VOTE YOUR FUTURE

Two Visions for America

P resident Barack Obama and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney both say that it’s time to restore the American Dream—the reputation of our nation as a place where those who want to work find jobs and contribute to society, a land where the sons and daughters of workers can honor the opportunity to rise to lead our finest institutions and our nation itself.

We don’t question the sincerity of either man’s commitment to our highest values. But elections are about choices. And, as progressive and practical trade unionists, we need to decide which candidate’s policies have and will put our economy and working families in the best position to weather the storms of a changing and uncertain world for the next four years. But elections are about choices. And, as progressive and practical trade unionists, we need to decide which candidate’s policies have and will put our economy and working families in the best position to weather the storms of a changing and uncertain world for the next four years.

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Mitt Romney, as this issue of the Electrical Worker amply reveals, has been absolutely clear and unambiguous about his opposition to unions in America.

Romney has pledged to continue the war on union members that has been waged by his Republican cronies from Wisconsin to Indiana, from Maine to Michigan. He supported Gov. John Kasich in his move to block collective bargaining in Ohio, a bill that was overturned by a campaign and referendum led by organized labor.

If we value our right to a voice on the job, our right to negotiate with our employers for decent wages and benefits and, most of all, a society that grows from plan to speed America’s economic recovery.

But there is one exception to this critique. And—as IBEW members decide how to vote in November—that exception makes all the difference for everyone in our nation who works hard and plays by the rules.

Mitt Romney is an anti-worker candidate. Romney has promised to get rid of the Department of Labor, a department that promotes how equal opportunity works and that helps communities invest in their economic future. Romney’s plan: get rid of the Department of Labor. Romney has promised to get rid of the Department of Labor, a department that promotes how equal opportunity works and that helps communities invest in their economic future.

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Two Visions for America

We don’t tell our members how to vote. We ask only that our votes be based upon weighing all the facts and the records of those who profess to stand by our side.

We encourage members to read and respond to the articles in this issue of the Electrical Worker by mail or online at media@ibew.org or on the IBEW’s Facebook page.

O BAMA AND R O M NEY: Stark Contrast on Workers’ Issues

Project Labor Agreements

We reversed the ban on project labor agreements, because we believe in them as part of a strategy to rebuild America.

(Speech to the AFL-CIO Building Trades, 4/30/12)

One of the first things I’ll do—actually on Day One—I will end the government’s favoritism towards unions and contracting on federal projects, and end project labor agreements.

(Speech to Associated Builders & Contractors, 2/23/12)

Davis-Bacon

Ahead of passing the 2009 stimulus, which included prevailing wage provisions: “We need to strengthen Davis-Bacon, and make sure any new infrastructure projects we’re proposing adhere to Davis-Bacon standards.”

(Speech to the AFL-CIO Building Trades, 4/30/12)

“I will fight to repeal Davis-Bacon.”

(Speech to Associated Builders & Contractors, 2/23/12)

Right-To-Work Laws

“I believe when folks try and take collective bargaining rights away by passing so-called right-to-work laws—that might also be called ‘right-to-work for less’ laws—that’s not about economics, that’s about politics.”

(Speech to the AFL-CIO Building Trades, 4/30/12)

“Believe in right-to-work. I will fight for right-to-work ... hopefully, we’ll have national right-to-work” [legislation].

(Speech at Tea Party rally in Oakland County, Mich., 2/23/12)

Workplace Safety

Appointed Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis in 2009, whose Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed a campaign to reduce deadly falls in the construction industry, as well as other initiatives. Under Obama, on-the-job fatalities have dropped to historic lows, down an average of 15 percent from the Bush administration’s levels.

(Source: Department of Labor Statistics)

Supports a GOP-sponsored House bill barring federal regulations that could positively affect workplace safety until jobless rate drops below 6 percent

(Source: AFL-CIO report)

Supports Ryan budget that would decrease OSHA funding to below 2008 levels

(Source: National Safety Council)

Continued from page 1

V o t e Y o u r F u t u r e

Two Visions for America

the middle of the income scale outward instead of from the top down, IBEW members would be making a grave mistake to place the leadership of our nation in the hands of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan.

The Obama administration has four years of accomplishment that are a window into the values of our president and his running mate, Vice President Joe Biden. We believe that Barack Obama and Joe Biden represent the mainstream values of fair play and economic justice that gave rise to America’s middle class.

Their record and their campaign deserve the support of all IBEW members, not just in words, but in action to help bring more members, neighbors and friends out to exercise their right to vote. From taking decisive steps to ward off a second Great Depression to saving the U.S. auto industry—a controversial decision opposed by Romney and others—to passing legislation on pay equity for women, President Obama has shown courage and compassion for working families. President Obama and Joe Biden have stated time and again that these are just beginning steps to economic recovery.

Despite progress, both men acknowledge the ongoing pain and challenge of joblessness and diminished opportunity and are committed to seeking innovative solutions.

In stopping medical insurance companies from denying coverage to workers and their families from pre-existing medical conditions to appointing Supreme Court justices who reject the anti-worker extremism of their right-wing peers, President Obama has faced down some of the heaviest and most personal attacks of any U.S. president with grace and patience. Even where the IBEW and other unions have disagreed with President Obama—such as we have on his endorsement of free trade agreements—we have never questioned his overarching commitment to making lives better for men and women at the bottom and middle of our economic spectrum.

There couldn’t be a sharper contrast between the Obama-Biden record on supporting middle-class prosperity and the Romney-Ryan endorsement of “trickle-down” economics, a failed policy that predates to helping working Americans by giving tax breaks to the wealthiest families in our nation, slashing our nation’s social safety net and allowing the most powerful corporations set our nation’s political agenda. Since the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, those same corporations have been freed to spend unlimited amounts of cash with the intent of overpowering the voices of organized labor and others who are fighting to preserve our democracy.

Paul Ryan in Washington: From Moderate to Hard Right

Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) once supported Davis-Bacon and other pro-worker policies, but has “flip-flopped,” says Madison Local 159 member Dave Boetcher, governmental affairs coordinator for the Wisconsin State Electrical Conference.

Ill. Romney’s selection of Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan as his running mate gave the Republican ticket added definition, as Ryan’s views about altering Medicare and Social Security came into sharper national focus.

But IBEW members living in Ryan’s district say they’re concerned that the candidate’s plan to change Medicare into a partial voucher system while retooling Social Security could wreak havoc on their bank accounts.

“A lot of our members simply are no fans of Ryan,” said Racine Local 430 Business Manager Chris Gulbrandson.

Put 25 years in. They’re nervous that what they’ve worked toward and paid into is going to look significantly different when they retire.”

Ryan was elected to the House in 1998 and has been re-elected with comfortable margins in Wisconsin’s First Congressional District, a swing district in the southeastern part of the state. Fifteen years ago, he supported policies that were popular among many working families of both major political parties.

“We’re very disappointed in Ryan,” said Madison Local 159 member Dave Boetcher, who coordinates government affairs for all inside locals affiliated with the Wisconsin State Conference. “Paul had always been a supporter of Davis-Bacon, but over the last few years, there’s been some strong development in his opposition to protecting workers’ wages and benefits. It might be more of the effect of the Republican echo chamber—that even though a candidate may have said something else earlier in office, now they all say the same thing.”

Now, Boetcher said, Ryan has flip-flopped on many issues he previously embraced. “Today he’s against Medicare, Social Security, unemployment benefits, he’s against cash with the intent of overpowering the voices of organized labor and others who are fighting to preserve our democracy.

Here’s what I propose. Paul Ryan can take all the vouchers he is proposing to replace Medicare with and give them to his fellow congressmen and senators to buy health care. If it works for them, then I’ll get on board with the vouchers, too.”

Louis Rodriguez
Chicago Local 134 retiree, journeyman wireman
ment insurance—it’s saddening. It’s often hard to find someone in the Republican Party who is reasonable on union issues. To have one or two who has us start sliding away is worrisome.”

A native of Janesville, the candidate’s family owns Ryan Incorporated—Central—a construction company that employs members of the Operating Engineers. Ryan worked for a short time for the family business before embarking on his political career. Boetcher said that Ryan’s tilt further toward the anti-worker wing of his party is ironic.

“Paul has seen firsthand how a union company offering good wages leads to productive workers, which leads to a stable business, which leads to growth. He’s done payroll, he knows this industry. And the building trades in the area has grown along with him over the years. But whether it’s a personal change on his part, a Tea Party push, or whether he’s just going along with the GOP—that’s anyone’s guess.”

Last month, news organizations revealed that Ryan, who has voted many times to repeal Obamacare, applied for Medicare—while researching health-care reform’s impact on his political career. Boetcher said that “anyone’s guess.”

When talking with his membership about the election, Gulbrandson says, “It’s an old adage, but I tell people to ‘vote your paycheck.’ You’ve got to consider who’s looking out for your interests. And it’s not Mitt Romney, and Paul Ryan. Just giving tax breaks to the rich hasn’t worked in the past, and it’s not going to work in the future to get us where we need to be as a country.”

GOP Medicare Plan = Bad Medicine

In August, vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan made a campaign stop in front of seniors in Florida—a heavily contested swing state. Appearing at his side was Ryan’s 78-year-old mother, Betty, who Ryan used to push his agenda of ending Medicare as we know it while repealing the Affordable Care Act.

But a recent report by Harvard economist David Cutler shows that the plan could slap current—and future—seniors with skyrocketing health care costs. In a recent analysis of Cutler’s research, ThinkProgress reports: “Current seniors would … have to pay more for preventive, hospital, and physician services should Romney and Ryan repeal the Affordable Care Act, facing an increase in health spending of between $1,900 and $8,600 over the course of their retirement.”

And it gets worse. If Obamacare is repealed and the Romney/Ryan plan goes into effect—which it will in 2023, if they’re elected—researchers estimate health care costs for today’s workers will balloon tremendously. The chart below shows price increases in out-of-pocket Medicare spending for future generations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Out-of-Pocket Healthcare Spending</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54 years</td>
<td>$59,450 more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 years</td>
<td>$124,626 more</td>
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<tr>
<td>39 years</td>
<td>$216,631 more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 years</td>
<td>$331,170 more</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for American Progress calculations based on data from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office

When GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney spoke in February at the Associated Builders & Contractors conference in Phoenix, his anti-union rhetoric found an eager audience. Speaking from the podium, he said: “I’d become president of the United States, I would cut the bureaucracy we have in this country of giving union bosses an unfair advantage in contracting. One of the first things I’d do—actually on Day One—I will end the government’s favoritism towards unions and contracting on federal projects.”

Romney: Union Busting Would Begin on Day One

Ultimately, we support the enactment of a national right-to-work law.”

While the party’s 2012 platform acknowledged “both the right of individuals to voluntarily participate in labor organizations and bargain collectively,” this year’s platform makes no direct mention of collective bargaining. Instead, it salutes anti-worker lawmakers like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Ohio Gov. John Kasich—which codraws on collective bargaining sparked massive protests in their states’ capitals. The GOP platform states, “We salute Republican governors and state legislators who have saved their states from fiscal disaster by reforming their laws governing public employee unions.”

Watch here, and share with friends: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q66SuFzR67A

Follow the Money: ABC Donates to Anti-Worker Candidates

In a post-Citizens United world, anti-worker organizations are able to dig deeper into their pockets to contribute to politicians supportive of their agenda. The landmark 2010 Supreme Court decision allows unlimited and anonymous donations from corporations and wealthy individuals to special interest groups—called “super PACs”—advocating for particular candidates.

