

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## Telecom Members Keep the Heat on Verizon



IBEW and CWA members rally at the Massachusetts home of Verizon board member Sandra Moose.

In Pittsburgh, they came 600-strong, IBEW and CWA members from as far away as Florida, marching in red shirts into Verizon's May 3 annual shareholder's meeting, where they took the microphone alongside retirees to challenge CEO Ivan Seidenberg's \$21 million salary and the company's refusal to extend union recognition to hundreds of employees.

A simultaneous rally in Boston protested Verizon's plans to abandon its northern New England market, dealing a blow to both the company's workers and the region's telecommunications infrastructure. In Thousand Oaks, Calif., technicians waved yellow signs slamming Verizon for assigning bargaining unit work to nonunion contractors.

One year from their national contract deadline, the pent up frustrations of 97,000

union workers at Verizon, already troubled by the \$88 billion company's anti-union stand at booming Verizon Wireless, have boiled over.

"There needs to be more involvement from everyday working stiffs," says Ray Jablow, a lineman and 11-year member of East Windsor, N.J., IBEW Local 827 who said that he was annoyed with how Verizon is doing business and had planned to attend the shareholder's meeting on his own before he heard about the rally.

A vote giving Verizon shareholders a voice in executive compensation was so close that a recount was needed. In the end, the resolution passed. It was only the second time in U.S. corporate history that shareholders won a voice in executive pay.

"Verizon is creating internal strife among its frontline workers and jeopardizing the company's value and reputation," said IBEW President Edwin D. Hill.

More than 60 percent of the 360 technicians at Verizon Business, a division set up after the company's merger with MCI, have petitioned the company for union bargaining rights. ("See Former MCI Technicians Tell Verizon: 'Hear Us Now,'" *The Electrical Worker*,

**More than 60% of the 360 technicians at Verizon Business have petitioned the company for union bargaining rights.**

May 2007) The majority support for a union was certified by elected officials and community leaders in Boston and New York.

"Management has made blatantly false statements in its so-called 'union awareness' materials," says John Elia, a Verizon Business technician. "All we are asking is that the company drops the intimidation and honors the neutrality and union recognition procedure that other Verizon employees have enjoyed." ■

**For breaking news on the ongoing struggle with Verizon, visit [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).**



## 'Lean' Wisconsin Plant Expands Production, Hiring

While workers overseas toil for pennies a day to produce goods once made in America, a labor-management partnership has one Wisconsin company increasing production and hiring members.

Wausau, Wis., Local 1791 teamed with employer Marathon Electric a year ago to change their way of doing business. A new culture emphasizing increased efficiency has emerged, streamlining the process of building industrial and commercial generators.

"As a group, we took it on as a joint venture," said Local 1791 Business Manager Mark Pisca of the bargaining unit. "We understand that our company has to make money. If it isn't, they will probably go somewhere else with a lot lower wages."

So with the help of a \$50,000 grant the company obtained from the City of Wausau, the approximately 300 IBEW plant workers, who are millwrights, electricians, pattern-makers, tool-and-die makers and production workers, underwent retraining in lean manufacturing concepts. At the time, most of them had more than 30 years' seniority, Pisca said.

"It took a lot of courage and a lot of commitment on the part of a lot of people to take this journey," said Plant Manager Greg Cemke.

Today, Local 1791 boasts 430 members at Marathon Electric.



Wausau Local 1791 member Lela Walls, a wire-stripper, readies wire coil for connection.

The company and the workers identified wasteful and duplicative procedures and implemented a better flow of materials and job orders.

"As you change the way of doing things

and what some jobs look like, it's tough, but the members understand there's some things we need to do," Pisca said. "Sometimes it's a hard sell but our people have risen to the challenge."

Cemke said the lean concept is not lim-

ited to the shop floor. The approach is holistic, covering the entire facility, including the business office, as well as suppliers.

"We need a continuous flow of things going well," Cemke said. "We're seeing improvements every day."

Today they are producing 35 generators a day, up from 20, and shipping them to customers around the world.

A vital key to the plant's initial success has been a strong labor-management relationship. "We have been working for quite a few years at developing a relationship of trust and respect," Cemke said. "That doesn't happen overnight. But we have to do things differently to compete if we are a unionized plant in North America."

