.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to members of Joplin, MO, Local 95, who suffered from the tornado that hit on May 22. The Local 9 retirees are making a donation to Local 95.

At this writing, 2011 meetings were scheduled for: July 20, Sept. 21 (Luncheon) and Nov. 26.

Dan Appelbaum, P.S.

Full Employment

L.U. 1579 (es), AUGUSTA, GA—It is my pleasure to report that Local 1579 has full employment. It has been at least 20 years since this has happened.

Our work situation is continuing to improve and we expect it to get even better. Units 3 and 4 at Plant Vogtle will continue to slowly ramp up. The Mox Project at Savannah River site is expected to increase to as many as 200 by next summer.

With all the work coming to Augusta, Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward recognizes the need for continuing education classes for our members. Our new training facility, which is currently under construction, will make more training available and provide valuable ongoing instruction for our members in today’s ever changing world.

As the IBEW and Local 1579 move into the future, ask yourself a question. Ask yourself what you can do to help out your union and organized labor? The answer is simple for most: give eight for eight, don’t participate in negative talk, and if you don’t agree with your IBEW brother, don’t tear him down.

Talk to this person, you may find out that he is right. Until next time, God bless.

Will Saiters, A.B.M.

Retirees

Luncheon and Golf Outing

RETIREE CLUB OF L. U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—We had a rainy and busy spring, with a luncheon meeting on May 18 and a golf outing on May 24.

Our meeting was enjoyed by all, with an informative presentation by a speaker from the Missouri University Labor Education Program. The speaker presented powerful evidence that “right-to-work” (for less) laws are harmful to the economy of states that have them. The attempt to pass this anti-worker legislation has been thwarted for now, but anti-union legislators will try again.

At the meeting, Pres. Richard Wolfe announced that Vice Pres. Richard King was elected chairman of the St. Louis AFL-CIO Labor Council retiree organization. The meeting ended with lunch and beverages, with social time to renew old friendships.

At the May 24 golf outing in Forest Park, golfers enjoyed good weather, food and refreshments. Money was raised for the Relief Committee. A spirited Local 1 election of officers and delegates was held June 4, resulting in the election of many new officers, board and committee members. Retirees observed with interest and pride democracy in action.

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Dan Appelbaum, P.S.

Special Olympics & Golf Outing

RETIREE CLUB OF L. U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER—The Central Florida Chapter of the IBEW Local 3 Retirees Club held their annual golf outing in conjunction with Flagler County Special Olympics and participated in their 2nd Annual Golf Outing at the Ocean Course of Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast, FL, on June 5.

Matthew D. Beck, Organizer

Annual Picnic

RETIREE CLUB OF L. U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER—On Friday, March 11, the North Florida Chapter of the IBEW Local 3 Retirees Club held their annual picnic. Our guest of honor was retired Int. Treas. Emeritus Tommy Van Arsdale, former Local 3 business manager. Approximately 80 members and their spouses attended and everyone had a good time. The weather was perfect.

Bob Rosenhouch, Chmn.

Trip to Long Island Center

RETIREE CLUB OF L. U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—The retired members spent four days at the Educational and Cultural Center in Cutchogue, NY, in mid-June. [Photo, below.] Activities included fishing, swimming, games, golf, etc. There was also a barbecue in the evening. Everyone had a wonderful time. The newly renovated facilities are gorgeous, with a great view of the bay.

Abe Fichtenbaum, P.S. Pro Tem

‘We Are One’ Rallies

RETIREE CLUB OF L. U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SOUTHWEST FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER—On May 10, the SWFL Chapter, along with trade unionists from other southwest Florida unions, carried signs, posters and the American flag in front of the Collier


The members also sponsored the third hole for the Flagler County Special Olympics in addition to participating with a team for the event.

Joseph R Golan, P.S.

Local 3, Central Florida Chapter, Retirees Club team members, from left: Treas. Joseph Golan, Trustee John Greco, and Vice Chmn. Harvey Gedecker.

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Joseph R Golan, P.S.
Retires

County Government Complex in Naples, FL, to voice opposition to the most anti-middle-class legislative session in Florida history. Local 3 and the SWFL Chapter found retirement does not mean leaving problems to someone else. The “We Are One” Rally means everyone stands together. Due to the success of this event, more rallies are planned.