But regular political action committees still have to leave a paper trail, and the Associated Builders & Contractors PAC donations show the group throwing their weight behind a legion of anti-union candidates in state and federal races. According to data released by the Center for Responsive Politics, the 2012 election looks to be another banner year for ABC’s donations, almost all of which has been allocated to anti-worker lawmakers.

As of September, the group had spent $1.2 million to elect Mitt Romney and other politicians who oppose union rights for public employees, Ryan referred to the demonstrations as “riots”—a term that riles Gulbrandson. To the demonstrations as “riots”—a term that riles Gulbrandson.

When Romney spoke to ABC in February at the Keystone State received a tribute to politicians supportive of their agenda. The landmark 2010 Supreme Court decision allows unlimited and anonymous donations from corporations and wealthy individuals to special interest groups—called “super PACs”—advocating for particular candidates.

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Virginia: The group’s No. 2 recipient so far this year is Virginia Republican George Allen, who has received $15,000. Allen recently unveiled his “Freedom to Work” agenda, a platform that would restrict PLAs and repeal Davis-Bacon level wages while中午 the state’s right-to-work laws.

Ohio: In battleground states like Ohio, ABC has donated $11,250 to Josh Mandel, who’s running against Sen. Sherrod Brown, a proven labor ally with a 100 percent lifetime voting record from the AFL-CIO. ABC’s total contributions to anti-worker candidates in the Buckeye State exceed $64,700.

Montana: Worker-friendly Sen. Jon Tester is campaigning to create local jobs, close tax loopholes that promote outsourcing and rebuild state infrastructure. ABC has given his opponent Denny Rehberg $50,000 this year.

Massachusetts: The group gave $110,000 to Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown for his effort to defeat challenger Elizabeth Warren—the architect of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which was established in response to the 2008 financial crisis.

Pennsylvania: Anti-union candidates in the Keystone State received a total of $32,000 from ABC.

He has received $3,000 from the group—the highest individual donation from ABC this election year. For more, visit www.opensecrets.org and search for “Associated Builders & Contractors.”
Obama’s Record Strong on Support for Veterans

“For their service and sacrifice, warm words of thanks from a grateful nation are more than warranted, but they aren’t nearly enough. We also owe our veterans the care they were promised and the benefits that they have earned. We have a sacred trust with those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. It’s a commitment that begins at enlistment, and it must never end.”

— President Barack Obama, March 19, 2009

Private Sector Job Creation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>-900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>-700,000</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>-600,000</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

President Obama takes office
Signs the Recovery Act
Small Business Jobs Act of 2010
Two years of private sector job growth
Announces federal assistance to GM & Chrysler

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
America's Second Bill of Rights
Promoted at DNC, RNC

S

upporters of the Second Bill of Rights were out in force at both major political conventions to get signatures and spread the word to delegates and politicians: it is time for Capitol Hill to get serious about reviving America's middle class.

In Tampa, Fla., site of the Republican National Convention, working families marched outside the Tampa Bay Times Forum with a six-foot-square banner enumerating America's Second Bill of Rights, which outlines a broad agenda to help restore the American dream: the right to full employment and a living wage, the right to full participation in the electoral process, the right to a voice at work, the right to a quality education and the right to a secure, healthy future.

"It was bi-partisan," says Fifth District International Representative Brian Thompson. "If we could get a Republican to sign that bill, we welcomed them to do it." In attendance were mostly labor union affiliates of the West Central (Tampa) Central Trade Council standing out in neon yellow T-shirts—comprised of members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees; the Communication Workers of America; the National Association of Letter Carriers; the American Postal Workers Union; the United Association; the IBEW; and others.

Their ranks were thinner due to Hurricane Isaac’s pummeling of the Gulf Coast and Florida’s West Coast two days earlier, leaving tens of thousands without power, and pulling Tampa’s IBEW utility members onto storm duty.

The Republican delegation, which a day earlier had drafted the most conservative, anti-union platform in the history of the GOP, remained oblivious to the labor route from time to time, no one from the convention was around," Thompson says. "It reflects the GOP's disregard of the working people in general."

"The sheer number of misleading and nasty ads against Jon is incredible," says Herzog, who also serves as the IBEW's grassroots political coordinator for the state.

He says the IBEW is working at cutting through the negative spin and educating members on Tester's stands on the issues that affect them: prevailing wage, project labor agreements, rights on the job and retirement security. He has helped a group of Max reluctance to work with employees who are willing to organize for better working conditions.

Tester is also proposing a constitutional amendment to overrule the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling, which gives corporations the right to secretly donate unlimited funds to political campaigns.

"All Denny Rehberg cares about is the 1 percent," says Butte Local 44 Assistant Business Manager Dan Flynn.

"The North Carolina labor movement was out in full force, including members of the Communications Workers of America, the Teamsters, the United Auto Workers and the IBEW."

In the state with the lowest union density in the country, Krebs said that the convention offered an opportunity for members to show their union pride while stressing the need for real economic solutions from politicians.

"The workers’ bill of rights goes back to our principles—not just what we want as unionists, but for the rest of America," he said. "We need to make people aware of why these rights are important. Things like the right to a voice at work ought to be common sense. And we need to show politicians that we’re planning to hold them accountable if they want our support at the ballot box."
I'm involved in the 2012 elections because I don't want to lose the rights that we have—like women's rights, the right to choose and our right to negotiate. As union members, we won't agree on everything. But if we don't come together to support candidates who will stand up for core issues—our human rights—like earning a decent livelihood and securing decent medical care, we will hurt ourselves. What good is fighting for gun rights if you don't have a job and can't afford a gun?”

Medina Johnson
Durham, N.C., Local 289

Nevada IBEW Mobilizes to Defend Good Jobs, Retirement Security for All

For Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 member Tom Bird, the fight to uphold decent retirement security for working Americans is an ongoing battle. In 2009, the former NV Energy lineman, along with fellow Local 1245 retirees, took on their former employer when the utility announced it was slashing promised retiree health benefits. In 2010, Bird and other members of the Nevada chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans traveled to the state to protest Republican U.S. Senate nominee Sharon Angle, who endorsed privatizing Social Security and Medicare.

Now, Bird and members of the Local 1245 retiree club are gearing up to take on the Romney-Ryan plan to undermine America’s retirement safety net. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s decision to name Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan as his running mate raised red flags for many seniors. In his 2010 budget plan, Ryan, who serves as House Budget Committee chairman, called for partially privatizing Social Security, diverting payroll taxes into private funds, and ending the guarantee of care under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

“If Paul Ryan’s blueprint for undermining Social Security and Medicare comes to pass, a lot of seniors will end up on the street, simple as that,” says Bird. Bird says that members of the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans are working on educating retirees throughout the state and registering voters. “Millions are being spent on ads with half-truths,” says Bird. “We’re educating people on the facts on a one-on-one basis.”

Also on the line in Nevada is control of the U.S. Senate. Rep. Shelley Berkley has the support of the labor movement in her run against incumbent Sen. Dean Heller, who supported Ryan’s plan to end Medicare and voted to slash vital job-training programs.

Las Vegas local 397 Assistant Business Manager James Halsey says that Romney and Heller have made clear whose side they are on: the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors. “They want to abolish project labor agreements and prevailing wage,” he says. Halsey tells members that a vote for Romney is, in essence, a vote for nonunion Helix Electric, a leading ABC contractor.

The IBEW is also focused on local races, from school boards on up. “Every elected position in this state has something to do with whether or not we can get good jobs, so we have to be involved at every level,” Halsey says.

He says he understands why so many members get turned off by elections, with all the negative ads and false promises, but attacks on the middle class by anti-worker politicians means the IBEW has no choice but to take a stand and support worker-friendly candidates.

“We’re reaching out beyond just union households,” says Bird, who lives in rural northern Nevada. “We’re seeing big-time special interest money coming in here, but we think grassroots activism can turn the tide.”

Florida IBEW Working Families Unite Against Romney-Ryan Ticket

As Republicans gathered in Tampa, Fla., for the GOP national convention in August, IBEW members gathered on the streets outside the Tampa Bay Times Forum to talk to delegates and others about the Second Bill of Rights and the importance of a strong middle class.

The pro-worker rally was a kickoff for the fall election season, which has seen unprecedented activism on the part of union members throughout the state—and for good reason. The Sunshine State is a major battleground for the fall election, as both Mitt Romney and President Obama see Florida as a vital win in their path to the presidency.

And the IBEW is playing a key part in keeping Florida in the hands of pro-worker politicians. Its message for members and their families, says Fifth District International Representative Brian Thompson: you can’t afford a Romney presidency.

“He’s come out against prevailing wage and project labor agreements, and for a national right-to-work law,” says Thompson, who serves as the state’s grassroots political coordinator. “All things that lower living standards for workers.”

To prove his point, Thompson has been showing clips of the former Massachusetts governor’s speech before the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors last April, in which Romney inveighed against “union bosses,” at IBEW meetings throughout the state.

“We’re using his own words,” says Thompson. “It shows it isn’t just campaign rhetoric on our part.”

Florida was scene to massive rallies last year in response to Gov. Rick Scott’s efforts to eliminate project labor agreements and collective bargaining rights for teachers, firefighters and health-care workers.

Verizon employee and Tampa Local 824 member Jason Smith says Scott’s attacks on working people caused many IBEW members who voted for the governor in 2010 to develop a case of buyers’ remorse.

“Run into members all the time who admit to me they really regret voting for him,” Smith says. “Too many members didn’t do their homework, a mistake we don’t want to see repeated.”

The IBEW is also supporting the re-election of Sen. Bill Nelson and pro-worker congressional candidates throughout the state.

“These folks have been there on important issues that affect our members and middle class families,” says Thompson.

“We got phone banks up and running, we’re knocking on doors and talking about the election at every meeting,” says Thompson.
in 2010, Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown (R) shocked the political world by winning the low-turnout special election to replace the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, a major upset in this reliability Democratic state.

Most disturbing for many union activists is that Bay State union voters, who overwhelmingly went for President Obama in 2008, favored Brown by a small margin.

“It was a huge wake-up call for us,” says Boston Local 2222 member Paul Feeney, a Verizon technician who also serves as the local’s political director. “Somewhere along the line we forgot to talk to our members about the issues and engage them in their communities.”

But Feeney says the labor movement learned its lesson, and is gearing up to oust Brown and elect long-time Wall Street critic and consumer advocate Elizabeth Warren to the U.S. Senate. “She’s a proven fighter for the middle class,” he says. “And a fighter for keeping good jobs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.” She also supports Verizon workers, calling on the company to sign a fair contract with its employees.

The company and its union have maintained an uneasy peace since a strike over a year ago. Talks to renew the contract that expired last year have not yet yielded an agreement.

Creator of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a new federal-level regulatory agency which protects consumers from the predatory behavior of big banks, Warren faced opposition from Senate Republicans who blocked her nomination to head it because of the opposition to any new regulations on Wall Street.

“She understands how important it is to get people back to work and how unions can play a role in getting the economy moving,” says Worcester Local 96 President Bob Fields.

Feeney says the IBEW is working with the state AFL-CIO to reach out to other members in workplaces and in their communities.

“We can’t say, ‘This is who the union endorsed, go vote for them,’” he says. “They need to know the issues and why the IBEW made the endorsement it did, because we need our people talking to their friends and families about Warren—at Little League games, neighborhood picnics, anything going on in the community.”

Brown portrays himself as an everyman and a friend of working families, touring the state once again in his now famous pick-up truck, but his voting record tells a different story.

