First Place Winner ($200)

Bill DeClement, Folsom, N.J., Local 351

Atlantic City’s casinos, hotels, shows and attractions boast some stellar views. But few can match the perspective of what you see through the eyes of an electrician working on what is now the largest building in the city, the 48-story Revel Casino.

DeClement snapped this captivating photo of two members riding in a window lift above fog-drenched ocean entranced voters in this year’s photo contest.

DeClement’s shot earned top honors in the 15th year of the competition, from IBEW members and the public via online voting in December. Judges considered nearly 400 entries sent from across the U.S. and Canada. Voters then picked their favorites from the 15 finalists. This is the fourth year the contest featured online voting, and hundreds made their voices heard after the finalists were announced on www.ibew.org.

Seattle Local 77 member Bill Strite garnered second place accolades for his photo of a lineman team knuckling down to repair a broken cable in an icy wilderness.

Third place honors went to Charlotte, N.C., Local 962 member Paul Phillips for his visceral upward view of a lineman working in a snowstorm in a rural part of the state.

“Like something out of science fiction, Folsom, N.J., Local 351 member Bill DeClement’s stunning image of two IBEW members in a window lift above fog-drenched ocean entranced voters in this year’s photo contest.

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“My photo contest submission was not even close to what I thought I’d submit,” says DeClement. “I put together a slide show of photos I’d taken from my cell phone, and voted for which ones I thought were the best. I submitted them, and I thought that might be the end of it. Then I realized I’d made the finals, and I was blown away.”

“I’ve been on top of them all,” he said.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS continued on page 2
IBEW Photo Contest Winners

Continued from page 1

15th IBEW Photo Contest Winners

Angelo Morgan, Seattle Local 77

Transmission lines rise out of glowing snow in this chilling portrait of winter. Morgan captured the essence of the season near the Palouse River in northern Idaho.

Tom Lawless, Long Island, NY, Local 25

Lawless’ lush nighttime image shows the vivid lights on the George Washington Bridge illuminating the corridor that leads into the Bronx, New York’s northernmost borough.

Some voters may have noticed a drastic fluctuation in vote numbers online toward the end of the contest. After thoroughly vetting the legitimacy of votes as they arrived, contest judges noticed irregularities with the numbers. Many came from the same IP address—indicating that some parties had voted multiple times on the same computer after working around the safeguard to assure single voting by individuals. Two entrants were disqualified as a result of these actions. We appreciate the hundreds of voters who played by the rules, voted once, and kept the healthy spirit of fun intact in this year’s competition.

Honorable Mentions ($50 each)

Angelo Morgan, Seattle Local 77

Transmission lines rise out of glowing snow in this chilling portrait of winter. Morgan captured the essence of the season near the Palouse River in northern Idaho.

Paul Phillips, Charlotte, N.C., Local 962

Blinding snow and a tasteful use of black-and-white processing blend together in Phillips’ photo of fellow member Joe Long working with his tools atop a pole in the midst of severe weather. It’s an interesting spin on an iconic image in the Brotherhood—a stark rendering of a worker that only leaves room for skill, determination and good-old-fashioned guts.

“Well, it was snowing hard, everything around was just white and there was no color to the sky,” said Phillips, a 22-year member. “I knew black and white was the way to go.”

“It’s a rugged image,” he said. “Joe’s beard, the old pole—it’s not a neat or clean photo. I like the old, rustic look.”

Bill Strite, Seattle Local 77

When snow and ice snare the electrical infrastructure in the wooded bluffs of Washington’s outlying areas, Bill Strite goes where snowmobiles fear to tread.

Strite and his four-man team were called out last winter to repair a downed power line that feeds radio towers on Monumental Mountain in the northeastern part of the state. But because of the terrain, the only way in was with their snowshoes.

“We had hiked in the last half mile, and there was severe ice,” said Strite, who brought his digital camera with him in case the group saw any wildlife. “It’s not unusual to see something moving around up there.”

Instead, he and his co-workers were treated to a splendid vista—rich evergreens glazed with ice giving way to a broad expanse cut by the Columbia River, just behind the Grand Coulee Dam. Strite made his way to higher ground to snap the photo.

A 32-year employee of Avista Utility, Strite said he enjoys photographing the natural world around his home near Colville in the northeast region of the state. “There are several thousand acres of timberland out there,” he said. “You come in contact with moose, bears, cougars—there’s a lot to see.”

Second Place Winner ($150)

Bill Strite, Seattle Local 77

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Third Place Winner ($100)

Paul Phillips, Charlotte, N.C., Local 962

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Nebraska Local Helps Defeat Water Plant Privatization

N ever has the role of government been more a scorn on topic in the national discourse of the U.S. and Canada. Should some services now provided by local, state, provincial and national government be turned over to private interests? If so, which ones? That was the question faced by 23 members of Grand Island, Neb., Local 1597 who maintain the city’s wastewater treatment plant—treating 8 million gallons of raw sewage each day—after they heard that their mayor and city council had lined up behind a plan to turn management of the facility over to a private company.

An operations agreement with a subsidiary of Veolia Environment, a huge private enterprise with operations in 77 countries and nearly $40 billion of revenues in 2011, looked like a done deal. City leaders saw in selling management rights an easy solution to completing a $50 million upgrade of the aging plant’s infrastructure outlined in a 2009 comprehensive plan. But members of Local 1597 and activists from an international advocacy organization, Food & Water Watch, were multi-pronged campaign against privatization in Grand Island, the Great Plains industrial city with the incongruous name, they set a potent example of how to build political consensus at the grassroots and win.

Union and Public Water Advocates Unite
Dave De La Motte is a 15-year maintenance mechanic at the plant and a lifelong resident of Grand Island. Six years ago, he was part of a unanimous vote to bring his bargaining unit of operating, maintenance and support personnel at the treatment plant into Local 1597.

“I believe the councilmen and mayor honestly thought that privatization was good for the city,” says De La Motte. “But as servants of the public, we thought it was a bad decision.”

Concerned about how privatization could affect their jobs, as residents, union members were also concerned about higher rates and declines in customer service.

A letter sent by the local union to 13,000 households in Grand Island, stated, “Residents of cities with privately operated wastewater treatment plants experience consistently higher rates, declines in customer service and quality, and little-to-no democratic input. Other consequences of privatization regularly include lost jobs due to cutbacks by the private operator, and profits leaving the community, as well as lack of transparency, increased corruption and diminished accountability for the operation of the wastewater treatment plant.”

Local 1597 Business Manager Dan Quick says members at the plant approached him in August 2011 for help. Their work force is one of 17 public employee bargaining units, covered by 18 contracts negotiated by the local union.

An Uphill Climb
Quick knew that winning wouldn’t be easy. Prior to his election, Grand Island Mayor Jay Vavricek had served as a board member of the Platte Institute, a think tank that promotes privatization. And he had appointed a public works director who championed privatization.

Ken Mass, president of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO, put Quick in touch with Matt Ohoff, an Iowa-based organizer with Food & Water Watch, a 2005 outgrowth of Public Citizen. Research from Food & Water Watch put the challenge facing Grand Island in the context of a growing trend of privatization of U.S. water resources as municipalities struggle to balance budgets or—as in the case of Grand Island—look to finance upgrades to their water supply and treatment infrastructures.

Putting Mobilization Tools to Work
After sending their letter raising concerns about privatization to Grand Island households, the local mobilized for a turnout at a city council meeting where Veolia was scheduled to make a presentation. The surprise witness at the council meeting was the water treatment plant’s superintendent, who refused Veolia’s numbers. The council postponed a vote until his analysis could be verified.

Following the meeting, Quick and Ohoff sponsored a town hall meeting. The next day, The Grand Island Independent carried an article favorable to the anti-privatization campaign.

Other cities and towns supporting privatization see the revenue from selling off public assets or outsourcing management as a solution to their drastically eroding tax bases. Despite the decline of the nation’s industrial base, Grand Island’s economy is relatively stable, with relatively low unemployment and growing population.

De La Motte was one of four plant workers who addressed a January council meeting opposing Veolia. He says, “It’s been a long time since I put myself at the point of a spear, but I was born and raised in Grand Island and I thought it was time to speak up. While we were afraid of repercussions on the job, this was one of those things you do because you believe it’s important.”

Overwhelming Opposition to Privatization
Grand Island Councilman John Gericke, a retired policeman and husband of Local 1597 member Pat Gericke, told The Independent in February he had 100 contacts from constituents. None of them supported the privatization plan.

The local placed an ad in The Independent listing telephone numbers of city council members and urging residents to call opposing privatizing management.

“I believe the councilmen and mayor honestly thought that privatization was good for the city. But as servants of the public, we thought it was a bad decision.”
– Dave De La Motte, Grand Island plant maintenance mechanic

On Jan. 24, the council met again. Says Quick, “The mayor went on an eight-minute rant about our ad in the newspaper and bashed Local 1597 for interfering.” But the next day, The Independent published a letter to the editor from Quick and another story raising questions about privatization.

On Feb. 2, an overflow crowd attended the council’s vote on privatization. Quick requested the mayor to ask everyone opposed to privatization to stand up. Only the two representatives from Veolia remained seated. The council voted 10-0 against privatization.

“I think the Grand Island fight was significant in that the situation looked bleak at the outset, but we engaged and mobilized the public,” says Ohoff.

“This shows the power of organizing and education.”

Ken Mass, who mobilized other unions to stand by the IBEW, says, “I can’t say enough about this effort. If the plant had been privatized, they were going to keep going and put more operations in private hands.”

Part of a Growing Movement
De La Motte says the dedicated work of his co-workers will contribute to a successful plant modernization. That will be another step to building a growing, more secure Grand Island.

Inside the plant, workers are beginning to work under a two-year contract that took effect on Oct. 1. The plant’s management has undergone changes since the privatization victory. As the plant prepares for modernization, an engineer who was previously employed by one of Veolia’s competitors American Water has replaced the superintendent who spoke out against privatization at the city council hearing.

De La Motte says his co-workers are confident that they will constructively deal with these and other changes that come their way as active IBEW members.

After all, being part of the IBEW was critical in stopping privatization, says De La Motte, who served on the local’s com-
**USS AMERICA**

A Class By Itself

The Navy Bets Big on a New Design; IBEW Members Already Winners

On Oct. 20, a champagne bottle was the first opponent to lose a battle with the USS America, the newest warship in the U.S. Navy. Thousands of people, including members of Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733, were on hand for the christening of the fourth ship to be named America since 1865. This America is the first of a new class of amphibious assault ships designed to carry ashore an invading force. In these new, advanced future wars and the weapons that fight it.

