In an unprecedented signal of continuing attacks on workers that began a year ago, the Indiana state legislature’s Republican majority opened its session in January with the goal of strong-arming through right-to-work legislation. Reminiscent of Madison, Wis., where thousands of citizens occupied the Capitol for weeks, and the grassroots movement that brought down an unpopular Ohio law restricting bargaining rights, thousands of Hoosiers came to Indianapolis to bear witness on the opening day of the session.

Hoisting signs and banners emblazoned with slogans like “No on RTW” and “Hoosiers Want Union Life Lines, Not State Bread Lines,” citizens from across the spectrum—including building trades members, teachers, firefighters and private sector workers—peacefully demonstrated in the statehouse Jan. 4.

The renewed struggle in Indiana began garnering national attention in December. Pro-worker advocates took to blogs and newspaper opinion pages to voice opposition to what they saw as a GOP and big-business power grab, and economists outlined the real-life effects of right-to-work on middle-class Americans’ wallets. Talk show hosts...
War on Workers, Redux: Corporate-Backed Lawmakers Push ‘Right-to-Work’ Laws

Shultz and Rachel Maddow also profiled the issue on their television shows. The lawmakers began their session with the hope of making Indiana the first state to adopt right-to-work laws in more than a decade. Gov. Mitch Daniels came out in support of the measure in December, and the state Chamber of Commerce announced late last year that getting the law on the books was the group’s highest priority.

IEB EW Activists Push Back

Lafayette Local 668 member Brent Green knows from experience the serious repercussions this could have on families in the Hoosier state. The journeyman lineman gave a presentation recently at a town hall meeting to lay out the reasons why right-to-work laws are wrong for working people, and why union representation paves a better path for employees.

“Working for nonunion, I faced every kind of problem—unsafe job conditions, low pay, no benefits,” Green said. “I had a bad on-the-job injury that still causes me problems, and I had no way to pay for my medical bills.”

“That all changed when I joined the IBEW, and right-to-work is just a smokescreen for union busting,” he continued. “But it hurts everybody, not just the organized workers. Sure, we’re fighting for our brothers and sisters at the hall, but the average person needs to know we’re fighting for them as well. A nonunion guy might not understand is that I set his wage. His wage is only competitive because of what I make. Do away with my ability to collectively bargain, and do you think his wage is going to stay high? Of course not.”

Just the Facts

About Right-to-Work States

- 8 of the 12 states with the highest unemployment rates are right-to-work states.
- 6 of the 8 states that have the lowest wages are right-to-work states.
- Wages in right-to-work states are 12 percent lower than those in non-right-to-work states.
- Rates of uninsured are 24 percent higher in right-to-work states.
- Rates of uninsured children are 39 percent higher in right-to-work states.
- 12 of the 14 highest wage states are not right-to-work states.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Does right-to-work lower unemployment?

Anti-worker lawmakers and many state Chambers of Commerce say right-to-work is good for job creators. Many right-to-work states have unemployment rates above the national average. You decide.

Shultz and Rachel Maddow also profiled the issue on their television shows. The lawmakers began their session with the hope of making Indiana the first state to adopt right-to-work laws in more than a decade. Gov. Mitch Daniels came out in support of the measure in December, and the state Chamber of Commerce announced late last year that getting the law on the books was the group’s highest priority.

IEB EW activists in Indiana joined with teachers, firefighters and other workers last winter to protest a previous right-to-work push in the statehouse. Thousands of demonstrators helped convince legislators in the general assembly to scuttle the bill.

You Have the Right to Work ... For Less

Right-to-work laws allow workers to opt out of paying union dues while still benefiting from collective bargaining agreements—a practice that weakens unions’ negotiating power. Such laws are enforced in nearly half the states, mostly in the South or in the western part of the U.S., where workers have a diminished voice on the job and face more dangers at their work sites. Oklahoma adopted such legislation in 2001.

Supporters of the law argue that employees should not be obligated to pay dues. Labor leaders and progressive economists say this creates a “freerider” problem. Workers benefit from the protection of a collective bargaining agreement without contributing to the union responsible for negotiating their contracts, which include higher wages than most nonunion employers offer.

During the current campaign season, Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul and others have touted right-to-work laws as a way to shore up job creation and increase workers’ take home pay. Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul and others have touted right-to-work laws as a way to shore up job creation and increase workers’ take home pay.

Right-to-work states with union densities under 5%

Right-to-work states with union densities under 5% Right-to-work states with union densities under 5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; National unemployment level based on Nov. 2011 data; State unemployment levels based on Oct. 2011 data; Union density based on 2010 data

Rigorous, properly-designed studies have found that right-to-work laws reduce wages by $1,600 a year, for both union and nonunion workers, and lower the likelihood that union and nonunion workers get health care coverage or pensions through their jobs,” states the report, entitled “Working Hard to Make Indiana Look Bad.” They have also found that the laws have no impact on job growth in states that adopt them.

Romney, who many eye as the prospective GOP nominee to run against President Obama in November, has come out in favor of signing into law national right-to-work legislation.

“There is a very strong likelihood that a Republican Congress and a Republican White House would pass a national right-to-work law,” Gary Chaison, a labor-law professor at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., told Bloomberg News in November. “A Republican Congress,” he said, “sees unions as part of the problem rather than part of the solution.”

On Guard in the Granite State, and Beyond

At the ground game level, the battle over right-to-work reached fever pitch in New Hampshire late last year. Earlier in 2011, Democratic Gov. John Lynch vetoed right-to-work legislation when it was passed in the statehouse—and anti-worker lawmakers tried to overturn that veto in November.

Working people scored a major victory when the legislature failed by 12 votes to make New Hampshire the 23rd right-to-work state. Manchester Local 1300 Business Manager Glenn Brackett was one of many IBEW leaders who helped rally protesters to help convince legislators—including several Republicans—to sustain the veto.

“It was a huge sea of red IBEW T-shirts at the statehouse,” Brackett said. “When the other side failed to come up with the votes, it was vindicating. But it also showed how unnecessary all of this is. There’s no need for a so-called right-to-work law because the federal government already says that nobody has to pay union dues if they don’t want to. Whether it’s here, Indiana, or anywhere else, this legislation is just part of the right-wing agenda attacking labor and middle-class families.”

But the fight is far from over. New Hampshire House Speaker Bill O’Brien (R) said after the November vote that the issue will be what he called “priority legislation” this year.

“There’s a whole host of anti-labor bills on the docket for this session,” Brackett said. “And right-to-work has come up 20 consecutive times—and for 20 years, we’ve beaten it back. Our victory in November was a good one, but we’ll be back into the fray soon.”

At the same time, activists in Michigan and other Midwest states will be watching Indiana and New Hampshire closely, as some say right-to-work legislation is an ever-present threat looming on the horizon.

“So far, several pieces of legislation have been introduced, including so-called ‘right-to-work zones’ that would enable cities and counties to adopt these anti-worker laws at the local level,” said Lansing, Mich., Local 665 Business Representative Ray Michaels. “This would pit neighbor against neighbor in an economic race to the bottom.”

Michaels said that with much of the legislature in Michigan being “blatantly anti-union,” right-to-work is a real threat to the economy and all working people in the state. “It’s divisive and a distraction from our efforts to improve the lives of the people of Michigan,” he said. “We have real challenges here, and we need real solutions. This anti-worker, ideological assault is counterproductive. It creates no jobs. It creates no relief for the many families struggling in Michigan.”
Ind. Governor, Legislature Try to Block Public Protests

Fighting increasingly bitter Indianapolis winter winds, thousands of pro-union advocates gathered the morning of Jan. 4 outside the statehouse on the first day of the legislative session. Early that day, it was unclear how a portrait of democracy in action would develop. Gov. Daniels had issued an executive order mandating the statehouse at any given time—there. The governor’s office insisted this had been there since 1888 and there’s never been a need for a rule like that before,” said South Bend Local 153 Members.

Other officers have been active against the state— including the IBEW— to be exempt amongst working families in the Hoosier state. Compton said. “To me, that sends a message that they’re hiding behind to deny the legislature a quorum to right-to-work legislation.

The AFL-CIO convened the meeting in Phoenix to help call attention to the actions of Gov. Jan Brewer, who has forced changes in immigration law that would divide workers and lead to racial profiling, mostly of Hispanic residents.

“We can’t wait until this summer to get the vote out and register all of the new people who will be center stage,” Hill said. “We’re seeing the highest income inequality ever in the greatest nation in the world, and these anti-worker politicians and corporations just want to keep taking more and more. You have to wonder what kind of world they want us living in. Our values of hard work and decency are going to be tested harder than they have in a very long time. You can bet we’re going to be active and ready over the next nine months.”

The right-to-work battle in Indiana continued beyond The Electrical Worker’s press deadline. For more coverage, visit www.IBEW.org.
VOICES OF THE UNEMPLOYED

Maine Member Tells Senator: ‘The Wolf is at the Door’

Portland, Maine, Local 567 member Nathan Belanger at Kibby Mountain, the largest wind power project in Maine. Work is hard to find for the 13-year member who traveled to Washington, D.C., in early December and met with Sen. Olympia Snowe (R) to address the situation facing hundreds of thousands of jobless U.S. workers.

N athan Belanger’s car has 196,000 miles on the odometer. He is paying $590 a month for COBRA medical coverage for his family of five. He’s borrowed from his retirement savings to make necessary repairs to his West Bath, Maine, home. And he’s been forced to neglect his children’s college fund.

A 13-year inside journeyman wireman member of Portland Local 567, Belanger, an apprentice instructor, has been working on and off for three years. He says, “I thank my lucky stars for unemployment benefits.” In early December, when House and Senate Republicans threatened to cut those benefits, Belanger first got angry. Then he answered a call to action and traveled to Washington, D.C., to deliver a stern extra meeting lasted 45 minutes, says IBEW Political and Legislative Department International Representative Dan Gardner, who accompanied Belanger to the meeting.

“It was very close with his family, and he was proud of his work with the union,” said retired Sixth District International Representative Don Mahoney. Belanger served on many labor-related committees and boards in Illinois. He was president of the Kankakee Building Trades Council and served as vice-president of the town’s AFL-CIO.

Crevier served on many labor-related committees and boards in Illinois. He was president of the Kankakee Building Trades Council and served as vice-president of the town’s AFL-CIO.