On April 27, the 2nd Annual Golf Outing was held at the Raptor Bay Golf Club in Bonita Springs, FL. Attended by more than 40 IBEW members, all had a good time.

Christmas Party: On Dec. 8, the SWFL Chapter held its third annual Christmas party at the clubhouse of the Raptor Bay Golf Club located at the Hyatt Regency in Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL. All SWFL Chapter members, along with other Local 3 and IBEW members, are encouraged to attend for a great holiday celebration. For information and to receive a flyer, contact party Chmn. Hank Schwietering at cappgunsl1@embarqmail.com.

L.I. Educational Center Trip

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY—In early June our chapter had a four-day stay at the Long Island Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY. We met with Pension Dir. Tom Gallagher, who addressed our members regarding the recent attacks on unions, our benefits, Social Security, and the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

This beautiful facility, with gorgeous accommodations, beach and pool, is a wonderful benefit that we are still a viable part of this great union and

George Donders, P.S./Chmn.

L.I. Educational Center Trip

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY—Our Chapter was invited for a three-day stay at the Long Island Educational and Cultural Center in Cutchogue, NY.

When we arrived, we were greeted by the Pension Dir. Thomas Gallagher. He spoke to us about how important it is that the retirees stay politically active. We were then given our group assignments.

We had a very busy schedule for the next three days. We enjoyed swimming, water aerobics, tai chi, a barbecue and make-your-own ice cream sundae. In the evening we made our own entertainment; card games, left right center, and our own horse racing game. It also gave us a chance to meet with old friends.

Our chapter chairman, Jack Foley, discussed all the upcoming events. We are hiring a bus for the Labor Day parade, the holiday party, the end-of-year barbecue, and our Annual Food Drive to help those less fortunate.

We thank the entire staff at the Educational Center for all their hard work to make our stay fun and safe.

Harry Goldman, P.S.

Trip to L.I. Educational Center

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY—WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—Early in June our chapter had a four-day stay at the Long Island Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY. We met with Pension Dir. Tom Gallagher, who addressed our members regarding the recent attacks on unions, our benefits, Social Security, and the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

This beautiful facility, with gorgeous accommodations, beach and pool, is a wonderful benefit offered to our retirees, through Local 3. Every aspect of our stay was well thought out, starting off with a buffet breakfast each morning, a barbecue and a late night get-together.

As a token of our appreciation, the Westchester/Putnam retirees donated an American flag and pole for the new Educational Center conference room.

Many thanks to our chapter officers for the time and effort they put into making this wonderful place available. Thank you to our food planner, Charlie McClary, and his volunteers for their service and time. And of course, a huge thank-you to Local 3 for supporting all of us and showing the retirees that we are still a viable part of this great union and that the years we gave to our trade are appreciated.

Robert L. Caneo, P.S.
John B. Rich, P.S.

Summer Luncheon

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, LOS ANGELES, CA—Our summer luncheon was a hit! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it a memorable occasion. Harvey “Butch” Bachand and his wife, Sharon, catered the event. Our club is fortunate to have such a talented team with a passion for gourmet cooking. The food was exceptional! Everyone had a great time!

The Retirees Club meets the second Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m., at the Electrical Training Institute in the city of Commerce. All Local 31 retired members are invited to join our club. Please attend one of our upcoming meetings.

We are happy that our treasurer, Richard Dulac, is recovering nicely from his knee replacement surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Club Pres. Marty Cohen says Richard is his right-hand man and jokes that he has a lot of work for Richard when he returns. Marty remains active with the District 4 Welfare Committee and helps the committee by selling T-shirts at the District 4 meetings. Marty rarely misses a monthly union meeting.

Thank you to all the Retirees Club members for setting such great examples for our active members. God bless!

Bob Dedy, P.S.

Spring & Summer Activities

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—Spring and summer saw members enjoy many activities. We attended the local’s picnics in Virginia and Maryland, where we connected with many friends. This September we remember all who were lost 10 years ago on 9/11. A tragic day we will never forget.

