Every member of our union should take pride in the IBEW’s reputation for facing changing circumstances with courage, innovation and confidence.

At this printing, we don’t know the results of the 2012 elections. We do know that whether the candidates supported by our union win or lose, we have always focused on holding our elected leaders accountable to the needs of working families across North America, earning their respect through our deeds, not just our words.

In this issue of the Electrical Worker, we feature some local unions and leaders that exemplify the forward-looking style and achievements of a union that is growing, adapting and always learning from its broad experience and membership.

We start with an IBEW deeply committed to building North America’s renewable energy sector. Against the majestic backdrop of 6-million-acre Denali National Park, home of Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in North America, members of Anchorage Local 1547 are constructing the largest wind energy project in the state of Alaska, a giant step toward energy independence and a superb stage for the skill and dedication of our members.

At the last IBEW International Convention in 2011, delegates rallied around the need to deepen our ties with our surrounding communities. This issue highlights some brothers and sisters who took their own bold steps into the political arena in 2012, organizing grassroots campaigns in their cities and precincts and challenging opponents who see organized labor not as a key ingredient of our democracy, but as a check on the power of the wealthy.

A tenet of our North American democracies is the extension of opportunity to an ever-widening section of our population to fully participate in our economy and political life. In Kentucky, Louisville Local 369 is helping transform lives and the IBEW’s...
Ky. Building Trades, Civil Rights Activists Train Next Generation of Construction Workers

I only took a couple years of college for 26-year-old Muhammad Al-Bilali to realize that spending four years racking up thousands of dollars in student loans wasn’t for him.

“More than anything, I was looking for a skill,” says the Louisville, Ky., resident. “I wasn’t getting that in college.”

Moreover, he wasn’t interested in running up debt only to end up like many others in his generation: stuck in a dead-end job he was overqualified for because it was the only work he could get. “I don’t want to be in debt to somebody,” he says. “And I have enough friends with master’s degrees working as hostesses.”

But job prospects for a young high-school graduate are pretty scarce, particularly in today’s struggling economy. And for young African-Americans like Al-Bilali, the job picture is grimmer, with unemployment among African Americans under 29 more than triple the national rate.

Al-Bilali decided to leave the high rents and prices of New York City—where he went to high school—behind and moved back to his birthplace, Louisville, in hopes of finding work.

With Louisville being a major transit hub for the South, Al-Bilali found part-time work in the city’s many warehouses. But none of those jobs offered much in terms of wages and benefits—the most he ever made was $11 an hour. None offered a path toward a real career or much of a shot at the middle class.

Still looking to turn his life around, he heard about a program called the Construction Pipeline from Anthony Mathis, a local contractor.

The program, a partnership between the Louisville Urban League and the Greater Louisville Building and Construction Trades Council, recruits local residents for an intensive 24-hour pre-apprenticeship training curriculum in the basics of construction.

Covering everything from blueprint reading and OSHA safety procedures to an overview of the different trades, the program was just what Al-Bilali was looking for.

“I had thought about construction before,” he says, disclosing a lifelong interest in becoming an electrician. But he didn’t know how to get into an apprenticeship.

“It wasn’t anything I was familiar with,“ he says.

Al-Bilali followed up the program with a three-week electrician boot camp through pre-apprenticeship sponsor Louisville Local 369, which cemented his interest in becoming an electrical apprentice.

After working on a few sites as a construction electrician and completing the boot camp, he was accepted as an IBEW apprentice last summer and says he couldn’t be happier.

“I feel like I’m working on a career,” he says. “I’m doing interesting work that challenges me every day, while getting paid to learn.” And with a nine-month-old daughter at home, the pay and benefits mean he can give his family a spot in the middle class.

“For a long time, labor and the community were often at odds when it came to jobs,” says Building Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Joe Wise. “With the Construction Pipeline, we’re not fighting over jobs; we are allies in creating them.”

Building Inclusion

Al-Bilali’s personal success story is only one of many made possible by the Construction Pipeline, which entered its fifth year in 2012.

The program has trained more than 250 candidates in the basics of construction, resulting in 111 job placements—including some of the biggest projects in the metro area.

And with a primary focus on recruiting local residents, minorities and women into the industry, the Construction Pipeline is ensuring large construction projects in the Louisville metro area benefit local residents, while cementing strong relations between the building trades and community and civil rights leaders, particularly in the city’s African-American community.

“For a long time labor and the community were often at odds when it came to jobs,” says Building Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Joe Wise. “With the Construction Pipeline, we’re not fighting over jobs; we are allies in creating them.”

More than 30 graduates of a program to recruit nontraditional workers into the construction industry worked on the KFC Yum! Center in downtown Louisville, Ky.

The initial spark for the program was creation of the Louisville Arena Authority in 2005 to oversee the construction of KFC Yum! Center, which was one of the biggest projects to be built in the region in many years. The Louisville Metro City Council passed ambitious legislation assuring arena construction jobs benefit the community as a whole.

Under the ordinance, any major city project financed with public funds must employ at least 20 percent minorities, 60 percent local residents and 5 percent women.

“Whenever there were construction projects built in this community, they were built primarily by a literally all-white workforce, because traditionally they went outside the community, and sometimes outside the state to bring the work force here,” Louisville Arena Authority Chairman Jim Host said in a promotional video produced by the Urban League.

More than 35 graduates from the first Construction Pipeline class were put to work on the $238 million arena, surpassing the diversity goals set by the city council. Some of the graduates worked as local 369 construction electricians.

The program is financed through federal Workforce Investment Act dollars administered by KentuckianaWorks, a Louisville-area job development agency.

The Urban League and the Justice Resource Center did much of the recruiting, using community contacts to identify nontraditional workers who might be interested in the program.

“We’ve got single moms, young folks under 20 or even 30 who haven’t worked steadily since school, ex-offenders,” says Wise, who estimates that the classes have been approximately 50 percent African-American.

“The reality is that we in the building trades and the IBEW haven’t always done enough to make sure our work force represents the population in our community," says Local 369 Business Manager William Finn.
A National Model

The Great Recession, which struck soon after the Construction Pipeline was launched, made it harder to place graduates in jobs, but Wise says the program is laying the foundation for a trained and diverse work force for when the economy picks up.

Supporters like to point to its statewide support, not only from business and labor, but from Republicans and Democrats as well. It was proposed by Republican Gov. Emie Fletcher, but was continued by current Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear.

“Authority chairman Jim Host wasn’t initially the most favorable to unions, but through this project, he learned a lot about what we offer in terms of training,” says Building Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Wise.

For Local 393 Joint Apprentice Training Committee Director Steve Willingham, the Construction Pipeline is a model for other IBWE locals facing the challenge of diversifying their membership.

“The increasing use of community workforce agreements, which mandate diversity on many projects, means that we need to start recruiting more minorities and more women if we want to compete and grow in many major urban markets,” he says.

But training programs like the Construction Pipeline aren’t just about jobs for IBWE members, he says. It’s also about building ties between labor and the broader community to create local coalitions to push for decent wages, good benefits and opportunity for all.

For Al-Bilal, the work of the Urban League and the Building Trades demystified the whole process of joining the trades. “There are a lot of people like me looking for an opportunity like this, but don’t know how to go for it,” he says.

Organizers Grow IBWE, Gain Market Share in Wake of Stormy Economy

W hen candidate wins the Nov. 6 election will encounter an economic reality that mirrors in many ways what IBWE members in the construction sector already know: we’ve been on the ropes, but we’re coming back—we just aren’t quite there yet.

But at locals in states where right-to-work laws are on the books, IBWE organizers are doubling down on the No. 1 tactic to keep the Brotherhood strong: organizing.

By putting in the IBWE’s recovery agreement—which creates alternate job classifications to ensure a competitive composite crew rate for signatory contractors—locals in states like Wyoming and Oklahoma are swimming against the stream of anti-union laws and sentiments to fashion a stronger movement in their communities, bringing better wages and benefits to working families while increasing market share and boosting their rolls.

Doubling down on the No. 1 tactic to keep the Brotherhood strong: organizing

“In a down economy, it’s still good to keep your name out there and keep organizing,” said Casper, Wyo. Local 322 organizer Jerrie Payne. “You keep up the pressure even when things don’t look so good economically, so when work does come back, you’re set. You’ve established contacts with workers and signatory contractors. It’s a way to give people the dignity of good wages and benefits and grow the local at the same time.”

Grassroots Outreach

Across Wyoming, union density is a little higher than 7 percent, which poses challenges for organizers like Payne who are trying to get sure footing in the construction sector. In early 2012, the local—which has a wide jurisdiction in the central part of the state—controlled about 30 percent of the market.

But over the past 18 months, successful salting campaigns—where Local 322 members took nonunion jobs to reach out to unorganized electricians—mixed with proactive volunteer organizing committee actions and outreach to contractors, have more than doubled the work for the local, which now boasts more than 70 percent market share in the area.

The trick? “Build relationships,” Payne said. “We’ve been inviting nonunion electricians and contractors to our Christmas parties, our summer picnics, barbecues—you name it.” Popular local sporting events like an industry-wide back-hunting contest and fishing derbies draw many nonunion workers looking for recreation and camaraderie. Along the way, some formerly defensive postures toward the IBWE get softened, Payne said.

“We have to show that we’re not the negative media stereotype of union bosses,” he said. “We’re out there doing our work in the same trade, providing for our families. Once [nonunion workers] see that you’re not that different from them, it’s easier to convince them that joining a union can make things even better.”

Such grassroots outreach has brought scores of new electrical workers—many already boasting worthy skills—into the union as construction electricians and construction wiremen.

Local leaders are then able to market the IBWE work force more effectively.

“We had one contractor bid on a job and lose it to a nonunion shop by just over $1,000,” Payne said. This was before the owner had put the recovery agreement into place. By explaining how composite rates could have lowered overall labor costs while still putting a majority of existing journeymen on the job, the company changed course. “As a result of this experience, the contractor began using the agreement with more concerted effort and started picking up projects that we have not done in years.”

New members and those who had been on the bench are now building or remodeling fast-food restaurants, new residential facilities, a car wash, local schools and a hospital.

Losses and Gains in Okla.

On the great plains, IBWE members have seen the effects of right-to-work laws decimate union gains the way the region’s storied tornadoes occasionally uproot trees and shatter infrastructure.

“It used to be that for the organizers, a lot of work was done for them because solidarity among the trade unions was stronger,” said Treintice Hamm, who, along with his co-organizer Dewayne Wilcox, coordinates membership development for Oklahoma City Local 3141. But after the state legislature passed a right-to-work law in 2001, “The whole climate has changed. It didn’t get out there and talk to [nonunion workers], then nobody is talking about the union.

“They don’t come to you in Oklahoma—you have to go to them,” Hamm added. “If the message isn’t going out, it’s because I’m not saying it.”

But buoyed by what he sees as evidence that the union way of life benefits both workers and businesses, Hamm and his colleagues developed a strategy to reach out to small and mid-sized contractors in the area. By encouraging dozens of signatory contractors to implement the recovery agreement, a sizeable amount of those shops have seen business take off and add personnel. Today, Hamm said, most of those businesses have added at least three employees, and the largest recently peaked at 31 employees, all of whom are IBWE.

“For about the last four years, everyone’s been working who wanted to work,” Wilcox said. “This has been a very good fall for us.”

Experienced journeymen, apprentices and newer CE/CWs recently completed construction on the massive Devon Tower, now the tallest building in the Sooner State (see “Savvy Partnership, Job Skills Help Okla. Local Cinch Skyscraper Project,” The Electrical Worker, January 2011).