Crevier is survived by his wife, Helen, their four children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In a memorial tribute, his family wrote that the legacy he leaves behind “is rooted in honor, unconditional love and kindhearted deeds. He lived life to the fullest and made sure those around him did as well.”

On behalf of the members of the IBEW, the officers and staff send condolences to Brother Crevier’s friends and family.

DECEASED

Donald Crevier

We regret to report that retired Sixth District International Representative Donald Crevier died Dec. 10 at the age of 84.

Brother Crevier was appointed International Representative in 1963. He serviced mainly inside construction locals during more than two decades in the field. He was very close with his family, and he was proud of his work with the union,” said retired Sixth District International Representative Don Mahoney. Crevier served on many labor-related committees and boards in Illinois. He was president of the Kankakee Building Trades Council and served as vice-president of the town’s AFL-CIO.

A member of the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion, Brother Crevier enjoyed swimming, bowling, golf and model railroading. Crevier is survived by his wife, Helen, their four children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In a memorial tribute, his family wrote that the legacy he leaves behind “is rooted in honor, unconditional love and kindhearted deeds. He lived life to the fullest and made sure those around him did as well.”

On behalf of the members of the IBEW, the officers and staff send condolences to Brother Crevier’s friends and family.

RETIRED

Laurence Cohen

After a long and distinguished career in support of workers’ rights, IBEW General Counsel Larry Cohen retired effective Dec. 31. He is succeeded in the role as general counsel by Richard Resnick.

Cohen says he plans to work on President Obama’s re-election campaign and provide media services. “The enemies of the labor movement have deep pockets and access to many big-buck union-busting law firms, so the IBEW has been lucky to have people like Larry on our side,” said International President Edwin D. Hill. “He’s a great lawyer, not only for his knowledge, experience and professionalism, but also because of his commitment to working people and our common movement.”

The IBEW officers, staff and members wish Mr. Cohen a long, happy and healthy retirement.

RETIRED

Wesley ‘Jimmy’ Sunvison

Seventh District International Representative Wesley “Jimmy” Sunvison retired effective Jan. 1 after nearly five decades of service to the IBEW.

Brother Sunvison was initiated into Austin, Texas, Local 520 in 1965. He earned his journeyman status in 1969 and went on to work on several large-scale projects in the area. Sunvison was one of the first electricians on the site to construct the sprawling IBM plant in Austin, a facility that would go on to accommodate 14,000 tech employees.

“It was a challenge, but a rewarding one,” Sunvison said. He also worked to put up lighting on the University of Texas Memorial Stadium.

The descendant of Swedish blacksmiths who arrived to the states in the 1890s, Sunvison was the first of his family to be accepted into a trade union.

“When my father found out, he had tears in his eyes,” Sunvison said.

IBEW 2012 PHOTO CONTEST: Enter Now!

The popular competition is back after last year’s hiatus while we were gearing up for the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. This year’s event will be the 15th contest since its kickoff in 1997.

So grab your camera and see what develops. Because excellence in the trade yields more than just a job well done—it can be a work of art.

Full contest rules and deadline information available at www.ibew.org.
General Fund, were examined and approved. The International Secretary-Treasurer’s Payments for legal defense, made from the Legal Defense Office, were reviewed and approved. The International Brotherhood were presented to the members under the supervision of the International Executive Council unanimously. The IEC concurs with President Hill’s letter dated August 26, 2011. Amendment to Pension Benefit Fund’s (PBF) Rules and Regulations and Summary Plan Description International Executive Council Chairman Pierson introduced, and the members of the International Executive Council unanimously adopted, an updated amendment to delegate discretionary authority to the International Secretary-Treasurer to immediately suspend (subject to an abundance of proof) a member’s pension upon learning that the member has returned to the electrical industry and to initiate an investigation. The IEC concurs with President Hill’s letter dated August 26, 2011.

AppealFiled with the International Executive Council by Christopher Yerian, Card Number D7065437, A Member of Local Union 134, IBEW Christopher Yerian’s is appealing a local union 105 Trail Board decision to the members of the executive council. The facts of this case were reviewed and considered. After a thorough review of Brother Yerian’s appeal, it is the decision of the executive council members that International President Edwin D. Hill properly advised former member Christopher Yerian that his appeal to him was untimely and that he was no longer an IBEW member and forfeited his right to appeal. The IEC concurs with President Hill’s letter dated August 26, 2011.

Office Employees Pension Plan The members of the International Executive Council reviewed the actuary report and funding recommendations for the Plan. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the members of the International Executive Council to approve the actuarial recommendation for the funding policy of the Office Employees Pension Plan. A Resolution to update vesting of benefits was submitted and approved.

Retirement of International Representative Gregory A. Temple, International Representative Ninth District Effective—October 1, 2011

Jerry Sunvison, International Representative Seventh District Effective—January 1, 2012

Retirement of International Office Employees Bemiee Wright, International Office Data control Clerk III, Grade 4 Per Capita Department Effective—December 1, 2011

This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned, on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m., on Friday, January 20, 2012, in Naples, Florida.

For the International Executive Council Patrick Lavin, Secretary December 2011

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the “About Us” page.
**Positive Outlook for Growth**

L.U. 6 (Cu, Stk), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—2011 has ended with work for our inside wiremen up more than 15 percent from 2010, and we should see even more growth in 2012 for our construction members. Work has begun on two large hospitals, and with the America’s Cup coming to town in 2013 we have a positive outlook for the future.

Our 97th Annual Toy Run benefiting the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program was yet another success. With an estimated 80 people in attendance, our Toy Run Committee Co-chairmen Rich Reesink and Steve Passamani led the motorcycles and hot rods on a beautiful ride to Occidental. All participants had a great time.

For many years Local 6 has marched in the St. Patrick’s Day parade, but this year will be an extra special year as our Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John O’Brien was chosen as the grand marshal. Come out and march with our local on March 17. Call the hall for our gathering location.

Our general membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and we look forward to catching up with you there.

**Fight for Workers**

L.U. 8 (ae, em, ln, mr, rt, & spa), TOLEDO, OH—I wish to thank every member who voted last year in the 2011 General Assembly session, so-called “right-to-work” was held off. Anti-union activists were in power then and still hold a majority. Therefore, union people may not be as fortunate in the 2012 session. The state’s speaker of the house has said that the top item on his agenda will be to enact “right-to-work” legislation. The IBEW has already taken steps to educate the statehouse, and many more supporters will be needed.

Donald P. Beavis, P.S.

**A Busy Holiday Season: Giving Back to Community**

L.U. 12 (Lo, & se), PUEBLO, CO—Many events highlighted the Christmas and New Year season for Local 12. The Annual Christmas Party was held Dec. 9 (photo below) and a larger venue was needed to accommodate the record attendance. Members and family, retirees and friends of Local 12 celebrated with food, music, gifts and fun. Thanks to Local 12 office manager Kathie Runco, the Ladies Auxiliary, and all who attended and supported another successful year in Local 12 history.

Local 12 is giving back to the community through a donation drive for the Cooperative Care Food Bank. Special thanks go to Pres. Tom Kelsey for his hard work on this effort. Also, Local 12 has been very involved in the remodel of a new Cooperative Care Building. Albert Herrera, Local 12 organizer, is spearheading the electrical volunteer work. Thanks to all who have helped in this project.

Clif Thompson, A.B.A.

**Work Picture Improving**

L.U. 24 (es, jk, & sp), BALTIMORE, MD—Local 24 held the annual Children’s Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 10, last year. The annual event was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featured a puppet show, a movie, Christmas elves, pictures, lunch and a toy for each child after a visit to Santa. This party is a tradition that spans 35 years, and each year brings our families together for the holidays. Our thanks go to our two Santas, Scott Jarvis and Jim Smith, as well as “Mrs. Santa,” Robin Smith. Thanks also go to all the volunteers and staff who made this party a success, Bro. Ted Daigle and wife Gail for their hard puppet and elf show for the kids, and Bro. Jim Valentine for his excellent photography work.

Our work picture has begun to improve as aggressive market recovery initiatives on medium-size jobs began taking effect at the end of 2011. We are waiting for bid results on several large projects coming in 2012 in our area.

Donald P. Beavis, P.S.

**Local 24 members and their families celebrate at the local’s Christmas party.**

**‘RTW Grinch is Back Again’**

L.U. 16 (I), EVANSVILLE, IN—Evansville’s Christmas season would not be complete without G.D. Ritzy’s Fantasy of Lights exhibit. This fantastic drive-through light show, now in its 11th year, was blessed with more than 100 dedicated brothers and sisters who graciously contributed their skills for the first set-up day. Days of securing and energizing the fixtures have since brought them to life. Special thanks are due to the apprentices and retired members of Local 16 for their willingness to rebuild the displays when the displays are not in use. Thanks also to Nick Vaught and Matt Mullen for supervising the installation and nightly maintenance.

Indiana’s RTW Grinch is back again this year. While some concessions were forced on labor during the last General Assembly session, so-called “right-to-work” was held off. Anti-union activists were in power then and still hold a majority. Therefore, union people may not be as fortunate in the 2012 session. The State’s speaker of the house has said that the top item on his agenda will be to enact “right-to-work” legislation. The IBEW has already prepared buses to the statehouse, and many more supporters will be needed.

Donald P. Beavis, P.S.

**Improved Work Picture**

L.U. 34 (em, lr, & spa), PEDROIA, IL—A belated Merry Christmas to all. December was a merry month for Local 34. As of this writing, some major customers in our area are trying to complete projects before 2011 year’s end, and have shrunken our Book 2 to its lowest level in very long time. Our New Year’s wish is that such projects continue, and many others begin, in 2012.

Please remember to vote for your labor-friendly candidates in the March primary. Thanks much to IBEW Locals 669, 197, 146, 702, 697 and 725 for providing many of our members with opportunities for good union electrical work in 2011. We look forward to returning the favor.

Mark McArthur, Treas.

**Bus. Mgr. Gil Steele Retiring**

L.U. 38 (I), CLEVELAND, OH—Bus. Mgr. Gil Steele Jr. announced his retirement at the December 2011 union meeting. He will leave office in late February. Gil started his apprenticeship in 1970 and has 42 years of Local 38 service. Gil also served the local as president, business agent and executive board member. He served on the IBEW Law Committee for last year’s IBEW International Convention. The Steele family has a long tradition of Local 38 serving as apprentices and retired members of Local 38.