We also began selling raffle tickets for our annual fundraising. If you wish to help by purchasing a book of six tickets for $5 (two books for $10), please let us know. The Grand Prize Drawing in November will award five cash prizes.

Thanks to volunteers who helped label envelopes and send out raffle tickets to approximately 8,000 members in a record two days.

Special thanks to R. Warner, A. Hicks, R. Stokes, T. Watson, D. Bissell, Mrs. J. Lehew and her daughter, D. Hockman, J. Handley, R. Griffis, Mrs. J. Winegard, S. Holcomb, T. Dough, L. Plumill, H. Becker, Mr. & Mrs. R. Moore, and S. Walker.

Members went on two cruises: to the Mediterranean in May, and the Caribbean in September.

Our Annual RMG Crab Feast is in October. It takes the place of our regular meeting and has been moved to a restaurant near Annapolis. We were sad to leave Mayo Beach, but economics prevailed. We always have a good time.

Susan Flashman, P.S.

Pin Party Luncheon

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—Greetings from all the retired brothers and sisters of Local 58. The ranks of our association have dropped over the years, even with the new retirees who have joined.

We recently elected our club officers and board of directors. Elected were: Pres. John Ahern, Vice-Pres. Charlie Mott, 2nd Vice Pres. Elaine Crawford, Treas. Ray Owen and Dennis McCann. Board of Directors: Bob Barrett, Dan Boll, Mary Lou Diamond, Dan Diamond, Tom Donahue, Mike Hogan, Rick Koerber, Frank Maisano, John McFeely and Larry Page. It was moved and seconded that all officers and board members be elected by acclamation. The motion passed. Congratulations to all officers!

Our Pin Party Luncheon was held Saturday, April 30. Some 235 members and guests attended this year. We had 19 50-year members, 13 55-year members, two 60-year members, 15 65-year members, and one 70-year member take part this year.

The 70-year member is Bro. A. Paul. He became a member of Local 58 in 1940 and proved himself time and again to be an honorary union member. We wish only the best for Bro. Paul and his lovely wife, Mary Patricia. Congratulations to all pin recipients.

Frank A. Maisano, P.S.
Club Meetings Resume
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 59, NEW HAVEN, CT—On June 7, the Retirees Club met at its regular monthly meeting to hold an election of officers. As in the past, by unanimous vote, the four incumbent officers were re-elected. They are: President Esposito, Vice President Fred Castlo, Sec. Hugh McGuire and Treasurer Robert Gallager. Since this was the last meeting for the current year, we had our annual pizza party for the 36 attendees.

Our new year begins at our next meeting Sept. 6, 2011, at 11:30 am. We will meet at 2 North Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT.

We hope to see some new people stop by and join us. Available at that next meeting and at subsequent meetings, Local 90’s newsletter, The Synergy, will be distributed to retirees in attendance. This will give us all a better understanding of what’s happening on the active side of Local 90.

Keep safe and healthy, and enjoy the summer.

Richard Lauder, Pres.

'Join Us in September'
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI—We celebrated our annual May breakfast at the Marriott Hotel. The event was sponsored by our generous Retirees Club of L.U. 99, Providence, RI—We celebrate May as the month to ‘Join Us in September’.

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Keep safe and healthy, and enjoy the summer.

Richard Lauder, Pres.

Anniversary Greetings
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—Congratulations to all 50-, 65- and 70-year members. Thank you for your contributions to your country and your union.


We welcome all Local 134 retirees to the club meetings, held at the union hall on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at noon.

Louis Rodriguez, Pres.

July Casino Trip
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 223, BROCKTON, MA—The Local 223 Retirees Club has been named as an underwriter of the 2011 Grandchild Scholarship winners include, from left: Matt Olsson, Laura Hopkins and Amanda Abbott. Winners not pictured: Kaitlyn Tjhall and Kayleigh Burke.

July Casino Trip
The Local 234 Retirees Club recognizes the service of longtime members.

Samuel W. Price, Warren L. Seher and Fred Schmidt III. May their souls rest in peace.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July. Until our next meeting, God bless America.

George Cieci, Pres.