The success of this project—which wouldn’t have been possible without implementing the recovery agreement and generating new members—points to how a similar recovery agreement strategy can help other locals that are vying to rebound in the wake of the recession, Hamm said.

“Whoever is advertising in times of a down economy will have the upper hand when things improve economically,” he said. “That means more new members and more work for existing members. When times get better, you’ll be able to say to contractors, ‘Lean on me, and I can get you the manpower that you need.’

‘Positioning Ourselves’

One of the reasons that labor leaders work to shore up membership rolls regardless of whether the economy is up or down is that organizing is unaffected by the cyclical nature of the market, said Kirk Groenendaal, Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development.

“Like all business, when one section goes down, one section goes up. So when we have a down market in areas like industrial, manufacturing, or power plant facilities—then you look around, and ask ‘what is happening elsewhere?’ Well, it may be commercial, it may be malls, housing developments, or other smaller projects.”

“Some things rebound quicker than others,” he said, “so what we try to do is position ourselves to be in all the markets. Then with our skills, training and work ethic, we should be able to enhance our signatory contractors. Any time we can increase man-hours for the local unions and organize at the same time, it’s a win-win.”

All of which can—and should—accompany efforts to generate the strong social ties and interpersonal involvement that organizers like Payne and Hamm work to foster, said Groenendaal.

“The more social interaction the local can offer to the membership and potential new members, the stronger the bond is going to be at all levels of the local,” he said. “Part of the philosophy is that we can serve a dual role for people—the more that we’re your source for work as well as a source of social well-being and family interaction, the stronger the local is going to be, and the better off all the members will be.”

COURAGE & INNOVATION continued on page 4

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Courage & Innovation Mean Growth

Members Wage Powerful Campaigns for Public Office

Beneath the headlines featuring the 2012 presidential campaign and high-profile Senate and House races, hundreds of elections were held to choose leaders of municipalities and states, and members of the IBEW were in on the action, working to improve the lives of their neighbors and communities.

Claudia Kyle, Portland, Ore., Local 48

I am an Oregonian from a pioneer family that settled here in 1854. I believe in the core values of my heritage: hard work, common sense, reliability, fairness and stewardship. — Claudia Kyle for State Representative Web site

Claudia Kyle’s Democratic campaign for a seat in the Oregon State House of Representatives—in the district that includes the state capital in Salem—was built on the experience she gained in 2010 when she lost a campaign for the same office to a conservative Republican.

A 30-year IBEW member who retired in 2008 after working as a journeyman wireman, general foreman and project engineer on multi-million dollar construction projects, Kyle says, “I was always interested in the way things were going politically, but got active in 2008 during the George W. Bush administration. I was concerned about the way our country was headed and wanted to put my energy into getting us back on track.”

Kyle joined her county’s Democratic Committee, served on its central committee and worked on the successful campaign of Jeff Merkley for U.S. Senate before stepping into the 2010 race.

“We built on the foundation from 2010,” says Kyle, whose volunteer campaign staff knocked on 10,000 doors. She expected many voters who failed to return mail-in ballots (the state’s voting method) to be more engaged in 2012. With a Democratic-Republican split in the House and a one-member Democratic advantage in the state senate, Kyle campaigned to be part of an increasing majority that can move more ideas and programs through the legislature.

“Local 48 and IBEW biggest labor partners, but I received great support from the state’s AFL-CIO, the SEIU and other unions,” she said.

A volunteer ombudsman who visits residential care facilities and nursing homes to monitor the quality of care, Kyle says her experience there and in the electrical trade prepares her to be an effective voice for a diverse district where 70 percent of residents live in suburban communities and the rest in rural areas. Twenty percent of voters are unaffiliated with either major political party.

The graduate of Whitworth College in Washington says, “I want to be a strong advocate for our elders to make sure we are prepared for the ‘silver tsunami’...as our baby boomer citizens retire.”

Kyle also expresses the need to build a stronger relationship between public education and labor. She says, “We need to get a greater educational system in Oregon, but we’ve gone too long with teacher layoffs and crowded classrooms. I will be advocating for more vocational training to make the trades a viable choice for our youth.”

Her campaign focused on reaching out to Democrats, Independents and Republican women, many of whom express deep differences with the right-wing stance of their party on women’s issues. She says, “Like many of the people I’ve met, I’m frustrated about how politics is going at the national level. But I believe that by engaging locally we can make real progress in solving problems.”

John Murphy, New England Local 1228

A third-generation IBEW member, John Murphy, assistant business manager of Local 1228, has a lifetime of experience building stronger communities across Connecticut. That experience is helping propel his grassroots campaign for the Connecticut General Assembly’s Eighth District. Murphy knocked on 25,000 doors in his campaign against Timothy Ackert, a Tea Party Republican and nonunion electrical contractor.

“The things we fight for in the labor movement are not just union issues. Better jobs, better pay and pension security are everybody’s issues,” Murphy said. During his door-to-door campaign, Murphy sometimes heard anti-union rhetoric coming from residents who complained about the benefits enjoyed by union workers. He says, “I asked them why they don’t want to pull together to get those things for themselves rather than pulling others down.”

For the past 11 years, Murphy, a journeyman inside wireman, has served as organizing director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, a progressive advocacy group focusing on open government, clean elections and health care reform. His campaign was aided by public funding, a reform supported early on by Citizen Action to discourage big corporate money from dominating politics.

To qualify for public funding, a state office candidate must raise a minimum of $5,000 and solicit at least 50 donations totaling no more than $200 from residents. With his $26,400 campaign treasury, Murphy was in relative financial parity with his opponent.

“With public financing, volunteer efforts become even more important,” says Murphy. “I am greatly assisted by union endorsements and the labor movement’s infrastructure coming to my support.”

Running for public office, says Murphy, is an important part of community activists overcoming a self-defeating narrative about politics.

“There is a lot of anger toward Washington and even those in state government,” says Murphy. “Some people say all the elected leaders are bums. I tell them that it’s not true. The best way to improve our government is to get involved and run ourselves.”

Shawn Hutchinson, Phoenix, Ariz., Local 640

Shawn Hutchinson, president of Phoenix, Ariz., Local 640, ran for city council in Peoria, a suburb of the state capital. The city of 150,000—home to spring training for the San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners—has experienced explosive growth over the past three decades.

“Running for council seemed like a natural fit,” said Hutchinson, who serves on one of the city’s investment boards. The future of the area is expected to be substantial. Residents want to maintain the services we have, but there is a great opportunity for positive growth, including the potential for establishing a commuter rail line.”

With infrastructure improvements, future city government buildings, a convention center and other projects developing, Hutchinson—who won three out of five precincts in his primary election—said winning a council seat would be a step toward making sure that construction is conducted responsibly.

“Our city council elections in Peoria are nonpartisan,” says Hutchinson. “Despite differences between residents over the national political scene, they all want a city that runs and runs well.”

Eric Sunderland, Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245

Eric Sunderland, an 11-year member, had long been involved in local progressive politics and neighborhood improvement efforts when Local 1245’s leadership asked him to volunteer as a “road warrior” and head to Wisconsin to work legislation and elect progressive candidates to office made her the logical choice to be her local union’s registrar and to sit on the executive board of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO.

Upham-Torosian helped lead last year’s successful effort by unions and their allies to stop a right-to-work bill. With only 104 Democrats in a 400-seat legislature, that meant reaching out to Republican legislators for support. The IBEW had endorsed some of the Republicans in 2012.

“I was going to wait until I retired to consider running my own campaign for public office,” says Upham-Torosian. “But with William O’Brien’s awful record as speaker of the state’s House of Representatives, I decided to throw my hat in the ring.”

Campaigning for the New Hampshire House door-to-door in Rockingham, a rural, majority-Republican district, Upham-Torosian says her message was well received particularly by the large percentage of unaffiliated voters who vote for the candidate, not the party. Her personal experience in bipartisanship resonated with many Republican voters.

Evan Parra contributed to this article from Denver. Encouraging other unionists to share the experience and opportunities of running for public office, she says, “I represent the middle class. We are the middle class. If we are not there to create laws, they will be created without our involvement, with a terrible outcome for our unions.”
On Air: Broadcast Pros Aided by Video Production Studio

From capturing the epic heights of members wiring the Golden Gate Bridge to documenting the 45,000-strong Workers Stand for America rally in Philadelphia, the staff of the IBEW Media Department brings the work of the union’s members into clear focus each month at www.ibew.org.

Now the communications team has added a new tool to its arsenal—a broadcast quality, 1,500-square-foot video production facility built and operated by IBEW electricians, technicians and broadcast professionals. The production space features a multi-camera studio, control room, audio recording booth, digital edit bays and other high-tech gear—all designed to deliver crisp content for millions of people each week, said Senior Producer Len Turner, who joined the International staff in 2009 after more than 15 years in the TV news industry.

“Professionally-produced video lets us concisely and engagingly convey our story in today’s media landscape,” Turner said. “Selling the hard work and dedication of our local unions will always be the top priority.”

Building the studio was a major part of the IBEW’s media outreach to members, contractors, customers and the public at large. The production team—all members of Washington, D.C., Local 1200—now generates about 50 short features per year, including network and local television commercials, educational outreach programs and videos used to promote organizing efforts.

The new facility allows International President Edwin D. Hill and other International officers to quickly and easily address members of individual local unions through custom-made video presentations.

“We wanted to make sure that as we expanded and did more complex and bigger video productions, we had the facilities to handle that,” said International Representative Mark Brueggenjohann. “This studio allows us to handle any of the demands now and on into the future for expanding our video production content for the IBEW. If a department or a local asks us for something specific, we can say, ‘Yes, we can do that.’”

Understanding the importance of maintaining and enhancing an already robust media strategy, the International Officers gave a green light to the studio project in late 2010. The leadership in the union recognizes the need in an overall media plan to include video—that’s the way people get information now,” Brueggenjohann said. “It used to be that the only way you could get any sort of video coverage is by going through media outlets, whether it’s the news or public affairs programs. But now with the social media sites and our own Web site, we essentially are able to develop our own television station.”

Production in the studio will not be limited to the IBEW. President Hill has offered use of the facility to other international unions for projects reaching out to their own members or that benefit the labor movement as a whole. All camera, video and editing work will be performed by IBEW staff at the International Office, or by engineers and technicians under an IBEW contract.

“The IBEW represents tens of thousands of broadcast employees at the highest level of the industry, whether it’s at CBS, Fox Sports or a local television station,” Brueggenjohann said. “The leadership at the IBEW gave us the right tools to now take the talent we have here working in the Media Department and produce the same level of quality that our members create every day working all over the country.”

See some of the Media Department’s latest videos in high definition at www.vimeo.com/ibew.

These items and more are now available at your IBEW Online Store.
IBEW Sees Growth in Quebec

IBEW organizers in Quebec are feeling hopeful that a new era is dawning in Canada’s second biggest province. Last summer, more than 300 electricians voted to join the Brotherhood in industry-wide elections, making it one of the union’s biggest victories in Quebec in many years.

“It’s monumental,” says First District International Representative Mike LeBlanc, who serves as the organizing coordinator for Eastern Canada.

“It is a sign that many Quebecois electricians are looking for an alternative to the politically-based unions that have historically dominated the construction industry,” says First District International Vice President Phil Fleming.

Quebec’s uniquely worker-friendly labour relations law means that nearly 100 percent of construction workers are unionized, dispersed among nearly a half-dozen separate unions.

The labour code gives all construction workers the opportunity to switch unions every three years in province-wide elections. The union that gets the most support has the right to bargain with the contractors’ association, setting wage rates and working standards for all employees.