**Local 24 will celebrate our 50th anniversary at an event on March 24 at M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens. Preparations will be finalized and notices will have been sent by the time this issue of The Electrical Worker is published.**

Roger M. Lash Jr., B.M.

**Baltimore Local 24 members and their families enjoy the annual Children’s Christmas Party.**

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**Trade Classifications**

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

L.U. 46 (.c,m,.em,.st,.t,.m,.b,.l,.t,.r,.s,.a,.s), SEATTLE, WA—Seattle Sounders FC and First and Goal Inc. became the recipients of what is reportedly the largest solar PV array to date in Washington state. This installation is located on the roof of the CenturyLink Field Event Center (formerly Qwest Field). The project consists of 3,750 individual solar panels manufactured in the United States by Fremont, CA, based Solicted. Using the latest in thin-film technology, the panels will capture both direct and reflected sunlight across a 360-degree, cylinder-like surface. The panels take advantage of the facility’s new “cool roof,” which conserves energy by reducing the amount of heat absorbed by the roof surface and lowering the need for building cooling. The system covers more than 2.5 acres, approximately 80 percent of the Event Center roof. The panels are projected to generate more than 830,000 kWh of electricity annually, equivalent to powering 95 Seattle-area homes for a year. The system was completed late summer 2011 using Local 46 inside wiremen and apprentices. This project is another example of our sisters and brothers leading the way in all facets of the electrical industry. It is our hope that projects like this will serve as a catapult toward a prosperous and sustainable future.


Holiday Party a Great Success

L.U. 68 (.l), DENVER, CO—The Christmas party for our young ones last year was Dec. 10 and the children were overjoyed. We had 48 children attending, accompanied by their families.

Made-in-USA toys were among many highlights contributing to the happiness. We also had the Shrine Clowns with face painting and balloons; the Keystone Kops with their “jailhouse”; the Electrical Federal Credit Union with cookie decorations; the Wramman’s Brotherhood Fund with ice cream, cookies and shifts galore; and lots of great food prepared by volunteers Steve Langarag, Wayne Paul and many others. The “toy corner” was staffed by Cindy Knox, Liz Perea, and several apprentices who volunteered. Speaking of those apprentices, our grateful appreciation goes to the following for their time to help make the event a rousing success: Martin Carroll Jr., Tyler Cullen, Shane Daigle, Jeremy Douglas, Dominick Garcia, Curtis Gookin, Glenn Gutierrez, Kyle King, Zachariah Moore, Nervin McKinney, Michael Parras, Michael Richetti, Jeffrey Tehenhues, Shane Williams and Joseph Zangaro. Our thanks also to their instructor at the Denver JATC, Jason Ogren.

Ed Knox, Pres.

Organizing Blitzes

L.U. 76 (.c,.r,.s,.a,.s), TACOMA, WA—2011 was a challenging year for Local 76. One of the bright spots was the Wheeler Data Center project in Olympia, WA. This project employed more than 100 of our members through three different contractors. We congratulate EC Company of Oregon and the IB EW members working on the project for their achievement of 356,000 safe working man-hours on this project. Local 76 volunteers, along with volunteers from neighboring locals and International Representatives, have been conducting organizing blitzes throughout Washington state with hopes to expand across the Ninth District this year. The door-knocking blitzes target unorganized workers who hold a current Washington State EL01 license. As of this writing, 1,219 doors have been knocked on by IB EW members. Volunteer involvement is crucial to the success of these blitzes. During the most recent blitz, which took place Oct. 24-26 in Local 112, rank and file members donated more than 666 hours of their time. In all, volunteers have spoken to over 100 electrical contractor owners on their doorstep this year and to more than 250 unorganized electrical workers.

Mac McClellan, P.S.
ceremony was attended by hundreds of invited guests. Among those in attendance were: IBEW Second District Int. Vice Pres. Frank J. Carroll, state and local politicians, representatives of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, many workforce initiative boards, Connecticut Technical High School System teachers and students, and many other distinguished guests.

All were very impressed with the 3,000-square-foot center and are interested in what we will be doing to help Connecticutt become a greener state.

We thank our Training Dir. Paul Costello for his tireless effort and dedication to bring this project to fruition. Also thanks to the many Local 90 volun-
teers who helped with the construction. We look for-
ward to deploying our members to work on many solar projects in the future.

**Local Lines**

**Line Clearance Pilot Agreement**

L.U. 94, (lkt,ntsku), GRANBY, CT.—As we move for-
to 2012, we want to note a positive change from 2011. In July 2011, we negotiated a pilot agree-
ment with PSEG for line clearance in Southern Division. The company hired 13 Local 94 top-step tree trimmers to complete the project. This is a great opportunity for our members and the begin-
ning of what we hope will be future of line clear-
ance within the utility property. Shown in the photo above are several members at work on this project. Congratulations, brothers, on doing an excellent job!

On another positive note, Local 94 is anticipat-
ing an exciting election year so we are doing a COPE Drive to get ready for it. Giving to COPE is very impor-
tant—it helps to keep our jobs safe and our interests alive in Trenton. We need to be present at political functions and let politicians know who we are and that we vote. Elections have consequences! Please give what you can; your job may depend on it.

We wish all our IBEW brothers and sisters a healthy and prosperous 2012.

Carlo Wolf, P.S.

**Craft Certification in Place**


Students and teachers participating in the Nottingham, NJ, elementary school/preschool Reads Program hold up signs to thank IBEW Local 102.

Local 94 members work on PSE&G line clearance project. Fred Lekadas and Executive Board member Ed Jones are in the aerial lifts; Mike Kamer and Tom Ciocian are doing the groundwork.

Local 102 delegates to the 38th IBEW Convention gather prior to an afternoon session. Standing, from left, are Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gary Pfann, John Sabaloukas, Bus. Mgr. Patrick Dele Cava, Robert Renaldo, Mark Roche, Dave Fiore, Mike Pulisnicki, Mike Scotta, Pete Pagano; and kneeling, Pres. Bernie Corrigan.

on their elections; we look forward to working with all of you. Our thanks go out to our Canadian brothers and sisters for their hospitality!

Back at home our JATC has implemented the NJATC Craft Certification program; two new rooms have been built specifically for this pur-
pose. The goal is to ensure that all apprentices have acquired the minimum skills required to become a journey-
man wireman. Those mem-
bers who are found to have deficiencies in certain areas will be re-trained in those spe-
cific skill groups. The focus of our leadership is to give our members all the tools needed to make them more employ-
able; education is a key component of that toolbox.

Our marketing campaign marches forward and as we profess to deliver the best value in the business, we must ensure the best possible training. Take advantage of our continuing education classes!

**Orienting Blitz Conducted**

L.U. 112 (il,ja,sk), KENNEWICK, WA.—On Oct. 24-25 last year, Local 112 welcomed IBEW members from the other four construction locals in Washington to conduct a door-knocking “blitz” of the nonunion electrical workers in Benton and Franklin Counties. Washington construction locals' (Lf.) 64, 73, 91 and 76 sent volunteer members to assist Bus. Mgr. Pete Marsh and Local 112 volunteers in this event.


Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowery addressed the volunteers by phone. He discussed the value of talking to unrepresented workers and thanked all members. Prior to the event, with assistance from Local 76 Organizer Dave Conzatti, we identified 57 electrical 

Tenaska Energy Center Project

L.U. 124 (ne,s,ut,wi,ks), DESMOUNT, IL.—For several months we waited for some good news about the Tenaska Energy Center project. We are happy that the meas-
ure finally cleared the Illinois Senate. As of this writ-
ing, we wait for the House, which has already passed this legislation. This is finally one step closer in the right direction.

The Local 124 apprenticeship program has a new name—the Midwest Electrical Training Center in association with the IBEW and NECA. Under the direction of Training Dir. Jason Drake, we now have an improved hands-on training facility at the hall. All apprentices have been trained in OSHA, first aid and CPR. Fifth-year apprentices recently completed steward training.

We completed another successful outage at the Clinton Power Station in December. Thank you to brothers and sisters from across the country who made this possible. We look forward to 1 CRC in two years.

Congratulations to members who retired in 2011: Jim Perkins, Herb Berg, Fred Thomas, Dan Waite, Monte Thornton, Rick Willenborg, Randy Dalby, Lyn Harner, Dave Law, Mitch Garrett, Terry Camfield, Scott Cortaring, Mike Burnus, Mike
Spracklen and Phil Green.

We remember members we lost in 2011: Joseph Dittamore, Darrel Rhodes, Mike Allen, Dominic Rigoni, Charles Weatherford, Jerry Chestnut, Robert Thompson, Lyle Thompson, Kenneth Hogge, Jim Current, Jim McKe St., Joseph Renfrow, Elwood Grissom and Bryan Kite. Their IBEW service made it possible for all of us to grow and prosper.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

Plant Update Project Wraps Up

L.U. 518 (Ut,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAR— Local 518 is wrapping up work for an outage at one of our two nuclear plants, Point Beach Nuclear Plant. The outage was scheduled for approximately 60 days or so. We have been fortunate for all the upgrade work the plant has done in the last 2½ years; it has employed many local members as well as traveling brothers and sisters. We hope some other projects will go our way in 2012 to carry over the manpower from this job.

Referral Agent Ron Vercauteren and myself were delegates to the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in September. We thank the membership for allowing us to attend; it was an awesome city and experience. We thank the First District as well as host Local 253 for the great job they did. The people of Vancouver were warm and friendly and welcoming. Beautiful city indeed!

We are now running out of our local’s new office building. Things are going well. We have hosted many functions as well as held unlimited meetings. We have also had several training classes. We had an open house Aug. 26, 2011. Everyone, from members to retirees to travelers to nonmembers, is impressed with the place.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Better Outlook for 2012

L.U. 164 (c,em,l&djo), JERSEY CITY, N J— At this writing, the Christmas season was upon us. Work in our area is slowly getting better, but our members have suffered terribly since the financial meltdown halted the economy in northern New Jersey in 2008. Bus. Mgr. Richard Dressel addressed the membership at the December union meeting/Christmas party, expressing his outlook for a much better 2012.

A few highlights have brightened some spirits in this season of giving. The Children’s Christmas Party was held Sunday, Dec. 4. More than 300 members and their children had a joyous time. Every child visited with Santa and was entertained by Stretch the magician and costume characters. Local 164 has held a Children’s Christmas Party for 50-plus years. The looks on the faces of the children when they see our hall magically turned into a winter wonderland is priceless. Many thanks go to Chairman Rich Paredes, his wife Nancy and the many volunteers who work so hard to create such a wonderfully magical day for our children.