For the men and women who build American warships, the USS America is the largest non-nuclear surface vessel in the Navy to abandon steam power. Instead it will use a combination of jet turbines and diesel generators to power the ship and turn the propellers. “These new designs mean more electricity and more work for electricians. We do the propulsion and controls, and it’s our guys doing power generation. In these new, advanced ships, all the command control is not mechanical but electrical,” Local 733 Business Manager Jim Couch said. “Long term, it’s good for us.”

The Navy’s $2.4 Billion Wager

For the Navy, the USS America is a $2.4 billion experiment that represents a handful of bets about the nature of future wars and the weapons that fight it. The highest-stakes bet is that beach invasions are a thing of the past. Paul Revere was broadly right when he broke it down: invasions were either two countries went to war, if an invasion force couldn’t get there on dry land, then they would be stepping off a boat deck to a beach. Amphibious invasions are often long remembered as well or better than their war Gallipoli, Salam, hoo Jima, Normandy and Inchon. As often as not, they are remembered because of the toll they take. Beach invasions are vicious, bloody and the U.S. Navy is building the USS America to make them obsolete.

Unlike every other U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship afloat, there will be no waves of landing craft unleashed from America. It doesn’t carry them on board and has no way to launch them. Every other similar ship has a well deck, a floodable dock hidden behind massive doors in the stern of the ship, like a boat ramp at a marina. Marines invading from the USS America will fly in, sometimes far in, ferried by the most advanced aircraft in the American arsenal: troop transports that can take off from ships like helicopters and fly like planes and fighter jets that can launch from small runways and land like helicopters.

The space that would have held the well deck holds enormous aircraft repair bays. Those aircraft are bet number two. There is a chance that there won’t be a fighter jet to fly off this mini-aircraft carrier. The Navy, Marines and Air Force all agreed to use the same basic design for fighter jets, the joint tactical fighter, or F-35. Problems, cost overruns and lengthy delays almost canceled the F-35B program, though Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta did restore it to full funding in 2012.

The IBEW’s Win

Removing the steam propulsion system from the ship is the third bet, with the most on the line for IBEW shipbuilders. No steam means wires will carry power around the ship, not pipes. Boilers are replaced by a two-part system of diesel generators for low speed operations and twin jet turbines for operation at high speeds, almost like a hybrid car. Most of the time, the ship will cruise along at about 10 knots, using only energy generated by two 4,000-kilowatt diesel generators. When more speed is needed, two gas turbine engines that put out 35,000 horsepower come on line, boosting top speed above 20 knots.

Getting these systems installed and synchronized is the responsibility of IBEW craftsmen. Dreaming up new uses for all those electrons is the job of naval planners. They have been busy finding new things for IBEW members to install. For example, the new navigation and command and control system is distributed around the ship. Weapons and damage control, even maneuvers can be controlled from multiple locations on board. Redundant systems need more connections and more power and result in a more resilient warship. All told, there is more than 5,196,000 feet of fiber optic cable threading through the 844-foot long ship. “That’s been five years of work for 700 members,” Couch said.

### USS AMERICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>USS AMERICA</strong></th>
<th><strong>The Construction</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length</strong> 644 feet (WW II era aircraft carrier length)</td>
<td><strong>Man hours</strong> 7,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beam(width)</strong> 100 feet</td>
<td><strong>Number of Local 733 members that worked on America</strong> 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Displacement</strong> 44,971 tons</td>
<td><strong>Value of Contract</strong> $2.4 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power Plant</strong> Two 5,200 horsepower diesel generators</td>
<td><strong>Electricians needed</strong> 200-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two 36,000 horsepower gas turbines</td>
<td><strong>Feet of optic cable</strong> 5,196,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crew</strong> 1,059</td>
<td><strong>Marine detachment</strong> 1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Endurance</strong> 9,500 miles</td>
<td><strong>Speed</strong> 22 knots</td>
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Where the Future is Built

The Ingalls Shipyard is a 600-acre factory where the future is built. Seventy-six surface warships have sailed out of the shipyard into the Gulf of Mexico since 1976. The craftsmen at Ingalls accomplished extraordinary things on this job. For example, when the America’s 29,700-ton hull was moved, according to the Ingalls shipyard. Based on the record, it is the largest object ever moved over land, according to Ingalls shipyard.

Marine journeyman electrician Joey Couch, brother of the business manager, is a fiber optic cable specialist who worked on USS America. Ship designers called for Couch and others to use a one-and-a-quarter-inch pipe with straw inside. The conduit is installed throughout the ship, jumping from junction box to junction box, splitting off and connecting a vast network. The seven internal tubes create paths that can connect two places in a single room or run the length and height of the ship, twisting and bending. Couch said that the absence of the electrical work the same day. There is an extensive background check and drug testing to ensure members of Local 733 can handle.

For many IBEW members that includes hunting and fishing. Brotherhood Outdoors is an award-winning television program that celebrates the working men and women who carry a gun or a fishing pole along with their union card. Each week, a tradesman is chosen for his combination of skill at his craft, love of hunting and fishing and commitment to serving his community and the environment. Each is taken on a hunting or fishing expedition with a shot at a milestone trophy. Brotherhood Outdoors is on the Sportsman Channel every Sunday at 11 a.m. ET and a new season starts on Jan. 6.

The third episode, airing Jan. 20, for his combination of skill at his craft, love of hunting and fishing and commitment to serving his community and the environment. Each is taken on a hunting or fishing expedition with a shot at a milestone trophy. Brotherhood Outdoors is on the Sportsman Channel every Sunday at 11 a.m. ET and a new season starts on Jan. 6.

For many of our members, hunting and fishing is one of the great rewards for working at hard jobs and doing them well," IBEW International President Edwin Hill, a member of the board of the Union Sportsmen’s Association, which produces Brotherhood Outdoors. "It’s proud that there are more IBEW members in the ranks of USA than any other union and I’m happy to see attention and honor paid to some of the bright lights of the union movement today."

The third episode, airing Jan. 20, for example, tells the story of retired Kansas City Mo., Local 242 member Leroy Shull. After retiring to Florida, Shull founded Fishing for Freedom, an annual charity angling competition for professional anglers and wounded veterans.

Over the course of the season, there is a bow hunt for whitetail deer in Illinois, a bowfishing trip chasing Asian carp and a black bear hunt on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Brotherhood Outdoors is always accepting applications to appear on the show. Nominate yourself, or give the producers a heads up about someone you think deserves to be thanked for their commitment to unions, hunting or fishing and conservation. You can apply at www.unionsportsmen.org.

And to find out more about Fishing for Freedom, head over to www.FishingforFreedom.us.

New Season Starts Jan. 6

The compensations of working union aren’t limited to salary and benefits. They aren’t even limited to the job. Belonging to a brotherhood also means being part of a community that shares the best in life far from work.

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Washington, D.C., is home to the second largest public transportation system in the country, but residents catching a flight out of Dulles International Airport still have to put up with lengthy rides in some of the worst traffic in the nation to get there. Located in the far reaches of the Northern Virginia suburbs, Dulles is more than 13 miles from the nearest Metro station. But soon the trip will be as easy as jumping on the subway.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is in the midst of its largest expansion in its 36-year history with the construction of the Silver Line, which will connect the airport to the D.C. metro area.

Once completed, the 23-mile rail line will run from the District of Columbia to Loudoun County, relieving traffic and giving the more than 11 million passengers who pass through Dulles each year an easier, more convenient way to make their flights.

Long advocated by elected officials, business leaders and transportation experts, the project finally broke ground in 2009.

Northern Virginia, bringing tens of thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars—Washington, D.C., Local 26 members and signatory contractors.

“Safety is huge. It’s good to work for a company that tells you, ‘If it feels dangerous, don’t do it,’ and will back you up.”
— Diane Spilm an, Local 26 member

It also means steady work for electricians, operating engineers, laborers and thousands of construction workers who have been hard at work building the region’s most high-profile transportation project.

Today, more than 250 Washington, D.C., Local 26 members are at work finishing up the first phase of the project, an 11-mile stretch connecting the Virginia suburbs of West Falls Church to Reston in the western part of Fairfax County. The opening is scheduled for this summer.

The Silver Line will run from the District of Columbia to Loudoun County, bringing tens of thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars in new business activity to this rapidly growing region—not to mention boosting property values and raising millions in new revenue for county and state coffers.

“It is really going to revitalize the area,” says Washington, D.C., Local 26 Business Manager Chuck Graham.

“Safety is Key”
Local 26 members installed the feeder cables, powering the line’s third rail. They also installed all the wiring for the systems that monitor the trains’ movement, including control switches and track signals, as well as detection warning devices that alert operators of track obstructions.

On a job this size, with numerous potential hazards, safety was the top priority. The line runs through Tysons Corner, a bustling business center in Northern Virginia, then up the median of the expressway leading to the airport.

“It is no small feat working in the center of an extremely busy highway,” Graham says.

Workers were required to undergo more than seven hours of safety training before setting foot on the job site. Nearly 40 safety classes have been offered during construction, covering everything from environmental hazards to basic Occupational Safety and Health Administration training.

The IBEW also participated in an on-the-job safety program—People Based Safety—which recruited observers from each craft to provide feedback to their co-workers, submit weekly reports on safety practices and make recommendations.

Dulles Transit Partners, LLC—a partnership between Bechtel and URS, two of the world’s largest construction firms—is the main contractor for the job. “Safety is huge,” says Local 26 member Diane Spilm an, who serves as a foreman on the project. “It’s good to work for a company that tells you, ‘If it feels dangerous, don’t do it,’ and will back you up.”

Spilm an and her crew pulled cable throughout the highway median, working one mile at a time. Being so far from the main station meant frequent trips back to Washington, D.C., for equipment.

Spilm an, who was out of work for two years before going to work on the Silver Line, says the project has been a great opportunity for her and her co-workers. And as a Northern Virginia resident, she says she looks forward to spending less time in traffic.

Political Brawl
The second and final phase connecting the train to the airport is expected to be operational by 2018, doubling the number of passengers passing through Dulles each year, said airport manager Chris Browne in an interview with the Ashburn Patch newspaper.

Contracts for Phase 2 won’t be awarded until late this year. Despite the success of Phase 1, the second part of the project turned into a partisan brawl last spring, thanks to the efforts of the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors and allied right-wing activists. The group—along with Republican officials in Loudoun County, home to Dulles—threatened to derail the Silver Line unless the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which is responsible for the project, rescinded the use of project labor agreements.