He voted against working families 29 times according the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and has a history of cozy relations with big-money lobbyists, fighting to water down regulations on Wall Street speculators and voting against the Davis-Bacon Act and paycheck fairness legislation meant to guarantee equal pay for equal work.

Brown also joined with other Republicans in killing pro-jobs legislation, including the American Jobs Act, which would have created more than 10,000 construction jobs.

He talks middle class in front of the cameras, but when the rubber hits the road, he’s on the other side,” says Feeney.

“Who cares about a pick-up truck?” says Fields. “Warren gets that Massachusetts needs a senator who will put the middle class and jobs first, not corporate special interests or GOP extremists.”

Massachusetts IBEW Takes on Wall Street’s Favorite Senator

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

www.ibew.org
Our Web site has news and info not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on Facebook and Twitter.

And read The Electrical Worker online!

YouTube
Watch, download and share your favorite videos on YouTube.
www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker

Vimeo
A 30-second IBEW ad features fast-paced images of brightly lit urban landscapes and the information age intercut with footage of members on the job. Look for it Sundays on the CBS pre-and post-game shows as well as occasional spots during the games.

vimeo.com/ibew


On Aug. 11 nearly 40,000 people gathered in Philadelphia to stand up for the embattled middle class and America’s Second Bill of Rights, which would entitle every American to decent work, education, medical care and retirement security.

Speaking before the crowd, Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey said:

“Energized by Aug. 11, IB EW members are now taking the fight to every precinct in the state, making phone calls and knocking on doors to help re-elect Casey, who represents the battleground states in the country.

Union members mobilized behind Critz in the Democratic primary earlier this year because of his strong stance on trade and workers’ rights and are now working to re-elect him in November. He is facing Keith Rothfus, who is backed by big money anti-worker special interest groups.

Six Steps to Protect Your Vote

Make sure your vote counts!

Here are SIX SIMPLE STEPS you can take on Election Day, Nov. 6, to protect your voting rights.

1. Make sure you know the location of your polling place and your correct precinct. Many have changed, and a vote at the wrong place may be uncounted.
2. Bring identification to the polls, preferably a government-issued photo ID with your registered address. Check your state’s Web site now to ensure you have the proper ID. Several states (Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Tennessee) have passed strict photo ID laws and require a government-issued photo ID.
3. Ask for help from poll workers and check posted signs if you have questions or need assistance.
4. Make sure you cast a vote. If you are in line when the polls close, you are entitled to vote and should stay in line.
5. If you are offered a provisional ballot, ask if you can cast a regular ballot by providing additional ID or by going to another polling place. If no alternative is available, cast a provisional ballot and follow up after Election Day. You can call the Election Protection Hotline (+866-OUR-VOTE) before you leave the polling place.
6. If you have a voting rights problem, talk to the chief election official or a voting rights volunteer at the polls, or call the toll-free nationwide Election Protection Hotline, 1-866-OUR-VOTE, a project of a coalition of groups including the AFL-CIO, promoting voting rights.

Source: Election Protection Coalition www.ibew.org/about

HourPower
The leadership of the IBEW is moving the union forward in an exciting new way — advertising. Check out our latest President’s Message on IBEWHourPower.com

ElectricTV
The NECA-IBEW team prides itself on helping with the fight against ALS—our latest feature on ElectricTV.net shows it. Check it out! electricTV.net
We’ve adopted the Code of

workers. We have nationwide campaigns with Sears and CP Rail and are in the early stages of a blueprint that will focus on call centres.

Q: What new approaches are being used to attract unorganized workers?
A: We’re pushing to make social media an integral part of membership development. We’re also trying to use technology in other ways, the best example being in New Brunswick where Fredericton Local 37 handed out flash drives containing pro-IBEW material to white-collar workers at NB Power. Our organizers are also using YouTube and special campaign Web sites to spread the word.

Q: Talking about politics, how important is political action to membership development efforts?
A: Provinces with labour-friendly governments are much fairer when it comes to protecting employees’ rights on the job. Organizers should be aware of the political situation in their provinces and get involved in political action because anti-worker governments such as in British Columbia or Saskatchewan directly harm our efforts to grow.

Q: What is the IBEW doing to improve labour’s image?
A: We’ve adopted the Code of Excellence, which is winning over employers and employees to the IBEW because of our public commitment to perform a hard day’s work in a safe and professional manner. We’re also talking about starting an advertising campaign that will brand us as protectors of the middle class and leaders in the community.

Today’s labour market is changing at alarming rates and organizing remains a top priority in the First District so we are taking every possible step to ensure we are reaching the unrepresented and future workers of our industry. We are dedicated to remaining the strongest force in the electrical industry and continue to focus on our goal, to be the first choice of workers in Canada.

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Q: What is the state of the First District’s membership development program? Are there particular areas of focus?
A: Just as in the United States, our organizing program is split in two: construction and professional and industrial. For years construction organizing was a touchy subject and not every local understood its importance. Not any more. It is widely accepted now that we have no choice but to grow.

Out West we are focused on some of the mega-projects in the oil and gas industry—which is booming because of drilling in the oil sands—where we face increased competition from nonunion contractors.

The professional and industrial group have campaigns involving our Railroad System Council, 21, technicians in wind, solar and co-generation plants as well as communications and alarm systems.

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DECEASED

Jon Henrich
July 27. He was 73.

Brother Henrich, a native of Lancaster, Pa., served as business manager of Bethlehem Local 1601 before joining the Third District staff in 1989. He retired in 2002.

Third District International Vice President Don Siegel says, “Jon was a passionate trade unionist who always cared deeply about his home local 1601 and the IBEW.”

An Air Force veteran who served during the tense days of the Cuban Missile Crisis and participated in combat missions in Lebanon and Vietnam, Henrich, a journeyman lineman who retired from PPL in 1995, negotiated contracts with most major utility companies in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware.

Henrich served as vice president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and treasurer of the Capital Area Labor Management Group and on the boards of directors of the labor departments of Penn State and Indian Universities. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Elks.

A graduate of Lancaster Catholic High School, Brother Henrich received certificates in labor relations from Antioch College, Cornell University, Millersville University and Penn State.

After retirement, says Siegel, Henrich was IBEW's representative on the board of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans. While some full-time union representatives leave union and political activism behind when they retire, Siegel says, “Jon stayed very engaged in political affairs and advocating for retirees and we spoke often about both.”

During his days on pension, Henrich also spent time fishing and helping his wife, Betty, raise llamas on their farm in Leola, Pa.

On behalf of the officers, staff and membership, the IBEW sends our deepest condolences to his wife and family.

RETIRED

Terry Luckett
Fourth District International Representative

Terry Luckett retired effective Aug. 1 after more than 40 years of service to the IBEW.

After completing a standard two-year probationary period for new apprentices looking to join the union, Brother Luckett was initiated into Louisville, Ky., Local 369 in 1973. By the time he topped out in 1973, he had honed his skills by working for a handful of contractors in and around his hometown of Louisville.

“When I first started out, I was looking for a stable career and was told that the electrical trade was a good way to go,” Luckett said. An auspicious conversation with neighbor Chester Massie—a Local 369 member—at a church picnic piqued Luckett’s curiosity. Massie was then chairman of the local’s apprenticeship committee. “He told me I could be making as much as $5.25 an hour as a journeymen,” Luckett said. “That was good money in those days.”

The next few years saw Luckett increasing his activism in the local, serving on the COPE committee, the athletic committee and the picnic committee. He served as an assistant business agent beginning in 1977 and was hired as a full-time organizer in 1990. Five years later, the membership elected Luckett business manager.

“One of my biggest goals during that time was to make it possible for our members to work at home and avoid spending too much on travel jobs,” a challenge mitigated by aggressively increasing market share in the local’s jurisdiction, he said. “At the time, we had a market recovery fund that allowed us to hire three full-time organizers who could get out into the field and organize our territory.” A key strategy was meeting with employers at nonunion shops, who contributed to a groundswell of bottom-up organizing. “We worked hard to stand up for workers who were getting abused by their employers.”

IBEW International President J.J. Barry appointed Luckett an International Representative in 2000 to service 35 construction locals in Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and his home state of Kentucky. Building the Brotherhood in this diverse area presented unique challenges and opportunities, Luckett said. “States like Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland are much more labor-friendly. Then you have a right-to-work state like Virginia and some anti-worker policies in Kentucky where it’s tougher to get labor laws enforced.”

Luckett took courses through the University of Kentucky, Indiana University, the National Labor College and other institutions to bolster his skills as an organizer. He also served on the 4th District Training and Education Committee. Luckett attended the last eight IBEW International Conventions. The first six he attended were as a delegate from his home local, and for the last two he was part of the international staff.

He looks forward to spending time with his wife, Patty, and his four children, nine grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Other plans include improving his golf swing and traveling with family members.

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Luckett a healthy, enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

RETIRED

Jerry Wilson
First District International Representative

Jerry R. Wilson retired July 1.

Initiated into Kitchener, Ontario, Local 804 in 1966, Brother Wilson worked on projects as a journeymen wireman throughout the province. In 1992 he became the local’s recording secretary.

“No one wanted to run and the business manager knew that I never got the record. He gave me the job if I would put my name into contention,” Wilson says.

“We promised a steady supply of good, skilled workers and that is what they got.”

Appointed assistant business manager eight years later, he was elected business manager in 1987.

During his time in office, he introduced the open-door policy, which granted membership to any qualified electrician, substantially increasing Local 804’s market share.

Wilson also served as president of the local building trades council. Under his leadership, the building trades convinced Toyota to build its first plant in Ontario, Canada. And the car manufacturer continues to build its facilities union today.

“We promised a steady supply of good, skilled workers and that is what they got,” he says.

Appointed International Representative in 1995, Wilson served as executive assistant to International Vice President Phil Fleming.

“Our office is responsible for the entire country, so Phil and I were always busy, traveling from coast to coast,” he says.

In retirement, Wilson plans to spend more time with his wife, Terry, at their cottage on Lake Huron and traveling the world. The couple has four children and eight grandchildren. His son Andy followed him into the trade, and is also a Local 804 member. Brother Wilson also hopes to spend more time on his prized Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

“Never had much time to ride it when I was working, so I’m looking forward to hitting the road,” Wilson says.

The officers and brothers of the IBEW wish Brother Wilson great health and much happiness in his retirement.

Campaign Seeks to Stop Construction Falls

Started in April by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the “Stop Construction Falls” campaign states its mission in the title: stop workplace falls that occur as a result of construction fatalities yearly, with 200 deaths reported in 2012 alone.

A partnership between the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the National Center for Construction Research and Organization that works to find relevant safety topics to research in the construction industry, the effort provides informative material for employers, explaining the problems and what can be done to prevent on-site falls.

More than 30 organizations, including OSHA, Harvard and the IBEW, joined to spread the message about preventing construction falls.

“It’s all about reaching out and giving the information that we know,” said Center for Construction Research and Training Executive Director Pete Stafford in a radio interview. “We know what to do, we just have to get the word out to the industry.”

The goal of this national campaign is to prevent fatal falls from roofs, ladders and scaffolds by encouraging residential construction contractors to:

- PLAN ahead to get the job done safely.
- PROVIDE the right equipment.
- TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely.

Along with serving as a hub for already existing safety information, the site also hosts a number of materials produced by the campaign. Flies for safety practices when working on roofs, ladders and scaffolds are available from the campaign Web site, in English and Spanish. Also on the site is an informative video titled “Don’t Fall for It,” which features stories from construction workers whose lives were permanently affected by their injuries.

Since the campaign’s launch, the Center for Construction Research and Training has sent more than 5,000 videos to employers.