God bless to all, good luck and prosperity in 2012.

John M. DeBoutter, Pres.

Holiday Season Meetings

L.U. 222 (oil, ORLANDO, FL—Brothers and sisters, greetings from Local 222.

We kicked off the holiday season at our November meeting, with barbecue ribs and chicken, collard greens and baked beans. I believe if the plights had made landfall south of Virginia, that’s probably what Thanksgiving would have looked like. Local 222’s dispatcher and long time member Fred Morgan was presented his 40-year service pin by Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell, and everyone had a good time.

Our December meeting had a little more traditional fare with American Legion Post 88 serving pot roast, mashed potatoes and fixings. We can’t say enough about Post 88’s hospitality—thank you.

As you are reading this in February, we hope that you had a great holiday season and that your new year’s is off to a prosperous start.

Bill Hit, Pres.

Officer Transitions

L.U. 234 (bk,mt&idjo), CASTROVILLE, CA— We thank all IBEW members and officers who worked so diligently to make the 38th IBEW International Convention such a success. Additionally, we extend to Steve Ray our heartfelt, sincere congratulations and gratitude for his 15-plus years of service as our Ninth District International Representative.

At our September 2011 E-Board meeting, three officer positions underwent transitions. As Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill stated in his keynote convention address: “There are no cowards here,”—only dedicated members and officers all.

With both regret and pride we accepted the resignation of Ken Schepinowski as business manager/financial secretary. Bob Schepinowski was tapped by Int. Pres. Michael S. Mowery to fill Steve Ray’s vacated Ninth District International Representative position. The loss of Ken’s steady hand is bittersweet and he will certainly be missed, but it is pleasing to know we are still under his ever-attentive service.

Andy Hartmann resigned as president and graciously accepted appointment as our youngest, yet supremely qualified, business manager/financial secretary. Mike Shot, with his many years of service, resigned as treasurer and was appointed president. Chris Burditt was appointed treasurer and will work for Andy as organizer.

We are pleased to commend these newly appointed officers. Local 234 clearly demonstrates its support for IBEW core values as we move strongly into the 21st century.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Prevailing in Central Oregon

L.U. 280 (c,ess,em,i,rts,u), Salem, OR—released on Nov. 10, 2011, a report of 24 percent union market share for Central Oregon—and a deadline of Nov. 28, 2011, to voice any concerns regarding the numbers from their survey to determine if Local 280 scale and benefits will be the benchmark for Oregon Prevailing Wage. The last time that we prevailed in this region was in 2007. Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew was not going to sit still and let this happen without giving it his best to help us prevail! He called Rosendin Electric to find out if the company was included in the survey, and it was not. After contacting BOL to find out if the bureau would include Rosendin Electric’s hours, Tim then asked Mary Marshall, field payroll manager for Rosendin, if Rosendin could do the almost impossible and supply their hours to Local 280 to make the deadline in three days. Many came through for us! Local 280 now prevails in market share throughout our jurisdiction.

A big thank-you goes to our excellent local union staff for all their hard work in fighting to make our regions prevail in union market share for Lane County last year and now Central Oregon!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

“Brotherhood Pulls Together”

L.U. 292 (em,gt,ltb,ts&kspa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—On Oct. 27 last year, Local 292 Bros. Ron Rajkowski and Craig Carlton tragically lost their lives while doing electrical work in the twin cities metro. The outpouring of support by many locals throughout the USA and Canada has been outstanding, and we were able to hand the families many cards and checks. It is good to know that the Brotherhood really pulls together to help our families in need.

The fourth year of Holiday Lights in the Park was a great success, raising money for UnderConstruction, Union Gospel Mission, Second Harvest Heartland, and St. Pauls Parks Recreation and Conservancy.

The IBEW 292 Children’s Christmas Party, Hometown Christmas Party, and Members Christmas Party were all very well attended and a boost to the local’s morale. More than 800 members are still on the out-of-work book, with many of those traveling to other states for work; thank you to those locals for putting our brothers and sisters to work.

We are remodeling our offices in Minneapolis. This will improve our ability to support our members and we look forward to completion of the project in the second quarter of 2012.

Carl Madsen, B.R.

Daniel James Quirk Remembered

L.U. 294 (c,em,ltb,ts&kspa), HIBBING, MN—Daniel Quirk was a former president of Local 294 and had taught at our apprenticeship school. For some time now, Dan had been fighting a long fight against a rare cancer of the thymus gland. The brothers of Local 294 participated in a spaghetti-feed fundraiser last April to help with his medical expenses. Dan passed away with family by his side on Tuesday evening, Nov. 22, 2011. His funeral was at St. Cecilia’s Church in Nashwauk, MN, on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Dan was a very strong union supporter and will be greatly missed by his wife, Diane, family members and the Brotherhood of Local 294.

Daniel Arvola, P.S.

“Truly a Trade Unionist”

L.U. 302 (ltb,ts&kspa), MARTINEZ, CA—Congratulations to former business manager Mike Yarbrough on his recent retirement after 42 years of service! Mike served as business manager from 1995 until 2011 and was elected to six terms as our business manager. Mike served as an assistant business manager from 1999-1995, and as an apprenticeship Instructor from 1984-1995. Mike started his career in the IBETW as a temporary helper in 1968, was accepted into the apprenticeship in 1969 and turned out as a journeyman in 1979. Mike is a proud veteran having served our country in the U.S. Navy. Throughout his career he exemplified the meaning of brotherhood and is truly a “trade unionist!” Local 302 wishes Mike and his wife, Bonny, the best in their upcoming 5th wheel adventure. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, brother!

In October 2011 we held our 10th Annual Ben Forlang Memorial Motorcycle Rally, which raises funds for children of deceased members. We collected more than $50,000 last year for the children we assist. That brings our 10-year total to more than $300,000; we have helped 21 children with a nest egg! Thanks to all who contributed!

Paul Doolittle, P.S.
Linemen Restore Power
L.U. 304 (lt,wt,ak), TOPERIA, KS—A Local 304 line crew was restoring power in the New England region when a resident in the area, K.P. Collins, approached the crew foreman Richard Toledo wanting to express his gratitude for the work being performed in adverse conditions. Mr. Collins presented the crew with a handwritten thank-you note attached to a jacket cover from a book titled, “Medal of Honor, Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty.”

Written in the thank-you note was the following. “To the Linemen of Kansas; I receive the Medal of Honor. Today, watching you men work and realizing you sacrifice in being away from your families so you could light us fellow Americans here in New England, up out of the dark and cold, it seems to me that you men deserve to be recognized with the finest American fighting men. You men fought this disaster and won. I’ll remain forever grateful—K.P. Collins” (We would never rightfully accept an honor so great, as we in the line trade could never fill the shoes of the brave men and women who have received this award and who gave all on foreign soil. It is seldom that we get this kind of recognition and for that we say thanks).—Paul Lima, B.M.

Stewardship Classes
L.U. 302 (l,es,es,lk), SAN JOSE, CA—Local 302 is experiencing a renewed interest in stewardship. Twenty-two members graduated from a steward’s class held in November, adding to 22 graduates from a February 2011 class. We are grateful for the time and energy our members are investing in learning how to improve our job skills and protect our agreements.

Dozens of members pitched in at our 2011 Christmas in the Park volunteer event. Everyday we decorate the trees at Cesar Chavez Park in downtown San Jose with lights and ornaments. We had excellent participation last year.

Recently we celebrated the contributions of some of our more-seasoned members at the annual “Old-Timer’s Night” dinner. In total, 130 years-of-service pins were awarded, including two 70-year pins.

A new class of 18 first-year residential apprentices began in 2011, and 65 first-year inside apprentices were accepted. Our apprentices are at full employment, with 206 inside wireman apprentices working in the jurisdiction.

Our Web site and Facebook page have seen steady increases in regular visitors. Our members, both young and old, are becoming more connected through technology and social networking. This helps us get the word out about important issues facing our members at the local, state and national levels. Visit us on the Web at www.ibew332.org and on Facebook by searching for “IB EW Local 332.”—David Bin, Organizer

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Member-to-Member Program
L.U. 364 (cat,v,es,i,es,em,es,i,m,t,ts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—in December, the local 364 Kids Christmas Party took place. Thanks to Bro. Patrick Tamin for planning this very festive event for the children and grandchildren of IB EW members. Thanks to Bro. Tyrus Hillman (aka “Santa”) Clause for flawlessly portraying old Saint Nick once again.

Also in December we held our annual membership Christmas Party following the regular union meeting. At the meeting members receiving certain years-of-service milestones received IB EW years-of-service pins and retirees received gold watches as a token of our local’s appreciation. Afterward there was a catered baked-ham dinner prepared by our banquet caterers, ABC Catering.

Primary election time is fast approaching. Our Member-To-Member program to get out the vote for union candidates is well under way. In these primaries it is so crucial that our members get as many family members and friends as they can to the polls to turn out the vote for friends of unionism and working families.

Local 364 leads other area unions with more than 98 percent of our members registered to vote. We also lead in the percentage of voters who show up and vote. It’s so important to vote for union friendly candidates.—A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Members Give a Holiday Hand Up
L.U. 360 (l,t,ts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Last year was a tough one for California workers. Our IB EW workers were not immune to this bleak work picture and money has been tight for many members—but at Christmas we really saw what “brotherhood” is all about. Every year we hold an Operation Christmas Basket Drawing and sell tickets for prizes such as $1,000 cash, a shotgun, lottery tickets, crab feed tickets, etc. Proceeds of the raffle go to help union members of all trades purchase food and toys for their children. The main winners of our drawing were: Bro. Ted Smith (who won $5,000), Bro. Dwight Evans (who won a shotgun) and Bro. Michael Wilson ($100 in lottery tickets).

Our office along with our LMCC held a Local Christmas Basket Drive where our members could donate toys, food and gift cards to our families who really needed the hand up. With items donated by the business office staff and members, we were able to help 14 families and 36 kids! Retired Bro. Herb Stone was the biggest supporter of our 2011 Christmas Drive with loads of toys, food and gift cards.