IBEW organizers, who had a month in the lead-up to the vote to campaign for new members, fanned out across the province, leafleting work sites and knocking on doors to win new members to the union.

“Our guys were on the road a lot, hitting every place we could,” says Montreal Local 568 Business Manager Laurent Talbot. “We put a lot of sweat and effort into publicizing the benefits of joining the IBEW.”

The IBEW’s national jurisdiction proved to be a big selling point. “An IBEW card means you can work anywhere in Canada because we’re part of an international union,” says Talbot. “A rival union’s card is only good here.” Organizers also talked about the union’s stronger retirement benefits, he says.

Despite the IBEW’s recent gains, the union still remains a distinct minority among electricians, dwarfed by the rival Quebec Federation of Labour—Construction (FTQ). The FTQ represents more than 80 percent of the work force in the construction industry, and has used its market share to create a discrimination job market that gives the union a near monopoly over hiring and placement on construction projects.

“Traditionally it was the FTQ that ended up deciding who got to work, which was unfair to members of other construction unions,” says Talbot.

However recent reforms to the labour relations law could help break the FTQ’s hold on jobs, giving other unions, including the IBEW, access to new projects. Bill 33, which was passed by the provincial legislative last year, took away the FTQ’s near-exclusive power to staff construction jobs, allowing rival unions the right to make manpower recommendations to the public agency.

“But if you weren’t FTQ, it was hard to get work,” says Mike LeBlanc.

The legislation also streamlines the election process, allowing workers to vote by mail instead of having to drive to a polling place, as well as extending the term of the agreement from three years to four.

The IBEW’s growth comes at an important time for Quebec’s economy. The new Parti Quebecois government says it will continue its predecessor’s commitment to investing in industrial and transportation infrastructure in the province’s northern region, home to a booming mining sector. Northern Quebec has seen a 62 percent increase in commercial investment since last year, which means more construction jobs and a tighter labour market.

Both the Montreal and Quebec City commercial markets are also booming, with Local 568 boasting near-full employment. In addition to two big hospital projects in Quebec’s largest city, IBEW members are building wind farms for the province’s growing green energy sector.

Bill 33 goes into full effect in December. Local 568 Business Representative Guy Fournier says the transfer of staffing responsibility from local unions to the provincial construction commission poses new challenges in getting IBEW members on the job at some of Quebec’s biggest projects, but says Local 568 is working with contractors to prepare for the transition.

“A lot of the FTQ members that we’ve worked with in the past are not sure how it will work, but we will continue to push to make IBEW members—including our 155 new brothers—find work throughout Quebec,” he says.

More than 100 electricians joined Montreal Local 568 in provincial elections last summer. Plus de 100 électriciens ont joint les rangs de la S.L. 568 de Montréal, Québec lors du scrutin syndical de l’été dernier dans la construction.


La FIOE fait des gains au Québec

Au cours du vote d’adhésion syndicale dans le secteur de la construction qui s’est tenu récemment dans la province de Québec, plus de 300 électriciens ont voté en faveur d’une adhésion à notre Fraternité, ce qui fait de cette victoire l’une des plus importantes depuis de nombreuses années. Les agents de syndicalisation ont bien espoir que la seconde province en importance au Canada, soit entrée dans une nouvelle ère.

« C’est tout un exploit dit Mike LeBlanc, représentant international du Premier District, qui agit en tant que coordonnateur de la syndicalisation pour l’Est du Canada.

« Cela indique que de nombreux électriciens québécois souhaitent une solution de rechange aux syndicats provinciaux qui ont toujours dominé le secteur de la construction » poursuit Phil Fleming, Vice-président international du Premier District.

Le Québec possède une loi particu-

lière pour la construction et l’adhésion syndicale est obligatoire. La presque totalité des travailleurs de ce secteur est syndiqués et répartis dans une demi-douzaine de syndicats distincts.

La loi sur les relations du travail offre à tous les travailleurs de la construction la possibilité de changer de syndicat à tous les trois ans, lors d’un scrutin qui se tient à la grandeur de la province. La centrale qui reçoit la majorité des voix choisit le mandat de négocier les conventions collectives avec les associations d’employeurs, afin d’établir les taux de

conditions et de travail pour tous les salariés.

Les agents de syndicalisation de la FIOE ne disposaient que d’un mois avant le scrutin pour mener la campagne de recrutement de nouveaux membres; ils ont parcouru la province, distribuant des déplo- liants aux lieux de travail et effectuant du porte à porte afin de rallier de nouveaux membres à notre syndicat.

« Nos gars ont passé beaucoup de temps sur la route et ont visité le plus de chantiers possible. Nous avons mis tous nos efforts et toute la détermination nécessaire pour promouvoir les avantages d’adhérer à la FIOE » affirme Laurent Talbot, Gérant d’affaires de la Section locale 568 à Montréal.

La juridiction nationale de la FIOE s’est révélée un argument de vente convaincant. « Être membre de la FIOE vous permet de travailler partout au Canada en raison de votre appartenance à un syndicat international, tandis que si vous êtes membre d’un syndicat rival, il vous est plus difficile de travailler à l’extérieur du Québec » poursuit le conférencier Talbot.

Les agents de syndicalisation ont également insisté pour faire connaître davantage les prestations de pension et de décès de la FIOE » ajoute-t-il.

Malgré les gains de la FIOE, le syndicat représente encore une minorité distincte d’électriciens par rapport au syndicat rival, la FTQ-Construction.

Cette dernière représente plus de 80% des travailleurs dans le secteur de la construction et a utilisé sa part de marché pour créer un marché du travail discriminatoire qui donne à la centrale un quasi monopole sur l’embauche et le placement dans les projets de construction.

« Par le passé, c’est la FTQ-Construction qui finissait par décider qui allait travailler, une situation injuste pour les membres des autres syndicats de la construction » souligne le conférencier Talbot.

Toutefois, les modifications récentes apportées à la Loi sur les relations du travail pourraient aider à libérer l’emprise de la FTQ-Construction sur les emplois, en rendant les nouveaux projets plus accessibles aux autres syndicats, dont la FIOE. Le projet de loi 33, adopté par l’assemblée législative provinciale l’année dernière, a enlevé à la FTQ-Construction son pouvoir quasi-exclusif de combler les emplois dans le secteur de la construction, offrant ainsi aux syndicalistes la possibilité de recommander sa main-d’œuvre à l’organisme public.

« Les travailleurs qui n’étaient pas syndiqués avec la FTQ-Construction, pouvaient difficilement obtenir un emploi » affirme le conférencier Mike LeBlanc.

De plus, la loi rationalise le processus du scrutin, en permettant aux travailleurs de voter par la poste plutôt que d’avoir à se diriger à un bureau de vote tout en prolongeant la durée de l’événement de trois à quatre ans.

Les gains de la FIOE arrivent à un moment important dans le contexte économique du Québec. Le nouveau gouvernement élu, le Parti Québécois, affirme qu’il entend poursuivre l’engagement de son prédécesseur visant à investir dans les infrastructures industrielles et de transport dans la région du nord de la province, où le secteur minier est en pleine expansion. Les investissements dans le secteur commercial sont en hausse de 62% dans la région du nord du Québec par rapport à l’année dernière, ce qui signifie davantage d’emplois dans la construction et un marché du travail plus étoffé.

Les marchés du travail des villes de Montréal et de Québec indiquent également une nouvelle croissance d’emploi dans le secteur commercial, ce qui a permis à la Section locale 568 de se rapprocher du plein-emploi. En plus des deux grands projets des Centres hospitaliers à Montréal, les membres de la FIOE travaillent à la construction de parcs d’éoliennes au Québec où le secteur de l’énergie verte est en plein essor.

Le projet de loi 33 entre en vigueur au mois de décembre. L’agent d’affaires de la Section locale 568 à Québec, Guy Fournier, soutient que le transit suffit au placement à la Commission de la construction du Québec et qu’il ajoute que les dirigeants de la Section locale 568 collaboreront avec les entrepreneurs en préparation de la transition.

« Nous ne sommes pas certains de la façon dont les choses vont fonctionner, mais nous continuerons à pousser pour nous assurer que les membres de la FIOE, incluant nos 155 nouveaux confrères, trouvent du travail partout au Québec » conclut-il.
Circuits

NJATC Partnership Enhances Training

When a budding journeyman wireman takes his or her first step onto the job site, the theory quickly becomes practice. That’s why many trusted companies have partnered with the NJATC over the years to offer the next generation of electrical workers the best in tools and training to help move them from classrooms to careers.

Now, Memphis-based Thomas & Betts is stepping up its commitment to IBEW members by installing state-of-the-art educational product display boards at major training hubs across the U.S.

Representatives of the company—which makes thousands of products for electrical connection, distribution and transmission—met with NJATC leaders, representatives from the National Electrical Contractors Association and IBEW members at Washington, D.C., Local 26’s training center in central Maryland in September to unveil the first of such boards. The installments will aid students in correctly identifying and using common equipment like residential and commercial ground clamps, cramped connections that can be hooked up to motors or panel boards, conduit bodies for use as junction boxes and more.

“There are so many different manufacturers and so many different components to choose from, so having something that displays a lot of different items will allow apprentices to learn some of the materials early in their careers before seeing them in the field,” said Local 26 Assistant Training Director Ralph Neidert.

The rollout of the boards is the latest step in Thomas & Betts’ three-year partnership with the NJATC to enhance training efforts for electrical workers at all levels of their careers. “The product display board is just an example of the pledge Thomas & Betts has made to support the NJATC, NECA and the IBEW.”

— Charles Treadway, president and CEO of Thomas & Betts Corp.

The regular meeting of the International Executive Council was called to order at 8:00 a.m., by Chairman Plonko, on Thursday, August 9, 2012, in Hoboken, New Jersey. Other members of the council in attendance were Lavin, Calabro, Smith, Fure, Riley and Walter. Brothers Calvey and Clarke were excused to attend to other important local union business.

International President Hill
International President Edwin D. Hill met with the members of the International Executive Council a number of times to discuss a variety of matters affecting all branches of the Brotherhood.

International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore (Sam J.) Chilia presented financial reports covering the IBEW Pension Fund and the Investment Portfolio of the Brotherhood—both in Canada and in the United States.

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

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

Local Union(s) Under International Office Supervision
International President Hill advised the council members that there are no local unions under the supervision of the International Office, at this time. International President Hill and the International Executive Council did discuss the parameters of trusteeship local unions are put under.

IBEW and Subsidiaries—Consolidated Financial Statements
For June 30, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

IBEW Headquarters Building LLC—Financial Statements
For June 30, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Trust for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund and Subsidiaries—Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Pension Plan for International Officers, Representatives and Assistants of the IBEW
Financial Statements
June 30, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Pension Plan for Office Employees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Financial Statements
June 30, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Amended Regulations under Article III, Section 12 of the IBEW Constitution
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

IEB Reorganization Policy
Effective as of April 1, 2012
Reviewed, Approved and Filed

Harkin Institute
It was regularly moved, seconded and approved to contribute $500,000 over a 5-year period to the Harkin Institute.

Article XX and XXI Cases
During the second quarter of 2012, there has been no activity under either Article XX or Article XXI.