Picnic at Settlers Park
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 291, BOISE, ID—The June picnic was held at Meridian at Settlers Park with 43 in attendance, including several guests. It was a beautiful, windy day. The weather was a lot better for the last few picnics. It still required a light jacket for most of us but then, as you see in the picture, we had a couple of die-hard retirees who decided to forego jackets and just enjoy the sun, which has been in rare form this year.

A few of our members are struggling with health issues, and we pray for their speedy recovery. Congratulations to Joe and Linda Sirani, who are expecting grandson No. II.

We feel for our brothers and sisters who are currently unemployed in our industry and hope they will be back to work soon. Let us all pray for our country and everyone who is struggling in this economy. Defend and protect the rights for us to be union members!

Joe Sirani, Pres.

2011 Grandchild Scholarships
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 164, JERSEY CITY, NJ—The Local 164 Retirees Association’s 2011 Grandchild Scholarship was presented to five winners, grandchildren of members of the association. This was our second year giving out scholarships. The monies raised were generated by a raffle of a trip to Hawaii or cash. We also had a very successful Golf Outing with many donors helping make this scholarship a worthwhile endeavor with financial assistance to the lucky grandchildren.

The Retirees Association’s other yearly events include a coast drive, New York Yankee trips, golf league, fishing trips (fresh and salt water), Atlantic City and Pocono casino trips, monthly luncheons, seminars and much more. With more than 200 members, this very active group is never idle.

Please view our award-winning Web site at www.LU164Retirees.squarepins.org.

Burt Boudry, Pres.

‘Gifts to Give’ Drive
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 233, BROCKTON, MA—The Local 233 Retirees Club was named as an underwriter of Gifts to Give, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that serves needy children in southeastern Massachusetts. See Web site: www.giftstogive.org/underwriters.html. Our club has donated more than $70,000 in goods and services to this worthy organization. Hats off to Ed Cayton, Hugh Murray and Sonny Wise for regularly volunteering at the Gifts to Give in Mill in New Bedford.

At our club’s June meeting Rene Milot, of Bankers Life & Casualty Insurance Co., gave an informative presentation on long-term health care insurance and proposed changes to Medicare Part D. Rene will also be at our Sept. 7 meeting to further inform us of those changes.

In order to raise funds for our treasury, the September meeting will feature a pizza luncheon and yard sale. We requested an RSVP by Aug. 31 (508) 947-8555, to let us know how many will attend.

Jeff O’Brien, Pres.

Greetings from Local 291 Retirees Club.

‘Gifts to Give’ Drive
RETIREE SCLUb O F L. U. 233, BROCKTON, MA—The Local 233 Retirees Club was named as an underwriter of Gifts to Give, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that serves needy children in southeastern Massachusetts. See Web site: www.giftstogive.org/underwriters.html. Our club has donated more than $70,000 in goods and services to this worthy organization. Hats off to Ed Cayton, Hugh Murray and Sonny Wise for regularly volunteering at the Gifts to Give in Mill in New Bedford.

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Jeff O’Brien, Pres.
Ретирийцам присвоен 70-летний значок

СВЯЗЬ CLUB OF L.U. 306, АКРОН, ОН—Добро пожаловать в новый клуб. С местным президентом Полом Кэмпбеллом (с левой стороны) и ведущим агентом Дугом Суммером, мы видим, что более, чем ожидалось. Наше последнее заседание до сентября, в клубе вице-президента Аль Шейджа, все члены, которые удовлетворили годовые условия, получили значки.

Мы приветствуем вновь прибывших.

Умершие

СВЯЗЬ CLUB OF L.U. 613, АТЛАНТА, ГА—Мы потеряли ünlü Сал Ругьери, работника завода. Луда, 79 лет, и Лоуренс 400, 56 лет. Это один из самых знающих специалистов, которые вы могли бы видеть на местной 400 и электронной отрасли. Он знал, как работать, как строить что-то, и всегда был рядом.

Сал был 79 лет. Мы скучаем по нему, он был великолепным человеком.

Рич Фоггари, Р.С.