We mourn the recent passing of Bros. Ray Carlson, Leon Chapman, Peter Gostovich, Al Sellands, John Winters, Dean Elbert, Jason Lowe and Carl Martin. Rest in peace, broth—ers.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Local Lines
Local 322 members and families volunteered their skills for a San Jose, CA, Christmas in the Park event.

“Sharing Brotherhood”
L.U. 388 (em,lt,ts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—IB EW Local 388 welcomes home member John Duncan, who worked in Afghanistan for 13 months as a civilian contractor. John not only exemplifies what it means to be a proud IB EW member, but also a Marine who served his country in the first Gulf War. John experienced firsthand what it was like living in a combat zone and witnessing numerous attacks over the months working overseas. Days before leaving for home John came under a rocket attack that severely wounded an American soldier, and John himself suffered shrapnel wounds to his leg. John was nominated for the Defense of Freedom Medal for his actions not only on that day but also for his skills as an electrician and his job performance throughout his deployment.

Local 388’s picnic last September was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Robert Cyran and all the volunteers. Also, a big thank you goes to the “Jensen Boys” for working so hard to provide us with a fine roasted pig. For those who have not attended in the past, this event is a great way to share some brotherhood and get reacquainted with retired members.—Guy LePage, P.S.

Members Show Support
L.U. 42 (l), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 422 members employed with KCP&L Hawthorn Station showed their support and/or honored those they’ve lost to breast cancer by wearing pink hard hats for the month of October 2011. (See photo below.)

Local 422 members wear pink hard hats to show support during October 2011 breast cancer campaign.
Members Appreciation Night

L.U. 424 (as,es,em,es,im,on,pt.rb,rtts,spakq)
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—We recently held our annual Members Appreciation Night awards banquet honouring longtime members for their years of service in the advancement of the local. Engraved gold watches and certificates were presented to retiring members: John Bell, Jim Calahoo, Dale Christianson, George Hyshka, Jerry Kallita, Leonard Laser, Aubrey Marshall, Terry Meriman, Walter Nowicki, Rod Romano, Pietro Rosato, Ron Sanford, Ken Sieben, Kelsey Strong and Russ Taylor.

A special award went to Bro. Arthur Dowling (initiated in 1956), who received a 55-year pin. Before saying the “gues” Bro. Dowling treated the assembly to some interesting anecdotes of the local over the years.


The “new” retirees are invited to attend Edmonton & Calgary Retirees’ meetings. Dates and times are posted at www.ibew424.net.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

‘We Do Make a Difference’

L.U. 456 (8ko), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—As this past year concluded, we kept in our thoughts our brothers who received their final “referral” during 2011. They include: retired members William Kohn, Aldrich Goscutt, William O’Buck, Teddy Honzaik, William Brisca Sr., Carl Tyler, Stanley Locha, Andrew Browne, John “Nooker” Kolowitz, Edwin Gadek, Isidore “Izzy” Pawlowski and Arthur Zboyan. We also remember recently deceased active members: Glenn Thompson and Albert Cutler Sr. These brothers have completed their labor and it is now their time to rest.

Many thanks go to all who volunteered to help with all our activities in 2011—from the golf outing to our picnics and the outstanding children’s Christmas party.

Big congratulations to Local 456 Bus. Mgrs. Joseph Egan for being re-elected as New Jersey state assemblyman. Bus. Mgr. Egan has served in the General Assembly since 2002. Thank you to all who voted and made sure their families came out to vote for working families. We do make a difference if we work together.

Attend meetings and be part of our future.

Wayne Martiak, P.S.

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 520 (lohrb), SARNIA, (ONTARIO), CANADA—Local 520 held our annual Children’s Christmas Party Dec. 4. This event saw members, their wives and children enjoy an afternoon of skiing followed by Santa Claus stopping in with gifts for all the kids. Our local recently donated and erected a new scoreboard at Norm Perry Memorial Field. The new scoreboard measures 26 x 19 feet and will provide the start to much needed updates and advancement the city has planned for this location. Thank you to all the members and contractors who provided tools, manpower and time to make this project a success.

Dec. 6 saw Local 530 honor Bro. William “Bill” Lusk with his 65-year service pin. Bill was inducted Dec. 6, 1948, so this honor was given to him 65 years to the day.

At this writing during the Christmas season, once again Local 530 is giving back. Non-perishable goods have been collected at our hall for donation to the Inn of the Good Shepherd for the less fortunate. With the work picture slow, Local 530 thanks Barrie Local 1739, Sudbury Local 1687, and Regina Local 2081 for employment opportunities.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bro. Bud Parsons.

Al Byers, P.S.

Sarnia Local Gives Back

The Electrical Worker | February 2012

Employees contributed $250 for donation to the American Cancer Society. Thank you to Renee Mosby, Hawthorn Generating Station facilitator, for contributing this article.

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.

Local 520 Bus. Mgr. Chris Wagner (left) presents Omar Schuyl with his 65-year pin and plaque.

D. Hopkins, Walter E. Johnson, Raymond L. Kieke, James L. Milstead, Lambert A. Raatz and for 65 years—Nolan E. House and Omar A. Schulz. Congratulations to all the pin recipients.

Work remains slow with prospects looking to pick up in 2012.

Lane Price, Pres.

‘Work Picture Holding Well’

L.U. 558 (cath,em,mlmt,rb,rtts,spak), SHEFFIELD, AL—Greetings, brothers and sisters. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

At this writing, work in Local 558’s jurisdiction is holding well. We have managed to put a few travelers to work as well.
Local Lines

I wish to thank all members who worked on our float for the Christmas parades last year. The float was a great success, winning a variety of prizes in the participating cities.

We congratulate all of our members who received years-of-service pins.

Keep in your prayers members lost in 2011.

Mac Sisson, Mgr. Dev.

Local 570 pays tribute to the memory of two young members.

2011 Projects in Tucson

Local 570 (L.0m.570), TUCSON, AZ—As we look back on 2011, Local 570 was fortunate to have picked up some larger jobs that put a good number of local members and traveling brothers and sisters to work through the year. Highlights included Rosendin Electric’s 10-plus story Unisource building downtown and Conti’s first phase of the First Solar, Agua Caliente, 290-megawatt solar photovoltaic generating facility in Dateland, AZ.

However, along with the improved work picture came tragedy. Aaron “Big Red” Roger and Avram Lee Real were involved in a fatal car accident Oct. 20 on their way to work in Dateland, AZ. A forensic, Aaron was age 28. Avram was a fifth-year apprentice and 29 years old. Local 570 and all the IBEW members on that job were deeply saddened and will miss our young members. The prayers, support and generosity shown by local members—as well as by very many traveling brothers and sisters, local unions, Conti Electric, First Solar and several other employers—was greatly appreciated by the grieving families. Local 570 thanks everyone for your incredible caring and brotherhood following this tragic loss.

Scott W. Tool, Organizer

Holiday Party & Awards

Local 586 (em.586), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our annual Christmas party was held at the Hampton Inn, where 300 celebrated a wonderful evening, dancing, dining and winning prizes. The 50-year membership awards from the IUOM were given to eligible members who could attend. Great to see you, brothers. It was a fitting and happy ending to another year that has seen our local growing and thriving under the direction of our B us. Mgr. Jam es Barry and his diligent organizers and office staff.

Local 586 Pres. Doug Parsons (center) congratulates six 50-year pin award recipients. From left are: Fredrick Gustafson, Ernst Poehlmann, Henry Veileux, Parsons, Wolfgang Holz, Horst Matthiesen and Kevin Birmingham.

There will be more about them later in the new year. Yours in brotherhood.

Doug Parsons, Pres.

IBEW Fathers & Sons

Local 606 (em.606), ORLANDO, FL—At a recent general meeting, B us. Mgr. Bob Carr gave several IBEW membership certificates to fathers and sons. Bro. Charlie Durance received a 55-year certificate, while his son Robbie Durance received a 30-year certificate. Bro. Calvin Giles received a 50-year certificate, while his son David Giles received a 25-year certificate. And Bro. Cliff Gilmore received his 45-year certificate, while his son Cliff Jr. received a 30-year certificate. Another special moment occurred during the meeting when Scotty Peterson, a second-year apprentice, was sworn in for membership—while his father, Pete Peterson, a 40-year member, and his brother Tony Peterson, a 12-year member, of the IUOM, watched.

With deepest regret we report the passing of Bros. Frank Harrington, Phil Jackson and Harry Brown. Our sincere sympathy goes to their families.

Our next article will be dedicated to the memory of our late former business manager Bro. Harry C. Brown, for his long service to Local 606 and the IBEW. Bro. Brown passed away Nov. 17 last year.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

Report from Wyoming

Local 612 (u.), WHEATLAND, WY—We hosted our annual Christmas party Dec. 27 last year for all the kids. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped make it a great success.

Our local has 258 members, seven “Freddys” (nonmembers who nevertheless enjoy the benefits of a union contract) and 12 new members added just recently. At this writing, we were scheduled to start negotiations in December 2011/January 2012.

We have a steady flow of retirees, which leaves a void in skill and knowledge walking out the door, but we will persevere through the education and training of our brotherhood, with the help of our fellow Wyoming Local 322 JAT apprenticeship program. We have also been working hard in hand with local 425 helping them organize and get a first contract at Dry Forks station in Gillette, WY.

On behalf of our local, I was pleased to attend the IBEW 87th International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, and was impressed and proud to be a member of the IBEW.

Great Fellowship

Local 648 (em.648), HAMILTON, OH—Local 648 would like to wish everyone a happy new year in 2012 and hope for full employment for all our fellow brothers and sisters of the IBEW.

The Kid’s Christmas and the Retiree’s Christmas parties were a huge success last year. Both were well-attended and everyone enjoyed the great fellowship during the holidays.

Local 648 thanks all the traveling brothers and sisters for helping to complete our projects on time and under budget this past year.

Local 648 mourns the loss of the following brothers who passed away last year: Elijah Minor, Jeff Brown, Andy Andrews and Pete Arno. May God bless these brothers, their families and friends.

Jeff McGuffey, P.S.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Local 666 (L.066), RICHMOND, VA—We had a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Grover W. Wiley meeting hall Oct. 14 last year. This new 10,000-square-foot, multi-purpose facility will have a meeting hall, training rooms, and two solar PV arrays totaling 25 Kw. The hall is expected to be completed July 1, 2012. Grover Wiley was our business manager from 1996 to 1997.