Appeal Filed with the International Executive Council
By Donna Cameron,
Card Number D770251,
A Member of Local Union 120, IBEW
Sister Donna Cameron is appealing her charges against John Gibson, Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 120, London, Ontario Canada. On July 22, 2009, based on a full and fair hearing of the charges, International Vice President Phil Fleming ruled that in accordance with the IBEW Constitution, the Business Manager has the authority to select who is hired at Local Union 120. YPP Fleming advised Sister Cameron that he did not have the jurisdiction to make a determination as to whether a violation of the human rights Act or Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms had occurred. On June 25, 2012, International President Ed Hill ruled that as Sister Cameron is the charging party, she does not have the right to appeal. By letter dated July 5, 2012, Sister Donna Cameron is appealing the decision of IP Ed Hill and requests the IEC uphold the Constitution of the IBEW, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as Statutory Law. After a thorough review of the facts presented in this case, the members of the executive council find that according to the IBEW Constitution Article XXV, Section 9, the appealing party has no standing for appeal. Therefore, the IEC upholds the decision of International President Hill and the appeal is denied.

Retirement of International Representative
Dmitry Hakkinen, Director, Per Capita Department
Effective—December 1, 2012

Retirement of International Office Employees
Anne Partello, Supervisor, Education Department
Effective—August 1, 2012
Steve Purdy, Engineer, I.O.
Effective—August 24, 2012

Vested Retirement Pension
Joyce Richards, Office Employee, I.O.
Effective—July 1, 2011
Elma Gross, Office Employee, I.O.
Effective—July 1, 2012

Birth Date Changes (9s)
Membership in L.I.

Atmer, Terry J. 0001
Beliveau, Daniel 0568
Brown, Alexander 0665
Cooper, Michael J. 0016
Kirkbride, Robert E. 2166
Lucas, Ray W. 0530
MacDonald, John J. 1852
McEwen, Gordon 0424
McMaster, Gary B. 1687
Patterson, Richard D. 0995
Pickett, Joseph J. 0038
Pullman, John R. 0369
Rowan, Joseph B. 0098
Schulte, Daniel D. 0098
Wright, Arthur 0353

The Next Regular International Council Meeting
This regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned on Friday, August 31, 2012, at 11:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the International Executive Council will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

For the International Executive Council
Patrick Lavin, Secretary
January 2012

The IEC acted on numerous applications under the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund. For a complete listing, consult www.ibew.org, clicking on the International Executive Council link on the “About Us” page.
Bus. Mgr. Booth Mourned


for the Cure, a 60-mile walk over three days to raise Club. Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen 3-Day along the way, Greg amassed a tremendous resume, participating in virtually every issue related as a business agent and president of Tri-County manager. Along the way, Greg amassed a tremendous resumé, participating in virtually every issue related as a business agent and president of Tri-County (comet) instructor, organizer, examiner, etc. in his accomplishments would take pages. Greg lived his life for his Local’s brothers and sisters, ever seeking to advance their causes and standard of living. He lived by example, always putting others before himself, always being a champion for working-class families of our region. Local 1 will be forever grateful for the legacy of Greg Booth. As a role model for future generations, let us all try to walk in the big footsteps of one of the best labor leaders of our time.

We also mourn recently deceased members: David Pennick, Lucille Richter, Charles Barrett, Burton Wolf, Albert Dickerson, George Spanel Sr., Lawrence Niehaus, Clifford Reichle, Truman Waldrup, Chris Randen, James Kennaflk, Larry Huett, Albert Grega, Leonardo Basca, Gregory Booth and Hubert Zerr.

Matt Gober, P.S.

Thanks to IBEW Volunteers

L.U. 9 (cat, gov, lett, xil), C H I C A G O , I L—The 7th Annual Local 9 Golf Outing was Aug. 11. Over 200 participants enjoyed a beautiful day and spirited competition on the fairways at Glen Eagles Country Club. Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure, a 60-mile walk over three days to raise funds for breast cancer research. As a participant in the walk, I thank my fellow brothers and sisters for their generous support. Over 800 members and their families enjoyed our Sept. 8 annual family picnic. Games, races, music, great food and friendship were highlights. Thank you to Pres. John Conroy for all his work organizing this event. Without Pres. Conroy and his fellow volunteers, this event would not be possible. Our bylaws were updated. A complete version of the bylaws can be found on our Web site www.ibew9.org. Included in this update is an increase of the Local 9 Death Benefit to $3,500. Please contact the office if you wish to update/modify your beneficiary.

At this writing, preparations are under way for the critically important Nov. 6 election. Thank you to all members who volunteered to work phone banks and get the word out to vote for candidates who support working families. Please visit the Local 9 Web site for union happenings, announcements, etc. Enjoy a happy holiday season and we look forward to a prosperous new year.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

‘Smart Microgrid’ at Electrical Training Institute

L.U. 11 (ftskapa), L O S A N G E L E S , C A—A Ribbon cut-ting dedication ceremony for a first of its kind “Smart Microgrid System” at the Electrical Training Institute of Southern California took place Aug. 22 at our 26th Annual Electrical Industry BBQ and Open House. The event was hosted by the Los Angeles IBEW/NECA Labor Management Cooperation Committee.

The solar power generating Smart Microgrid System is a fully self-contained, self-reliant energy production, energy storage and energy management system. The system is designed to charge electric vehicles from multiple sources, inject stored power into the building’s electrical system, provide standby emergency power to the Computer Server Room during a power outage, and integrate 3 DC power sources with varying voltages.

On another note, thanks to all the IBEW Local 11 members who volunteered as tutors for the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) Mentoring Program to help candidates from our community prepare to enter into our apprenticeship program. The EWMC is committed to community service and leadership development. The Los Angeles EWMC Chapter meets the third Saturday of each month. The Mentoring Program takes place on the months that the entrance exam is being given. For more information or to volunteer, contact Shomari Davis by e-mail at Davis@joinlocal11.org.

Diana Limon, P.S.

Utility Local Update

L.U. 15 (uf, dons, gvo), D O U R N E R S G R O V E , I L—Local 15 had eight members attend the 2012 IBEW International Women’s Conference in Washington, D.C.

We have started negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement for the Distribution Testing engineers, a group of members who just recently voted to join IBEW Local 15.

On June 25, LaSalle Nuclear Station commemorated 30 years of generation. On the fossil side of the house, Fisk and Crawford Stations, both instrumental in powering Chicago in its early years, have produced their last megawatt. Fisk Station started operations in 1903, over 109 years ago; Fisk’s glorious run ended on Aug. 31 at 9 p.m. Crawford Station ran for 87 years, from 1905 until Aug. 29 at 10:15 p.m., when it was taken off-line.

Storms in July kept our members busy, with many of us working 16 hours on and eight hours off for about a month. We put in over 1,250 hours in this timeframe, and our call center members handled over 10,634,400 calls!

The Overhead Transmission group has started erecting transmission towers for the first time since the early 1980s.

The United Way kickoffs have begun and Local 15 asks our members for their support of this year’s campaign.

Finally, 2012 Local 15 Scholarship winners were announced. Congratulations to: Ryan Woulfe, Hailey Evans, Amra Marshall, Kayla Robinson, Dino Ramirez, Allison Amato, Emilee Myers, Jirilah Leverett, Ben Wenzelberg, Doug Platt and Sarah Prendergast.

Doug Vedas, P.S.

Marching in Support of Workers

L.U. 42 (em, cts, lpt, sta), B UFFA L O , N Y—Local 41 members who attended this year’s Labor Day parade participated in the hottest Labor Day on record in Buffalo. With the heat turned up, we marched with area politicians in support of labor. [See photo, pg.9.] We are fortunate to have a good relationship with some of the elected officials in our area. This relationship has been forged through our continual support of those who support the middle class. We knock on doors, make phone calls, and hopefully support them in the voting booth. We

Trade Classifications

| (as) | Alarm & Signal | (ei) | Electrical Inspection |
| (ars) | Atomic Research Service | (em) | Electrical Manufacturing |
| (bo) | Bridge Operators | (es) | Electric Signs |
| (cs) | Cable Splicers | (et) | Electronic Technicians |
| (ca) | Cable Television | (fm) | Fixture Manufacturing |
| (c) | Communications | (govt) | Government |
| (cr) | Crane Operators | (i) | Inside |
| (ees) | Electrical Equipment Service | (it) | Instrument Technicians |
| | | (lctt) | Line Clearance Tree Trimming |
| | | (lpt) | Lighting Protection Technicians |
| | | (mt) | Maintenance |
| | | (mo) | Maintenance & Operation |
| | | (mow) | Manufacturing Office Workers |
| | | (mar) | Marine |
| | | (ms) | Motion Picture Studios |
| | | (nst) | Nuclear Service Technicians |
| | | (o) | Outside |
| | | (p) | Powerhouse |
| | | (pet) | Professional, Engineers & Technicians |
| | | (pct) | Professional, Technical & Clinical |
| | | (rr) | Railroad |
| | | (rbc) | Radio-Television Broadcasting |
| | | (rbc) | Radio-Television Manufacturing |
| | | (rfs) | Radio-Television Service |
| | | (so) | Service Occupations |
| | | (sp) | Sound & Public Address |
| | | (sr) | Sound Technicians |
| | | (ts) | Telephone |
| | | (u) | Utility |
| | | (uw) | Utility Office Workers |
| | | (ws) | Warehouse and Supply |

then have elected officials who vote for what is right for the middle class at whatever level they hold office.

Every election year we must play an active role in politics. I know that some of our members do not like to be involved in politics, but the fact remains that it is vital to our existence that we support those who support the middle class. Hopefully this year we will vote for the middle class. Please continue to stay involved with your union—that’s when it works best.

Gregory R. Inglis, A.B.M.

National Training Institute
L.U. 43 (em, l&ts), SYRACUSE, NY—Work slowed down slightly starting in September. Over the summer we put out over 240 traveling brothers and sisters for work. While this will not be the case over the winter, work should pick up again in March or April.

Recently the local IATC instructors and training staff attended this year’s National Training Institute. [See photo below] While there our recently retired training director, Peter Dulcich, was given an award for his years of service as one of the leading directors in the country.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

‘Actively Involved’
L.U. 47 (lctt, mo, u& uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Thank you to all our veterans for your patriotism and sacrifice. Local 47 wishes all IBEW members a happy Thanksgiving.

The local has been actively involved in local, state and federal campaigns for Democrats, Republicans and Independents. The major battle is Proposition 32—another attempt by powerful business interests to silence the voice of workers. Twenty-five Local 47 members participated in the largest protest against a proposed Wal-Mart store. Thousands marched in the Chiatown section of Los Angeles.

The Aug. 11 Workers Stand for America rally in Philadelphia, where America’s Second Bill of Rights was rolled out, was attended by a group from Local 47.

The local held its 12th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the event are used to fund the local’s Injured Workers Fund. The tournament is a good time for a good cause.

Local 47 rolled out its Craft Driven Safety Program with the Transmission/Distribution Business Unit at Southern California Edison. The joint effort between the union and company is designed to improve safety standards and practices.

We are sad to report the passing of Local 47 member Turtle Camey. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Work safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.

Bruce Brennan Award
L.U. 77 (lctt, mo, u& u), SEATTLE, WA—The Bruce Brennan Award is presented to an individual who has shown dedication to education, training and apprenticeship. Nominees for this award must exhibit leadership, commitment and dedication to the principles of apprenticeship, education and training for the people of Washington state.

The 2012 Bruce Brennan Award was presented to IBEW Local 77 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Don Guillot on Aug. 6 at the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Constitutional Convention held in Wenatchee, WA.

Bus. Mgr. Guillot’s decades of emphasis on electrical workers’ training culminated in the reintroduction of the National Utility Training & Education Center (NUTEC), now owned and operated by IBEW Local 77 in Richland. The first classes were taught this year in this world-class facility thanks to Guillot’s vision, drive and determination.