“There were some politicians who didn’t like unions, and saw this as a chance to score points,” says Local 26’s Graham, who noted that Dulles Transit voluntarily entered into a PLA to have enough skilled and experienced workers on the project.

“What’s ridiculous is that there aren’t many nonunion electrical contractors around here who can handle a job this size, and they know it.”

Washington Post business columnist Steven Pearlstein agreed. “There are only a dozen firms that are big and experienced enough to manage a transit project of this size and complexity, and all of them... are either union shops or have long since learned to operate in both union and nonunion environments,” he wrote last spring. “So what are we arguing about here? Politics. Ideology. Certainly nothing that is worth risking the most important economic development in the region.”

The anti-PLA effort was taken up by Republicans in Richmond, including Gov. Robert McDonnell, who made it a condition for his state’s continued participation. The MWAA gave in to their demands. Despite the loss, the Silver Line is still covered under the Davis-Bacon act, guaranteeing competitive wage and benefits regardless of who gets the contract.

“I don’t see us getting hurt by the decision,” says Graham.

The Local 26 business manager is proud of the work performed by his members, and says the IBEW’s commitment to quality and on-time construction makes him hopeful that the union will be back for Phase 2 of the Silver Line.

“They are doing a damn good job,” he says. “We are ahead of schedule and under budget.”
S.C. Organizers Bring IBEW Message to College Football Fans

On typical Clemson home football games, 80,000 fans see the Charlotte, N.C., Local 379 logo.

With nearly 30 years in the labor movement, Charlotte, N.C., Local 379 Organizer Nick Brown has soaked up enough history that he can vividly relay stories about anti-worker intimidation in his neck of the woods—from the bloody 1934 killings of mill workers in Honea Path, S.C., to the bruising days of the mass textile strikes that swept the region in the 20s and 30s.

"Knowing your history is all part of the job," he says.

But the veteran organizer’s newest tactic to promote the IBEW may be one of the more forward-looking strategies in the Deep South. Early last year, Brown—who works out of the local’s satellite office 100 miles away in Greenville, S.C.—led an effort to increase the IBEW’s visibility during high-profile Clemson University home football games.

On a typical game afternoon, when as many as 80,000 fans pile into the school’s Memorial Stadium, audience members see a massive IBEW logo multiple times per game—at halftime and whenever an instant replay runs on the scoreboard—and the name “IBEW” is mentioned by announcers commenting on the plays. Fans tuning in to Greenville radio station WTPT-FM 93.3 also hear two radio advertisements per game publicizing the IBEW’s excellence.

Brown says it ties in with a broader effort to promote positive contributions of members in the community—along with the opportunities that can await budding electricians who may be in the audience.

“Along with helping bring in new members, this invites contractors in the area to take another look at us,” he said. “Our best marketing tool is to promote our customer satisfaction and job performance, and the stadium and radio ads are helping do just that.”

And fans in the upstate region who tuned in on Oct. 23 to an area radio station heard Brown discuss on air the benefits of the IBEW—which was broadcast to listeners ahead of Clemson’s away game that day against Wake Forest.

“We’re proud to be a partner with anyone we can join hands with in bettering our community here,” Brown said.

The interview capped a weeklong campaign ahead of Clemson’s away game that day against Wake Forest.

The leadership at Local 379 has discovered that raising their own profile can only benefit them," said Matt Ruff, Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas. "The court’s decision will help all public sector unions in California."
Organizing Yields Wall-to-Wall Membership at Tenn. Research Facility

A recent campaign to organize technicians and engineers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a preeminent science and technology research facility in eastern Tennessee, yielded a noteworthy win for employees who are now members of Knoxville Local 760.

For the first time in the plant’s 59-year history, all workers performing electrical duties are 100 percent unionized—an accomplishment that Local 760 Business Manager George Bove called “unheard of.”

“This has never been done before, and I believe it speaks volumes about how the IBEW puts professionalism up front and alongside solidarity,” he said.

The lion’s share of new members include engineers, instrument technicians, groundmen and utility operators, Bove said. Following local leaders’ renewed push for wall-to-wall organizing, IBEW activists launched a campaign last spring to help recruit nearly two dozen new members who had previously opted out of union representation.

“The fact that these new members chose to join us—especially since Tennessee is a right-to-work state—means that we will have greater togetherness on the job site and in future contract talks,” Bove said.

Chief Stewart Shane Cromwell said that the campaign brought in newer, younger workers and some older employees who had been unorganized in their years on the job.

“For many of these newer folks, nobody had explained to them the benefits of representation—higher wages, insurance, a pension and having a steady work schedule,” he said. “With older workers, talking with them about what the IBEW stands for got some people to reopen their eyes and see what it’s about. It’s about everybody, not just one individual person. We need to have a sense of unity and pride to make our workplace function better for everyone involved.”

Managed by the U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge houses the world’s largest supercomputers that help advance breakthroughs in neutron science, biology and national security. Of the nearly 2,000 organized employees at the site, many belong to other unions, including the sheet metal workers, boilermakers, machinists, pipefitters and more.

The success of the recent organizing push means that with a peak of almost 4,000 total members, the IBEW has the greatest union density at the facility. As many senior members have retired in the last few months, Cromwell—who is also assistant business agent for Local 760—says the victory bodes well for organizing the next generation that walks through the door.

“Winning this helps us out a lot,” he said. “Management is looking to hire between 15-20 more people after Jan. 1, and I feel confident that all those folks are going to go IBEW.”

Bove offered special thanks to Assistant Business Agent Mark Long and organizer Mike Marlowe for the successful effort.

“Without a solid team of leaders like these guys, this wouldn’t have happened,” he said.

IBEW Unity Fund to Help Sandy Victims

More than 70,000 IBEW members across the Northeast live in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster zones. Many are facing tens of thousands of dollars in damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and the resulting flooding. Some are without a home all together.

That’s why the IBEW is tapping its Unity Fund—first set up last year to help working families stand up against anti-worker attacks in Wisconsin and Ohio—to help members rebuild their homes and lives.

“This is what solidarity is all about—not a hand out but a helping hand to get our brothers and sisters back on their feet,” says International President Edwin D. Hill.

Third District International Representative Wyatt Earp, who is working to identify members affected throughout New Jersey, says he’s met many members who faced the holidays without a home.

“For a lot of coastal residents, their entire first floor was flooded, making many of them pretty much uninhabitable,” says Earp. “Others are facing some major repairs, and will have to gut much of their house to clean up the mold and water damage.”

Earp says in addition to raising funds and identifying members in need, local unions and signatory contractors have teamed up to set up emergency house repair hotlines for members.

To www.ibew.org/unityfund/ if you would like to make a credit card donation. Or make checks payable to IBEW Unity Fund (memo line Sandy) and mail them to:

IBEW Unity Fund
900 Seventh St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
IBEW, Canadian Pacific Reach Five-Year Agreement

In December, members voted on the contract after the Electrical Worker went to press. Employees gained a yearly 3-per-cent raise over the life of the agreement, in addition to reforms to the company’s pension plan that will keep it solvent for current and future retirees, while maintaining existing benefit levels.

Railway signal and communication unions date back to the emergence of signaling technology in the late 19th century. Canadian Pacific employees were originally part of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen before forming their own exclusively Canadian union in the 1930s. But less than a decade later, members of the Canadian Signal and Communications Union—attracted by the strong wages and benefits enjoyed by IBEW rail members throughout North America—joined the Brotherhood, becoming System Council 11.

In addition to Canadian Pacific, the council also represents workers at Canadian National, Ontario Northland, Rail Link Canada, X-Rail and Toronto Terminal Railway. The IBEW began negotiations with Canadian National, the country’s largest freight rail company, last month. The council represents 720 Canadian National employees. Strong says he hopes the successful agreement reached at Canadian Pacific will be the model for negotiations with its larger competitor.

“For freight rail is increasing in importance to the Canadian economy, and the

La FIOE conclut une entente de cinq ans avec le Canadien Pacifique

C'est grâce à ce chemin de fer que le Canada a été bâti. En 1871, quatre ans seulement après la formation du Canada, le Premier ministre John A. Macdonald avait cherché à étendre le territoire de son nouveau pays vers l'Ouest. Il espérait convaincre la Colombie-Britannique—qui était encore une colonie britannique—de se joindre à la confédération. Afin de conclure l'affaire, il avait promis aux législateurs de la C.-B. de construire un chemin de fer national reliant la province de Québec à l'Océan Pacifique.

Cela a fonctionné. L’assemblée législative provinciale a voté en faveur de son adhésion et la C.-B. est devenue la soi-disant province du Canada; seize ans plus tard, le premier train du Canadien Pacifique arrivait à Vancouver. La construction de cette voie ferrée a véritablement contribué à la création d’une nation canadienne unifiée s’étendant d’un océan à l’autre.

Malgré la propagation du transport aérien et routier, le chemin de fer Canadien Pacifique continue de jouer un rôle vital dans l’économie canadienne. Il transporte des millions de tonnes de charbon, de céréales et autres marchandises vers les ports de l’Océan Pacifique pour être vendus sur le marché international.

Plus de 450 membres de la FIOE, de Montréal à Vancouver, jouent un rôle primordial en assurant le fonctionnement sécuritaire du réseau ferroviaire qui compte 22,500 kilomètres. Les employés affectés à la signalisation et aux communications pour le Canadien Pacifique installent et entretiennent l’équipement des trains de signalisation et de contrôle de la circulation assurant ainsi un parcours sans accident sur les lignes et la ponctualité des trains. Les signaux automatiques aident à contrôler la vitesse et le mouvement des trains, ce qui permet d’éviter les collisions et d’alerter les voyageurs de la route en signalant l’approche d’un train.

Bien que ce travail soit parfois difficile, les salaires et les avantages sociaux aux concurrents négociés par la FIOE, contribuent à en faire un emploi recherché. Avec la nouvelle entente de principe de cinq ans conclue cet automne entre le syndicat et le Canadien Pacifique, les employés affectés à la signalisation et aux communications se retrouvent dans les rangs de la classe moyenne.

