Increased oil and gas production, like from this drilling rig in Shreveport, La., has translated into tens of thousands of new jobs.

Better known for its zydeco music clubs and restaurants serving up boiled crawfish, Lake Charles, La., has recently become one of the leaders of the United States’ energy revolution—a revolution that has not only radically changed the country’s energy portfolio, but has revived a sluggish construction industry, putting tens of thousands of electricians back to work. Just ask Lake Charles Local 861 Business Manager Jeffrey Sanders. “I haven’t been this optimistic since the 1970s,” he said.

Every member of his local is working, with an additional 100 travelers in town. “We increased our membership by 30 percent since January,” he said. One of the biggest jobs they are working on is the Golden Nugget casino, a 30,000-square-foot entertainment complex and luxury hotel.

But what’s really powering the construction boom in Lake Charles is liquefied natural gas, better known as LNG.

“Pretty much all future work in this area hinges on natural gas,” Sanders said.

LNG is natural gas that is converted to liquid form for ease of transport. Built a few years ago, the first local LNG facility in the area was designed to receive natural gas imports. But the rapid growth of gas drilling in the U.S. has made exporting—not importing—a lucrative field for energy companies, forcing a major retooling of the facility.

The Lake Charles Liquefaction Project recently received permission from the U.S. Energy Department to export domestically produced gas. Two other multibillion dollar export facilities are also in the works, including a $15 billion gas-to-liquids terminal to be built by South African energy giant Sasol.

All in all, more than $240 billion in natural gas and oil related projects are coming to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, stretching from Brownsville on the Texas/Mexico border up through Florida.

“Oil and gas are such a huge stimulus to the economy,” says International Representative Tom Davis, who serves as business development representative for the area. Industry-related jobs have grown by 40 percent since 2007. And the economic effect extends beyond the oil and gas projects themselves.

“We’re seeing new industrial and commercial projects going up to support LNG,” Sanders said. “Buildings for power tool shops, vendors to back up these big jobs.”
Energy Boom Powering Construction Recovery

Shale Fortunes

U.S. Energy Production by Fuel

Shale has transformed the United States into an energy export power. 

Energy Boom: Powering Construction Recovery

Shale gas. Natural gas. Extracted through some process behind Texas. This has turned North Dakota into the second unit whose deposits are more accessible for extraction. S. Korea is now behind the U.S. in terms of production. Fracking, natural gas extracted from shale, will be online by 2017. In the Marcellus Shale, more than 100 new providers are being approved as of now. Boone Barnett is going to speak on mining. Barnett is the speaker of the Texas legislature. We've been building processing plants, compressor stations and pipelines that provide parts for the industry. It's an industrial revolution. We've got companies hiring. Let's talk about construction and what the industry is doing.

An Uneven Recovery

We've got a $2 trillion deficit, 60% of industry leadership is construction—especially hard-hats like us. That's why the industry is so important. And it's good to have us in the job market. We've got a lot of jobs.

Unemployment Recovery

There are those who say that the economy is recovering, but our unemployment rate seems to be stuck at 8%. Let's talk about construction and what the industry is doing.

Green Lines

While natural gas and oil remain the main sources of the energy-related construction boom, renewable power is increasingly becoming a major area of focus.

Emerging Technologies

The natural gas boom has transformed the United States into an energy export power.

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Life Returns to Vancouver Shipyards

Vancouver is known as the city where the big ships go. But now, a new chapter is beginning. BC Ferries is expanding its fleet with four new ships on the way. This is a major milestone for the local shipbuilding industry and a testament to the city’s resilience and adaptability.

As BC Ferries announces the addition of four new ships to its fleet, the city of Vancouver is bustling with activity. The local shipbuilding industry is thriving, and the city is once again becoming a hub for innovation and growth.

The four new ships, which will be built at the Seaspan Shipyards facility in North Vancouver, are expected to bring hundreds of jobs to the area and boost the local economy. This is a significant development for the city, which has seen a decline in the shipbuilding industry in recent years.

The new ships will be used to replace older vessels, and the project will create up to 500 jobs during the construction phase. This is a major boost for the local economy, and it is expected to have a positive impact on the local community.

In addition to the new ships, the city is also working on a number of other projects that will help to boost the local economy. The recently completed Vancouver Convention Centre expansion is one example of this. The expansion has created hundreds of jobs and has helped to bring in millions of dollars in revenue to the local economy.

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As the city continues to grow and evolve, it is clear that the shipbuilding industry is a key player in the city’s success. With the addition of the new ships, the city is once again becoming a hub for innovation and growth. This is a significant development for the city, and it is expected to have a positive impact on the local community for years to come.
ORGANIZING WIRE

A Texas Local's Work Unites to Win Improved Benefits

Robert Sample

Leading industrial employees switched their health plan to cover even more employees at the South Texas Project nuclear facility (STP) as its new collective bargaining agreement took effect.

Asplundh Trimmers Vote "Yes" in W.Va.