Lynne Moore, P.S.

Contracts Negotiated
L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 97 negotiated the tenth contract in the past 26 months. This recently negotiated contract was the 97C (clerical) agreement with National Grid.

The local also continues to fight the proposed Champlain-Hudson transmission project, which would bring Canadian power into New York state instead of using energy produced in New York state.

Local 97 believes that eliminating transmission bottlenecks with upgrades to the existing system would greatly enhance the entire New York grid instead of simply importing power for New York City.

The local’s largest employer, National Grid, filed a rate case with the New York state Public Service Commission (PSC). The local continues to monitor the rate case to ensure that our membership is not adversely affected.

In keeping with Local 97’s theme of “Restoring the Pride,” each of the traditional divisions, East, Central and West, held family events where members from the different properties represented by the local were able to interact and build solidarity.

Members participated in the “Workers Stand for America” rally in Philadelphia in August and marched in the Labor Day parade at the “Great New York State Fair.”

John DeRutina, P.S.

Solidarity Rally
L.U. 103 (cs&l), BOSTON, MA—As many of you know, the Workers Stand for America Rally was held at Eakins Oval park in Philadelphia on Aug. 11. The night before, 500 of our members piled into three Peter Pan buses and took the journey to show our unwavering support and joined an estimated 40,000 people the following day.

At the rally, America’s Second Bill of Rights was presented as an encompassing solution to the everyday challenges faced by our working men and women. The platform calls for the rights to: full employment and a living wage, quality education, a voice in the workplace, full participation in the electoral process, and a secure and healthy future. We heard speeches from labor leaders including IBEW Intl. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and AFL-CIO Pres. Rich Trumka. If you were unable to attend the Aug. 11 rally in solidarity, please visit www.WorkersStandforAmerica.com to sign America’s Second Bill of Rights.

On a lighter note, the 10th Annual Family Outing Day celebration was held Sept. 2 to cele-
Report from Hamilton, Ontario

L.U. 105, (c&u), HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA—Congratulations to our baseball team on their recent victory in the OPC tournament in St. Catherine’s, Ontario. Our team was undefeated in four games and claimed the trophy for best team in Ontario. Well done!

Thank you to all our brothers who took on The Skid Steer & T Rex courses recently offered. We need these tickets for our changing markets (solar farms, etc.).

Bro. Lorne Newick and his entertainment committee had great success with the Family Day picnic at Confederation Park in Hamilton, Ontario. There was a large turnout and everyone had a lot of fun. We hope to make this an annual occasion.

Congratulations to Bro. Jack Tompkins on his hole-in-one at the Cagaya Golf Tournament—quite a feat!

A noteworthy moment: Banker David Rockefeller (brother of late New York governor Nelson Rockefeller) in a 1986 interview with Edelstein stated: “Harry Van Arsdale Jr. [late New York Local 3 former business manager] believed in the free enterprise system. He recognized that employees and members of the work force depend on profitable business if they were going to be well off themselves, so he never begrudged the profitability of business as long as the labour force was treated well.”

Phil Brown, P.S.

Dedication & Perseverance

L.U. 211, (em,govt,clt,mt,cr,rb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—On Aug. 28, 2012, Local 111 received a favorable decision in its arbitration against Xcel Energy of one of the largest termination cases. Arbitrator Lou Chang ruled in his arbitration award that the six utility workers fired in October 2011 should be reinstated and made whole with full back pay, seniority and benefits.

Arbitrator Chang cited that the grievants were inadequately trained, that the discipline imposed failed to follow principles of the progressive discipline policy; and that the imposition of disparately severe termination discipline was inconsistent with the company’s general practice as established over its past history of administering discipline.

Union attorneys were impressed throughout the arbitration process by the level of expertise and experience that Local 111 agents demonstrated in presenting the facts in this case. Union Tripartite candidates. We hope everyone gets engaged and votes their paycheck. Here in Illinois we have been hearing more about legislators introducing so-called “right-to-work” laws. We don’t have the money to compete with big business so we have to mobilize our resources and make sure we are working as hard as ever to keep labor friendly candidates elected and re-elected including our President Obama.

Keep the Paul Collins family in your thoughts and prayers. We are saddened to report Bro. Collins’ passing.

Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Unity on Display

L.U. 269, (i&u), TRENTON, N.J.—Thousands of union brothers and sisters joined together in a show of unity and commitment to the organized labor movement at the Workers Stand for America rally on Saturday, Aug. 11, at Philadelphia’s Historic Eakins Oval. (Photo, at bottom.) The IBEW was strongly represented along with members representing dozens of trade unions. It was a day full of speeches, live music, food and goodwill, all geared toward showing the people of Philadelphia and parts beyond that the labor movement is determined to have its voice heard by those who seek to shape the future of this country.

By gathering in force in a public place, we show the communities around us and fellow citizens that our organizations consist of real people with real responsibilities and real challenges. Our agenda is to provide a better life for all who are willing to work for it, not to provide the lion’s share to a select few who can purchase the results they seek through high-paid lobbyists and politicians-for-hire. Rallies like the one in Philadelphia are crucial to unions for remaining a part of the political landscape and fighting for our piece of the American dream.

Brian Jacoppe, P.S.

Securing Work Opportunities

L.U. 291, (i&m,o), BOISE, ID—For the inside wiremen in Local 291, work has been pretty flat so far this year. We are, however, seeing work opportunities in “renewables” and “industrial” and we are hopeful that the work will go our way. On the Outside job picture, signatory contractors have been successful in securing dock work with Idaho Power, which is a nonunion utility. This work has historically been 100 percent nonunion and we are very excited about the potential of this new development.

At our annual picnic, we recognized 118 members with years-of-service pins. That is the highest number of service pin recipients in Local 291’s history! Three members received 65-year service pins: Urvile Ellis, Bill Lamm and Art Cushing. Congratulations to all those who received service pin awards.

Aaron White, B.M.

Local Lines

L.U. 111, (em,c&u), DENVER, CO—Labor Day Local 103 provided food and fun for the members and their children. Activities included sand art, clown shows, face painting, and even a rock climbing wall.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.

Golf & Softball Tournaments

L.U. 25, (lctt,clt,cr,rb,spa&u), PORTLAND, OR—The local hosted its annual golf and softball tournaments in Bend, OR. Each event raises funds for the Oregon Burn Center and the local’s Brotherhood Fund. This year’s events generated $10,500 for the Oregon Burn Center. Thank you to our many sponsors, volunteers and participants—and a special thank you to the friends and family members who joined us for the spirited competition at each tournament.

Golf winners:

- Cheryl Peabody: Women’s first (low gross) with Adam Arms, Kim Novak, Ken Demar and Mary Grail
- Brian Miller: Men’s first (low gross)
- Rob Arms, Kimberly Allen, Ken Demar and Mary Grail: Second place
- Jake Carter, Jack Carter, Scott Olson and Jesse Zito: Third place

Softball winners:

- Gold Bracket—1st, PP&L PDC; 2nd, PGE Oregon City; 3rd, Jims Who
- Silver Bracket—1st, Substation Opr; 2nd, PP&L Portland Field Services; 3rd, Gresham PGE

Most Sportmanship Team—Pacific Power #659, Mary Grail, P.S.

Spirit of Labor Award

L.U. 139, (i), ELMIRA, NY—On Aug. 25, Local 139 was honored by the United Way of the Southern Tier. United Way Pres. Ron Hatch and United Way Vice Pres. Steve Hughes presented the newly named “Charles E. Patton Spirit of Labor Award” to Local 139 Bus. Mgr. Emie Hartman. The new name of the award is in honor of our departed Local 139 brother and former business manager. A duplicate award was presented to Charlie’s widow, Billie Patton, in the presence of the Patton family.

Our thanks to the United Way of the Southern Tier for this fitting memorial to a great labor leader and community partner.

Emie Hartman, P.S.

Election Season Volunteers

L.U. 197, (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We hope every one had a healthy and enjoyable Labor Day. In Bloomington we enjoyed marching, handing out candy, and celebrating our proud union at the McLean County parade. Thanks to all our members and family members who showed up to carry on the tradition of our local’s participation in the parade.

Thanks to Jack Roberts and Robin Roberts for heading up our annual golf outing.

Everyone had a good time and it was good to get together with brothers and sisters that we may not see from day to day.

At this writing, election season is shifting into high gear. We will be busy knocking on doors, handing out fliers, making phone calls, and reminding people to get out to the polls to support labor friendly candidates. We hope everyone gets engaged and votes their paycheck. Here in Illinois we have been hearing more about legislators introducing so-called “right-to-work” laws. We don’t have the money to compete with big business so we have to mobilize our resources and make sure we are working as hard as ever to keep labor friendly candidates elected and re-elected including our President Obama. Please keep the Paul Collins family in your thoughts and prayers. We are saddened to report Bro. Collins’ passing. Remember to get involved in the local and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Assembled to march in McLean County Labor Day parade are Local 197 member Josh Mathis, his wife, Holly, and daughter Abbie.

The Electrical Worker | November 2012
Mandatory State Licensing for Delaware Journeymen

L.U. 313 (I, o, rts, t& u), HUNTINGTON, W V— With the help of Mandatory State Licensing for Delaware state Rep. Michael P. Mulrooney, the current IBEW Local 313 member, the state of Delaware adopted House Bill 180 into law effective June 30, 2012.

Consequently, anyone performing “electrical services” in the state of Delaware must have a journeyman’s license. In addition, all apprentices must be licensed and enrolled in a state approved apprenticeship program.

Both journeymen and apprentices must complete five hours of continuing education every two years upon renewing their licenses. All contractors entering the state to perform “electrical services” must have their licenses verified. All electricians must have completed a board approved apprenticeship or have worked 8,000 hours under the supervision of a “master or limited electrician.”

Robert MacLennan, P.S./R.S.

Local Union Update

L.U. 317 (l,os,t3u), HUNTINGTON, WV— It’s been quite a while since Local 317 had an update in “Local Lines.” As the newly appointed press secretary, I would like to let our members know that I will work hard to make sure we have an article regularly. Local Lines is a great way to keep up to date with what’s going on around the country and helps keep the spirit of solidarity alive.

At this writing, I just saw IBEW Locals 347 and 357 (c,i,m t& se), LAS VEGAS, NV— I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make this year’s picnic such an enjoyable success. It is because of your hours of help before, during and after the picnic that our families are able to have such a wonderful time.

Thank you, Mickey Miles, for your many years of service as one of our Health and Welfare Trustees. May you enjoy your retirement!

Pres. Tom Stetson appointed Raquel Dexter to fill the vacant trustee position. Congratulations, Raquel, and thank you.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

Strength in Solidarity

L.U. 349 (em,l,t3u,spu), DES MOINES, IA— Though work in the area may have peaked already for this year, there appears to be a glimmer of hope on the horizon. There are still some good-sized industrial and light industrial projects looking forward. The work outlook in some of our neighboring locals also seems to hold some hope of improvement. So all in all, work in Iowa looks promising some months out.

At this writing, I just saw IBEW Locals 347 and 55 with the best turnout of membership of the entire Labor Day festivity in Des Moines. Before we hurt our arms slapping each other on the back, it must be noted that there is plenty of room for improvement.

So I want to encourage everyone to get involved at all union events. We have strength when everyone contributes a little. Many hands make light work.

Speaking of showing up… a recent U.S. court decision struck down the impediments to voting in Texas as illegal. Powerful forces are aligned to try to suppress the vote. Claim your privilege to vote. Show up to your polling place on Election Day and vote.

Mike Schneeberger, P.S.