« C’est un contrat qui assure la stabilité des emplois ainsi que les avantages sociaux et les salaires qui font de la FIOE l’un des syndicats ferroviaires les plus sociaux au monde. Le vote de ratification a été pris au mois de décembre, après l’impression de la publication de l’Electrical Worker. Les employés ont obtenu une augmentation de salaire de 3% par année, pour la durée de la convention, en plus des modifications qui ont été apportées au régime de pension de l’employeur dans le but d’assurer la solvabilité du régime pour les retraités actuels et futurs. »

Les syndicats d’employés affectés à la signalisation et aux communications de chemin de fer remontent à l’emergence de la technologie de la signalisation ferroviaire à la fin du 19ème siècle. Avant de former
RETIRED
Larry Neidig Jr.

Following a career that spanned more than four decades in the Brotherhood, Larry Neidig Jr., Senior Executive Assistant to the International President and the International Secretary-Treasurer, retired effective Dec. 31.


Having started in the nonunion sector making $1.65 an hour, Neidig said a discussion with an organizer from Local 812 helped steer him toward the IBEW. "I saw an opportunity there," he said. "I was working with a small company where a number of employees were going to the union side. They were making better wages than I was in a shorter period of time." Six months after joining the local, Neidig saw his wages increase without having to rely on the good graces of a nonunion employer—one of the selling points of the IBEW, he said. "With that contract, you're locked in. It's better for you and your family."

Neidig was appointed International Representative for the Third District in 1992. International President Edwin D. Hill tapped Neidig to become his Senior Executive Assistant in April 2001. He became the first person in that position to concurrently assist the International Secretary-Treasurer as well.

"My greatest accomplishment was working with President Hill and being a part of such an outstanding team," Neidig said. "I feel proud to have had input on a number of successful policies, such as membership development initiatives and implementing the Code of Excellence for various trade classifications, he said. When Neidig came to Washington, the nation was still reeling from the post-dot-com recession. Today, with the economy still slowly coming back from the more recent downturn, he says one of the best things the IBEW can do to move forward is continue putting excellence and skill front and center. "We need to be pushing harder, and we need to be more open-minded of what the companies, utilities and construction contractors need—as well as what we need as an organization," he said. "I would also like to see people become even more involved in their local unions. We have to realize that everything is not just handed to us."

A native of Williamsport, Neidig graduated from Williamsport High School and took classes related to the electrical trade at the city’s community college before beginning his apprenticeship with Local 812. He went on to serve as the president of the Wyoming County Labor Council, the vice president of the Central Pennsylvania Building Trades and was president and secretary-treasurer of the Eastern Pennsylvania Business Managers Association.

"My greatest accomplishment was working with President Hill and being a part of such an outstanding team."

Brother Neidig says he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Sally, his four children and 22 grandchildren. He also plans to travel and continue building a woodworking shop in his garage. On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Neidig a long and healthy retirement.

APPOINTED
Brian Baker

Political/Legislative Department Director Brian Baker has been appointed Special Executive Assistant to the International Officers effective Jan. 1. He succeeds Larry Neidig, who retired.

"Larry has left the IBEW a legacy of positive change and I look forward to doing my part to keep the Brotherhood moving forward," says Baker. Born and raised in Batavia, Ohio, Baker was initiated into Lorain Local 229 in 1987. From a very early age, he learned the importance of union political action.

The son of a laborers Local 158 member, Baker was so when he first helped his father put up signs for candidates in Lorain. "I was there at the beginning of my apprenticeship class, we were told that we needed to be involved—in both politics and the community," he says. "Not just out of civic responsibility, but because it translated into work and good jobs."

Baker served in a number of positions before being appointed business manager in 1987. Under his leadership, the local organized several new contractors, growing from 310 members to 435. The local also become a key player in Northeast Ohio politics, helping organize efforts to elect Sen. Sherrod Brown, then-Gov. Ted Strickland, state Treasurer Richard Cordray and many other local and state Democrats.

Baker served on the boards of numerous civic, community and labor organizations, including the local building trades council and the Lorain County Workforce Institute Board. He was elected president of the Lorain County AFL-CIO in 2001.

In 2007, International President Edwin D. Hill appointed Baker director of the Political/Legislative Department, only a few months after arriving in Washington, D.C. as an International Representative. During his tenure, he headed the IBEW’s political efforts in two historic presidential elections, while beefing up the union’s presence on Capitol Hill. He helped implement the IBEW’s grassroots political mobilization plan, recruiting registrars in nearly every local to help sign up voters, and strengthened the union’s member-to-member network to educate voters about issues concerning working families.

"We’ve made a lot of progress in unleashing the power of an educated union membership at the polls, which helped some decent pro-worker candidates from county council on up win office," he says.

Baker says he’s particularly impressed by all the new tools the I.O has developed to educate and mobilize members to get-out-the-vote, from e-mail blasts and videos to social media.

"In many states this election cycle, it was union members—in particular IBEW members—who played a decisive role," he says. "And it’s our grassroots political mobilization program that made it happen."

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW wish Brother Baker great success in his new position.

Organizing Wire

Beefed-up Staff Boosts Membership Rolls in Ore.

Portland, Ore.—Take a look westward toward the lush downtown skyline, and you’ll see how the distant, 11,200-foot Mount Hood dwarfs everything in the foreground. Simply put, you just can’t miss it.

The local also became a key player in the union’s member-to-member network to educate voters about issues concerning working families. "He helped implement the IBEW’s grassroots political mobilization plan, recruiting registrars in nearly every local to help sign up voters, and strengthened the union’s member-to-member network to educate voters about issues concerning working families. "We’ve made a lot of progress in unleashing the power of an educated union membership at the polls, which helped some decent pro-worker candidates from county council on up win office," he says.

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IBEW Linemen Help Save 3-Year-Old

Last October, Washington D.C., Local 5900 Lineman Ryan Callahan and his co-workers were holding an early morning huddle in a quiet Maryland suburb when one of them smelled smoke. The crew—who worked for the local utility Pepco—found the source: the home of Malelgo Bumunungu, who was waiting for the school bus with her two children at the end of a long driveway.

The group walked around to the back of the house, where lineman Donny Pheller saw smoke pouring out of the first-floor kitchen. After yelling and knocking on windows to see if anyone was in the house, Callahan grabbed a fire extinguisher from his truck and put out the flames coming from the kitchen, but the fire returned.

“I heard a clicking sound, which made me think it was a gas problem,” he says.

While the crew went to shut off the house’s propane line, one of the workers warned Munamunungu, who was returning back up her driveway. The house was enveloped in smoke, but she surprised everyone by rushing inside. The reason for her action soon became clear, as she ran downstairs with her 3-year-old son Asher—in her arms.

Steve Brown also helped put out the fire. County Fire officials said that, given the remoteness of the neighborhood, the Pepco crew made the level of assistance that it provided very valuable.

“I think anyone in the same situation would do the same,” says Callahan.

The crew’s quick thinking and bravery earned them gratitude from members of the county council who honored the Linemen with a proclamation.

“Those guys did is just further confirmation about how seriously IBEW members take their jobs and our commitment to serve the public,” says Local 5900 Business Manager Jim Griffin. “We are all very proud of them.”

IBEW FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP

The IBEW Founders’ Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for $200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate’s, bachelor’s or graduate degree in a field that will further the electrical industry overall (as determined by the Founders’ Scholarship Administrator). The maximum distribution is $24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

RULES FOR ENTRY

Eligibility Checklist

The Founders’ Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an honorary withdrawal for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.

2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.

3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant’s achievements and abilities.

4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.

5. A complete résumé is required. The résumé should outline the applicant’s education and work history: military service; special honors or awards; and involvement in union, civic, community or religious affairs.

6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay (typed and double spaced). The title and topic must be: “How I Will Use My Founders’ Scholarship to Benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Industry.”

7. Materials need not be sent at the same time but all must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals.

The independent Founders’ Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in The Electrical Worker.

Responsibility of Each Founder’s Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in the term immediately following receipt of the award or in January of the following year. Each term’s earned grades must be sent to the Founders’ Scholarship Administrator together with a Founder’s Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders’ Scholar paper is due. The paper must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

APPLICATION

Please print clearly or type

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________

Telephone # (___) ______________________#
Birthdate ______________________________

Member of local # _______________________
Card # _________________________________

On IBEW Membership Card or Dues Receipt

Initiated into IBEW _______________________
Month/Year _____________________________

Most recent employer ____________________
Job classification _________________________

Work telephone # (___) __________________#

Proposed field of study ___________________
Degree expected _________________________

School (list your first and second choices)
First ____________________________
Second _____________________________

Did you complete high school or receive a GED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.

Did you take apprenticeship or skill-improvement training? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee.

Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.

Have you taken any college courses? Yes ☐ No ☐
Send transcripts to the Scholarship Committee.

Name used on class records ___________________________

Signature ________________________________
Date _________________________________

Mail application materials postmarked prior to May 1 to:
IBEW FOUNDERS’ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
900 Seventh Street, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Form 172
Revised 01/10
Historic Election for Workers

L.U. 1 (as,ce,em,es,et,tm,nrtgs,se,spa, stlws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Nov. 6, 2012, was a historic night for the labor movement and middle-class families across the country as President Obama was re-elected. Here in Missouri, several Local 1 members were also successful in their bids for candidacy.

Bro. Jake Hummel won his bid for re-election to a fourth term as a state representative from the 108th District. Jake has served in Jefferson City since 2008 and will continue fighting for working-class families in Missouri.

Bro. Keith English, 68th District, won his race for state representative, receiving over 79 percent of the total vote! Keith was a city of Florissant councilman for five years and will continue his fight for working people.

Gina Walsh, an insulator and former state representative, won her election to the 15th Senatorial District in Missouri. Gina fills the seat vacated by state Sen. Tim Green, a journeyman wireman who was term limited out. Gina has some big shoes to fill, and local 1 is confident she will pick up where Bro. Green left off.

Lastly, Local 1 thanks all members who donated time, money and shoe leather for labor-friendly candidates. Without your tireless efforts, election results such as these would not be possible.

We mourn the recent death of several members: Marvin Betts, Margaret Holley, Francis Landuyt, Larry Brown, Lee Luaders, Glennon Naeger, Robert Kizer, Richard Antone, Gene Keough, Charles Benedict, Melvin Chiles, Kenneth Linenman, Dagan Ragan, Frank Maliszewski, Paul Wehner, Edward Clark, Anthony Salamon, Dushiel Moore, Donald Weekly and Robert Baitz.