In the past year and a half, 36 falls occurred involving IBEW members, three of which were fatal, said IBEW Safety Department Director Jim Tomaseksi.

“So many of our workers are in these conditions every day,” said Tomaseksi, “if you’re not paying attention to the rules, following safety procedures, it’s not a matter of if it happens, it’s when.”

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health plans to update the site frequently. The “Stop Construction Falls” campaign is available to view at www.StopConstructionFalls.com.

Circuits
Huntington Shipyard Graduates Apprentices
Huntington Ingalls Industries, the shipyard that received a $2 billion contract for a new amphibious assault ship, recently graduated 295 students from its four-year apprenticeship school for metals trade workers. A number of the graduates are members of Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733.

Spotlight on Safety
Electrical Equipment Service  
Cable Splicers  
Bridge Operators  

Jacob M. Mills, Jason D. Moll, Matthew B. Mullen, Bland, Roxie L. Brodie, Aaron M. Claybrooks, Adler, Joshua W. Adler, Jason R. Armes, John A.

Monroe Powerhouse.

The next poker run ride will be in spring 2013. Both Local 26 teams placed second in the A division and first in the B division.

In April, the Local 26 Motorcycle Riders’ Club held its Poker Run Ride. The club plans to hold this event annually. Over 130 riders participated to benefit a major sponsor. The Local 26 team placed second in the A division and first in the B division.

In the September issue of The Electrical Worker, there were editing errors in the caption for the photo accompanying Raleigh, N.C., Local 43’s Local Lines article. Business Manager Ronald L. Lash were joined by new journeymen Tim Andersen and Chris Barry congratulating the graduates. Adam Scott received awards for highest total grades, and Charles Costentino Jr. received awards for perfect attendance.

In 2012 Area B, another signatory contractor picked up the $2.3 million electrical installation contract. In Grand Island, NE, the Area B Code of Excellence Committee held its annual meeting. Over 130 riders participated to benefit the charity Special Love for Children with Cancer. The club presented a check for over $8,000 to the charity. The next poker run ride will be in spring 2013. Both Local 26 teams placed second in the A division and first in the B division.

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New Contract Ratified

L.U. 46 (ar.c,cs,em,es,et,j,mar,mo,mt,rtb,ts&dt)
SEATTLE, WA—The Local 46 membership ratified a new Inside Construction contract. The new contract is a positive gain considering the economic climate, giving no significant concessions and gaining valuable language.

The economic package for this contract guarantees a $1.15 increase through 2012. Starting in 2013, the Journeyman wireman wage and benefit package increases each year according to a chart reflecting total Inside Wiremen hours in the Local 46 jurisdiction from the previous 12 month period. According to the chart, the increase rises along with work hours. If total hours worked are less than 3.5 million, the increase equals $1.00. Between 3.5 million and 4.4 million hours, the increase equals $1.00. Between 4.4 million to 4.9 million hours the increase equals $2.00. If work hours total between 4.9 million and 5.5 million, the increase equals $2.25. If 5.5 million hours and a $2.25 increase is given for 5.5 million to 6 million hours, and a $2.25 increase is given for 6 million to 6.5 million hours. If total hours worked are between 6 million and 6.5 million, the increase equals $3.00. Should work hours exceed 6.5 million, an increase of $3.75 is triggered. Our average over the last 12 years is 4.36 million hours.

There will be an additional increase of $0.45 on Sept. 2, 2013.


IBEW8.COM/VOTE

L.U. 48 (em,brb,rtb,t&skd), PORTLAND, OR—Brothers and sisters, our new Web page for IBEW Local 48 voter/volunteer information went live in early August. The purpose of this site is to provide Local 48 members with relevant information on campaign issues, ballot measures and political candidates—to make informed decisions that protect our middle-class, union way of life as we approach the Nov. 6, 2012 general election. We have videos from Bus. Mgr. Cliff Davis, active members, and politicians who have proven themselves as true friends of the IBEW. Information posted includes relevant articles and a volunteer schedule.

Your local mailed a letter and voter registration form if you were shown as not being registered or if you have moved and not updated your registration. IBEW Local 48 views voting as part of our civic duty and we are trying to reach our goal of 100 percent voter registration. We believe Your Vote Does Count. This informational Web page is a fresh attempt to engage you in the election process, and give you an opportunity to ask questions, give feedback and make suggestions. For more information visit Web site www.IBEW48.com. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Esmonde by e-mail at joe@IBEW48.com.

Robert Blair, P.S.
Contract Negotiations
L.U. 108 (ees, emes, ltt, mtr, rts, s, tsku), TAMPA, FL—Greetings from IBEW Local 108 in Tampa! We have been quite busy lately and don’t anticipate a break anytime in the foreseeable future. Pres. Chris Parsels and Unit 6 Rec. Sec. Bill Cate attended the Florida AFL-CIO Convention in Hollywood, FL. Convention activities included political phone banking to contact our fellow union brothers and sisters, meeting candidates, and voting for the candidates we would endorse for upcoming elections.
In July, Pres. Chris Parsels attended the IBEW Fifth District Progress Meeting in Orlando, FL, and got updates on the Duke Energy and Progress Energy merger, as well as the FTC and Entergy deal for the transmission grid spanning from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

At this writing we were scheduled to start negotiations with Tampa Electric Company, WEDU, and Seminole Electric in the next few months. Members should be sure to attend their unit meetings so they can stay informed.

We thank and congratulate the following Local 108 members who retired recently: Don Delancey, a 47-year IBEW member and former Sensor Systems employee; and former TECO employees Lee Service (42 years of IBEW service), Terry Sweet (40 years of IBEW service) Charles Mobley (38 years of service), Carl Montalbano (16 years), Sam Vasquez (30 years), Cecil Nedd (26 years) Steve Wade (26 years) and Mario Hene (27 years).

Bill Cate, P.T.

100th Anniversary Celebration
L.U. 110 (em, rts, spaku), ST. PAUL, MN—Thank you to my committee, the office staff, officers of our local union, volunteers who helped that day, with a special thank you to my wife, Julie. It would not have happened without you all!” — Joe Lubitz

2012 Graduation Ceremony
L.U. 112 (e, bsk), KEENEWICK, WA—On July 13, Local 112 celebrated 26 apprentices completing our JATC program and becoming journeyman inside wiremen. Local 112 was fortunate to have two very special speakers at our 2012 graduation ceremony, First, Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey addressed the graduates. After congratulating them, Vice Pres. Mowrey spoke about the importance of honoring the oath they all took at initiation. NARTE Exec. Dir. Mike Callanan then addressed the grads and challenged them to do three things: 1) Continue your education; take classes to improve your skills. 2) Teach your apprentice; remember your best journeyman and try to follow his/her example. 3) Go to the job with the right attitude, displaying the right behavior every day. Local 121 thanks both Vice Pres. Mowrey and Dir. Callanan for taking out of their busy schedules to attend our 2012 graduation ceremony.

As always, Local 121 is very proud of our graduating apprentices. This year, seven of the 26 grads achieved craft certification. Valery Gis completed the five years with a 93.6 percent grade point average; Bud Whitmire had a 96 percent GEP; and Kris Tuara had a class high of 93.4 percent GPA. Local 121 is blessed with two outstanding instructors, Greg Greiner and Greg McMurphy. Training Dir. Dennis Williams and Office Manager Sacha Mihal also do an outstanding job at our Training Center.

Joe Legont, Organizer

Nov. 6 Election Day Choice
L.U. 124 (ees, em, lma, rts, s, tekipa), KANSAS CITY, MO—The Kansas City work picture is finally looking better, but there’s not much work yet for book two. We are in the process of using the construction electrician/construction wireman classifications.
Our nation has an election coming up and the choice for labor has never been easier. Mitt Romney told the Associated Builders and Contractors that if elected he would end project labor agreements his first day in office. He also promised to end Davis Bacon prevailing wage laws and implement “right to work” (for less) at the federal level. Romney also has a record of outsourcing American jobs to low-wage foreign workers; one example is the massive steel mill in Kansas City that his company divested and offshored. Romney’s stances make the choice easy for working families because his economic plan creates more jobs in China than in the U.S.


Steve Morales, P.S.

IBEW Utility Conference: Infrastructure & Work Force
L.U. 160 (lt, s, lok), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The 2012 IBEW Utility Conference was held in Houston, TX, in June. Local 160 had a delegation present. IBEW Utility Dept. Dir. Jim Hunter and his staff put on a wonderful conference. Houston Local 66 did a great job hosting the conference and welcoming attendees. It was good to compare our issues in the Midwest with the other areas of the U.S. and Canada. One topic discussed was the aging workforce. Companies seem slow to realize they must start hiring replacement workers. There was discussion about coal-fired power plant closings and the potential life extension of nuclear plants. People who work in the power industry understand that renewable forms of energy are important sources for generating electricity, but they can’t replace coal or nuclear. Thankfully, the IBEW is out front leading the way, working with utilities to try to find solutions to extending the working lives of aging power plants.

“This is the most important election ever” may sound clichéd—but in 2012 it’s true. If the labor movement doesn’t stand up to “Citizens United” and the big money which that infamous court ruling on campaign finance ushered in, we may never get another opportunity. So it’s time to vote for those who stand with labor. And when labor friendly people are voted into office, we have to hold them accountable. So get involved for the sake of the labor movement and the middle class. Make sure your voice is heard on Election Day Nov. 6.

James R. Beretean, P.T.

‘Cast a Vote for Workers’
L.U. 196 (gov, mtr, s, c), ROCKFORD, IL—As we head to the polls this fall, this work picture here has been very steady, the election is coming up, and the outlook is promising. A bad decision by the Illinois Commerce Commission in May on the new formula-based rate increase for ComEd has slowed the planning a bit, but work should continue to improve in our area.

Local 196 recently participated in the third annual Northern Illinois Sporting Clay shoot through the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA) and we enjoyed a day of brotherhood while breaking a few targets. Participants had a good time and I hope support for the USA continues to grow in the IBEW; they do a great job at their events.

In July we received a very good decision for the IBEW Outside Branch from the National Labor Relations Board on a jurisdictional issue that went to a hearing back in December of 2011, but it was well worth the wait.

As all of organized labor is under attack by some very opportunistic radical conservatives, our only chance is to put feet on the street, educate our members on the real political issues—and actually walk into the booth and cast a vote for the labor friendly candidates in our area. No vote equals no future. Get on it.

Eric Patrick, B.M.

Apprenticeship Graduates
L.U. 222 (0), ORLANDO, FL—Greetings to all. Our June meeting was well attended and Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell was pleased to present Bro. Butch Gill with his 50-year service pin. [Photo, pg. 23] Bro. Gill has been a Journeyman Lineman, assistant business manager and company owner in his 50 years of service. He has served in each of these roles with a sense of dedication and integrity that makes you proud to have worked with and for him. We hope Butch has many more years of IBEW service in him.

We also congratulate our members who recently completed their SELEAT apprenticeships: journeyman Linemen Steven Egers, Eric Estrada,
**2012 Apprentice Graduates**

Local 226 congratulates the class of 2012 apprentice graduates. From left: Jason Patterson, Luke Thompson, Nathan Dickson, Jared Brock, Jacob Wilson, Brian Carlson, Daniel Courtier, Neil Olejnik, Brent Vormey, Kevin Norton, Instructor Greg Whitworth and Josh Price.

**A Salute to 2012 Graduates**

The Local 234 inside graduating class of 2012: Daniel Lujan (left), Ricardo Rubio, Enrique Lara, David Espinoza, Berardo Trijillo, Matthew Kulich, Joaquin Carne-Michel, Jeff Flippin and Kasey Teska.