With 530 employees and membership in the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., one of the nation’s largest tree and landscaping firms, has negotiated a collective bargaining agreement that includes significant gains for its workers.

California Locals Win at SimplexGrinnell

On Dec. 8, by a vote of 112 to 107, members of SimplexGrinnell, strongest of the spray irrigation contractors in the Bay Area, voted to authorize their bargaining committee to conclude a new agreement.

Self-Certification; NO For the Auto Industry

A recent Associated Press report revealed that the auto industry is self-certifying and conducting its own National Labor Relations Board election to determine whether it’s unlawful to force workers to vote for union representation.

Lean #1: "We're Moving to the Cloud" at General Electric

GE Digital is moving away from a culture of omniscient IT staff to one where employees can work remotely and have access to the data they need to do their jobs with little or no IT overhead.

Lean #2: "Let’s Get the Facts" at American Express

The American Express Global Travel Related Services Company is looking to organize. "When you already represent employees, you can legally look at other groups and say: ‘This is who we are. ’"
Submit Local News Articles

L.I. Local 41, at 4245 Genesee St., Suite C, 14604, ST. LOUIS, MO—On July 8, hundreds of IBEW members and organizers from across the country attended the Local 431 rally in support of the St. Louis Labor Day parade. The rally featured a number of prominent speakers and organizers, including the late John Moyle, P.S. The event was to show solidarity with the workers of St. Louis and raise awareness of the importance of worker rights and union organizing. 

**UNIONS BUILT THIS CITY**

**Local IBEW Members March in the St. Louis Labor Day Parade.**

IBEW Local 1 members march in 2014 St. Louis Labor Day parade. 

Unions and organizations in the St. Louis Labor Day parade. 

Local IBEW leaders and members showed their solidarity and commitment to the labor movement. 

IBEW Local 1 members, including John Moyle, P.S., marched in the parade.

Local IBEW leaders and members showed their solidarity and commitment to the labor movement.

**Questions? Please call or email the Media Department at**

1-800-272-9562 or media@ibew.org

**www.ibew.org/articles/journaldeadlines.htm**

Please e-mail or call the Media Department at 1-800-272-9562 or media@ibew.org for more information.

**IBEW local news members march in 2014 St. Louis Labor Day parade.**

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**Back to top**
IBEW Local 193 members and their families gather at Labor Day parade in Springfield, IL.

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Molly Backus, P.S.
You gave yourself for your country and your fellow special thank-you to our IBEW military veterans! You friendly to IBEW Local 363. Let's make sure we push best thing that can happen is that reading these

Running for a council seat in the city of Garden Grove.

Apprentices were: Chris Grider (December 2013 class), Jason December 2013 class was Matt Selby; Apprentice of for a job well done. The committee recognized their for the local and the contractors.

Local 481 congratulates recent apprenticeship graduates. 

Donation to Shelter

Topaz Solar Project Far

L.U. 595 (rr), JAMAICA, NY—Local 595 is proud to offer the opening ceremony, and he was presented a check for $500 to the Home Sunshine Shelter of Queens to help support the shelter.

The children in attendance have fun playing the on-site activities. They were both house-bound for almost 2 years and being able to play outside was great for them.

Viewpoints

We reached a tentative agreement with the agreement; we expect nothing less during an unprecedented storm to cast their votes out during an unprecedented storm to cast their votes.
IBEW Tree Trimmers

Local 42 (I.E., NM), STRATEGIC, NV—That was a fantastic article on IBEW tree trimmers published recently in the IBEW newspaper. The article also can be read online at www.ibew.org/1641/issue201411/downloads/TreeTrimmers.pdf.

Supporting Organizing Efforts

Local 1427, L.A., conts. its efforts, Long Beach, CA—Local 1427 members at 1427 responded quickly when the late Frank C. Aleman, 87, a 49-year member and five-year trimmer, died on April 18. A 40-year veteran with Trimco Electric, Frank was a member of the late 1960s, won a company recognition award and a scholarship for one of his sons.

The IBEW/North local’s News Web site at www.iberiaweb.org has a link to a video of the event, which included members from Bellingham, WA, Seattle and Vancouver.

Sierra Lobo Contract Ratified

Local 1245, L.A., REINFORCEMENTS, NV—Local 1245 members have ratified a two-year contract with Sierra Lobo, a division of Trimco Electric, effective March 1, 2014.

Top three tree-trimming events this year:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. You must submit the photo no later than Nov. 30, 2014.
2. The contest is open only to IBEW members. The contest is open only to IBEW members. The contest is open only to IBEW members.
3. Photos can be submitted on one item of paper (8” x 10” or larger) or on a CD-ROM. The photo must be accompanied by a short description of the photo. The name of the photography or other individual(s) in the photo must be included on the entry form. The contest is open only to IBEW members. The contest is open only to IBEW members.
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW National Department.
5. The preferred method of entry is through the Photo Contest button, www.ibew.org/PhotoContest.
6. The contest is open only to IBEW members. The contest is open only to IBEW members. The contest is open only to IBEW members.
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A Good Jobs Boom!