Kudos to Volunteers

L.U. 9 (catgov,ltt,ltt,mo,sh,IC,CHICAGO, IL—Thank you to all the members who, along with registrars Bryan Nieciak and Mary Beth Kaczmarek, worked our phone bank. They included: Bill Adrian, Gary Bach, Pete Cashman, Marty Coen, Tom Fitzgerald, John Harris, Dan Henderson, Bob Houghton, Tom Jachim, Jeff Johnson, Peter Maguire, Claudio Marchese, Bob Marzullo, Kevin McCaul, Kevin Norris, Rich Peslak, Tony Petito, Judy Quinn, Andy Robles, Michael Shrout, John Sobieck, Roberta Wood and Harold Wright. These members volunteered their time to call each member and retiree of Local 9 to remind everyone to vote this past November. Every election is an important one. Here in Illinois we just need to look north to Wisconsin and east to Indiana to see the negative impact of so-called “right to work” on the labor movement. Therefore, we all must stay engaged at the federal, state and local levels. Please continue to educate yourself, family, friends and fellow members on the issues important to working families. We also extend heartfelt thanks to all the Local 9 members who traveled to the East Coast to help with the recovery after Hurricane Sandy.

The online payment system is now available. Payments can be made via debit or credit card or electronic check. Access the system from our Web site: www.ibew9.org.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Phil Dale, I.S.

Local 9 volunteers staff election season phone banks.

Space Shuttle Endeavor Travels through Streets of Los Angeles

L.U. 21 (ft,ls,se,spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—On Oct. 12 and 13 last year, IBEW Local 12 members took part in a historic event in Los Angeles that drew large crowds of spectators. Traffic signal members from Crosstown Electric & Data Inc. and Steiny & Company Inc. escorted Space Shuttle Endeavor 12 miles through the streets of Los Angeles, from the airport to its new home at the California Science Center. The IBEW crews cleared the path by removing traffic signal lights and replacing them to make way for the national treasure. IBEW Local 12 line men also elevated power lines to clear the path.

California faced a debated ballot proposition that threatened to silence the voice of union members. According to Kevin Norton, organizing/political director, Local 12 reached an unprecedented goal of political activism for the November 2012 election by filling more than 800 shifts to stop Proposition 32.

Through Working Californians (www.workingcalifornians.org), IBEW Locals 21 and 18 hosted a benefit concert with Crosby, Stills & Nash with Tom Morello—“The Nightwatchman.” The concert raised funds and awareness about the real intent of the corporate- and millionaire-sponsored initiative. Thanks to all the volunteers whose activism played a major role in the defeat of Prop 32.

Diana Limon, P.S.

‘Run For the Cure’ Fundraiser

L.U. 37 (em,gu,rs,spa), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—On a wet but warm September Sunday, 16 team members, made up of Local 37 members and family, participated in the Run for the Cure, a fundraising event to support Breast Cancer research.

In the weeks leading up to Run Day, the team participated in various fundraising activities—such as a BBQ, a Labour Day picnic booth, selling “goodie” bags—and were able to donate nearly $2,700 to a worthy cause. The team also received support from Local 37’s Health, Wellness & Benefits Committee, which covered registration fees and fundraising expenses. A huge thanks goes out to Local 37 and all of our supporters!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

‘Thank You to Volunteers’

L.U. 41 (emgs,go,ls,spa), BUFFALO, NY—Happy New Year, brothers and sisters! With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season behind us, let me take the time to say thank-you to our members who volunteered throughout the past year.

I know it is not easy to say yes when asked on short notice to volunteer for labor walks. I know it is not easy to say yes when asked to take time away from your family and make “get-out-the-vote” phone calls near Election Day. I know it is not easy to say yes to go house to house on your time to hand out political literature. I know it is not easy, but when our members were called upon last year to do any of these tasks, they responded with YES. When we say yes, it builds camaraderie and forges new friendships. It makes it easy to say I did something to help my local and my brothers and sisters today. After all isn’t that what it’s all about?

Gregory R. Ingalt, A.B.M.

Memorial Park Dedication

L.U. 43 (em,rt,ts,spa), SYRACUSE, NY—First, our thoughts and prayers go out to all the brothers and sisters who had their lives changed by Hurricane Sandy. At the time of this writing, the total impact was still being assessed.

The work picture remains stable for our members, and spring should open up opportunities for traveling brothers and sisters. We anticipate more jobs will be available following the 2012 election.

On Oct. 27, his birth date, a dedication ceremony was held to open a Memorial Park in honor of our past business manager, the late Bill Towsley. Approximately 60 people attended, including staff officers, IBPW personnel, friends and Bill’s family.

His parish priest, Father Fred Mannana, gave opening remarks and the blessing. Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan and pes. Costello also made brief remarks. The dedication was concluded with some “Bill stories” and a thank-you from his son, Ken Towsley, who is also a member.

The dedication plaque is mounted on a granite boulder that was unearthed from one of our job sites and it is the centerpiece for the park.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

2012 Election Victories

L.U. 47 (kt,mo,cs,spo), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Election 2012 exceeded expectations. We targeted 25 endorsed candidates, and 19 won. Many underdogs we supported were victorious. In Riverside County, two congressional seats went from Republican to Democratic. The mayor of Bakersfield Paul Cook won a seat in the U.S. Congress as did Democrat Gloria Negrete-McLeod. Cook has served as California Assembly member and Negrete-McLeod as state senator.

Trade Classifications

| (as) | Alarm & Signal |
| (bo) | Bridge Operators |
| (co) | Cable Splicers |
| (cabi) | Cable Television |
| (c) | Communications |
| (cran) | Crane Operators |
| (ees) | Electrical Equipment Service |
| (em) | Electrical Manufacturing |
| (es) | Electrical Signals |
| (et) | Electronic Technicians |
| (fgov) | Government |
| (g) | Inside |
| (fl) | Instrument Technicians |
| (ftp) | Lightning Protection Technicians |
| (lctt) | Line Clearing Tree Trimming |
| (m) | Marine |
| (mmp) | Motion Picture Studios |
| (ms) | Nuclear Service Technicians |
| (mt) | Maintenance |
| (mo) | Maintenance & Operation |
| (mpw) | Manufacturing Office Workers |
| (mrt) | Manufacturing, Repair & Testing |
| (nw) | News Reporters |
| (nc) | Network Control |
| (ns) | News Readers |
| (ntr) | Network, Transmission & Recording |
| (ntcs) | Network Control Systems |
| (ob) | Operating Engineers & Mechanic |
| (off) | Office |
| (optc) | Optics |
| (os) | Office Supply |
| (ptc) | Power Transformers |
| (ps) | Police |
| (ptt) | Printing Telecommunications |
| (ptv) | Professional, Technical & Clerical |
| (ptvcs) | Professional, Technical & Clerical Services |
| (pwr) | Power |
| (r) | Radar |
| (rm) | Radio-Television Manufacturing |
| (rta) | Radio-Television Service |
| (rtb) | Radio-Television Broadcasting |
| (rtm) | Radio-Television Marketing |
| (rtv) | Radio-Television Engineering |
| (rtvcs) | Radio-Television, Manufacturing & Service |
| (sph) | Sports Program Hosts |
| (spt) | Sound Technicians |
| (t) | Telephone |
| (ut) | Utility |
| (uow) | Utility Office Workers |
| (ws) | Warehouse and Supply |
| (wsh) | Warehouse and Storage |

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.
senator. Local 47 and Local 490 hosted an election night event attended by nearly 300 guests including many of our candidates.

Statewide, Proposition 32 was defeated. Proposition 30, which increased state income taxes for the top 2 percent, passed. Thank you all for voting.

Our 9th Annual Brotherhood Motorcycle Run was held Sept. 29. It raised money for our Injured Workers Fund and the Casa Colina Rehabilitation Center, which serves injured veterans.

At the International Lineman’s Rodeo, Steve Lekvold, Josh Regalado and Enoc Verdon captured first place in the Hurtman Rescue competition. For the Apprentice Division, Chris Schuler captured first place and Steven Escamilla placed fifth in installing a security light. Escamilla also placed fifth in the pole climb. Ameren Ozarkov took second place overall in the Contractor Apprentice competition. Congratulations to everyone who competed in the rodeo.

We are sad to report the passing of Cipriano Favela. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Live well, work safe, work union!

Sten Stosel, P.S.

Kudos to Election Volunteers

Local 51 (acct,ckt,pt,mt,rtb,ltc,uk asking), SPRINGFIELD, IL—Americans made their decision on Nov. 6 on which presidential candidate they believe will best lead our country. Thank you to all IBEW members who donated their time and money to elect Pres. Obama.

In Illinois, Pres. Obama’s coattails were very long, as country. Thank you to all IBEW members who donated Local 51, 309, 649 and 702) has ratified a four-year agreement with Ameren Illinois. At press time, the IBEW and Frontier are currently attempting to bar-gain a nationwide health care program.


Work is good here for journeyman and apprentice linemen, both in line and substation. All other classifications are slow to steady. Transmission, distribution and substation work looks to be steady for the future.

Happy New Year! We wish you another full year of happiness and success. Work safely today and every day. Please attend your monthly unit meetings.

Karenke Krisley, B.K.

Contract Ratified

L.V. 53 (ltc,pt,mt,b,ltk,rtb,ltc,Lukkooe), SPRINGFIELD, IL— IBEW System Council U-05 (consisting of Local 51, 103, 649 and 702) has ratified a four-year agreement with Ameren Illinois. At press time, the IBEW and Frontier are currently attempting to bar-gain a nationwide health care program.


Work is good here for journeyman and apprentice linemen, both in line and substation. All other classifications are slow to steady. Transmission, distribution and substation work looks to be steady for the future.

Happy New Year! We wish you another full year of happiness and success. Work safely today and every day. Please attend your monthly unit meetings.

Karenke Krisley, B.K.

Mourning Loss of a Brother

L.V. 83 (u), BINGHAMTON, NY—We are saddened to report the loss of Bro. Dale Crout. Bro. Crout was on the job aboard a helicopter inspecting lines when a crash occurred. Dale was a very good lineman who worked out of the Elmira, NY, office. Dale is survived by a wife and three children. Please keep the Crout family and Dale’s many friends in your thoughts and prayers.

System Council U-05’S and Pres. and Local 111 Vice Pres. Gary Bonker attended the IBEW Safety Caucus and National Safety Council meetings. At the event, the IBEW’s Director of Safety and Health Jim Tomasekwas awarded the 2012 Edward Eagan Soldier of Safety Commendation. Many informative topics were covered during the three-day sessions.

Local 83 worked on different campaigns during the 2012 elections. Thank you to all who helped and were active. Thank you to all who voted.