**Kudos to JATC Graduates**

Local 236 congratulates the Tri-City JATC class of 2012.

**Welcome to Newly Elected Officers**

The 292 Golf Tournament back to the membership.

**November Election & Solidarity**

L.U. 292 (gov.,em.,es,i,m.o,m.t,u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—The general election in November is about defending our standard of living and way of life in Minnesota, our jobs, children’s education, health care and our future. We need to ensure friends of labor get elected and gain a majority in the Minnesota Legislature so we can take so-called “right to work” (for less) off the agenda.

Thanks to JATC Dir. Dave Baker for making our welding class a reality! Instructors Tom Mann and Ty Winiger have done an outstanding job of preparing students to certify.

*Work safe and vote for candidates who support labor and working families on Election Day Nov. 6!*

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

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**The Electrical Worker | October 2012**

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**Bill Hitt, A.B.M.**
Vermont). Both companies will combine assets to form the largest utility in Vermont—servicing approximately 70 percent of Vermont’s electrical needs. Both groups are represented by IBEW Local 300 and have separate and distinct bargaining agreements. The union and the company are engaged in the task of formulating and negotiating a single agreement. We wish both groups well.

Members employed with Vermont Yankee ratified a one-year extension on their agreement with the owner, Entergy Corp. The union and Entergy will have continued discussions to create alternative medical plans that meet the needs of both parties.

The new apprenticeship year is underway and we wish all members of the apprenticeship a productive training season. We encourage all apprentices to take control of their own destiny. The union allows you a voice—utilize it.

Local union officers encourage those members who are not registered to vote to please do so. Exercise your right to the democratic process. Please keep in mind that safety is first.

Jeffrey C. Wimette, B.M./E.S.

Annual Golf Outing

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—On Saturday, July 7, our Annual Golf Outing was held at Lake Country Club. Despite the record-breaking heat, everyone had a good time. The 1st place prize was awarded to Jim Mechels, Dan Martin and Norm Yanik. Congratulations to all, and a big thank you to Local 306 Pres. Mike Kammer, Candy Colley, Jim Deckert and Bob Latham for helping set up and run the outing.

During any election year there are many polarizing issues that divide us as voters. But fair wages, safe working conditions, affordable health care, and the right to collectively bargain are issues that we can all agree on and that should be of the utmost importance to everyone. The attack on the working class grows each day. If we are to continue fighting the attacks, we must elect like-thinking friends and allies. It’s up to us to help those who would help us. This will not be a close election, so please make every effort to “Get Out the Vote.” Remember, every vote counts.

With sadness we report the loss of Bro. Ronald Keller and retired Bros. Stephen Marshall, Howard Wood and Kenneth Mong. We send our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, P.S.

Brothers Helping Brothers

L.U. 320 (cab/t/c), POUCHKEEPSES, NY—Shown in the accompanying photo (at top, center) are Local 320 members, joined by family members of Bro. Tony Roberts, as they pause while sheet rocking and installing heating equipment in the Roberts’ house.

Bro. Tony Roberts, a 20-year IBEW member, works at the Dynegy Northeast Generation Roseton and Danaskamer power plants as a 1st class yardman. He has faced some difficult times in the last two years.

Bro. Roberts suffered a serious motorcycle accident on his way to work; at that time, doctors found that he needed major heart surgery. After recovery from the accident, Bro. Roberts had the heart operation.

Only three weeks after his surgery and while he was recovering at home, the family house caught fire, destroying the second floor and heavily damaging the first floor. Due to many complications and unforeseen delays, the rebuilding stretched on.

Subsequently, Local 320 Bus. Mgr./Pres. John Kaiser, with the help of shop steward Mike Hichak and local member Frank Canino, organized the sheet rocking party. Approximately 15 members participated during the course of the day lending a hand, cutting and installing sheetrock while others installed the heating system. Pres. Kaiser said: “This is what a local is, helping our fellow brothers and sisters during their tough times. Some of the members came to the job site directly from completing working the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. They are there for each other.”

John P. Kaiser, B.M./Pres.

A New Outlook & New Contractor

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Local 340 had a busy summer—teaching and learning!

We held three Member-to-Member Classes. Afterward, local officers, staff and rank-and-file members who attended the classes went house calling. We visited our own members as a way to re-energize the local membership.

This new Ninth District class, which teaches a one-on-one approach to union members, was actually the idea of a Local 340 member several years ago. While attending a Comet Class, Bro. Tom Davis concluded that members sometimes become complacent about their union and thought it would help to reach out to members on a personal level to share ideas. This class and this approach have been well received. We intend to continue monthly member-to-member action, as we have seen members we visited getting more involved with the local. They attend meetings, help at the annual picnic, volunteer to get out the vote in the November election, which is crucial for unions, etc. Success!

Organizer Scott Steelman arranged to have Bro. Matt Kolinski, Pro Union Consulting, teach the New Contractors class this summer. It was well attended by interested members. After completing the class, Bro. Leonardo Velasquez became an IBEW Local 340 inside/signatory contractor. Welcome to Four ACE Electrical Services Inc.! Two other members are interested in signing up also. Again, success!

Reporting the loss of members is never easy. Retirees Hiram Jones, Elmer Kunz, Wes Rhodes and Lou Roberts, former linemen, have passed away. We also lost active member Bro. Danny Roberts.

Don’t let anyone silence our union voices. Vote in November!

Charles Laskonis, B.A.

Work Picture Picks Up

L.U. 354 (i,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Fortunately, during the spring and summer months, the work in Utah increased enough that we were able to put a large number of traveling brothers and sisters to work.

To that fine group of skilled men and women who travel around the country helping men work in areas where the work picture is picking up, Local 354 says thank you for a job well done.

The Annual Service Award Party in July was well attended. The local started a new tradition of presenting a gold watch to retirees when they reach 50 years of service. It was great to see members enjoying the camaraderie, food and drink—and listening to some of the stories shared is always a highlight. Notably, retiree Peter Spangenberg received his 65-year pin and gold watch. Congratulations to all the service award recipients. Thank you to everyone who helped make the pin party a success.

Bus. Mgr. Rich Kingerly was appointed last spring by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill to sit as a representative of labor on the Council of Industrial Relations. It is a great honor for this local to have our business manager chosen to preside with fellow business managers over the cases of locals that are fighting to keep their standard of living as high as possible even in tough times. Thank you, Rich, for accepting another huge responsibility.

Manya Blackburn, R.S.

Appointed to Labor Post

L.U. 364 (cab/t/c,es), ROCKFORD, IL—Congratulations to Bus. Mgr. Darrin Golden on his recent appointment as a vice president of the Illinois AFL-CIO.

Bro. Golden was appointed to serve out the term of a board member who retired and he will run for re-election in the fall. He is the first person from the Rockford area to hold the position of state AFL-CIO vice president.

The general election is fast approaching and we are pulling out all the stops to elect friends of working families such as: Pres. Barack Obama; Cheri Bustos, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from the 17th Congressional District of Illinois; Steve Stadler, candidate for the Illinois Senate; Illinois Sen. Mike Jacobs, who is running for re-election; and Carl Wasci and Mike Smedly, candidates for the Illinois House.

When union people get out and vote, usually union candidates win. And when union members get out and work campaigns for friends of working families, our chances to elect those candidates grow exponentially better.

Local 364 Bros. Charlie Laskonis and Ty Hillman recently traveled to Philadelphia to represent Local 364 joining thousands of union members who participated in the labor-wide Worker’s Stand for America rally. The focus was to bring the message of America’s Second Bill of Rights to the public and focus national attention on jobs, economic opportunity and restoring the American dream for all.

Charlie Laskonis, B.A.


Officers Sworn In

L.U. 388 (em,es), STEVENS POINT, WI—IBEW Local 388 is saddened by the death of Bro. James Lonnie Hill. Hill recently traveled to Philadelphia to represent Local 388 joining thousands of union members who participated in the labor-wide Worker’s Stand for America rally. The focus was to bring the message of America’s Second Bill of Rights to the public and focus national attention on jobs, economic opportunity and restoring the American dream for all.

John Klosinski and Robert Cyran, and Pres. John Danczyk. Don’t let anyone silence our union voices. Vote in November!

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

At the time of this writing, our Biomass Energy Project is extremely slow at manning up; as far as manpower goes, we are not sure how far into book one it will get or if it will get into book two at all. It appears that some projects are starting up around the country; hopefully traveling brothers and sisters found employment somewhere over the summer.

Local 388 held its election of officers and Dean Miller was sworn in at our July meeting as our new business manager/financial secretary along with our other newly elected and re-elected officers. Congratulations to all of our officers. The members and I also wish to say thank you to former business manager Dave Northrup for serving this local for so many years in so many capacities.


75th Anniversary Celebrated

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,m o,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), ALBERTA, CANADA—July marked the 75th anniversary of its founding. From its humble beginnings, Local 424 has represented members working in the electrical utility industry since 1937. Currently, Local 424 has more than 800 members working under its agreement. The members work in fossil fuel plants, combustion turbines, and wind turbines in the states of Missouri and Kansas.

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.

Annual Pancake Breakfasts

L.U. 524 (at,ees,em,es,lm o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—July marked the 27th annual Local 524 Members Pancake Breakfasts in Calgary and Edmonton done by the respective Unit Retirees.

Calgary held its pancake breakfast for about 200 Unit 2 members on the first Friday of the 10-day Calgary Stampede festival. After the breakfast, they served a lunch menu featuring Bro. Dave Handley’s own smoked, spice-rubbed roast beef, and barbecue fare. They raised $553 (through donations) for the Unit 2 Retirees. A salute to “Executive Chef” Dave Handley, “Sous Chefs” Aus. Bus. Mgr. Ron Davis and Unit 2 Chm. Darcy Duthie, and the Calgary Retirees for a job well done.

On July 20, the opening of Edmonton’s 10-day exhibition, Unit 1 Retirees did a full breakfast, and later a lunch menu, serving about 260 members and raising $671. Thank you to the retirees and spouses who helped out. Special thanks to BBQ Chefs Dick Owen, Dennis Unguran and Bob Hunter.

On July 14, Tina Stevenson, wife of member Scott Stevenson, once again did her usual exemplary job organizing the Unit 3 Kids Picnic with the help of a few members and retirees. Kids enjoyed cotton candy, BBQ goodies, juice drinks, games, face painting and a “bouncy house.”

July was a busy, fun month in this local … and the weather cooperated for all three venues!

Dave Anderson, P.S.

IEBW Members Restore Power

L.U. 466 (em,es,i,rtb,rts), CHARLESTON, WV.—The derecho of June 29 hit the wonderful state of West Virginia with a crippling blow. It was followed by multiple storms hitting the state for the following three weeks. Power outages were reportedly the worst ever in the state’s history. Most of us were out of power for a week and many were out too weeks. Thank goodness for our many brothers from other states who came to our aid in the miserable weather that was well over 90 degrees every day. Surrounding states were hit hard also making it extremely difficult to get help fast. I met and personally thanked two groups, one from Florida and one out of Ohio. IBEW brothers from other neighboring states, including Alabama, also traveled here to help restore power. We are extremely grateful for all the IBEW brothers who came to our aid.

I am truly proud to be a member of an organization whose many members are true brothers, not only to their union members but to all mankind!

Local 466 active and retired members as well as all of West Virginia salute and thank all the IBEW members for their assistance.