Annual Picnic a Success

L.U. 351 (c,l,3u,tt,mo,ve,spa3), FOLSOM, NJ— Our annual picnic was held Aug. 4 at Morey’s Pier in Wildwood, NJ. The weather was perfect and we all had a great time. Again we exceeded last year’s number in attendance. Over 2,000 people passed through the gates. We had $49 door prizes worth over $25,000. Thanks to all who donated.

Special thanks go to all the committee members for their time and hard work to make the picnic such a great day and a huge success. Picnic Committee members: Wayne Bumm, Ray Listman, Ron Shaiko, TJ Wolfe, Ed Reiser, Dan Cosner, Bill Hosy, Buddy Glatcher, Kenny Jones, Chuck Della Vecchia, Joe Trumbetti, Frank Hannum, Sean Newlin, Duke Collins, Scott Goehringer, Kathy Moser, Tim Carew and Greg Berwick.

Dan Casner, P.S.

Appreciation for Union Service

L.U. 357 (c,l,mt3u), LAS VEGAS, NV— The IBEW 357 (c,l,mt3u) picnick committee members.

Local 352 picnic committee members.

‘Political Fight for Survival’

L.U. 375 (ch,ers,es,skl), ALLENTOWN, PA— On Aug. 11, Local 375 joined with thousands of fellow union members at the Workers Stand for America rally in Philadelphia. [Photo, or bottom] The message to all elected officials was loud and clear— support policies to strengthen the average middle-class family. We will have a fight for survival if we fail to act this election cycle. Please participate in any labor walks, phone banks or other election activities being conducted by your local union.

Local 357 also hosted the “Romney-Ryan Wrong for Pennsylvania Bus Tour” on Aug. 29. The featured speakers included Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski; Pennsylvania state Rep. Eugene DePasquale, Democratic candidate for state auditor general; Massachusetts state Sen. Katherine Clark; and Massachusetts state Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez.

What an eye opener to learn firsthand how Mitt Romney performed as governor of Massachusetts. He claims to have a plan for creating jobs, yet under his leadership Massachusetts ranked near the bottom (47th) in job growth. It appears there was a reason why he was only a one-term governor!

Don’t forget to vote on Nov. 6 and remember to bring your photo ID.

Dave Reichard, Pres./A.B.M.

Workers Oppose Prop. 32

L.U. 441 (s,3u,es,sk), SANTA ANA, CA— At this writing, as the November election draws closer, unions find themselves under heavy attack again by Proposition 32. Cleverly disguised as campaign finance reform, Prop. 32’s ban on voluntary paycheck deductions would ultimately restrict unions and corporations from educating their membership/employees about issues and candidates who do or do not support their interests. Proposition 32 becomes doubly misleading when you consider that corporations do not ask their employees for deductions to support candidates or ballot measures. Prop. 32 is an attack against unions and it is the single most important proposition for California union members to vote against in the November elections.

Congratulations to Local 441’s softball team for winning this year’s Ninth District Softball Tournament championship. Local 441 went 7-0 in the annual two-day tournament, defeating defending champions Local 595 in the final game. Hosted by Local 595 on Aug. 10-12 at the Big League Dreams Field in Manteca, 21 teams played in the tournament, including the New York Local 3 team. A big thank-you goes to Local 595 for hosting the tournament and dinner. Local 441 looks forward to hosting the event next year in Orange County.

Rich Vasquez, B.R.

Annual Clambake a Success

L.U. 445 (abw,sw,es,3u), ROCHESTER, NY— We had a terrific turnout for the Workers Stand for America Pickleball Tournament. Local 445 looks forward to hosting the event next year in Orange County.

Chobani Plant Project

L.U. 449 (abw,sw,es,3u,spa3), POCATELLO, ID— Summer has come and gone and we have been fortunate to work. The local’s western jurisdiction has been very busy with the new Chobani Yogurt Plant project. At the time of this writing, we have about 250 members working for four signatory contractors on the Chobani project. I thank all the brothers and sisters who have come to help make the work and the local unions that helped get the information out. We have picked up some other work that will help us improve our market share and union density in the western part of our local.

Local 449 has an official Chartered 49 Auxiliary. The local appreciates the presence of Local 449 member Laurie Watters, who has done an outstanding job of organizing a group of members’ spouses, arranging monthly meetings, and raising money for the Wmaren Wellness Fund. This group is all about involving current and newly organized members’

IBEW Local 375 members participate at Aug. 11 Workers Stand for America rally in Philadelphia.
**Local Lines**

sponsors and educating them on the importance of the union movement. I thank Laurie and everyone who has made this a positive venture for the local.

With elections upon us, we all need to get out and vote. If we don’t, we lose our right to complain about what is happening to the working-class people of America.

Rody James, B.M.

**‘Advance the Middle Class’**

L.U. 455 (emk), SPRINGFIELD, MA—A contingent from IBEW Local 455 attended the Workers Stand for America rally Aug. 11 in Philadelphia. Speakers included President Obama (who addressed the rally via video), IBEW Pres. Edwin D. Hill, AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Trumka and many others. Rally speakers urged workers across America to come together and elect those who share our goals to advance the middle class and protect the benefits that we have worked hard for over the years.

Those of us who attended the rally are carrying that message back to the workplace, and we urge all members of our local to get out and vote for those who care about working families.

Jim DiBernardo, P.S.

**Campaign Season Volunteers**

L.U. 455 (C&es,em,i,o,rts&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Congratulations to all inside journeymen who were honored at the 61st Electrical Training Institute graduation ceremony held Aug. 11, 2012. The Solidarity Award is given to an apprentice who has shown sincere dedication and brotherhood throughout their apprenticeship. The Solidarity Award winners for the December 2011 graduating class were Dominic Collins and Sean O’Donnell. The Solidarity Award was presented to Chad Bowman for the May 2012 graduating class. The Circle of Lights Celebration presented by the Quality Connection Contractors and IBEW 481 Electrical Workers will take place the day after Thanksgiving. This year marks the 10th year of IBEW Local 481 transforming the centerpiece of Indianapolis’ Soldiers and Sailors Monument into what was once known as the world’s largest Christmas tree. We have special celebratory reasons to restore this magnificent icon.

Please remember to get out and vote and also remind your family and friends to vote as well. This is a crucial election as the labor movement is facing candidates who would disrupt union life as we know it.

On behalf of the officers and entire local union staff, have a safe and happy holiday season!

Tony Imam, R.S.

**Zero Net Energy Building**

L.U. 595 (l,ze,tk&spa), DUBLIN, CA—Although some major projects were recently completed, our employment picture continues to be positive in Local 595. Our Cal Bears are playing in their beautiful new digs at Memorial Stadium and research is in full swing at the recently occupied Hellios and Li Ka Shing laboratories on the UC Berkeley campus as well. Our new Oakland Airport BART connector is taking shape through Oakland and will be a welcomed addition when you fly in to visit us, guided by our new air traffic control tower.

Our PAC recently held the commissioning of the renewable energy generation components at our new home, to be called the ZNE Center. It will be the first commercial retrofit Zero Net Energy building in California and will be a showpiece for us and for our industry.

A big thank you goes out to Dave Nelson and his crew of picnic volunteers for another very successful union picnic with over 700 members and their families in attendance.

We thank all of our members who worked so hard throughout the 2012 election campaign to make a difference for working men and women in this country. Union membership makes up a small percentage of the work force, but we insure that our voices are the loudest for all workers and their families.

Tom Mullinarkey, B.R.

**L.U. 551 (l,tk&spa), SANTA ROSA, CA—** L.U. 551 Labor Day pancake breakfast attendees include inside wireman Bill Henry (front, center) and wife.

**Politically Active Volunteers**

L.U. 557 (l,mt,tk&spa), SAGINAW, MI—We thank all the members for their hard work and dedication during this political season. It’s been one of the most challenging years with all that has occurred on the political front. We hope the election outcome is favorable for working people and then we can get back to some sense of normalcy.

The work situation in our area has finally caught up with the rest of the state.

We were lucky to have good employment during the economic downturn, but those jobs have since wound down or dried up completely.

Until our economy gets back to normal and companies start reinvesting money, jobs will be few and far between in our area.

Jason Rivette, P.S.

**IBEW members stand in front of ‘Rocky’ statute at the Workers Stand for America rally. From left, Local 455 members Tom Albano, Dave Mitchell, Cain Crumb and Jim DiBernardo; Int. Rep. Edward W. Collins Jr.; and Steve Martin, Local 2324.**

**Annual Picnic at ‘Six Flags’**

L.U. 613 (em,tk&spa), ATLANTA, GA—The IBEW Local 613 annual picnic was quite a success. It was held in the same place as last year, Six Flags Over Georgia, as many were hoping it would be. Members along with their children, grandparents, family and friends had exclusive run of the park. Over 6,200 attended the event. All parking, entrance fees and food were taken care of. Attendees’ only care was to get there, eat and have a good time. Many were able to...
Organizing Successes

L.U. 673 (LJ & L), PHILADELPHIA, PA—This past summer the local had two successful organizing campaigns.

A new unit was organized at the city of Myrtle Beach. These nine new members are clerical workers, and building and grounds maintenance workers. At Eugene Water and Electric Board (EW&B), eight facility maintenance workers were added to that unit. These successful campaigns were headed by organizer John Hutter with help from all the reps at the local.

Iceland Construction was also signed to the Outside Line agreement as the local’s newest signatory contractor.

We are always exited to welcome new members and contractors to the union.

Also last summer the linemen rodeo team of Brian Baughman, Jim Rimer, Brent Taggart and Judge Kelly Marvin took part in the Pacific Northwest Linemen’s Rodeo. They took second place in the “cutout arm change out” event and fifth overall out of 11 teams. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

The Executive Board continues cost-saving measures and to look at any expenditures closely. Fortunately, we have been surviving on the funds we were able to save for times like we have been experiencing the last few years.

Tom Legg, Pres.

Trip to Philadelphia Rally

L.U. 673 (LJ & L), PINEVILLE, OH—Local members took an eight-hour bus ride to Philadelphia to participate in the “Workers Stand for America” rally. Our ride began at 9 p.m. on Friday night with stops at Locals 573 and 64. We rolled into Philly around 7 a.m. on Saturday. The young apprentices from Warren showed their resilience and hit the city with renewed energy.

We had some time before the rally started so we took a quick tour of the city early Saturday morning. After a five-mile scenic walk we all enjoyed our first look at the famed Liberty Bell.

Walking back, we ran into a pre-rally in Chinatown that the Communications Workers of America was putting on. They planned to march into the “Workers Stand for America” rally with their 2,000 to 3,000 assembled members.

As we arrived at the main rally site at historic Eakins Oval, it was impressive to see all the union members streaming in from all directions. We heard many speakers including Pres. Edwin D. Hill. Organizers did an excellent job and provided ample cool drinking water for the massive crowd.

Everyone had a great time and on the return trip we all looked forward to getting back home. Thanks to everyone for coming and supporting our cause.

James Braunlich, P.S.

Local 659 members make trip to Philadelphia for August rally. Walking in front are Rich Goodmanson (left), Bob Haresh and Bob Garriere; and, at back, Mike Kubacki.

‘A Team for Working Americans’

L.U. 683 (LJ & L), COLUMBUS, OH—The employment outlook is moderately steady with jobs on the horizon. Our casino project is wrapping up with a fine job of quality craftsmanship. Thanks to the brothers and sisters with electrical contractor companies Superior, Royal, York, and Eagle Electric. Great job by all.