Pres./Bus. Mgr. Loretta Rameat thanks everyone for their many hours of hard work and dedication in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the following nor’easter. Your skill, safe work wherever you were during the storm is appreciated.

Don Tuttle, P.S.

‘A Huge Election Win’

L.U. 103 (c&i&l), BOSTON, MA—It was an incredible 2012 campaign season, and I am sure we are all relieved it has passed. It’s no secret that unions are politically active fighting for wages, benefits and working conditions.

The Local 103 leadership and members worked hard to help elect and re-elect candidates who are for the working class. Our business agents organized the membership to help by hosting phone banks for two months, helping get the word out on where the candidates stood on labor issues. There was a neighborhood canvass organized for the younger members to both hear the issues and also become active participants in the political scene.

Informational mailings were sent out on how votes were cast in Washington, showing where elected officials stood on issues that affect working-class people. Bus. Mgr. Michael Monahan had a video created and posted it on www.thesoldieradvantage.com, where he discussed local races in Massachusetts and New Hampshire as well as the presidential campaign, noting the concerns that directly affect union members.

On Election Day, we were proud to have Local 125 as ground zero where over a thousand volunteers showed up on Monday, Nov. 5, and on Election Day to help get out the vote, operate phone banks and distribute literature. At 10 p.m. on elec-

tion night, we received word that Elizabeth Warren was victorious in her campaign for the U.S. Senate, and about an hour later word came that President Obama won re-election. It was a huge win for us.

Kevin C. Molineaux, P.S.

‘Organizing Is Paying Off’

L.U. 111 (em,grw,ltt,mt,rtb,spak), DENVER, CO—Organizing efforts are paying off for Local 111. After months of intense negotiations with Sears District 883, a tentative agreement was reached to present to the employees. The employees of Sears District 883 voted against this proposal. We also continue to negotiate for the other newly organized groups: PSO & ICS Techs, Western Electric Coordination Council (WECC), and San Miguel Power Association.

Additionally, Public Service Company of Colorado and Local 111 reached a tentative agree-

ment concerning wages for years four and five of the collective bargaining agreement. The agreement was presented to the membership for their consid-
eration, in an effort to avoid arbitration. This is the tentative agreement reached by the parties: with a 2.5 percent across the board increase to all classifications effective May 28, 2012, and a 2.25 percent across the board increase to all classifications effective May 27, 2013. The 2.5 percent wage increase will be retroactive to May 28, 2012. All employees on the payroll on or after May 28, 2012, will receive retroactive pay for all hours paid.

On Nov. 2, 2012, the bargaining unit of PSO accepted this proposal, thus avoiding arbitration. Wishing everyone a prosperous and happy New Year.

Mike Kostelecky, P.S.

Advocating for Workers

L.U. 25 (ltc,pt,mt,rtb,spak), PORTLAND, OR—Bro. Matt Kantetter’s recent death has served as a catalyst to initiate new conversations about work practices at Bonneville Power Administration. Local 125 and BPA have engaged in discussions about overall work prac-
tices with emphasis on full protection. These types of discussion are not foreign to our local, nor will BPA be the last utility that assesses how to manage fall protection. If you have questions or concerns, please direct them to your business representative.

Elections have concluded. Thank you to everyone who participated in our democratic process—no matter who had your vote. We’ll be working with our newly elected officials to protect and advocate for you. Congratulations to Jake Carter, Local 25 business representative, for winning his election. Jake earned a seat on the Board of Directors at Columbia River PUD.

Moving into 2013, we will face new challenges and experience new successes. Make a commitment to re-engage in our union. Attend your unit meeting. Participate in union-sponsored activities such as Casino Night on Jan. 19, 2013. Organize an event to help your community. This is not the time to let another carry the load alone. Do your part to honor those who have participated in our democratic process—no matter who had your vote. We’ll be working with our newly elected officials to protect and advocate for you. Congratulations to Jake Carter, Local 25 business representative, for winning his election. Jake earned a seat on the Board of Directors at Columbia River PUD.

Moving into 2013, we will face new challenges and experience new successes. Make a commitment to re-engage in our union. Attend your unit meeting. Participate in union-sponsored activities such as Casino Night on Jan. 19, 2013. Organize an event to help your community. This is not the time to let another carry the load alone. Do your part to honor those who have participated in the future of the IBEW.

Many Grall, P.S.

Union Sportsmen’s Clay Shoot

L.U. 253 (em,mt,rtb,spak), SOUTH BEND, IN—We are proud of our brothers who competed in
Labor's Efforts Successful

the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Indianapolis Area Sporting Clay Shoot in Fishers, IN. Our team took first place in this event. Team members pictured in the accompanying photo are Dave Overmyer, Todd Emmons, Nick Shade, Greg Szewc and Rich Erickson. This event was attended by IBEW unions from the area along with other AFL-CIO unions. It was a great showing for the IBEW, as the IBEW took the top five team positions.

Recently, we presented service pins to some of our retirees, and Frank Denene was in attendance to receive his 65-year pin. Congratulations to all the retirees for their milestones.

We mourn the loss of several members who passed away last year. Unfortunately, in 2012 we lost the largest number of members, retired and active, in any single year in recent times.

In work in the area continues to show signs of improvement, but not at the pace we would like. In 2013, we have two scheduled refueling outages for D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant, a $1 billion gas plant, and our usual customers who keep providing opportunities for employment. This is work that we all want and need.

Stan Miles, Pres., B.A. Labor's Efforts Successful

Members Take Action

L.U. 237 (L), NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.—Rather than sit back and wait for other people to make changes, IBEW Local 237 members decided to get involved. We had members and (even some of their children) petition to become committee members for the Niagara County Democratic Committee. Our members had such enthusiasm and passion for what they were doing and spent countless hours going door to door in their respective neighborhoods. As a result, we now have Local 237 members who are a part of the Niagara County Democratic Committee! There was a fantastic turnout of Local 237 brothers at the Niagara County Democratic meeting in October last year, when the committee members were announced.

Big thanks to our Democratic committee members: Local 237 members Tom Aurelio, Mike Pressor, Bill Antelantia, Gerry Wisor, Gary Woslowski, Charlie Laska, Vince Colasante, Mark Grozio, Josh Hagar, Tim Rhodes, Tony Parrotto, Dave Naas and Nick Colye, who was named sergeant-at-arms for the Niagara County Democratic Committee.

Timothy Cantrill, P.S. Pro Tem

Local 257 members working on the University of Missouri Medical Center gathering at the job site.

Weathering the Storm

L.U. 269 (L), TRENTON, N.J.—Just as everyone’s attention was turned toward the upcoming elections, Hurricane Sandy arrived and, overnight, became the biggest concern of millions of lives all along the East Coast. Although many states were affected, New Jersey bore much of the brunt of Sandy’s wrath. As the slow, and at times painful, recovery process begins we are all reminded of the things in life that truly matter: family, faith and perseverance. Brotherhood is at the core of our beliefs as union electricians, and so it should be now at the core of efforts to help each other get back on our feet and continue to build a future for ourselves and those we love. You do not need a disaster or personal crisis to compel you to extend a helping hand to someone in need, but if there ever was a time to do so, it was during the massive cleanup after Hurricane Sandy.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. We’ve had line crews that were working in our area pull up stakes and head east to assist in repairing the damage. We hope the workers remain safe and remember to expect the unexpected while working in those areas hit by the storm.

At this writing, we are planning the dedication of the first Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Idaho; it is located at our JATC Building and powered by a 7.2 Kw solar array. We plan to invite many of our state and local dignitaries to attend.

Aaron White, B.M./F.S.

Utility Crews Head East To Restore Power

L.U. 309 (L,CT,MO,MT,NE,SD,WA), COLLINSVILLE, Ill.—At this writing, the two big stories are the election and the massive clean-up after Hurricane Sandy. Thanks to early voting a lot of our members were able to cast their vote before heading east for the huge task of restoring power. Ameren released contract crews in addition to sending utility crews from Missouri and Illinois.

After long negotiations between System Council U-05 and Ameren Illinois, we finally reached a four-year agreement, which was ratified Oct. 15, 2012. Local 309 thanks our negotiating committee along to all service pin recipients! Thanks to Bus. Mgr. Donnie Bruemmer and Jim Winemiller for getting this together with help from third-year apprentices.

Contract negotiations have begun. Our current one-year contract ends Feb. 28, 2013. We need the input of Local 257 members. Support your local union, so we can keep our unions strong.

Ryan Buschjost, P.S.

Local 269’s graduating class of 2012 stands with outgoing president and JATC school headmaster Cliff Reiser (far left) and instructor Leo Wyanowski (far right).

Local Lines

Hospitals Projects

L.U. 257 (L,MO,IB,IL,IA), JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Happy New Year! Hope the New Year brings work and happiness for all. 2012 was a good work year for Local 257 members. The work picture for 2013 looks steady also.

Thanks to all who voted on Nov. 6 last year. Congratulations to all candidates we supported who won election.

The Patient Tower project at the University of Missouri is going well; Local 257 members are wiring the hospital. This project is keeping many members working and will be completed in early 2013.

The new St. Mary’s Hospital project will also be wired by Local 257 members; it is to be completed in spring of 2013.

With the University of Missouri Tigers’ move to the Southeastern Conference, they will add seats to Faurot Stadium and update several projects on the campus in Columbia, MO. We hope our local contractors can pick up many of these projects.

For the Labor Day parade on Sept. 8, Local 257 active members and retirees helped with the float and blew up balloons to hand out. Thanks to all who participated!

Our annual picnic was Sept. 15 at Riverside Park in Jefferson City. We had a good turnout and enjoyed activities, barbeque and camaraderie. Congratulations

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.
with the committees from Locals 53, 649 and 702.

On Nov. 3, 2012, we held our Annual 50-Year Luncheon at Sunset Hills Country Club for our retirees. This event is always well attended and last year was no exception. The 50-year honorees were: James C. Bradley, Daniel P. Corin, David D. Foree, Alan N. Gilmore, Glenn E. Headen, James J. Heilig, Eugene Kouch, Edward N. Simmons, John M. Stallions Jr. and Wilhem G. Verschuyl.

We also had one 70-year member, Paul Selbert. Congratulations to all on these milestones.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

‘Trading Sunshine for Dollars’

L.U. 349 (Lspa8kt), LE SUEUR, MN—The fall season brought the completion of Local 349’s solar installation. The non-tracking system is capable of producing 7,200 watts. Through an inverter, the dc current is changed to 208V, 3 phase, and fed into the building. The energy will be used to reduce our electric bill. Local 349 Training Dir. Andy Tuft spearheaded the project, which was funded through a grant from the Department of Energy with the Work Force Development program. Work Force Development offers interested applicants a chance to see if an electrical apprenticeship is a possible career path.