With regret we acknowledge the passing of the following brothers: Clyde Edelman Jr., Larry Agle, Ken Balsam, Mickey Moore and 71-year-member Jack Craze, who was age 91. They will be missed.

Larry Fogarty, P.S.

Steps to Recover Market Share


Bus. Mgr. Wagner reported meeting with Central Texas NECA, Local 72 and District representatives regarding ways we may recover our market and promote use of organized labor in the central Texas area. To show signs of cooperation, the LMC jointly approved an advertisement in the Construction News monthly periodical for the central Texas area. We look forward to the challenges before us and rely on the strength of all our brothers and sisters as we move forward in all our endeavors.

Jerry Bennett, P.S.

‘Thanks to Fellow Locals’

L.U. 530 (loktb,ts), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Aug. marked Local 530’s annual golf tournament. Unfortunately rain that day forced the cancellation of the golfing event. Those who stayed enjoyed the afternoon in the 9th hole with cold beverages and a steak dinner.

With limited work over the past few months and nothing in the foreseeable future as of this writing, Local 530 would like to thank the following locals for employment opportunities: Ottawa Local 536, Sudbury Local 567 and Regina Local 2318. Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bro. Rick Davidson.

At Byers, P.S.

Apprentice Graduating Class

L.U. 540 (ll), CANTON, OH—Local 540 extends congratulations to the 2012 IATC Apprentice Graduating Class.

The recent graduates are: Mike Gordon, Jeff Trissel II, Chad Rumbold, Tim Sawyer, Andrew Kline, Andrew McCarty, and Logan Schmidt.

We are proud of the graduates and wish them much success in their IBEW careers.

Jerry Bennett, P.S.

Among Local 538 service award recipients are, from left: former business manager Lance Blackstock (50 years of service), former apprentice director Bud Blackstock (55 years of service), P.E. Wesson (60 years), James J. Beavers (65 years) and Grant Abell (70 years).

Organizing Blitz a Success

L.U. 558 (catv,em,lmnt,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—At this writing, work across the jurisdiction is somewhat slow, but the fall outage at the TVA Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant will begin Oct. 26 and will be a boost for our members as well as some travelers.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Alabama, Inc. located in Huntsville has begun groundbreaking on its expansion, but we do not expect calls until early spring 2013.

In other news, Local 558 hosted an Organizing Blitz in August with organizers from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama assisting, as well as state organizing coordinators from the Fifth District. Thank you, brothers, for all your hard work and dedication on a successful blitz.

At Local 558’s August union meeting, a presentation of service pins was held; eligible members received service pin awards for 25 to 70 years of service. Special congratulations and thank you to everyone for lifelong IBEW membership and for making this local what it is today!

Mac Sloan, Mbr. Dev.

A New Meeting Hall

L.U. 666 (ltmbk), RICHMOND, VA—The regular meeting on July 13 was held in our newly opened meeting hall at 1200 East Nine Mile Road in Richmond. The new facility is fantastic. Please join us on the second Friday of each month to attend a meeting and check out our new home.

Newly elected officers were sworn in during the July meeting for a three-year term.


At Local 540 class of 2012 IATC apprentice graduates.
Newly elected Executive Board members are: David L. Clarke, William M. Faina, Jason “J.D.” Jenkins, Christopher S. Phillips, Omar A. Railey and Henry N. White.

Examining board members are: Anthony L. Coleman, Brad Bullock, Christopher Hitchcock, Phillip Bullock and Jarod Clouse.

Thank you to everyone putting their energy into working for our local!

Charles Skelly, P.S.

Local 692's celebration in May, Presented by Dusty Houser, staff member for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

At Local 692’s celebration in May, Pres. Brian Kitele (right) receives a U.S. flag, which was flown over the U.S. Capitol, presented by Dusty Houser, staff member for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

75th Anniversary & Retirement Celebration

L.U. 692 (Lmt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—Our local held a joint 75th Anniversary and Retirement Celebration at the Double Tree Hotel on Friday, May 11. Notably, the electrical wiring at that hotel was done by our IBEW members with skill and union pride.

We congratulate all the retirees and thank them for their years of service and dedication to Local 692.

Members honored for their retirement were: Mark Allen, Wayne Dieley, Ronald Ervin, Richard D. Hubert, Donald Jaworski, Wayne L. Lewis, Milton Simmons, Thomas Theisen, David Vater, Raymond Vermesch, Albert E. Casey, Kenneth Cislo, Dennis Gandy, Douglas Harsman, Alan Hayes, William B. Koenig, Gary Koenig, Timothy Lappin, Michael Loll, Dennis Moore, Mark Pawlik, Tim R. Peil, Nathan Shaw, Roy Tumble, Charles Voisine, Grant Williams, Michael Chaffin, Daniel J. O’Leary, Ronald Eurch, Donald Martin, Charles Miller, Michael Potter, Thomas Byler, Michael Schutt, C. Gil Archambo, Thomas Barbeau, Thomas Bejeck, Gregory Bentley, Dickerson, Benny E. Grimes, James M. Hardin; for 55 years—Ernest E. Choate, Lowell G. Tucker; for 60 years—Leo C. Creemeen, Larry W. Landrum, James J. Tapp; for 65 years—Charles F. Benson, James D. Harris [see photo below], Marvin R. Harwood; and for 70 years of service—Guy E. Watts.

We thank these brothers for their many years of dedicated IBEW service.

Jim Hubbard, B.M.

Getting Out the Vote

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,grv,ju,t,lctt,mo,mt,a,p,pm,plc,ct,cb,ct,ct,vs,sps,tct,au,aw,hrs,west frankfort, il)—Our local union election was held June 8. We congratulate Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart and all officers elected by our members.

Bus. Rep. Tate Wright graduated from the National Labor College on June 23. The dedication it takes to successfully complete a bachelor’s degree while working reflects Tate’s commitment to better represent our members.

At press time, negotiations continue with Ameren and Frontier Communications with very little movement.

The Labor Day celebration was Sept. 3, and thanks go out to all those who turned out to participate.

We will be busy with the upcoming elections and the scheduling of door knocking, phone banks, and whatever it takes to make sure President Obama is re-elected to office.

November Election

L.U. 716 (em,lt,rlt,rtst,spa), HOUSTON, TX—

Greetings, brothers and sisters. Local 716 wishes you and yours the best. By the time of this publication inside contract negotiations with NECA that resulted in a trip to the CIR in Washington, D.C., the work picture should be improved. Many thanks go to all the locals that have been able to put our members to work during these troubling times.

We have some bad news to report regarding our two GE facilities. In the past few months we have had a transfer of work and a closure.

Please remember the importance of the upcoming November elections. Encourage your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to vote to protect the rights of working Americans, who deserve a decent way of life and a retirement with dignity.

We congratulate all the retirees and thank them for their years of service and dedication to Local 692.

Members honored for their retirement were: Mark Allen, Wayne Diveley, Ronald Ervin, Richard D. Hubert, Donald Jezewski, Wayne L. Lewis, Milton Gandy, Douglas Harshman, Alan Haines, Gary Koenig, Timothy Lappin, Michael Loll, Dennis Moore, Mark Pawlik, Tim R. Peil, Nathan Shaw, Roy Tumble, Charles Voisine, Grant Williams, Michael Chaffin, Daniel J. O’Leary, Ronald Eurch, Donald Martin, Charles Miller, Michael Potter, Thomas Byler, Michael Schutt, C. Gil Archambo, Thomas Barbeau, Thomas Bejeck, Gregory Bentley, Dickerson, Benny E. Grimes, James M. Hardin; for 55 years—Ernest E. Choate, Lowell G. Tucker; for 60 years—Leo C. Creemeen, Larry W. Landrum, James J. Tapp; for 65 years—Charles F. Benson, James D. Harris [see photo below], Marvin R. Harwood; and for 70 years of service—Guy E. Watts.

We thank these brothers for their many years of dedicated IBEW service.

Jim Hubbard, B.M.

Three-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 910 (ees,il,ki) WATERFORD, NY—The IBEW Local 910 negotiation committee and the Northern New York Chapter of NECA reached a tentative agreement proposal on March 22 this year. The tentative agreement was presented to the membership at the April 3, 2012, regular meeting. After reviewing the proposed changes and wage increases, the membership voted to ratify the new agreement, which took effect retroactively to April 1, 2012.

The three-year agreement includes increases of $1.05, $1.25 and $1.35, respectively. After a presentation by fund manager John Love on the status of our funds, the membership also voted to allocate this year’s increase in both the Inside and Residential Agreements. The Inside increase was split with $0.83 to Health and Welfare, $0.20 to Pension, and $0.22 to UMCC (labor management cooperation committee). The Residential Agreement is in its second year and its scheduled increase was voted to be allocated to Health and Welfare ($1.00—Group 1, and $1.00—Group 2). There were also a few language changes and additions to the Inside Agreement, which will be summarized for the membership’s reference and posted on our Web site www.ibew910.org.

The 2011-2012 apprentice school year is complete and congratulations go out to the recent graduates: Ryan Blanchard, Nicole Bricker, Matthew Dillabough, Kenneth Heater, Daniel Johnson, Loudon Dillabough, Allen Duton, Steve Lukas; for 30 years—Elmer L. Goldsberry, Jack C. McFarland,同时在其他两个Agreements. The Inside increase was split with $0.83 to Health and Welfare, $0.20 to Pension, and $0.22 to UMCC (labor management cooperation committee). The Residential Agreement is in its second year and its scheduled increase was voted to be allocated to Health and Welfare ($1.00—Group 1, and $1.00—Group 2). There were also a few language changes and additions to the Inside Agreement, which will be summarized for the membership’s reference and posted on our Web site www.ibew910.org.

The 2011-2012 apprentice school year is complete and congratulations go out to the recent graduates: Ryan Blanchard, Nicole Bricker, Matthew Dillabough, Kenneth Heater, Daniel Johnson, Loudon Dillabough, Allen Duton, Steve Lukas; for 30 years—Elmer L. Goldsberry, Jack C. McFarland; for 35 years—Ernest E. Chnait, Lowell G. Tucker; for 40 years—Leo C. Creemeen, Larry W. Landrum, James J. Tapp; for 45 years—Charles F. Benson, James D. Harris [see photo above], Marvin R. Harwood; and for 50 years of service—Guy E. Watts.

We thank these brothers for their many years of dedicated IBEW service.

Jim Hubbard, B.M.
The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Chairman Pierson, on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Other members of the council in attendance were Lavin, Cabon, Calvay, Clarke, Smith, Fuer, and Riley. Walter was excused. Motion, made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2012, minutes, motion carried. Motion, made and seconded to approve the conference call meeting Monday, May 14, 2012, at 11:00 a.m., regarding Local Union 488, motion carried.

International President Villa
International President Edward D. Hill met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood. President Villa made a presentation to the IEC for marketing and advertising the IBEW through various media and requested $4,000,000 for this purpose. As such, motion, made and seconded to authorize the expenditure of $4,000,000 to market and advertise the IBEW Brand through various media outlets, motion carried.

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore Sam (Chilla) presented financial reports covering the IBGW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood - both in Canada and in the United States. In addition, a report was presented on the IBGW Unity Fund expenditures following a discussion on the future recommendations of the fund. President Illi recommended that we send another letter to additional funds to continue the fight. A motion was made and seconded to approve the making of a letter regarding further contributions to the IBGW Unity Fund, motion carried.

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

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

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision
International President Hill advised the council members that there are no local unions under the supervision of the International Office, at this time.