As we experience the onslaught of political promises, ads and rhetoric with the upcoming elections, keep your eye on the common goal—a team of leaders who put working Americans first. View the candidates as you would your favorite sports team. The quarterback is the star player, leading the team down the field toward the end zone. He needs a strong line to provide blocks, skilled backs and receivers to carry the ball, knowing he can’t reach the goal line without them. The team we need to elect to protect working America consists of 435 U.S. representatives, 100 U.S. senators, and one president, as well as state and local officials.

This November, we must elect the team with our best interests as their common goal. The quarterback shoulders the blame for failure and the glory for success. This November, elect the team that will give our president the ability to share the glory of success with the workers of America.

Eric M. Evans, VP/P.S.

2012 Food Drive

L.U. 777 (LJ & L), READING, PA—The brothers and sisters of Local 777 across the state of Pennsylvania band together to help their local food banks. The main hubs of the food drive this year were: Easton, Lebanon, Middletown, Reading and York.

IBEW Local 777 members collected and delivered over 1,500 pounds of food and monetary donations to the food banks in their respective areas. Many thanks to all who participated and helped make the food drive a success.

Mark Power, P.S.

Local 725 apprentice graduating class of 2012.


Fantastic job, graduates! We look forward to seeing everyone at the next union meeting and to your active participation in the local.

We thank all of our traveling apprentices and journeymen who contributed to the 11 million man-hours expended at the new IGC C plant in Edwardsport, IN. Work has slowed down quite a bit, unfortunately, and we do not foresee any travelers being dispatched anytime soon.

Our local union was proud to receive a $20,000 grant from Work One and Vincennes University for sponsoring a Summer Youth Electrical Camp for 5 underprivileged students. Retirees Norm Chessman and John McMullen led the three-week class as instructors, while retired members David Walls and Jerry Hooper each participated in day long instruction for the students, covering knots and rope tying and safety practices. Thanks to all for your time and assistance!

Tom Smyrski, P.S.

IBEW Local 777 food drive volunteers William Merriweather and Stacy Hasenauer help load trailer.

‘A Benefit of Our Great Trade’

L.U. 855 (LJ & L), MUNCIE, IN—Local 855 commends outstanding apprentice graduate Bro. Lyle Whitehead and the entire apprentice graduating class of 2012. [Photo, at bottom.] You guys are great mechanics and the local couldn’t be more proud to add you to the ranks of journeymen!

Between the political gridlock in D.C., a backward governor who wants to see how much money the state can hoard, and corporations sitting on billions of dollars, many tradesmen in east central Indiana are really struggling. The election will probably be decided by the time this issue is received, and labor will be fighting at the Statehouse again in January if the governor-elect is anyone but John Gregg. We hope that, regardless of what happens, the chains get loose enough to open up some work in the jurisdiction.

Our local sincerely thanks every local that has employed a member of Local 855 throughout the year. These opportunities are a major benefit of our great trade.

The local mourns the passing of Bros. Jim “Spider” Weiss, Billy Beaty and Dick Wiesehan.

Local 855 officers and staff wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, merry Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous 2013.

Kevin Cope, B.M.
**Union Labor the Right Choice**

L.U. 95 (l&mt), TAMPA, FL—It is a great honor to recognize a local union brother, one of our signatory contractors, for his excellent work showing that union labor is always the right choice.

Bro. Mark Mazur, owner of M&M Electric, was awarded the bid to install the miles of data cable and temporary power to make the Republican National Convention in Tampa run flawlessly.

Millions watched the widely televised convention that was broadcast around the world. Behind the scenes, approximately 50 of our Local 95 members worked to make the live video coverage possible. They were joined by three Las Vegas Local 357 members working for Freeman Electric, partnering with M&M to show that the IBEW can be counted on to get the job done right and on time.

Local 95 member Matt Woodard, general foreman on the project, said: “The men were wonderful to work with and I am proud of my Local 95 brothers.”

Local Lines

**A Stand for Workers’ Rights**

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t& u), VA CAVILLE, CA—Our local mobilized to oppose Proposition 32 on the California ballot this November. Proposition 32 would bar unions from spending money on political races. Although Prop. 32 claims to get “special interests” out of politics, it allows corporations to spend all they want on political campaigns.

Our First Responder Training Program was officially launched. It offers training to firefighters, police and other first responders to help them respond safely to gas and electrical emergencies, etc.

Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell co-hosted the Ninth District Progress Meeting in San Francisco. Dalzell noted the approaching 100th anniversary of the electrical work force as a field technician and troubleshooter, and retired in 1981. He served as president of Local 1307 from 1954-1955 and again from 1969-1973. Buddy Phillips will be missed by family and many friends.

Congratulations to our brothers and sisters at the NRG Power Plant, who have achieved 706 days and counting, as of Aug. 30, with no recordable injuries and no lost time. Keep up the great work and keep the count going.

Save jobs, limit imports.

Charles T. Harris, Jr., P.S.

**Multiple Contracts Ratified**

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 mourns the loss of past president Edmund F. “Buddy” Phillips, who passed away Aug. 17 at the age of 93. He was an Army veteran, having served his country during World War II from 1942 to 1945. Buddy was employed by Delmarva Power as a field technician and troubleshooter, and retired in 1981. He served as president of Local 1307 from 1954-1955 and again from 1969-1973. Buddy Phillips will be missed by family and many friends.

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**Contract Agreements**

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t& u), INDIANA PO LIS, IN—Our local organized a major campaign to organize United States Infrastructure Corporation (USIC) in the state of Indiana. USIC performs locating services for utilities; this company has 240 employees in Indiana and currently employs 14,000 employees in 29 states. Should you see any of these USIC employees, stop and talk about the benefits of being union.

Dakota Conklin was crowned queen of the 260th Labor Day Association pageant in Petersburg, IN. She is the niece of IBEW Local 1393 member Kevin Ramsey and cousin of member Tim Ramsey.

Now more than ever vote for union friendly candidates.

Robert C. Fox, P.S.

**Labor Day at the Park**

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—The past three months have been busy at Local 1439 with: Labor Day, the Tom Kraus and Gay Barton Charity Golf Tournaments, Shop Stewards Training, the Workers Stand for America Rally, and completion of six contract negotiations just to name a few activities and events. Remnants of Hurricane Isaac possibly kept some away from participating in Labor Day—“our national holiday” but we also welcomed many “future” members who enjoyed inflatables, snow cones, cotton candy, pony rides, a petting zoo, and handing out flags along the parade route! See photo, at bottom. Burgers, brats and hot dogs were expertly cooked by our Local 1 members; refreshments were provided by Local 2; and a great turnout from Local 4 helped round out a perfect Labor Day at the park.

We mourned the passing of Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Greg Booth in August. His union spirit is remembered.

Mike Walker, B.M.

**Times of Change**

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—I write with thoughts of the changing times that we at 1523 are experiencing. But our focus should and always will be the

Eric Wolfe, P.S.
Service Pins Presented

L.U. 1579 (68), AUGUSTA, GA—At the monthly meeting of the retirees, Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward presented service pins to two: 66-year members, 30-60-year members, four: 55-year members and six: 50-year members. Congratulations to these longtimers and thank you for all your many years of service.

Also, service pins were presented at the union meeting to eligible members with five to 45 years of service. Congratulations to these members as well.

On Sept. 3, Local 1523 held its annual Labor Day Barbecue at the Electrical Workers Home Association property at Clarks Hill Lake. As usual the turnout was great and the food and fellowship were even better. Labor Day is a very important time for organized labor; this is the one holiday created for working people.

Well, the winter holiday season will soon be here. The officers, members and staff of Local 1523 wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Owensboro Convention Center & Hydroelectric Plant Projects

L.U. 170 (cature,s Locales, OWENSBORO, KY—The exam board gave the journeyman wireman exam recently to Tim Johnson and Andrew Jackson, and both passed. Congratulations to our brother and our sister.

Bus. Mgr. Larry Boswell reports that the Owensboro, Daviess County, downtown Convention Center project was awarded to our signatory contractor Bell涉 Electricity and should be underway by press time. The hydroelectric plant in Hawesville, KY should be manned up soon.

The new Owensboro hospital is winding down but we still have several members on site. We wish well to all of our brothers and sisters who have helped us on this project; we couldn’t have done it without you.

Membership Development Coordinator Mike VanWinkle reports ongoing activity with temporary service Tradesman International and nonunion contractor Westerfield Electric. Tradesman has been supplying manpower to Westerfield and over looking our members who have applications on file. Good luck, Mike.

The Workers Stand for America rally was held Aug. 12 in Philadelphia, Louisville, KY Local 369 chartered a bus for the event. We thank our sister local for inviting our members aboard with them for the trip to the rally.


TIm Blandford, R.S./P.S.

Electric System Operators at Unitil Vote IBEW

L.U. 1837 (rbkuo), MANCHESTER, ME—Electric system operators at Unitil Service Corp.’s Centralized Electric Dispatch in Portsmouth, N.H, voted for IBEW Local 1837 representation by a 2 to 1 ratio.

Ibe will not be forgotten. He was a man of his word and conviction.

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FROM THE OFFICERS

Defending our Democracy

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Anyone who truly cares about our nation’s economic recovery knows that our manufacturing base needs to grow. For progressive trade unionists, that means supporting genuine efforts by government to offer help to workers and companies in a balanced way that benefits our communities.

Controversy is certain to follow any time tax dollars are in play. And, with individual states scrambling to attract industry, balancing the interests of business, labor and taxpayers can go out the window.

Before I talk about a cautionary and dangerous precedent from Alabama, let’s review a good model of government support for industry.

Coming from Ohio, I see firsthand the benefits that have come from the Obama administration’s rescue of the auto industry. Contrary to the mythology of the right wing, this was no freebie.

Federal tax dollars were only made available to General Motors and Chrysler after they and the UAW both made sacrifices to improve competitiveness and productivity. Thousands of automobile and parts production jobs in dozens of states were saved and the multiplier effect on other services and small businesses was extraordinary. Taxpayers, workers and businesses all got a lift.

Now for Alabama. Last year—in a move that was practically unnoticed—the state passed a law solely designed to induce a Chinese firm to build a $100 million steel facility there that will employ 100 workers.

That’s a whole lot of money. But what the money is earmarked for is the real obscenity. Alabama’s appropriation is geared to helping Golden Dragon pay fines for illegally dumping steel below the cost of production on the U.S. market. They would be rewarded for breaking our nation’s already weak trade laws!

Despite being a relatively poor state, the legislature approved $360 million for two years of “Incentives” for Golden Dragon’s copper pipe and tube plant in addition to other state aid.

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Letters to the Editor

Point, Counterpoint

This is in response to Mr. Nelson’s letter in the October issue (“More Scott Walkers?” Letters to the Editor). If Mr. Nelson and other Republicans in our great union are so dismayed about the direction the union is going, maybe they should quit chasing the money and benefits afforded to them as union members by dropping their tickets and going to work for their local ABC shop and see how well they are paid and benefited. We may not approve of everything our so-called socialist leaders have done, but I believe wholeheartedly that they are always working in our best interests. The unions have worked for 100-plus years to get us where we are today. Ninety-nine percent of Republicans elected or not are not working to destroy the unions as we know them today. If they had their way, this whole country would be right-wreck, driving down wages and eliminating benefits we have fought so hard to get!

Dennis Parker, Local 242 member
Kansas City, Mo.