The company has also been aided by the increased demand for generators, particularly in new buildings in the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

Feeding off their initial success, Pisca said their goal is to continue to make production improvements. Things are likely to improve with the April addition of a horizontal mill, which will streamline the machining and milling processes, Pisca said.

"Our goal is to add jobs and make this company profitable," Pisca said. "Our goal is to keep this plant here for many generations to come."

Success in Wausau has earned the plant positive attention from its corporate parent, Regal Beloit Corp., which is using it as an example for other plants, Cemke said. Regal Beloit is now the fastest-growing company in Wisconsin. ■

## Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Plant Shutdown Devastates Ohio Community

After a decade-long fight to keep their jobs producing one of America's iconic brands, 800 workers at Hoover's vacuum cleaner plant in North Canton, Ohio, were told in early April that their plant was finally being shut down by its new China-based owners. (See "Ohio Members Hold Tight to Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Plant," January/February 2007 *IBEW Journal*).

"We've now become another statistic in the destruction of U.S. manufacturing and the selling out of America," says Jim Repace, president of North Canton Local 1985.

Executives of Techtronic Industries Co., based in Hong Kong, asked for a meeting with local leaders at their union hall in early April. The owner of other American brands, including Dirt Devil, Homelite and Milwaukee Electric Tools, Techtronic had been silent on the future of the North Canton plant since they bought it

from Whirlpool in December. The deal is still pending shareholder and anti-trust approval.

Techtronic opened the meeting with graphs comparing the production costs of Hoover's facilities in Ohio, with other Hoover plants in Texas, and Mexico and its own plants in China. After Repace and other leaders reviewed the numbers, they were told that the Ohio plant would be shuttered.

The late-fall closure will have a devastating impact on the surrounding community as the tax base shrinks and property values drop. Hoover's real estate, personal property taxes and income taxes in 2005 accounted for 15 percent of the city's revenues, not including water and sewer charges.

Hoover's paper bag plant in downtown Canton and a distribution center in nearby Jackson Township will remain in operation, providing work for 150 Local 1985 members.

The work force will be paid full wages,

benefits and vacations until June 2008, when their current contract expires. About 30 percent will be eligible for pensions.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, strongly supported by organized labor in 2006, sent a rapid response team to the plant to provide employment counseling, family services and information about Trade Adjustment Assistance and other federal and state programs. Many Hoover workers, laid off from past downturns, have already been trained for new jobs.

With over 1,000 salaried workers also losing their jobs, the local union is meeting with administrators at a local hospital to discuss the establishment of a new, affordable health plan.

Repace said the closing should be a warning sign to elected leaders. "Politicians need to wake up and realize that we are giving the American dream away. It's time they do something about saving jobs in this country." ■



## San Antonio Local Organizes to Preserve Good Jobs and a Fair Paycheck



Activists speaking out in support of Local 500 in front of San Antonio City Hall

Members of San Antonio, Texas, Local 500, scored a major victory when they forced CPS Energy to back down from its attempts to institute layoffs and pay cuts that would have affected 127 utility workers. They did it through old-fashioned organizing and street heat, building a strong labor-community coalition and recruiting new members in the process.

In February, CPS—the nation's largest municipally owned energy company—informed Local 500 that the company would be restructuring its utility energy distribution department. The proposed restructuring would have resulted in the loss of 46 jobs and forced 126 other employees—most having between 20 and 30 years of seniority—to choose between keeping their jobs or taking wage cuts of as high as 37 percent. As Local 500 Financial Secretary Paul Crock put it to the San Antonio City Council, “This is a slap in the face to the hard-working individuals that have spent their entire lives working towards the positions that they are in today.”

The local put out calls to other Texas IBEW locals and to community organizations. Many local activists were as outraged about

CPS's surprise job cuts as Local 500 was, including Bexar County Commissioner Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez, who wrote to CPS that no employee “should be forced to decide between getting fired and accepting a lower-paying position.” A week later, more than 600 IBEW members and community leaders gathered at City Hall to demand CPS restore all threatened positions and return to conferring with Local 500 as the chosen representative of the company's employees. “We brought every community group and local union in San Antonio to this rally. We didn't write them a letter; we visited them personally to get them involved,” says Ralph Merriweather, Seventh District International Representative.

Good internal organizing and public outreach paid off for Local 500 when by mid-March, a CPS vice president telephoned Business Manager Gary Faktor to let him know that layoffs and wage cuts were now off the table and that the company wanted to sit down to work out a new agreement.