IBEW and Subsidiaries—Consolidated Financial Statements
for March 31, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

IBEW Headquarters Building LLC—Financial Statements
for March 31, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Trust for the IBGW Pension Benefit Fund and Subsidiaries—Consolidated Financial Statements
March 31, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the IBEW—Financial Statements
March 31, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Pension Plan for Officer Employees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers—Financial Statements
March 31, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Article XX and XXXI Cases
During the first six months of 2012, the IBGW was involved in one dispute under Article XX of the AFL-CIO Constitution (UNITE/HERE and IBGW Local 159) and one dispute involving organizing responsibilities under Article XXI (IBGW Local 1260 and AFT). Both disputes were resolved by agreement of the parties.

Appeal Filed with the International Executive Council
By Lawrence F. Richardson, Card Number D-289875, A Member of Local Union 101, IBGW
by letter dated May 14, 2012, Brother Lawrence F. Richardson is appealing the IEC’s denial of pension benefits and the requirement to reimburse the PBF $4,682.16 for pension overpayments. In addition, Richardson was denied the request to be reimbursed for dues charged. After a thorough review of the facts presented in this case, the members of the Executive council find his appeal absent merit and is hereby denied.

Appeal Filed with the International Executive Council
By Perry Speranza, Card Number D-632302, A Member of Local Union 353, IBGW
Brother Perry Speranza is appealing the Local 93 trial Board decision of June 10, 2010. Speranza was found guilty of violating Article XV, Section II, by disturbing the peace and harmony of a low rise meeting. Chairman Stevens would not let Speranza speak at the low rise meeting because Speranza didn’t work under the agreement and would not let him appeal his decision to the body due to TVP F Fleming’s letter to Speranza prior to the meeting. TVP F Fleming and JP Hill denied his appeal as well. After a thorough review of the facts presented in this case, the members of the executive council grant Brother Speranza’s appeal and hereby reverse the decision of the Local 93 trial board. Finding him guilty of violating Article XV, Section II. Please note, however, that the IEC has not concluded that Brother Speranza had a right to speak, only that he had a right to appeal the chairman’s decision limiting debate to those who worked under the agreement. Nor did the IEC agree with Brother Speranza’s contentions that the trial board was biased or that she should have been permitted to introduce a tape recording made the previously discussed meeting. Brother Speranza produced no evidence of bias, and the fact that he and some members of the trial board ran for office on different electoral slates did not disqualify them from serving on the trial board. Moreover, the practice of secretly recording local union meetings is unfair to the members who do not know that they are being recorded. The trial board therefore was not wrong in refusing to admit the tape recording into evidence.

Appeal Filed with the International Executive Council
By Michael A. Duke, Card Number D-600867, A Member of Local Union 236, IBGW
Brother Michael A. Duke’s claim for IBGW disability pension was submitted to IBEW’s reviewing doctor for consideration; however, his claim was not approved. On April 26, 2012, Brother Duke is appealing the decision to the International Executive Council. In addition, Brother Duke supplied a letter from his doctor dated February 22, 2012. After a thorough review of all the facts in this case, it is the decision of the International Executive Council, to grant the appeal and approve the IBGW disability pension effective January 1, 2012.

Retirement of International Representatives
John Amedes, International Representative Third District
Effective—April 1, 2012

Dan Hetz, International Representative Seventh District
Effective—April 1, 2012

Greg Gurt, International Representative Fourth District
Effective—May 1, 2012

James Dahlgren, International Representative Sixth District
Effective—May 1, 2012

Ron Burke, International Representative Membership Development, I.O.
Effective—June 1, 2012

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

Kent, Craig Lamont, Andrew Menike, Donald Pelugian, Miles Penice, Tyner Tyon and Neil Willmart.

Roger Laplatney, P.S.

Legrand Contract Ratified
L.U. 1040 (em), HARTFORD, CT—IBGW Local 1040 successfully negotiated and the membership ratified a new three-year contract with Legrand/Wiremold Company of Hartford in April. Negotiations were conducted with the leadership of IBEW Int. Rep. John L. Farla and a great Local 1040 team.

Congratulations and thanks to Int. Rep. Farla, Local 1040 Bus. Mgr. Lorraine Tinsley, and all officers and members involved for achieving successful negotiations.

Don McNamara, P.S.

Organizing is Key
L.U. 1116 (em), BT&TI, TUCSON, AZ—Our Southwest Energy Solutions and Tucson Electric Power members at the Springville Generating Station have been very successful in their internal organizing efforts. These members have been spreading the word of the union’s importance and why and should support the organization that watches over our benefits, pay and workplace safety.

Our IBEW officers applaud our Springville members and thank you for your trust, support and dedication; we appreciate your tireless efforts to further the purpose of our local union by serving on the safety committee, serving as a union steward or by bringing a union member, all of which “...Make Us a Stronger Union.”

Welcome to new members: Charles Lee, Joseph Hargett, Ethan Myers, Jeffery Glazer, Juan Lopez, Joshua Slade, David Stannete, Stephanie Klontz and America Martinez.

R. Coviella, P.S.

Local 1116 Bro. Rick Ryan, Springville Unit chairman, is all smiles with recent organizing success of new members.

Election of Officers
L.U. 1829 (em), CORAVILLE, IA—An election of officers for Local 1829 was recently held.

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

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

John R. Clarke
Secretary-Treasurer

Myles J. Calvey

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

Edwin D. Hill
International President

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

Editor
Edwin D. Hill

C. James Spellman

Mark Brueggenjohann

Malinda Brent

Len Shindel

Carol Fisher

Alex Hogan

Lucas Orlowitz

James H. Jones

Len Turner

Curtis D. Bateam

John Sellman

Erin Sutherland

Astifa Haniff

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Third District
Donald C. Siegel

Fourth District
Kenneth Cooper

Fifth District
Joe S. Davis

Sixth District
Lois R. Stephenson

Seventh District
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Eighth District
Ted C. Jensen

Ninth District
Michael G. Mowrey

Tenth District
Robert P. Klein

Eleventh District
Curtis E. Henke

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Joseph P. Calabro

Second District
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Third District
John R. Clarke

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The Electrical Worker

500 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, The Electrical Worker, 500 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by e-mail to: media@ibew.org

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Electrical Worker, 500 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

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FROM THE OFFICERS

Time for a Choice

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

We should no longer have any doubts about the real priorities of a right wing that has consistently obstructed significant legislation to put Americans back to work just to make President Obama appear ineffective. We shouldn’t second guess the motives of politicians who would threaten to sink our national economy just to protect tax breaks for their wealthiest campaign donors. That is their record.

There was a time before widespread political polling and daily discussion of “enthusiasm gaps” and “candidate likeability” percentages when union voters took a hard look at both candidates and asked themselves a simple question: “Which one has demonstrated in record and words that they are on my side?”

The world has grown far more complex, but that question can be easily answered in 2012. It can be answered by hundreds of thousands of autoworkers, parts workers and even some IBEW members whose jobs were saved by the Obama-Biden administration’s rescue of General Motors and Chrysler. Can we afford to forget the absolute contempt of Mitt Romney, who said “Let Detroit go bankrupt?”

To those who say that President Obama has failed to turn around our economy fast enough, we refer you to the words of Bill Clinton at the Democratic National Convention: “No one, not me, not anybody else, no one could have completely healed that [recession] and built a whole new economy and brought us back to full employment in just four years. It has never been done in the history of the world.”

“What candidate is on my side?” That question can be answered by U.S. military veterans who no longer have to travel three hours for medical care because they have VA medical clinics nearby thanks to Obama-Biden administration initiatives, or by citizens who were denied medical insurance because of pre-existing conditions, but who now have coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

In 2008, the IBEW Journal detailed how President George W. Bush had packed government agencies with leaders selected almost exclusively from corporate America. Conflicts of interest were rampant. Many had thin resumes in their areas of responsibility.

All that has changed. President Obama has appointed experts to lead agencies, men and women who see their role as protecting people, not just corporate profits. Many come from the ranks of the labor movement, or as in the case of Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, from union families.

Under Secretary Solis’ watch, fatalities on the job have gone down by 18 percent. And wage theft, which gives unfair advantages to nonunion contractors, has been successfully challenged by a beefed up force of investigators. DOL has sent strong financial support for renewable energy training to many union apprentice-ship programs.

The surest way to undo the progress that leaders like Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Hilda Solis have made in building a more balanced, progressive society is to vote for Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan on Nov. 6.

We simply cannot afford to return our agencies of government to the highest bidders.

This debate is not about “small” government or “big” government but the need for good, balanced government. The Obama administration has demonstrated that commitment over the last four years and the president and his appointees deserve our votes.
Ending government favoritism toward unions contracting on government projects
Ending project labor agreements
Fighting to repeal Davis-Bacon

I have been disheartened lately by some of the rhetoric regarding this upcoming election. Some brothers told me that, in the past, they had voted for “W” Bush based on issues relevant to morality, religious beliefs, etc., and I can only say “Follow your heart, Brother.” (My personal allegiance and loyalties are to God, my family, my country and then the IBEW.)

Today, we are awaiting the outcome of a presidential election, the results of which will have the greatest impact on union labor since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. President Obama and his political antics have disappointed me on several issues, and I make no apologies for him or the Democratic Party. However, Mitt Romney and his crew may very likely put us back in the Stone Age. In a speech to the Associated Builders & Contractors at the Biltmore Hotel, (reported by CSPAN’s “Road to the White House”), he stated the following agenda. On “Day One” to “curl” the practice of giving “union bosses an unfair advantage” in contracting by:

• Ending government favoritism toward unions contracting on government projects
• Ending project labor agreements
• Fighting to repeal Davis-Bacon
• Fighting for right-to-work laws

Brothers, put politics aside and think about our right to work, not for the right to work for less! We have fought for years for the right to take a break, eat lunch with some dignity, earn a living wage, protect the rights of all working people on our projects, and be able, through training and intent, to produce an honest product.

I am a separated worker force. We are and will continue to be the backbone of this country; the rich will not and cannot do what we do. They want it done but at a wage that we cannot raise a family under.

Wake up, American workers.
Steve Nelson, Local 57 member
Salt Lake City, Utah

Who We Are

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

Tragedy to Triumph at First Energy’s Toledo Edison

In May 2009, members of Toledo, Ohio, Local 245 were alarmed when Bruce Bartos, a senior line-man in his 37th year at Toledo Edison, died from injuries sustained during an annual training procedure required by OSHA. Bartos, too loved gardening, woodworking, University of Michigan football and spending time with his two children and six grandchildren, had mounted a bucket and was performing a self-rescue exercise when he fell about eight feet and broke his leg. Two days later, he succumbed to an injury-related blood clot.

The piercing irony of losing a fellow member during a yearly training exercise shook workers’ confidence in Toledo Edison’s safety program.

For both union members and managers, the question was: Could this tragedy be channeled into improving safety on the job? Three years later, the answer is a reverberating yes.

Local 245 Assistant Business Manager Ken Erdmann, a second-genera-
tional Toledo Edison lineman, says confidence has been restored through a partnership approach to safety. “The message is that labor and management must always work together with regard to safety in the workplace,” says Erdmann, who was strongly supported by the International office, the Fourth District, Local 245 and managers at Toledo Edison, a subsidiary of First Energy.

Dennis James, a 20-year member of Local 245 who serves as First Energy’s advanced safety representa-
tive, helped establish a 2010 “Speak up for Safety” program. In turn, the first group of union members from each department at the utility was selected by their co-workers as safety ambassadors to identify safety issues on the job and promptly address them with management and their local union leaders.