Альберкуэра Ретирийцы отчет

СВЯЗь CLUB OF L.U. 611, АЛЬБЕКУЭРС, НЕМ—Самое большое достижение—это выбор брата Александра на пост президента. Также были выбраны: вице-президенты Джозеф Блей, Клиффорд Трумэль (Марк’s brother) и Тесса. Бобби Мартинес. Мы поздравляем всех с лучшим выбором.

Жители также поздравляют всех, кто умер.

Грег Силверт, Р.С.

Отчет о Ретирийцах

СВЯЗь CLUB OF L.U. 611, АЛЬБЕКУЭРС, НЕМ—Мы пожаловались на плохую работу, электронику, дизайн и даже изобретение. Сал всегда был первым, чтобы попросить. Он работал в Керенской войне и работал с проводами и взрывчаткой, прежде чем стать ветераном в Оyster Creek Nuke Power Plant с 1965 по 1969 гг. и вообще был замечательным человеком. Мы не забудем его.

Рич Фоггари, Р.С.

Отчет о Ретирийцах 400

СВЯЗь CLUB OF L.U. 400, АСБУРГ, НЕМ—Добро пожаловать в новый клуб. Лада, 79 лет, и Лоуренс 400, 56 лет. Это один из самых знающих специалистов, которые вы могли бы видеть на местной 400 и электронной отрасли. Он знал, как работать, как строить что-то, и всегда был рядом. Сал был 79 лет. Мы скучаем по нему, он был великолепным человеком.

Рич Фоггари, Р.С.

Информационный вестник IBEW

www.ibew.org

Информационный вестник IBEW

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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International President

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman
Robert W. Pierson

First District
Joseph P. Calabro

Second District
Myles J. Calvey

Third District
John R. Clarke

Fourth District
William W. Riley

Fifth District
Michael Walter

Sixth District
Gregory A. Lucero

Seventh District
Patrick Lavin

Eighth District
John F. Brinigeli

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Second District
Frank J. Carroll

Third District
Donald C. Sigel

Fourth District
Kenneth Cooper

Fifth District
Joe S. Davis

Sixth District
Lonnie R. Stephenson

Seventh District
Jonathan B. Gardner

Eighth District
Ted C. Jensen

Ninth District
Michael G. Morey

Tenth District
Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor
Edwin D. Hill

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Mark Bruggemanjohn

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Len Shindel

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Len Turner

Tim Prendergast

Curdis B. Bateman

John Sellman

FROM THE OFFICERS

Fraternity and Challenge in Vancouver

The 108th IBEW Convention opens in Vancouver at a historic moment of global economic crisis and upheaval. Thousands of our members have already faced months and even years of unemployment. An intensified political debate is raging over how working families will survive the immediate turmoil. But the debate goes further—to the question of how our workers in the U.S. and in our host nation will achieve the kind of stability and security that is essential to maintain our democracies.

The values and ideals of the IBEW are under assault, not just in the chambers of Congress or Parliament, but in our states and provinces and our popular media and culture. Our corporate adversaries openly proclaim that economic recovery depends upon weakening the hand of organized workers to hold employers accountable for decent pay, working conditions and respect on the job.

Prior conventions, too, have spanned periods of boom and bust and political polarization. Six conventions were held in the midst of economic recessions and panics and eight, including our founding convention in 1899, within a few months of other downturns.

This month, our delegates come together once again carrying the frustrations, the pain and the hopes of their brothers and sisters who are out of work. In fact, many of our delegates are themselves unemployed.

We are confident that our delegates—democratically-elected by their peers and fully aware of the complex challenges facing their members and our union—will approach their responsibilities with the seriousness that our times demand and make a full report to their co-workers upon their return home.

Delegates will critically review our union’s laws and constitution to ensure that they are modern and relevant guides to carrying out the mission of our Brotherhood.

They will consider and debate resolutions on a wide range of issues that will help identify our priorities and set our strategies for the next five years in organizing, political and legislative matters, internal affairs and developing relationships with our labor and community allies.

Official proceedings are only one aspect of an IBEW convention.

In September 1929, one month before the events that cascaded into the crash of the U.S. stock market, the 20th IBEW Convention convened in Miami. The IBEW Journal stated: “The occasion has far more important results than the visible accomplishments will indicate. Corridor conversations will develop new ideas, will exchange new methods, and will generate that fraternal spirit which is so essential to the continued, smooth running of a democratic organization. It will not be forgotten that a union is more than an economic instrument, it is a fellowship.”