The Electrical Worker was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) is a trade union with over 500,000 members in the United States and Canada. The IBEW is dedicated to the protection of the rights and benefits of electricians and advocates for the safe and efficient delivery of electricity. The magazine is published monthly by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and serves as the official publication of the union. It provides information about the industry, union news, and articles on various topics related to the field of electrical work.
Executive Order Strikes Blow Against Crooked Federal Contractors

Federal contractors who steal their employees’ wages, tolerate unsafe working conditions or fail to pay their taxes may soon be kicked out of future federal contracts.

The Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order requires agencies to weigh corporate compliance with not only wage and safety, collective bargaining, family and medical leave and civil rights laws. Under the order, the companies themselves must include all fines, penalties and judgments against them in their bids.

“arrests the president for issuing this executive order. It is long past time a president took action to ensure fair pay and worker safety, said federal employees covered by the Service Contract Act,” said the IBEW’s Government Employees Department Director Dennis Phelps.

Despite a 2001 law requiring federal contractors stay in compliance with federal law, a study issued by the U.S. Senate’s Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in December found that from 2007 to 2012, 42 federal contractors were cited 1,776 times for wage and safety violations and paid almost $200 million in fines, yet those same companies won more than $60 billion in federal contracts in 2012 alone.

Even safety violations resulting in the deaths of workers were not a bar to more federal work. The report cited seven companies that were fined for Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations that killed 42 workers won additional federal work.

“The most common violation was wage theft, including non-payment of overtime, not giving workers their last paycheck, not paying for all the hours worked, not paying minimum wage, and not paying workers at all. Wage theft has become a prominent issue in Washington recently and is finding political traction in both parties. At the end of July, about the same time as the executive order, the Republican-led Congress approved a Democrat-sponsored amendment to the defense appropriations that would immediately bar contractors that violate federal wage and safety laws. The bill has not been taken up yet in the U.S. Senate.

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Despite a 2001 law requiring federal contractors stay in compliance with federal law, a study issued by the U.S. Senate’s Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in December found that from 2007 to 2012, 42 federal contractors were cited 1,776 times for wage and safety violations and paid almost $200 million in fines, yet those same companies won more than $60 billion in federal contracts in 2012 alone.

Even safety violations resulting in the deaths of workers were not a bar to more federal work. The report cited seven companies that were fined for Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations that killed 42 workers won additional federal work.

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By the Numbers: 
**WAGE THEFT**

1 in 5 American workers are employed by a company that does business with the federal government

1 in 5 federal contractors failed to pay overtime and 1 in 10 forced their employees to work off the clock

1 in 3 of the largest penalties handed down for violating federal labor laws from 2007-2013 were given to federal contractors

35% of the 100 largest federal contractors violated both wage and worker safety laws between 2007 and 2012.

$2,634 — Average amount lost by low wage workers due to wage theft, nearly 20 percent of their annual income

Sources: U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; National Employment Law Project; Economic Policy Institute

**The Worst Thieves in America**

Aren’t Who You Think

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street, bank, gas station &amp; convenience store robberies</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage Theft, 2012</td>
<td>$280 million</td>
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Source: Economic Policy Institute

President Obama signs an executive order making it more difficult for companies that violate labor and safety laws to win federal contracts.

Because all federal acquisitions are included in the scope of the executive order, Austal could be prevented from doing future work.

“One of the intentions of this order is that upstanding, good actors will take work away from the ones that successfully underbid and then cut corners on safety and wages,” Phelps said. “If Austal is found guilty, and there is reason to expect that may happen soon, that work would shift to more reputable contractors like Ingalls and Newport News, which are both union organized.”

Nevertheless, there are voices opposing the change. The International Franchise Association’s president, Steve Callewaert, said the new requirements would require an “unreasonable standard of perfection” and would create a “blacklist.”

Geoff Burt, vice president of federal affairs for the Associated Builders and Contractors—an alliance of antunion construction companies—said the order was “heavy handed… red tape [that] may lead to additional costs and the blacklisting of some federal contractors.”

Even before the start of the public comment period, Burr said ABC had “focused a lot of our energies on how we can roll back these things” and said they would fight the rule in Congress and the courts. In the last year, ABC has also announced it would fight executive orders raising the minimum wage for federal contract employees to $10.10 an hour, prohibiting discrimination against disabled construction workers and new rules requiring companies to disclose spending on union-busting consultants.

The executive order will now go through a multyear drafting process overseen by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council that Phelps expects will take until 2016.

“We will push for the strongest possible rules so that only companies that do right by workers and taxpayers see money from the federal government,” Phelps said.

**Wage Theft, 2012**

Source: Economic Policy Institute

**HourPower**

Pardon the pun, but “watts new” with electrical products? We have the skinny in a new segment on IBEWHourPower.com

**ElectricTV**

With the NFL season in full swing, check out the Jaguars’ newest, biggest LED video boards—installed by the NECA-IBEW team, on ElectricTV.net.