“If we don’t find out that something out in the field is broken,” says James, “we can’t fix it.” The bottom-up approach, he says, represents a dramatic change in workplace culture.

“When I was an apprentice, we were told to keep quiet. We were only needed to work from the neck down,” says James. Today, he says, “Even younger workers have the gall to speak up for safety and most senior leaders respect their concerns.” And rather than simply focusing on the negative when safety rules are broken, managers are encouraged to accompany their direc-
tives with positive feedback on other aspects of their crew’s performance.

Underscoring the parties’ safety focus, a memorandum of agreement was signed providing for the appointment of a full-time union safety and training rep-
presentative to visit crews, observe safety practices and identify remedial training to improve the safety culture.

Robert Hawkins, a 25-year Local 245 member, began serving as the union’s full-time safety representative in February. He had planned on retiring July 1, but says, “This position is something that was needed 30 years ago. I took the job—which was designed to be rotated every six months—because I knew that I would be trusted by our members and, with my experience, I could jump hurdles and knock barriers down to make it work.”

Hawkins, who has served for 16 years on a regional safety committee started by First Energy’s predecessor, says his passion for safety began in 1992 when his partner was fatally electrocuted by 600 volts. In the wake of the finger-
pointing after the accident, Hawkins says, “The most important thing was, ‘Here is a buddy who is never going home to see his wife and children again.’” He says, “I gave my wife a hug and kiss and prom-
ized her that I would take ownership of my own safety and return home every night just as I left that morning.”

Today, Hawkins conducts safety audits, including reporting back to a director on whether workers are properly using personal protective equipment. To maintain trust, he leaves off their names and truck numbers. When a particular violation—like failure to wear rubber boots—is widespread, he says, rather than targeting individuals, group meet-
ings are held to underscore the impor-
tance of wearing safety equipment.

Information on how to reduce safety violations now more often comes from the director than from front-line managers, thus carrying more authority and isolat-
ing the importance of improving safety performance from all other issues between managers and crews.

One day a month, Local 245 lead-
ers and Toledo Edison directors drive around visiting work crews soliciting safety concerns.

Chad Hack, an eight-year substi-
tution electrician who has worked as a safety ambassador for a year, says the new program has led First Energy to overhaul vehicles for safety. He says, “Safety ambassadors are a channel our guys can go through where they can bring up issues without getting chewed out or ignored.”

During the first week of June, line-
men, substation operators, meter work-
ers and associated employees gathered for yearly OSHA refresher training at Toledo Edison’s third annual safety fair. While managers coordinated the event, safety ambassadors directed a new group each day through all of the train-
ning sessions, recording their progress.

Hawkins advises others who want to establish joint programs to appoint mem-
bers who are dedicated to safety and will work hard to overcome initial hurdles. He says they need to practice the “three Ps”—passion, perseverance and praise.

Weasel says the benefits of safety awareness on the job spill over to the home. “I now make sure that my family, too, is working with the safest equipment—from trampolines to soccer balls.”

Putting Politics Aside

I have been disheartened lately by some of the rhetoric regarding this upcoming election. Some brothers told me that, in the past, they had voted for “W” Bush based on issues relevant to morality, religious beliefs, etc., and I can only say “Follow your heart, Brother.” (My personal allegiance and loyalties are to God, my family, my country and then the IBEW.)

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Notice to Employees Covered by IBEW Union Security Agreements: Fee Payers Objection Plan for 2013

Many collective bargaining agreements between employers and the IBEW or its locals include “union security” provisions stating that employees must become and remain members of the union as a condition of employment. The National Labor Relations Act permits employers and unions to negotiate these clauses where they are not otherwise prohibited by state law. These provisions are also permitted under the Railway Labor Act and under many state public employee bargaining laws. Under these laws, employees may fulfill their “union security” obligations either by joining the union and thereby enjoying the full rights and benefits of union membership, or by simply fulfilling their financial obligations to the union.

Employees who elect to become agency fee payers—that is, who choose not to become full-fledged IBEW members— forfeit the right to enjoy a number of benefits available only to union members. For example, only union members are entitled to attend and participate in union meetings; to run for union office and to nominate and vote for candidates for union office; to participate in contract ratification and strike votes; to participate in the development and formulation of union policies; to participate in the formulation of IBEW collective bargaining demands; and to serve as delegates to the International Convention.

Agency fee payers are generally charged the same dues and initiation fees uniformly required of IBEW members. However, agency fee payers who object to supporting certain union activities may pay a reduced fee to ensure that none of their money is used to support those activities. In particular, objects are charged only for activities or projects that are reasonably related to collective bargaining. Examples of such “chargeable” activities are negotiating collective bargaining agreements; meeting with employer representatives; meeting with employees on employment related issues; participating in proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, including arbitration; and managing internal union affairs.

Among activities considered “nonchargeable,” which objects are not required to support, are support of political candidates, general community service, legislative activities, certain costs of affiliation with non-IBEW organizations, and members-only benefits.

The IBEW Agency Fee Payers Objection Plan establishes the procedure for obtaining a fee reduction and is set forth in full below. By way of summary, fee payers must file their objections during the designated open period (usually the month of November) or within 30 days of becoming agency fee payers. Current fee payers who wish to file objections for calendar year 2013 must do so between November 1 and December 31, 2012.

Objectors must be addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer, IBEW, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, and must be postmarked during the November-December open period. Objectives filed during this open period will become effective on January 1, 2013, and will remain effective for as long as the objector remains in the bargaining unit.

No special form is required to register an objection. However, please include your full name, your mailing address, the local union to which you pay fees, your nonmember identification number (if known), and your Social Security number. In addition, if you move, please advise the International Secretary-Treasurer of your new address.

Dues and fees paid by employees covered by IBEW bargaining agreements consist of a portion retained by the local union and a portion that is transferred to the International. During January of each year, or as soon as possible after receiving a timely mid-year objection, the International will mail a check reflecting the reduction in the International’s portion of the fees to each objector who has filed a timely objection. The International, through the International Secretary-Treasurer, along with a detailed explanation of the basis for the fee reduction during these same time frames, the local union that represents the objector, will provide him or her with a reduction in its portion of the fees, either by sending a reduction check or by adjusting the amount of the objector’s periodic payments, and will provide information explaining the basis for its reduction.

The reductions are based on the percentage of the unions’ expenditures that were devoted to “chargeable” and “nonchargeable” activities during the previous fiscal year, as defined above. For example, the International determined that during its 2010-2011 fiscal year, 51.22% of its expenditures were for “chargeable” activities and 48.78% of its expenditures were for “nonchargeable” activities. The locals’ portions vary, with most locals retaining between 90 and 95 percent of their annual expenditures to “chargeable” activities. In no year has any IBEW local union spent a smaller percentage of its expenditures on “chargeable” activities than the International, although some of the locals use the International’s percentage to calculate their own annual reduction—thereby giving objects a larger reduction than if the locals used their own figures.

Some public sector collective bargaining laws require different procedures for honoring the rights of non-members. If you are a public employee covered by such a law, your local union will advise you how to follow to register your objection.

1. Nonmembers’ Right to Object. Any employee who is not a member of the IBEW and who pays agency fees to an IBEW local union (LU) pursuant to a collectively bargained union security provision in the United States has the right to object to expenditures of his or her fees for activities that are not reasonably related to collective bargaining. For purposes of this plan, such activities will be referred to as “nonchargeable activities.” The agency fees paid by a fee payer who perfects an objection under the procedures set forth below will be reduced to reflect the expenditures of the LU and the IBEW that are used for “chargeable activities” (including, for example, negotiating and enforcing collective bargaining agreements, dealing with employers on employment-related concerns, and union administration).

2. Procedure for Filing Objections. Each fee payer who wishes to file an objection must do so in writing, addressed to the International Secretary-Treasurer (IST) at the International Office of the IBEW, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. In registering their objections, objects must include their name and address, the LU to which they pay fees, their nonmember identification number, if known, and their Social Security number. Objectors must be post-marked within the first 30 days after an objector becomes an agency fee payer (either by being hired or transferred into the bargaining unit, or by resigning from union membership) and becomes obligated to pay agency fees to an IBEW LU under a collective bargaining agreement or, for current bargaining unit members, during the month of November. (The open period may be extended in Convention years.) Objectors will be effective for as long as the objector is in the bargaining unit.

3. Reduction in Agency Fees. No later than January 31 of each year (or as soon as possible after receiving a timely mid-year objection), the IST will mail each individual who has filed a timely objection a check representing the reduction in per capita payments to which he or she is entitled for the entire calendar year. The reduction checks will be accompanied by a description of the major categories of expenditures, an explanation of how the amount of the reduction was determined and an explanation of the appeal procedure.

4. Calculation of Reduction in Per Capita Payments. Before the beginning of the calendar year, the IST will calculate the International’s per capita reduction as follows: The IST will determine the International’s total operating expenditures for all purposes during the preceding fiscal year, the expenditures made for activities that are chargeable to objects, and the nonchargeable expenditures. The IST will then calculate the ratio of chargeable to nonchargeable expenditures to total expenditures. The International’s expenditures and calculations will be verified by an independent auditor.

5. Per Capita Reduction Check. No later than January 31 (or as soon as possible after receiving a timely mid-year objection), the IST will mail each individual who has filed a timely objection a check representing the reduction in per capita payments to which he or she is entitled for the entire calendar year. The reduction checks will be accompanied by a description of the major categories of expenditures, an explanation of how the amount of the reduction was determined and an explanation of the appeal procedure.

6. Appeal to Impartial Arbitrator. An objector who has filed a timely objection and who believes that the per capita reduction provided by the IST does not accurately reflect the International’s expenditures on chargeable activities may appeal through procedures established by the LU. An objector challenging both the International’s and the LU’s reductions must appeal through the procedure specified in paragraph 6.0, except that the appeal must be received in the office of the IST within 30 days of the date on which the IST mailed the objector his or her per capita reduction check. The appeal should explain the basis of the challenge.

7. The impartial arbitrator will be appointed by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) through its Rules for Impartial Determination of Union Fees, issued on June 1, 1996.

c. Such appeals will be consolidated to the extent possible and heard as soon as the AAA can schedule the arbitration. The presentation to the arbitrator will be either in writing or at a hearing, if requested by any objector. A hearing will be held only if the objector who does not wish to attend may submit his or her views in writing by the date of the hearing. If a hearing is not requested, the arbitrator will set a date by which all written submissions must be received and will decide the case based on the records submitted.

The International will bear the burden of justifying its calculations.

d. The costs of the arbitrator’s services and any proceedings before the arbitrator will be borne by the International. Individually incurred costs will be borne by the party incurring them.

e. While the appeal is pending, the IST will hold in escrow a portion of the fees paid by objects in an amount sufficient to ensure that the portion of the fee reasonably in dispute will not be expended during the appeal procedure. In the event that the impartial arbitrator determines that the objects are entitled to a greater reduction in their fee payments than that calculated by the IST, additional checks will be issued for the balance of the reduction due, as determined by the arbitrator.

8. Appeals from Local Union Fee Reductions. An objector who has filed a timely objection and who believes that the reduction provided by the LU to which he or she pays agency fees is not accurate shall reflect the LU’s expenditures on chargeable activities may appeal through procedures established by the LU. An objector challenging both the International’s and the LU’s reductions must appeal through the procedure specified in paragraph 6.0, except that the appeal must be received in the office of the IST within 30 days of the date on which the International mailed the objector the per capita reduction or (b) the date on which the LU mailed its reduction, whichever is later.

Where public employees are employed under laws requiring different procedures, the employees’ local union will provide information about the proper procedures to follow.