Work in our jurisdiction should improve in early 2012 with the new data center in Henrico and a few other projects. Thanks to all the locals that have helped provide work opportunities for our brothers and sisters in these hard times.


We recently voted to merge our credit union with the Hopewell Chemical FCU to provide better service and options to our members. There is more information on our Web site www.ibewlocal666.com in the announcements section.

I encourage everyone to attend union meetings regularly and if you are not registered to vote, please do so!

Charles Skelly, P.S.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers-

IBEW MERCHANDISE

$7.25

Convention Money Clip

Handcrafted aluminum money clip with IBEW 38th Convention logo. Made by Wendell August. Measures 1 ½” x 2 ¼”.

Convention Pullover Windshirt

100% cotton v-neck pullover windshirt with heavy polyester lining. 38th Convention logo embroidered in gold. (Limited stock available).

Convention Pocket Knife

3” brass lockback knife includes custom IBEW 38th Convention commemorative decorations on front and back of handle.

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

William Allison, B.M./Pres.

Great Fellowship

Local 648 (em.648), HAMILTON, OH—Local 648 would like to wish everyone a happy new year in 2012 and hope for full employment for all our fellow brothers and sisters of the IBEW.

The Kid’s Christmas and the Retiree’s Christmas parties were a huge success last year. Both were well-attended and everyone enjoyed the great fellowship during the holidays.

Local 648 thanks all the traveling brothers and sisters for helping to complete our projects on time and under budget this past year.

Local 648 mourns the loss of the following brothers who passed away last year: Elijah Minor, Jeff Brown, Andy Andrews and Pete Arno. May God bless these brothers, their families and friends.

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Charles Skelly, P.S.
Century Mark Achieved

L.U. 704 (catv,em &lctt&spa), H O U STO N, TX—On Nov. 19 last year, Local 704 celebrated its 100th anniversary. At the historic Hotel Julien, members gathered with local and international officials and other guests to mark this milestone.


We are all members: apprentices, journeymen, manufacturing workers, retirees and officers in our union halls. Working together as a local, we strive to achieve common goals: maintaining and improving the standard of living for all.

Former 704 president Gary Freiburger highlighted some of the family names that produced generations of Local 704 members. Names such as Eichman, Frommetl, Sisler, Willging and Wirzbach were recognized.

A commemorative booklet, sponsored by Local 704 supporters, and a historic artifacts display were created by the Planning Committee. Committee members included: Tom Ellwanger, Dale Maas, Bill Eichman, Jim Willging, Carl Weimarks, Tyler Weimarks, Harry Noyes, Sean Legpent, Dan Hammel, Dave Wilson, Bob Willging, Tom Wirzbach, Dan Hughes, Carl Oppelt, Ron Mueller and Shelly Freiburger.

Run Heitzman, P.S.

Centennial Celebration

L.U. 716 (em,catv&lctt), H O U STO N, TX—Greetings. I hope all had a happy holiday season year, Local 716 celebrated its 100th anniversary. At our local and International officials and other guests to we do have good expectations for work to break in Wilson introduced the presentations. Presenters included Int. Pres. Edw in D. H ill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Int. Vice Pres. Curtis E. Henke, state Rep. Chuck Ishenhart and Dubuque Mayor Roy Buol. Their messages of congratulations also contained stories of tough times experienced by our organization. The local has survived and continues to work to improve the lives of its membership.

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Run Heitzman, P.S.

Daytona Beach Project

L.U. 716 (esl,catv&lctt), D A YTONA B EACH, FL—Local 716 has been involved in a unique project not common in the jurisdiction of Daytona Beach. Kipp Gardiner, owner of Sterling & Associates, a longtime and second-generation signatory contractor, has been working for more than a year with the company Daytona Flexible Packaging. This company invented the “Capri Sun” style beverage pouch and is expanding the plant to include multiple types of premixed beverage packaging.

This project required stainless steel conduit and Class 1 explosion-proof wiring methods. The new system is designed to run 24/7 and has 75 control and monitoring devices and 29 motors all tied into a centrally located control panel. The project was finished months in advance of expected completion. Seven journeyman wiremen and three apprentices exhibited excellent craftsmanship and brought the job in early.

A second phase of expansion with another “clean room” is in the planning stages, and Sterling & Associates and its IBEW crew will be ready to perform at a high level of craftsmanship. A success for our members, our contractors and a new local customer within our jurisdiction — kudos to all involved.

The Local 716 annual Kids Christmas Party was Dec. 3. Bro. Buddy Hart and his wife, Kathy, dined as Santa and Mrs. Claus and presented gifts to all the children. Special thanks to office manager Candace Hampton for handling party details. May the IBEW and all working Americans have a safe, prosperous new year.

Daniel Hunt, P.S.

Awesome Brotherhood

L.U. 716 (l,rtk&t&spa), C H A R L E S T O N, SC—At this writing, work has started to slow down for the holidays. Local 716 thanks all the traveling brothers and sisters who came to help us while we were blessed with some much needed jobs. We look forward to 2012 and the growth it will bring.

Congratulations to Int. Pres. Edwin P. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein, and IEC member William W. Riley on their re-election at the IBEW 38th International Convention. The “Brotherhood Beyond Borders” theme there was right on cue and it was awesome to be a part of it.

Now is the time to really work hard on the upcoming November 2012 election. We can’t afford to lose.

Chuck Moore, B.M.

75th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 910 (esl,catv&lctt), W A TERTOWN, NY—The local’s 75th anniversary celebration in September 2011 was a great success. Approximately 180 people attended and all had a great time. Area politicians and our International Representatives were among those present, along with several business managers from across the state of New York and from Pennsylvania. Local 910 was presented with two New York State Assembly citations by Assembly members Addie J. Russell and Ken Blankenshield.

The local thanks the Anniversary Planning Committee and the staff at the Edgewood Resort for an excellent celebration. We also thank our supporters who purchased ad space in our program or donated for the door prize.

Local 910 members marched in the 2011 Solidarity Parade in Massena. Several members and retirees braved threatening weather to represent the local. Our local placed third in the parade judging. Thanks to all who participated. It did not rain on our parade!

Congratulations to Int. Pres. Edw in P. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein, and IEC member William W. Riley on their re-election at the IBEW 38th International Convention. The “Brotherhood Beyond Borders” theme there was right on cue and it was awesome to be a part of it.

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Chuck Moore, B.M.

60-Year Service Award


Congratulations, Johnny, and many more healthy years to come! Johnny will be 86 in June.

Doug Kaattari, B.M./Pres.

Scholarship Awarded

L.U. 1066 (u), D A Y T O N A B E A C H, FL—Members of Local 1066 congratulate Sarah Tolbert, daughter of member Bro. Randy Tolbert, on winning the annual Local 1066 scholarship award. The award was started in 2008 and each year our active and retired members’ children or grandchildren are eligible to compete for the award.

We also congratulate and honor David Livingston, Cavin Michaud, Rick Barnett and Jesse Ferguson for their service to the IBEW throughout their careers. These gentlemen have decided to retire. They will be missed.

Maria Menit, B.M.

2012 Outlook

L.U. 1116 (em,ltkl&u), TUCSON, AZ—Our local was fortunate to see our younger members step up during 2011. Hopefully, 2012 will be no different with our young work force entering apprenticeship programs in Relay/Communications, Substations, Line Construction, Heavy Equipment Operators, Designers, Automotive, Power Production to CSR, Meter Readers and Line Locators. It’s a whole new
wave and it’s union workers making it that way. The labor movement made this country strong at one time and history usually repeats itself.

Our Tri-Ohio ratification vote is this month, then on to UNS Gas and both TEP Tucson and Springfield contracts. Organizing at this time is very important as our bargaining strength is only as strong as our membership. Bro. Eric Reed (political efforts) and Sister Jessica Reyes (Young Union Activists). We must all work together to organize our co-workers who have not been invited or have not understood how important it is to be one of the voices heard by our employers and by our government officials.

R. Cavalletto, P.S.

‘True Solidarity Among Workers’

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—IBEW Local 1466 thanks everyone who took the time to help defeat Gov. John Kasich’s anti-union bill by voting on Issue 2 on Nov. 8 last year. By working together with our union brothers and sisters across the Buckeye State, we showed that there is true solidarity among workers in the Ohio labor movement.

In other news, the membership voted at the November monthly meetings to have the inside of our union hall renovated. This was in discussion for the few months prior to the vote and was approved with a solid majority. The improvements were much needed and will make sure our members have a nice hall to enjoy for years to come.

Finally, we hope that everyone had a nice holiday and a happy, safe New Year’s. Let’s make sure we continue to look out for one another going into 2012.

Jimi Jette, P.S.

Local Gives Back

L.U. 1464, (u), PHILADELPHIA, PA—IBEW Local 1464 gives back to the veterans who have served our country. The New Castle office got together and decided it was time to give back to someone who gave so much to us. Everyone donated for this veteran and his family to have a nice Thanksgiving. This is just the beginning for us. We would like to continue the practice for years to come. Unions have always supported working people and those who make a difference in the lives of our loved ones.

R. Cavalletto, P.S.

Contracts Negotiated

L.U. 2286 (em,mar,mou,rbblu), BEAUMONT, TX—Our membership celebrated an open house on Saturday, Oct. 28, last year at our new union hall. Several members attended with their families, as well as special guests Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Jonathan B. Gardner, Int. Rep. George Crawford, Lead Organizer Kith Pouose, Local 479 Bus. Mgr. David Gonzales and Local 66 Bus. Mgr. Greg Lucero. Local 2286 Bus. Mgr. Clinton Trahan and Local 2286 Pres. Mike LaVergne have successfully led negotiations for four contracts simultaneously and with the hard work and dedication of our commit-tees reached the best deals possible. Through the power of collective bargaining, we made a change in a system-wide policy already in place for non-bar-gaining employees that protects our vacation if we become ill or injured.

Aust. Bus. Mgr. Johnny Wilson notified the membership the negotiations with the outside contractors came to an impasse. They met with the CR in Washington, D.C., during the August session, which resulted in a two-year agreement with a 3 percent increase in the second year. Work looks good throughout the next year.

We congratulate Bro. John Baker on his election as a vice president of the Texas AFL-CIO.

Mona Mck, P.S.