The grant benefited students and contractors alike. Tuition was paid for by the grant to those enrolling in a solar technician course offered at the Albert Lea Technical College. Progressive contractors took advantage of free classes at the Local 343 hall pertaining to the solar market, installations, and the benefits of the emerging green economy.

Thanks go out to traveling members who filled our calls for the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant project. The IBEW is more than one man, one woman, one shop, one local or one state. We must help each other when the need arises. That is one part of brotherhood. Buy American.

Tom Snell, P.S.

Thanks to Union Volunteers

L.U. 357 (Ci mt8k), LAS VEGAS, NV—We are pleased to start 2013 by welcoming our newest Local 357 member at NIPSCO R.M. Schahfer Generating Station.

For the 2012 election campaign, thank you to everyone who registered people to vote, phone banked, door knocked, and gave endless hours of their time to help with the victories that were achieved here in our great state. We know that with the people union members helped elect to office, from the president to officials here in Clark County, we will be able to continue to move forward.

Jennifer Tabor, P.S.

‘Fortunate with Work’

L.U. 449 (RCt, em, Lo, Oft, Tu, kna8ku), PICATELLO, ID—At this writing, we are celebrating President Obama’s re-election. We hope every member was thoroughly educated on the issues and realized what a Romney administration would have done to destroy organized labor and advance the GOP corporate agenda. Our state elections were also very important and will determine the fate of our survival along with the continuous attack on teachers and their bargaining rights. It is very clear and imperative that we have a lot of educating to do before the next midterm elections, and the next general election in 2016.

We have been fortunate with work in Local 449’s western counties employing up to 255 wiremen, at peak, with five signatory contractors at the Chobani Yogurt Plant in Twin Falls. Other work is in progress as well—notably in the market where we previously have not been for some time, the food processing facilities.

Local 449 hopes all union brothers and sisters had happy holidays and wishes everyone a prosperous New Year.

Congratulations to recent retirees Steven G. Morris, Vaughn Parker and Allen Weaver. Thank you for your service, brothers.

Mike Lee Miera, Pres.

Local Solidarity

L.U. 531 (r), LAPORTE, IN—Pictured in the accompanying photo are proud Local 531 members at the NIPSCO R.M. Schahfer Generating Station in Wheatfield, IN. This is the site of an FGD (flue gas desulfurization) project responsible for reducing sulfur emissions for Units 14 and 15.

The interesting thing about this photo is that it was taken on “Red Shirt Friday,” or Solidarity Day, which is every Friday in our local. This tradition started in the 1960s at a time when negotiations were particularly hard, much like today. The leaders of our local decided at that time that a show of solidarity was needed during our contract negotiations. Since then, for the last 30 some years, every Friday has been known as Solidarity Day. Our members take this tradition very seriously and it is practiced almost exclusively on all jobs in our jurisdiction. Customers, construction managers, other trades and travelers working in our local see this solidarity as a source of pride and camaraderie. I could only recommend that this tradition be carried on throughout the entire labor movement. Solidarity, brothers!

Dean F. Harmon, P.S.

Casino Project Breaks Ground

L.U. 551 (C,tjks), SANTA ROSA, CA—Greetings. In 2012 our local marked another good time by honoring some of our great members with service pins at our Old Timers Dinner, with over 150 in attendance.

Our new Pres. John McIntegart presented service pins to: two brothers with 20 years of service; one sister with 25 years of service; Bus. Mgr. Jack Buckhorn with 30 years; eight brothers with 40 years; two brothers with 45; four brothers with 50; and four brothers with 55 years of service. Our big 60-year pins went to: Otis Harmon, Leo Nauman, James Poppe and Mike Sepulveda! And a big shout-out to Bro. Bob McKusick, who also attended the dinner; he is 91 years young with 72 years of service! Congratulations to these fine brothers and one sister on their accomplishments in our trade!

The Graton Federated Rancheria Casino broke ground and has manned up with the initial crew. By spring of 2013, it should peak with 90 electricians and 30 low voltage installers. This project labor agreement with the tribe equals a 100 percent union job site! This reportedly will be the largest Indian gaming casino in the United States.

And a big thank-you to all who volunteered on our election campaigns with phone banking, precinct walking and putting out signs! Work safe!

Denise Saia, B.R./P.S.

The Fight for Workers

L.U. 557 (Lmt,rksoa), SAGINAW, MI—The recent November 2012 election was bitter sweet for us in the state of Michigan. At the national level, we were happy to see President Barack Obama re-elected for a second term. However, the outcome for the state level election was not completely in our favor. The battle to pass Prop 2 (collective bargaining) did not work out as we hoped. With that proposition not passing, so-called “right-to-work” legislation was being discussed the very next day by some lawmakers in Lansing. With a right-to-work bill then rushed through the lame-duck legislature and signed so fast after the defeat of Prop 2, our fight has just begun. Until we break the stranglehold of Republican power in Lansing, our fight will not relent.

So, the next round of elections will be as important as the November 2012 elections that just took place. We thank everybody who worked so hard on the effort to elect labor-friendly candidates and to pass ballot measures in our favor.

Jason Rivette, P.S.

A Brother is Mourned

L.U. 589 (In), JAMAICA, NY—On Aug 27, 2012, tragedy struck the Long Island Railroad and IBEW Local 589. Third Railman Ronald Sampson was performing routine maintenance with his co-workers in Queens, NY, on the many miles of track in the LIRR system. While performing his duties he did the everyday, Ron came into contact with the electrified third rail. The other members in his work group tried their best to save Ron’s life. They moved him away from the rail and started CPR, but tragically Ron did not survive. Ron was a 53-year old son, husband, and father of four children. This is a true-life example of the level of risk Local 589 members face each day while maintaining the infrastructure of the largest commuter railroad in the country. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with his family, and he will be missed always.

Augie MacCannie, R.S.

Zero Net Energy Center

L.U. 595 (Lpco,Lhko), DUBLIN, CA—Greetings from the East Bay! Since Nov. 6, we have been celebrating the re-election of President Barack Obama, the defeat of the anti-union Prop 32 initiative, and the election of worker-friendly Democrats throughout the state of California.

Kudos to our three Young Workers who successfully coordinated Local 595’s “No on 32 Campaign” — Tanya Pitts, Rachel Bryan and Jason Gumataotao. And thanks to all Local 595 members who worked hard on voter registration, member-to-member outreach, phone banking, precinct walking, lawn-sign planting and literature drops throughout the 2012 campaign. Your hard work paid off.

We are looking to our future. On Oct. 16, 2012, we had over 250 people attend our commissioning of the Zero Net Energy Center in San Leandro. This facility will house our new IBEW/NECA JATC and contain apprentice and journeymen training classrooms, hands-on labs, offices for staff and a large multipurpose meeting room for future events. The Zero Net Energy building will produce as much electricity as it consumes and will be where we train our future workforce on all the cutting edge technology of the 21st century.

At this writing, there are 59 on Book 1; 227 on Book II; and one apprentice available for work.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

Contract Ratification

L.U. 611 (cat,h,em,lctt,spa&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM — On Nov. 17 last year, Local 611 ratified a one-year contract agreement with Eonco, US Electric and Freeman Electric. As of this writing we have yet to sign with the NECA contractors.

The 2012 election had a great turnout. If you are not registered to vote, go by the union hall and they can guide you to someone who can get you registered.

Steve Horcheimer has retired after many years of teaching at the JATC. Thank you, Steve, for your time and service. Rodney Becenti will be the new teacher. Joe Fratechaud was appointed to fill the vacancy on the E-Board; and Bobby Arencio is back temporarily filling the post vacated by Adam Wysong, who recently resigned.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, the deductible for our insurance will increase to $420 per person and $800 per family.

Local 611 officers and members extend condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Harold W. Paschke, Harry W. Greatbatch, Wayne Kelly, Herman Coots, Louis “Louie” Mora, William G. Thomas, Don Q. Fletcher, Billy P. Wilson and Larry M. Johns.

Direk J. Blais, P.S.

Our instructors, Gary Sammons, Frank Trost and John Holt, now have a facility worthy of their efforts. We thank the members of the JATC Training Dir. Shewmake, Bus. Mgr. Jack Tueth, journeymen wireman Ryan Mouser and our contractor partners, Mike Kaliot of Wegman Electric, Tom Brown of Camp Electric, and Larry Noble of IF Electric.

As Local 649 continues into our second century of existence, our training will be second to none.

Charles Yancey, A.B.M.

Work Picture Update

L.U. 649 (cat,h,em,lctt,spa&u), MEDFORD, OR — The local saw a slight increase in employment toward the end of 2012. Pacific Power contracted out some work during the fourth quarter, with Wilson Construction and DJ Construction awarded the jobs. This, along with some Bonneville Power Association (BPA) work, helped to keep the outside line book clear. There may be more work from Pacific Power in 2013. There are some inside wiremen jobs tentatively scheduled for 2013. Applegate Dam in southern Oregon is getting a generation facility retrofitted that looks to go union. Also there is a 12 megawatt solar array scheduled to be built in Bly, Oregon.

Full-time Organizer John Hutter continues to work on various organizing campaigns. John has been able to get calls on some high profile jobs, resulting in bringing in some new wiremen to the local. These workers are able to enjoy a much higher wage and benefit package than they had working nonunion.

Tom Legg, Pres.

Ford Dealership Project

L.U. 673 (cat,h,em,lctt,spa&u), PARNESVILLE, OH — All of our members’ hard work resulted in labor friendly candidates being elected to many local positions. On the national stage, voters rejected the right-wing ideology of Mitt Romney. Hopefully President Obama will represent organized labor well. I thank all of our members who volunteered for the election season walks and the phone banks.

One of the projects going up in our area is the new Classic Ford dealership. Jim Brown, owner of the Classic Auto Group, is a true friend of labor. While many of his peers endorse the “race to the bottom” by hiring open shop contractors from all
over the country, Jim continues to stand by us and use only union trades on his projects. Please support the Classic Auto Group by buying all of your cars from them.

We continue in our effort to communicate more effectively with all of our members. With issues regarding our pension and health care arising every day, it is more important than ever that you keep up with what is going on in the hall. In addition to our Web site www.ibew673.org and newsletter, you may also follow us on Twitter and Facebook @IBEWLocal673.