We wholeheartedly agree with our predecessors. We have scaled back some of the social events of this year’s convention for financial considerations. But fellowship will be alive and thriving in the beautiful city of Vancouver.

Amid handshakes, hugs and the high-fives, dedicated union activists will proudly trade not just the pins of their local unions, but their experiences in the struggle for economic and social justice across North America.

“Brotherhood Beyond Borders,” our convention’s theme, is more than a slogan. It is a call to renew and strengthen the unity that has shaped the IBEW into one of the most effective and powerful labor organizations in the world.

Renewing IBEW’s unity means mentoring and nurturing our next generation of leaders. We have made a special attempt to bring young IBEW members to Vancouver as delegates and guests. Our Brotherhood needs their vitality and passion for fair play and economic justice. No less, our veteran members need to pass on their legacy—the lessons learned through years of representation and advocacy on behalf their members.

No doubt, our adversaries will ridicule our work in Vancouver and our mission to better the economic circumstances of our members and spread our bonds of solidarity.

Our adversaries will never understand or appreciate the real history of workers in the U.S. and Canada. It is a history that flows with all of the force of the Columbia River, the natural wonder that our brothers and sisters on both sides of the border boldly harness so skillfully for power to sustain our citizens and our economies. It is a history that was gloriously personified in the past year as members of IBEW locals in the U.S. and Canada met at the border to stand up for the rights of workers in Wisconsin and other states who are facing attacks on their rights to bargain collectively with their employers.

History flows forward. On to Vancouver.
Letters to the Editor

Are You With Us?
The corporate-friendly politicians continue to bulldoze over American workers of the middle and lower class. They continue to show they have NO respect for anyone who cannot afford to be one of their rich neighbors. Laws and rules are ignored or changed to favor the wealthiest and the huck with the poor, the weak, the less fortunate. It appears we are just in their way.

Remember the previous administration’s reckless, could-care-less-about-you words (in regard to the invasion of Iraq): “You are either with us or against us!” That slogan seems to be the headline of their agenda. We need to stop falling prey to their fear tactics and lies. We the people need to ask ourselves: WHO really is AGAINST US and who honestly is for you and I, for Medicare, Medicaid, food and medical programs for everyone in need. Who is more concerned about cutting back or completely cutting out these programs and wants to give the wealthy more wealth?

We must remember it is the big corporations that have the power to create jobs, to put us Americans back to work, but choose to give CEO’s big bonuses instead. Remember, we still have the right to vote, which just happens to be another area corporate-friendly politicians are attacking us on. I believe it is time to seriously think about the best interests of families and their future, not one-issue agendas. I don’t believe in abortion or taking away the right to bear arms and those agendas continue to sway voters. Neither of those issues have been changed by Democrats or Republicans and my guess is never will be. Thank you for taking the time to understand the direction, motivations and intentions of both parties. We need to ask ourselves: Which one is self-serving and which one is about family?

Kevin J. Peterson
Local 160 member, Minneapolis

Valuing Our Elders
It has come to my attention there are certain local unions that are not giving the help and respect that is due their retirees. This should never be part of any IBEW local union agenda.

This has never been the case with my local, Local 611 in Albuquerque, N.M., which has always gone beyond the call to support the retirees in the best possible way, both physically and financially when needed. In fact, our retirees are invited to represent the local in various functions and events, and some of the officers have volunteered their services to help build our retirees float for the Fourth of July parade.

We should never forget the knowledge and experience our retirees have contributed to the working class. We retirees at Local 611 want to say thank you to the officers for their continued support, appreciation and understanding of our needs.

Kevin L. Greenwood
Local 1 member, Albuquerque, NM

Political Sacrifices?
I am writing in response to the recent budget crisis and the lack of attention given it by the IBEW. I feel the way to resolve the problem is everybody should give. It should start with our elected officials. They need to reduce their pay by 25 percent. They need to reduce their staffs by 50 percent and we need to reduce their benefits. Let them have Medicare and for their insurance. They can be responsible for paying the cost of supplemental insurance like we do. Retired officials can take a pay cut too. Let’s get rid of all the fringe benefits. If they want to cut our benefits and income and protect the billionaires in this country, then they need to give too.