Retirees

Guest Speakers & Holiday Party

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 retirees held their final meeting for 2011 on Nov. 24, with the usual order of business. Local 1 Bus. Rep. Rob Dussold addressed the group and spoke of cur-rent work conditions and future prospects for employ-ment of our members. Another guest speaker, an attorney with expertise on lung disease, also gave an informative presentation; he suggested some retirees may have legal options if tests show lung problems, possibly caused by obsolete conditions. Retirees enjoyed lunch and camaraderie after the meeting.

On Dec. 3, the Retirees Ladies Auxiliary hosted our annual Christmas party. All had a great time and fun activities included: Put-of-Gold, craft sales, etc. This new caterer served a great meal. The ladies presented the local, represented by Bus. Mgr. Greg Booth, a check for $4,000 to be used by the Relief Committee for our members in need. These ladies command our greatest respect and admiration for their many contributions to Local 1 and its retirees. We salute Jane Mitchell, Barb Moorin, Shirley Missey, Virginia Pagano, Mary Lou Bohn, Joan Gomer, Marie Donavan, Lenville Hefges and all other volunteers who make our organization work.

We extend greetings to all IBEW members, with high hopes the new year will bring God’s blessings on us all.

Meetings in 2012: March 21, May 16, July 18, Sept. 19 (luncheon) and Nov. 21.

Don Appelbaum, P.S.

Holiday Party & Food Drive

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, LONG ISLAND-SUFFOLK CHAPTER—On Dec. 15, 2011, our chapter had its Annual Holiday Party at the Meadow Club in Port Jefferson Station. It was a huge success and all had a wonderful time. Attendees enjoyed mouth-watering food, warm drinks and music as well as a raffle. It was a huge success and all had a wonderful time. Attendees enjoyed great food, wine and music as well as a raffle. We didn’t win, however, there is always next year. The most important thing was that there were lots of good friends to share the holiday spirit with.

Our Annual Food Drive was a great success due to the wonderful support by our members, and we donated 300 pounds of food to Long Island Cares. This organization distributes the donations to food pantries all over Long Island.

We are currently planning our meetings and upcoming events for the year ahead. On behalf of the officers and members of our chapter, we wish our brothers and sisters and their families a very happy and healthy new year.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.

Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—On Dec. 13, 2011, our annual Christmas/Hanukkah luncheon was held at Travellers Rest, in Ossining, NY. More than 125 members and guests attended.

This day included the recognition of 28 Gold Members, at least 50 years of age, who received certificates showing the chapter’s appreciation for their service.


A holiday cookbook was presented to the ladies, as a gift, for their help and support in attending our functions.

Our new chapter banner was unveiled at the luncheon. The banner, which carries the IBEW logo and our chapter name, is representative of our con-tinued dedication to Local 3. It will proudly displayed at our chapter meetings and Local 3 functions. Holiday luncheon attendees also enjoyed music by musicians from Locals 38 and 598.

John Rich, P.S.
Robert J. Cuneo, P.S.

‘Travels Continue in 2012’

RETIRES CLUB OF L.U. 3, WASHINGTON, DC—In January 2012, the club raised its membership fee for the first time in many years to $25 a year per person. Our membership is open to any IBEW member over 50 years of age. We do not require that you


Local 3 retirees and guests attend December holiday party.

Local 26 retirees and guests attend December holiday party.
already be retired and hope that you will begin to participate before that wonderful day arrives. You may send your dues directly to our treasurer, James Handley, 4933 West Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20707-2211. Please include your e-mail address.

Our travels continue in 2012. If you wish to join our bus and ship trips, please contact Vice Pres. Rick Warner, our travel coordinator, at (240) 472-0498. He can sign you up for particular trips, before they are sold out! Remember, our trips are open to any IBEW member or their family.

In December, we held our annual holiday party and attendance was the best on record! We hope that continues as we progress in 2012. Thankfully, we were able to randomly give many of the poinsettia decorations to attendees.

With 2012 will come local and national elections, and we urge all to be active participants in the process. Our union needs our support, in body and spirit, to make certain the future is brighter for all members.

Susan Flashman, P.S.

Festive 2011 Holiday Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—Happy New Year! Our festive Christmas party saw 273 in attendance, attired in their finest. Although we get together almost monthly, the Christmas and Pin Handley, 4933 West Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20707-2211. Please include your e-mail address.

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In addition to your monthly information in cyberspace, Worker, check out the wealth of IBEW-related project. Check it out on revenues with their newest electricTV.net

The IBEW has its own YouTube channel on YouTube, devoted exclusively to videos about the union and its members.

HourPower See Klein’s 3100 Hook Meter and new voltage meter in action in our latest IBEW Hour Power Job tips, only on www.IBEWHourPower.com

ElectricTV Southern Contracting and IBEW 589 have created a way to pump up San Diego revenues with their newest project. Check it out on electricTV.net

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

Facebook More than a million users have viewed the IBEW’s Facebook page—have you? Connect with the IBEW at www.facebook.com/ibewfb and join the discussion.

Christmas Luncheon
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOSSE, ID—The December Christmas Luncheon/Gift Exchange was held in Garden City at the JRTC site. There were 46 in attendance. We were pleased to have Bus. Mgr. Aaron White and a few of his staff from the union hall join us on this special day. It was a beautiful day and unseasonably warm.

Our meeting was opened with a moment of silence for the recent loss of Art Cushing, a longtime Local 291 member. Joe Sirani said a prayer and asked everyone to remember the “Reason for the Season.” Following was a great meal with all the Christmas trimmings. The gift exchange was fun and it was exciting to see all the ideas members came up with for gifts. Congratulations to the Sirani family on the birth of their grandson, Sebastian Attics-Walker McIver. This is their eighth grandchild.

Let us all continue to pray for our country and everyone who is struggling in this economy. Defend and protect the rights for us to be union members, always!

Our club luncheons are held the second Thursday of each month. Please contact any club member for time and location.

Joe Sirani, Pres.

Holiday Celebrations
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—We hope all members had a glorious holiday season and wish you a good new year ahead.

Local 611 had its annual family Christmas party in December and as before, Local 611 members volunteered to cook under the tent. Thanks to all for their dedication to the children and families of our local. Retired member Jenena “Junior” Pedroncelli was again Santa Claus. Approximately 12 retirees attended, but when the photo with Santa was snapped only three were available.

At this writing, the annual Christmas potluck for the office staff and assistants was scheduled—retirees joined in, planned the event and turned it into a catered lunch by JR’s BBQ. Other nonmember guests, contractors, suppliers, etc. were invited. Don’t forget, this is a voting year and we all must think seriously about candidates who will benefit working people, and not privatize Medicare but support health care for all citizens. It’s a tough decision, but there are candidates who really do care.

We encourage all members to call or visit other brothers and sisters who are ill and unable to get around. A visit or voice from another member really makes their day.

Robert Rumy, P.S.

Scholarship Recipient
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 640, PHOENIX, AZ—The IBEW Local 640 Golden Age Roadrunners are proud to announce the 2012 recipient of the Ron L. Bruce Mentor Scholarship, Local 640 apprentice Matthew Kitzmiller.

Matthew will be entering his fifth year of apprenticeship school and the scholarship will help with his expenses. He has shown good leadership qualities and excellent school work. His goal is to turn out a qualified and well-versed journeyman wireman, to never stop learning and give back to others what he has learned. He intends to be a credit to his craft and actively support the brotherhood of electrical workers.

Diana Foster, Sec.

Local 760 Bus. Mgr. George Bove (left) and 70-year member Jim Knight.

70-Year Member & Going Strong
RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 760, KNOXVILLE, TN—Local 760 Bro. James “Jim” Knight has got the stuff and is still going strong! At age 91, Jim pulled up to the local in his Cadillac and strolled inside to meet in my office and talk about his remarkable IBEW membership. I asked Jim about just a few details on the amazing career he has had.

As expected, Jim was both gracious and humble in all his answers (a true class act). Jim and I went to lunch following our meeting (he destroyed a huge burger and fries) where we fell-ochwedipped more. What a blessing it is for all to have men like Bro. Jim Knight who prepared the way for us. Jim was born in 1921; started his apprenticeship in 1940; joined the Navy in 1942; married in 1944, and retired from TVA in 1982. Thank you, Jim, for 70 years of service with IBEW Local 760.

Congratulations also go out to all the brothers who received their service pins. Thank you for all you do!

George Bove, B.M.
# In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in December 2011

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The Growing Gap

Edwin D. Hill
International President

The media and an increasing number of Capitol Hill politicians are finally openly debating one of the most vexing problems confronting our economy: income inequality.

Even Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum—who as senator never met a tax cut for the rich he didn’t like—is now decrying the fact that Americans enjoy less social mobility than their peers in Canada and Europe.

Worker productivity continues to surge, but wages have remained essentially stagnant for more than 30 years. Experts estimate that if wages had kept pace with productivity, the average median household income would be nearly $92,000, not $50,000.

It is no surprise that two-thirds of Americans now rank the clash between the rich and the poor as America’s greatest social conflict.

There is a tendency by some observers to claim that the widening income gap is a fact of nature, an inevitable problem in today’s globalized, high-tech economy, unrelated to any real-world policy decisions made by elected officials.

As convenient as it might be for some to blame inequality on impersonal forces, it is the political decisions made by Washington that are fundamentally responsible for the overall health of the middle class.

The post-World War II period initiated almost 30 years of across-the-board income growth amongst all groups, but the 1980s saw the beginnings of the great divergence between the very rich and everyone else. This was in large part thanks to the introduction of trickle-down economics and overt union busting under President Reagan.

The top 5 percent of taxpayers accounted for 23 percent of total income in 1976, but 37 percent in 2005. The top 1 percent of earners has seen their income go up by more than $650 billion since 1979, while those in the middle-income range have lost more than $220 billion over the same period.

The 1 percent was given major tax breaks, minimum wage increases have been stalled and Wall Street regulations have been loosened. Now legislators are waging a national campaign to weaken collective bargaining rights.

As we learned in Ohio, Wisconsin and Florida, elections matter. This year’s elections will either propel us on the hard road to restoring the dream of economic opportunity for all or accelerate us on the path to another gilded age.

We are kicking off our coverage of the election year—Smart Choices for Our Future—in this issue, focusing on the issues of importance to you as a working person. And supporting candidates who understand that government must work for all Americans—not just the 1 percent—is our priority.