Jim Braunlich, P.S.

Appointments Announced

L.U. 915 (u&m t), TAMPA, FL—Local 915 and our JATC Dir. over the country, Jim continues to stand by us and David McCraw were proud to have U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (FL) and our re-elected President Obama. Theresa King, P.S.

Members Help Restore Power

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Hurricane Sandy tore into the Eastern seaboard in late October, and 122 IBEW Local 1439 members employed with Entergy, Alliant, and Ameren/MO traveled to various parts of New Jersey to restore power to hundreds of thousands in need. Our commitment to safely brought everyone back home to their families with a sense of pride and accomplishment, and needlessly to say, stories and photos of the wrath of Mother Nature can do. Local 1439 members collected $600 for a Local 94 brother who was involved in an electrical contact during restoration. After restoring power to a union hall, several Local 1439 members were rewarded with special T-shirts in appreciation for their assistance. Mike Walter, B.M.

Favorable NLRB Ruling

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Congratulations to Bro. Joseph Hyrkas, lineman apprentice at Duke Energy Terre Haute office, for receiving second place in the Apprentice Best of the Best category and second place in the Apprentice Investor Owned Utility Division” at the 29th Annual International Lineman’s Rodeo held Oct. 13, 2012, in Bonner Springs, KS. The Lineman’s Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks.

An Administrative Law Judge for the National Labor Relations Board issued a decision Oct. 16, 2012, holding American Water illegally slashed health care and other benefits for 7,500 workers in nearly 20 different bargaining units in 15 states across the U.S. Local 1393 has 60 members at Indiana-American Water affected by this decision. The decision orders the company to pay back pay with interest to all affected employees and cease and desist from such changes to the health care, retiree insurance and short-term disability. The current back pay estimates are approximately $4 million. Special thanks go to IBEW Eleventh District Int. Rep. James Lynch for his hard work on this issue. Robert C. Fox, P.S.

Local 915 Tampa JATC unveils new electric car charging station.

Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie (at podium) announces, at an AFL-CIO meeting, that AmTote won a New York Racing Association contract.

AmTote Wins Major Contract

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Our members at AmTote International in the racing industry finally received some good news. In fact it’s the best news in many years. AmTote won a major contract at the Aqueduct Race Track, in Jamaica, N.Y, with New York Racing Association. This news led Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie to congratulate AmTote, praising those management representa-tives responsible for the win. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie stated this was the best news we received in 10 years. We can only hope we are on a roll and the aggressive sales techniques displayed by AmTote on this contract will continue to win new business for our members. It is our understanding that we will be going after the California contracts in about two years. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie has stayed friends with the California unions over the years, especially Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which represents the mutuals at the California tracks, and they have been keeping each other informed as to what is going on.

Thomas Rotkowski, R.S.

Electric Car Charging Station

L.U. 915 (u&m t), TAMPA, FL—Local 915 and our JATC Dir. David McCraw were proud to have U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor (FL) at our facilities to attend the unveiling of our new electric car charging station. Through our partnership with private industry, we have acquired a Schneider Electric Vehicle 7.2kW Level 2 Charging Station. This is a pedestal-mount, user-friendly single unit. It uses the standard SAE-J1772 receptacle, which will connect to 90 percent of the electrical vehicles on the road in North America today.

With this charging station we are training the future leaders of the electrical industry in this new and growing highly technical field. Our apprentices have installed this station with all the bells and whistles, including a sub-metering system that will allow us to see the exact electrical consumption of each vehicle charging. This will allow us not only to train in the installation and programming of this system, but it will also allow us to help analyze the future impact on our infrastructure and our electrical grid. Thanks go out to Tampa JATC Instructor Tom Bedwell for spearheading this effort.

Congratulations to our labor friendly re-elected officials Rep. Kathy Castor, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (FL) and our re-elected President Obama.

Local 1393 lineman apprentice Joseph Hyrkas displays award.

‘Strong, Helping Hands’

L.U. 5723 (u), MICHITPA, KS—It’s a new year, and that brings many hopes and dreams. With the 2012 elections behind us, it is time for continued support of efforts on behalf of working people. The leaders of our country have a tough job ahead of them. They will have a lot of hard work to do.

When Hurricane Sandy struck last year, Local 523 and many other IBEW locals went into action. It’s called a Brotherhood. It feels good to know that we can count on each other. But we need to remember that the same spirit of brotherhood works at home too. As a member of our local, I can’t help but think of all the brothers and sisters that we can help. Sometimes we may forget, but sitting right next to you is someone you can depend on—or someone who may need your help.

We had steward training in October. (See photo, bottom right!) The crowd was small but the information that Int. Rep. Linda Mathews brought to the table was and is invaluable to the stewards. Our Seventh District Int. Rep. Todd Newkirk also shared very useful information and it was a good meeting. I know that I say this a lot, but your steward is the first line of contact for you. Do you know who your steward is? Help your steward out; talk to him or her to see what you can do to help.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

‘Brotherhood’

L.U. 5723 (u), AUGUSTA, GA—The work outlook in Augusta has had a few setbacks with engineering issues on the Vogtle project and layoffs at the Savannah River Site. Many of the traveling brothers and sisters have stepped up and left due to high unemployment on Book 1. Thanks for all your help and thanks for making room for our local brothers and sisters. Let’s all remember that the “B” in IBEW stands for brotherhood. Sometimes, many forget that we belong to a brotherhood. How could anyone forget? When you hear a brother belittle another brother in order to build himself up in others’ eyes and when you think you are better than your fellow brother, then this is the time you have ceased to help the cause of the IBEW. When you constantly look for something wrong, you are missing so much right.

Let’s have a stronger brotherhood, more standing together, more compassion and more teamwork. Until next time, God bless.

Will Saiters, A.B.M.

See www.IBEW.org
Michigan’s Big Step Backward

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Passage of right-to-work legislation in Michigan marks a huge step backward for working families—both in the Midwest and across the United States.

At a time when lawmakers’ top priority should be job creation and rebuilding the middle class, Gov. Rick Snyder and the majority of the lame duck state legislature voted to silence the voices of Michigan’s middle class, slash their wages and divide union and nonunion workers against each other.

Contrary to the claims of right-to-work boosters, there is no evidence that weakening unions will make Michigan more competitive or create jobs. What it will do is “Wal-martize” the economy, making the state a haven for low-wage jobs that do little to lift the average worker out of poverty.

Right-to-work laws drive down wages for all workers by an average of $1,500 a year, whether they are in a union or not. And 28 percent more workers go without health insurance in right-to-work states than in non-right-to-work ones.

Snyder’s radical course will also paralyze the legislative process, poisoning the political atmosphere in Lansing for years and threatening Michigan’s tentative economic recovery. As the Detroit Free Press—which endorsed Snyder—put it, right-to-work legislation will leave other initiatives in the dust, including bills targeting jobs, infrastructure spending and education.

Since his election in 2010, Snyder repeatedly announced that he considered right-to-work divisive and not on his agenda. And many Democratic, independent, and moderate Republican voters believed him, seeing Snyder as a different kind of Republican—a pragmatist who would focus on bipartisan, common-sense solutions to rebuild the economy, as opposed to Tea Party backed Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Ohio’s John Kasich, and Rick Scott of Florida, who embroiled their respective states in divisive battles over anti-worker legislation.

But under pressure from big money right-wing ideologues like the Koch brothers and anti-union lobbyists like Dick DeVos, Snyder and GOP legislators reversed course, cramming through right-to-work legislation before many lawmakers had the chance to even read the bill—all while expelling pro-worker protestors from the state capitol.

Michigan voters made clear last November that they wanted their elected officials to focus on building the middle class from the bottom up, working together to find solutions to getting the economy back on track.

Snyder chose to ignore the voters’ will. He joins the ranks of Walker, Scott and Kasich in pursuing policies that increase the power of the very wealthy, silence the voices of working families and promote an economic race to the bottom—a race where the only winners will be Wall Street and outsourcing CEOs.

The IBEW stands together with Michiganders in denouncing Snyder’s deceptive tactics and will work to hold all elected officials accountable in our efforts to build a stronger Michigan and country—one that benefits all families and gives every worker a shot at a decent future for themselves and their children.

No Time to be Silent

November seems like a long time ago. It was a great success for America and for working men and women, and it was working men and women who made it happen. We are right to be proud of the strength we showed at the ballot box.

Old fashioned common sense rejected the concept of government that worked best for those with the most.

As we can see in Michigan, our opponents aren’t accepting the voter’s voice gracefully. But just like our victory in November was not the end of the story, we will lick our wounds in Michigan and come right back.

If we leave the field now, all we won was stopping the worst from happening. If we quit raising our voices and telling our story, the president and Senate will be our last line of defense to stop the worst new ideas of the union busters, at least at the national level. That isn’t success, though, and we won’t be able to build anything new, anything better.

The president has been out there campaigning like the election isn’t over. We should be too.

Speaking up. Making calls. Writing letters.

Only if the collective union voice is louder than the money will we help the president see through his promise to fix a tax system that punishes work and rewards wealth.

Only if we work as hard today as we did leading up to Nov. 6 will we save Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and guarantee a dignified life for all Americans.

Then, the real victory will be returning people to work. If we are silent before government in the United States and Canada, manufacturing will continue to grow without benefiting workers and the infrastructure projects that will support the future competitiveness of our nations will sit unbuilt.

Campaign 2012 is over. The campaign for the continent we want to build is not.
Who We Are

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

Fund Helps Struggling Chicago Members

Volunteers at Chicago Local 134 administer the Helping Hand Fund. From left are Marty McElligott, Carmen Paulo, Dan Ruiz, Gene Kent, Mike Evans, Brennan Logue, Andy Donohue, Juan Little and Tim Ryan. Not pictured is Ryan Medlar.

In addition to receiving gift cards and other monetary assistance, many members have had their local union dues paid for while they await job calls.

“The Helping Hand Fund and our other initiatives at Local 134 have helped increase the participation at our monthly union meetings,” said Allen. “The response has been overwhelming. We used to have maybe 300 people come to union meetings, and we now have about 1,500. The Helping Hand Fund is part of that.” Allen estimates that members have donated about $218,000 in the past year.

The volunteers are hosting their first-ever fundraiser from 1-6 p.m. on April 28 at 115 Bourbon Street in nearby Merionette Park.

Members who would like to contribute to the fund can do so at www.HelpingHand134.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call (312) 474-4041.
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