Does IBEW have the courage to stand up and let this be known? Will IBEW bring this to the attention of our members and the public by using paid advertising to get the word out? I feel 85 percent of the people feel this way and are ready for somebody to make this suggestion. This would strengthen our union and increase our membership.

I have been an IBEW member since 1963. The way things used to be done in our union was with a kick-butt attitude and a strong resolve to get things accomplished. Our politicians need to know that unions are still strong in this country and they represent the working class. Our voice needs to be heard so these unions can remember who they work for.

Tracy Hall
Local 611 retiree, Albuquerque, N.M.

77 Years After Bloody Mill Strike, Remembering the Slain

The roof of the Chiquola Mill in rural Honea Path, S.C., has almost collapsed. The once-study façade is slowly falling apart, littering the unkempt grounds with chunks of brick and mortar. Soon the old textile facility, which was shuttered in the 1980s, will be completely torn down.

But what some residents overlook as a rotted relic is the site of a healed wound in America’s history. On September 6, 1934, when a standoff pitting a group of police and deputized citizens against 300 striking mill workers turned fatal.

After a futile skirmish, six workers were shot dead and many more were wounded. An aftershock was in the back-and—as local legend has it—crawled to his home in the nearby mill village and collapsed on his porch, his final words to his wife being, “They died for the right to work.”

“Bloody Thursday,” as it became known, was no isolated incident. The textile strikes of that year saw 400,000 workers from the South, New England and the Mid-Atlantic walk off the job for 22 days to demand better wages and working conditions.

Local 379 member Nick Brown works in the local’s satellite office 115 miles away in Greenville, S.C. with the history of the strike and massacre at the Chiquola Mill, and how its aftermath has been either ignored or championed by area residents—depending on where their sympathies lie.

“When they tear the mill down, a part of our labor history is also going to be ripped away, and people will forget what once happened here,” Brown said.

That’s why he organized a service project in April to nearby Dogwood Park in Honea Path, where a modest but dignified stone memorial listing the names of the slain strikers sits in a quiet, meditative area of the park. Etched across the face of the Chiquola Mill, which he’s visited several times over the past few years.

“Before an organizing blitz in the area in 2008,” he said, “I brought all the IBEW activists out to see it. Starting there brought us a spirit of unity and strength. It reminded us that we’re doing what we’re doing for a good reason. It gave us more passion and sense of purpose for that week.”

Brown was joined by Local 379 members of Charlotte, N.C., alongside family members, spruced up a memorial honoring striking textile workers who were killed September 6, 1934.

Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to media@ibew.org.
Verizon Strikers Fight for All Working Families

Forty-five thousand Verizon workers from Massachusetts to Virginia, members of the CWA and IBEW, who struck on August 7 at the expiration of their contract, knew they could end up in unprecedented financial hardship.

Shortly after the strike began, the company told the news media that strikers didn’t understand the “economic realities” of the marketplace for landline telephone services.

But who knew better than the men and women on the picket line how non-union Verizon Wireless was taking money from them every pay period? Men and women on the picket lines knew non-union Verizon Wireless was taking money from them every pay period.

Verizon didn’t understand the “economic realities” of the marketplace for landline and wireless sector where they have invested years of hard work, but denied them the income they needed to live and to contribute to their communities.

And they knew it wouldn’t be easy.

Everyone knew the company had shelled out $258 million in bonuses to a handful of executives in the past four years. Not everyone knew the company had invested $10.2 billion in profits in 2010 and its net income for the first half of this year was $6.9 billion.

But Verizon was recording record profits.

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After reporting $24.2 billion in pre-tax income for 2009 and 2010, Verizon paid no income tax, earning it a place on the Washington Times’ “Tax Evaders Wall of Shame.”

Verizon recently announced it tripled its profits in the first quarter of this year.

Verizon is demanding $1 billion in concessions from its workers, which would reduce their take-home pay by around $20,000 a year.

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