Smart Choices in Obama’s Recess Appointments

President Obama’s opponents went ballistic after he made recess appointments of Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general, to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and three members to sit on the National Labor Relations Board.

They said the appointments were unconstitutional because the Senate never recessed.

What a crock. Most senators had gone home. The only reason some Republican senators stuck around the Capitol was to keep Obama from making appointments to both agencies.

It would be one thing if these politicians claimed to have problems with the individuals Obama was appointing. But they have never made any attempt to cover over their real objective in opposing the president’s choices.

They simply want to stop both agencies from doing the work that they are designed to do.

In the case of the NLRB, that means ensuring a more level playing field for workers and companies. For the consumer bureau, it means helping workers understand fine print and slick games so they don’t get taken for a ride by banks, credit card companies and mortgage brokers.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R.S.C.) claimed to be upset with the NLRB’s intervention in a case involving Boeing relocating a plant from Washington state to South Carolina. The Machinists had filed a complaint saying the move was made strictly to avoid a union contract. The NLRB’s intervention led to a negotiation between Boeing and the Machinists that resolved the issue. Knowing that if the NLRB was short on members, it couldn’t legally function, Graham said, “Given its recent actions, the NLRB as indispensable could be considered progress.”

As for the consumer bureau, ever since Elizabeth Warren—who is now running as a Democrat for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts—lobbied for and won bipartisan support to set up the new agency, some Republicans, many of whom get big campaign donations from Wall Street, have been denouncing it, claiming that “too many regulations” will hurt the economy. They have a lot of nerve. Too few regulations on banks and financial institutions nearly caused the collapse of our nation’s economy.

I have spoken to Ohio members who know Richard Cordray. They say he is just the right leader for the job—a man who has always shown a passion for worker justice. The IBEW has also reviewed the president’s appointments of Sharon Block, Terence F. Flynn and Richard Griffin to the NLRB. We believe these are good, sound choices. The president is showing leadership and conviction. His choices deserve our full support.
Letters to the Editor

Thanks for the Support
This is a photo of an IBEW member helping out at a Recall Walker rally held in Superior, Wis., on Jan. 7. I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all IBEW members for their support in our struggle here in Wisconsin. From the first few days of protests down in Madison to this afternoon’s Recall Walker rally in Superior, I have been impressed with the number of IBEW members I’ve seen in our ranks.

John Ludwig, AFSCME retiree
Superior, Wis.

Our Creed
Sometimes we as union members must be reminded that our cause (unionism) is a cause of human justice, human rights and human security. That we refuse to condone or tolerate dictatorship or oppression of any kind. That we must continue to expel from our midst any who might attempt to destroy, by subversion, all that we stand for. And we must support our God, our nations, our union.

It is our objective as members of the IBEW to promote reasonable methods of work, to assist each other in sickness and/or distress, to reduce the hours of daily labor and secure adequate pay for our work. We must seek a higher standard of living and security for each individual, and elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families, and their dependents.

It is for these reasons and many more that the IBEW was formed over 120 years ago. And it is for these reasons that many members continue to be proud and loyal members who look after not only themselves, but others. Thank you for your time and efforts for years past, and thank you for your efforts for the years to come. The struggles continue, and so shall Local 300 and the IBEW Keep the faith.

Jeffery C. Wimette, Local 300 business manager/financial secretary
Montpelier, Vt.

Are Unions Worthwhile?
My friend, a college student, lived with my family while doing her student teaching in a school in York, Pa. She got a teaching position and was upset because she was not allowed to join the union.

She told me that the teacher in the class next to hers was sued by a parent who accused him of mistreating his son. The school board told the teacher not to worry, that they will represent him for as long as it takes. While the case was underway, the school board quit the defense and pulled their lawyer off the case. The union stepped in and sent two lawyers to represent the teacher. The lawyer for the parent dropped the suit.

This is what my friend said to me: “My union is the only one who cares about me.”

Emerson Rodgers, Local 293 retiree
York, Pa.

In Tribute to a Mentor
I was saddened to read of the recent passing of Robert J. Neylon of Indianapolis, Ind. Bob was the first journeyman that I worked for as a young apprentice back in the fall of 1968. He was a skilled craftsman who held himself to a high standard. He had respect for our trade and he took responsibility toward public safety very seriously. Bob never let me put a cover on a box until he had inspected my work. And then one day he told me that I could start closing the junction boxes when I had finished my work. To me that was a milestone in my training.

Thanks to Bob’s tutelage, I was able to sustain a 40-year career as a journeyman wireman. I count myself fortunate to have had Bob as a friend and mentor and I will remember him always.

Curt Mayfield, Local 683 retiree
Indianapolis, Ind.

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

Ind. Retirees Restore Power to Neighbor in Need

E ven though, dozens of retired members of Terre Haute, Ind., Local 275 gather at coffee shops and country buffets throughout western Indiana to catch up on the latest news, talk union and reminisce with longtime brothers and sisters.

But the Local 275 retiree club isn’t just about hanging out, says club president John McMullen. “We often talk politics, or have a representative from the local give us an update on the work situation,” he says. “We want to keep active and give something back.”

For years, club members—who live in more than 35 counties throughout Indiana and Illinois—have volunteered their electrical expertise around the community, helping to wire the local German Club’s Oktoberfest and Strassenfest celebrations every year.

So when the news got around that a 62-year-old Terre Haute woman was facing winter without power, McMullen—who retired four years ago—says club members were ready to help out.

“During severe storms last May, her neighbor’s tree fell onto the power lines connecting her house, tearing up the rusted meter base,” McMullen tells the Tribune Star.

During severe storms last May, her neighbor’s tree fell onto the power lines connecting her house, tearing up the rusted meter base.

Despite having a full-time job, the woman—who has to travel more than four miles each day via bicycle because her car broke down—could not afford the needed repairs to get the power back on.

“No one has complained, no one is responsible. It’s just a situation we have to fix,” McMullen says.

“The IBEW does good things all the time, but too often we don’t seek recognition for it.”

– John McMullen, Local 275 retiree club president

Duke Power came out that afternoon to hook up the house.

McMullen helped make sure to notify the media about the project, resulting in a glowing story in the Tribune Star, the hometown newspaper.

“We thought her situation was unique and we felt compelled by her living this long without [electric power],” Thacker told the Tribune Star.

As we report on the front page of this issue, Indiana is currently in the midst of a major legislative assault on workers’ rights, as politicians demonize unions in their efforts to implement right-to-work legislation.

McMullen says it is vital that the labor movement push back against the scapegoating to make sure they communicate the positive role union members play in their communities.

“The IBEW does good things all the time, but too often we don’t seek recognition for it,” he says. “If we don’t put ourselves on the back once in a while, people take the good things unions do for granted.”

The woman told the Star that she can’t thank the IBEW members enough for what they did. “I’ve never had anything but do anything for me like this,” she says. “I’ve always paid my way, I’m beyond grateful for this.”
Nav Canada Employees Ratify Two-Year Agreement

More than 600 Nav Canada electronic technologists started 2012 with an overdose boost to their paychecks.

Ottawa, Ontario, Local 2228 announced a new two-year agreement with the company—which maintains Canada’s air navigation system—in December after only 12 days of negotiations. The contract provides yearly wage increases of 3 percent over the life of the agreement and improved benefits to leave and travel allowance.

The highly-skilled Nav Canada technologists install and maintain electronic equipment that air traffic controllers operate.

Last year’s largely friction-free negotiation process stands in stark contrast to the tumultuous workplace disputes between the company and the IBEW over only 15 years ago that all but paralyzed the collective bargaining process.

In 1996, Canada’s air navigation system was privatized, with Nav Canada taking over its operations, thrusting both workers and company management into uncharted territory as far as labour relations were concerned.

“We went from being under the purview of public-sector labour law into a whole new world where we had to write our own rules,” says Elizabeth Cameron, assistant vice president for labour and employee relations at Nav Canada.

“Our own rules,” says Cameron.

The collective bargaining process stands in stark contrast to the tumultuous workplace disputes between the company and the IBEW.

A highly-skilled workforce was privatized, with Nav Canada labour relations concerned.

Speaking for the IBEW and management’s adversarial approach to collective bargaining.

“Both sides realized that we kept making the same mistakes from the past over and over again, and it was hurting morale and productivity,” Cameron says.

The new agreement resolved to make an intensive study of alternative approaches to conflict resolution and shift toward a “win-win” bargaining model.

“We started to see a different philosophy emerge,” says Boulet. “The old way of doing things—the my-way-or-the-highway approach—might work in the short run, but it was hurting the company and its employees over the long term.”

Cameron says the job of labour relations officials and union leaders is to help solve problems in the workplace, not create them—an approach that ended the mistrust between the IBEW and Nav Canada.

Vancouver International Airport is among the airports across Canada where more than 600 Nav Canada employees help maintain Canada’s air navigation system.

En 1996, les services de navigation aérienne ont été privatisés et NAV CANADA est devenu exploitant national du SNA. Les travailleurs, tout comme la direction de la société, se sont ainsi retrouvés en terrain inconnu en ce qui concerne les relations de travail.

“Régis par les lois sur les relations de travail dans le secteur public, nous avons dû rédiger nos propres règlements” déclare Elizabeth Cameron, Vice-présidente adjointe, Relations de travail et à la productivité” indique-t-elle.

En 1996, le SNA était privé et les employés ont été plus de quatre ans sans nouveau contrat à cause de l’approche contradictoire de la direction concernant la négociation collective.

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Régis par les lois sur les relations de travail dans le secteur public, nous sommes passés à un tout autre univers et avons dû rédiger nos propres règlements” déclare Elizabeth Cameron, Vice-présidente adjointe, Relations de travail et aux employés de NAV CANADA.

En août 2000, la convention collective d’une durée de 2 ans avait été conclue en décembre avec la compagnie NAV CANADA qui assure les services de navigation aérienne au Canada. L’entente prévoit une augmentation salariale de 3% par année pour deux ans ainsi que de meilleurs avantages en ce qui a trait aux congés et aux déplacements. Les technologies hautement qualifiées de NAV CANADA sont responsables de l’installation et de l’entretien de l’équipement électronique utilisé par les contrôleurs de la circulation aérienne. Le processus de négociations de l’année dernière s’est déroulé en grande partie sans friction, tout à l’opposé d’il y a dix ans, alors que des conflits tumultueux au travail entre la compagnie et la FIOE avaient pratiquement paralysé les négociations.

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