To reply to Steve Nelson’s letter to the editor, I would simply say that if he as a union member would fail to recognize other brother and sister unions in labor, whether in the private or public sector, then perhaps he should not be a union member. It is time to make tough decisions and decide whether you are for us or against us. No longer can we ride on the backs of those that made sacrifices and came before us. It is time to get our hands dirty with the task at hand, which is defeating every politician that would suggest right-to-work laws are beneficial to the worker. You can’t ride the fence, ladies and gentlemen; it’s time to get in the fight.

Jerry M. Hall, Local 56 member
Paducah, Ky.

Everyday Heroes

The International Lineman’s Museum in Shelby, N.C., was created in 1997 and is dedicated to preserving the history of the electrical industry of linemen. The museum is home to many electrical artifacts including tools, meters, insulators, climbing apparatuses, books, signs, photographs, equipment line trucks, a 998 electric car and many other items of interest.

The museum is a favorite among linemen and its founder, Andy Price, and his staff members Murray and Gina are often a presence in linemen’s色调 throughout the United States. It was in April of this year at the American Public Power Association’s Lineman’s Rodeo in Cleveland, Ohio, that the museum inducted new members into its Lineman’s Hall of Fame, and I am greatly honored to be one. Other members of the hall of fame include Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse and Ezra Cornell. I am grateful to have been nominated and accepted into this prestigious list of people who contributed to the electrical field and industry.

Electrical linemen are often not appreciated or recognized. It is my desire to share what they do with others so that people will understand the hazards of this occupation and come to appreciate the sometimes grueling conditions that electrical workers have to work under to ensure people have electrical service. As a retiree of Southern California Edison after 32 years of service, I personally have worked in extremely high temperatures (over 112 degrees), in snow, in dangerous neighborhoods, have fought off dog attacks and armed customers who threatened to kill us if we turned off their power. As an electrical worker, I often missed holidays and family events when called out to restore power or pick up downed lines that posed a risk to the community. I have lost four friends due to electrical shock and other job hazards and have had several other friends survive following severe electrical shock after coming into contact with a 12,000-volt line. It is common for electrical workers to work alongside firefighters, police and sheriffs after automobile accidents where electrical lines are involved.

I understand that many people will never see electrical workers as heroes, many of my personal heroes are linemen who work in this field, those who have retired from this profession and people who I have known that have passed away in the line of duty as a lineman who were injured while working to provide service to others. I appreciate them for their countless hours, time and sacrifice they have given to work in this field.

The International Lineman’s Museum has a Walk of Fame where people can honor electrical workers by purchasing bricks inscribed with a person’s name and other memorial information. The museum’s address is 529 Caleb Road in Shelby and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on how to visit or make a donation to this nonprofit organization, visit the Web site at www.linemannmuseum.com or call 704-482-7638.

Billy G. Smith, Local 47 retiree
Diamond Bar, Calif.

Who We Are

2012 FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Two Bright Lights of the IBEW

A third generation union activist and an “unstoppable” pre-vailing wage investigator are the 2012 recipients of the Founders’ Scholarship.

Erland Castillo has been an inside wireman for 10 years as a member of New York Local 3. His grandfather was an organizer in Bolivia, which Castillo noted, “is a country not known for favorable union policy.” His father is his brother in Local 3, and his mother is a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 181.

Jennie Kordenat is a wage compliancy investigator in Portland, Ore., following 12 years as an officer and inside wireman in Longview-Kelso, Wash., Local 970 (now merged into Portland, Ore., Local 48). Like Castillo, hers is a union family: Kordenat’s father, Jan Kerby, was president of Local 970.

International President Gordon Freemen started the Founders’ Scholarship in 1966 to put higher education within reach of promising members, improving themselves and their union. Today, the scholarship provides $200 per class-hour each semester, to a maximum of $24,000 over eight years.

From the Line to the Bar

People make a fuss about Jennie Kordenat. They hunt for words to describe how impressed they are with her work ethic and her generosity.

David Myers, the former business manager for Local 970, said Kordenat’s work investigating violations of prevailing wage laws “has been useful in leveling the playing field in public works construction.”

“Ms. Kordenat has worked tirelessly to improve her union, her craft and her community,” said Brian King, business representative for the Teamsters’ Vancouver, Wash., Local 38.

“Yet, I’ve never heard her say she was too busy to help,” said Kordenat’s supervisor at the Oregon & Southwest Washington Fair Contracting Foundation, Corey Haan.

For 12 years, Kordenat was an inside wireman. Twice she was elected recording secretary and once she served on the examining board. Six years ago, she began working at the FCF as a prevailing wage compliance investigator.

“She is unstoppable when she gets a bunch that workers aren’t getting their due,” said Haan. “She will explore everything about it and expose things that the public agency or contractor didn’t want to expose.”

Haan says that the most successful investigators—investigators like Kordenat—remember their job is to get the workers paid what they deserve.

“She approached confrontational people and issues with compassion and truth, earning trust and compliance based on her vast knowledge of the law,” said Haan.

Sometimes partnership fails and legal action is the only option left, but Kordenat says there are too few lawyers who understand or sympathize with unions. Kordenat sees room at the bar for an electrician, mom and labor activist and plans to go to law school.

“That might take a while though,” said Kordenat. She has two teenage daughters (and an exchange student from Iceland) at home, a handful of credits to get there.

“Yet, I’ll get there though,” said Kordenat. “Once I set my mind on doing something, I get there. No question, I get there.”

A Model of Today’s IBEW Youth

In addition to working the open decks of Manhattan skyscrapers, Castillo has earned one master’s degree in labor studies, worked part-time as a legal assistant and community liaison in the office of a New York labor lawyer and started on a second master’s degree.

No surprise then that Humberto Restrepo of the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry said Castillo is “a model of today’s IBEW youth, whose voice will shape and strengthen our brotherhood.”

Castillo was also a finalist for the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship in 2008. He was going to head back to Bolivia where he was born and participated in the development of modern labor policies. Unfortunately, the danger his grandfather faced as a union activist in the 1960s continues today and the U.S. State Department decided to cancel the Bolivian Fulbright program.

Castillo returned to the scrapp-ers, the libraries and organizing.

“The IBEW has given my family so much,” said Castillo. “I want to make it a little better, take it down to the workers.”

Castillo is planning to complete a master’s degree at Cornell University studying the impact of apprenticeship programs on the lives of workers and their families. He plans to stack nonunion apprenticeship programs against those like the IBEW’s.

“Workers face a political environment that is increasingly hostile to unions and the working class,” said Castillo. “Empowered by my education, I will continue to defend the rights of all workers, educate them about unions and counteract misleading information about unions.”

Benjamin Arana, business representa-tive of Local 3 said, “Brother Castillo will make a difference.”

The deadline to apply for the 2013 Founders’ Scholarship is May 1. The application can be found at www.ibew.org under “Resources.” Click on the “Founders” Scholarship link.
San Diego IBEW Organizes Clean, Green Jobs

The burning desert heat of southeastern California, from the outskirts of San Diego in the west to the Arizona border, can reach more than 110°F, making it one of the driest and hottest parts of the state.

Historically there were few people and fewer jobs but officials in western San Diego county and Imperial Valley are proudly touting the region as ground zero for the Golden State’s green revolution, which is creating hundreds of jobs on wind, solar and geothermal projects.

“We work to make sure that green jobs, like solar, wind, geothermal, electric car charging stations, are IBEW jobs and also to build partnerships between our local and the environmental community so we can build power and strengthen our community,” said San Diego Local 569 Environmental Organizer Micah Mitrosky told an IBEW video team.

Ambitious green energy legislation mandates that a third of the state’s power supply come from renewable resources by 2020. Business, labor and community leaders are tapping into the rich resources of sun and wind to make green projects have been a lifeline for Local 569 members.

Local 569 got onto the renewable energy bandwagon early, initiating its first training in solar technologies in 1999. The idea that solar power could be a real alternative to coal and gas seemed naïve to skeptics at the time, but the IBEW’s efforts to get on the ground floor of this emerging energy technology has paid off, making the local one of the leaders in photovoltaic training.

With work running low since 2008, green projects have been a lifeline for Local 569 members.

“Organizing these projects has been very important for our members because the work has been slow for the last couple years and our members have been training for these green projects and this gives them another place to work and develop their skill set as IBEW electricians,” said Local 569 Assistant Business Manager Nick Segura.

Green jobs have also given Local 569 the opportunity to recruit new workers to the trades who might never have found their way into the union. In 2009, the local opened a training center in Imperial County, which for decades had been one of California’s poorest jurisdictions.

“Our priority is to put county residents to work on these projects and to grow our local, skilled IBEW workforce in the Imperial Valley,” says Mitrosky.

More than 50 members are working Imperial County building a 240-megawatt solar farm, with the majority of workers drawn from the county itself, says Mitrosky. And it’s not just solar.

The local also has dozens of IBEW members building a 320-megawatt wind farm—once again built mainly by local residents.

“We’re looking at minimum five years of consistent renewable energy work,” she says.

Watch Local 569 members hard at work on a 26-megawatt solar project that will sell clean energy to San Diego Gas & Electric at www.youtube.com/ theElectricalWorker.

San Diego Local 569 members battle the blazing sun to install a 26-megawatt solar farm in San Diego county.

2013 UNITED AUTO WORKERS UNION-BUILT VEHICLES

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These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed that are made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty (LD) crew cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are manufactured only in Mexico; other models are made in the United States.

When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with “1” or “4” or “5” identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; “2” identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

San Diego IBEW Local 569 Environmental Organizer Micah Mitrosky told an IBEW video team. A ambition green energy legislation mandates that a third of the state’s power supply come from renewable resources by 2020. Business, labor and community leaders are tapping into the rich resources of sun and wind to make San Diego county and Imperial Valley are proudly touting the region as ground zero for the Golden State’s green revolution, which is creating hundreds of jobs on wind, solar and geothermal projects.

“We work to make sure that green jobs, like solar, wind, geothermal, electric car charging stations, are IBEW jobs and also to build partnerships between our local and the environmental community so we can build power and strengthen our community,” said San Diego Local 569 Environmental Organizer Micah Mitrosky told an IBEW video team.

Ambitious green energy legislation mandates that a third of the state’s power supply come from renewable resources by 2020. Business, labor and community leaders are tapping into the rich resources of sun and wind to make green projects have been a lifeline for Local 569 members.

Local 569 got onto the renewable energy bandwagon early, initiating its first training in solar technologies in 1999. The idea that solar power could be a real alternative to coal and gas seemed naïve to skeptics at the time, but the IBEW’s efforts to get on the ground floor of this emerging energy technology has paid off, making the local one of the leaders in photovoltaic training.

With work running low since 2008, green projects have been a lifeline for Local 569 members.

“Organizing these projects has been very important for our members because the work has been slow for the last couple years and our members have been training for these green projects and this gives them another place to work and develop their skill set as IBEW electricians,” said Local 569 Assistant Business Manager Nick Segura.

Green jobs have also given Local 569 the opportunity to recruit new workers to the trades who might never have found their way into the union. In 2009, the local opened a training center in Imperial County, which for decades had been one of California’s poorest jurisdictions.

“Our priority is to put county residents to work on these projects and to grow our local, skilled IBEW workforce in the Imperial Valley,” says Mitrosky.

More than 50 members are working Imperial County building a 240-megawatt solar farm, with the majority of workers drawn from the county itself, says Mitrosky. And it’s not just solar.

The local also has dozens of IBEW members building a 320-megawatt wind farm—once again built mainly by local residents.

“We’re looking at minimum five years of consistent renewable energy work,” she says.

Watch Local 569 members hard at work on a 26-megawatt solar project that will sell clean energy to San Diego Gas & Electric at www.youtube.com/ theElectricalWorker.