“As a union we have grown a lot stronger. It's helped our members realize that together we can be stronger than as individuals,” Faktor said. ■

## New Program Offers Crash Course in Broadcast Field

The IBEW has launched an innovative training program that cross-trains journeyman wiremen members for work in the sports broadcasting industry.

Over the past year, the IBEW has given trainings at locals in Nashville, Houston, Miami and Buffalo, exposing construction electricians to the field of broadcast utilities, a key job that lends assistance to the network sports production. The work is not steady, but it fills a key need for national contractors Fox Sports and CBS, who have experienced a shortage of qualified people to fill the support role in smaller media markets without IBEW broadcast locals.

“The companies were hiring unskilled people to fill those gaps or they would get a construction electrician who didn't necessarily have the skills for that kind of work,” said IBEW Broadcasting and Recording Department International Representative Ro Wratschko. The training program is the result of a renewed push to provide signatory contractors with qualified IBEW members when the need arises.

Of the eight home Bills football games broadcast by Fox and CBS, Buffalo Local 41 members only worked the Fox games, until the 2006 season, said Business Manager Tony Coppola.

“Until last year, the guys were never formally trained, and never knew exactly what their responsibilities were,” Coppola said. “As

it happened, we did our three or four Fox games, the Broadcasting Department got hold of CBS and we ended up doing all the games.”

A week before the Busch NASCAR series opened at the Nashville Superspeedway last year, Wratschko arrived to help instruct Nashville Local 429 volunteers—most of whom had never worked in the broadcasting industry—in the fundamentals of broadcasting. They started by learning the basics of the business, like terminology of the industry and the roles producers and directors play in a sports production. Then they moved on to the heart of a job: how to lay temporary wires for camera, audio and video cable, run field microphones, power camera set-ups, handle a monitor, and set up transmitters for wireless cameras and receivers.

Through the training Fox Sports and CBS will have a pool of qualified IBEW members trained in the mechanics and nomenclature of a sports production in these markets. The members will have a chance to earn extra income when a sports event comes to town. And they expose members to the work of another branch unfamiliar to many construction electricians.

Fox Sports and CBS broadcast Major League Baseball, NFL football, NASCAR, college basketball, golf, tennis, gymnastics and figure skating, among other popular sports. ■

## Clean Coal Plant Slated for Buffalo

One of America's most abundant natural resources, coal also reduces our dependence on foreign energy sources. But with today's increased awareness of greenhouse gases and their contribution to global warming, technology is increasingly turning to more environmentally responsible ways of burning it.

A \$1.5 billion clean coal-burning plant is on the works in western New York. Planned in the site of a traditional coal-burning plant north of Buffalo, the plant to be built by NRG Energy would lead to 100 new full-time jobs and 1,000 construction jobs in an area that could use the work, said Tony Coppola, Buffalo Local 41 business manager.

“This is a dream come true for our area,” Coppola said. “Projects worth \$1.5 billion don't come knocking on your door every day.”

The New York Power Authority in December gave NRG conditional award of a contract to build the 680-megawatt plant in Tonawanda adjacent to the existing Huntley plant. The facility will convert coal to a synthetic gas and remove the polluting sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury before combustion.

The planned “integrated gasification combined cycle” facility would capture 95

percent of the chemical by-products produced in the coal-burning process. The plant, which is expected to take five years to build, is slated to be operational by 2013.

There are two other clean coal plants with similar technology in the United States, located in Indiana and Florida. In April, an IBEW construction and utility delegation from western New York visited the Indiana facility, which is represented by Terre Haute Local 725.

Syracuse Local 97 member Phil Wilcox has taken leave of absence from his job as a sub-station electrician to promote the project for NRG Energy.

“This plant represents energy independence and homeland security and utilizes the intellectual capital of our scientists by delivering an environmentally responsible plan to capture carbon dioxide,” Wilcox said. “We can break our addiction to imported oil in a way that creates jobs for IBEW members.”

Advocates of the project acknowledge the next challenge for the federal government is the issue of carbon dioxide sequestration—how to safely store the captured carbon dioxide. Several bills pending in the Senate address this subject. ■

## Circuits

### IBEW Railroad Task Force Formed

Containers stuffed with imported goods that were once manufactured at home are crowding the nation's ports, waiting to be transported by rail to retailers. Profits for the nation's freight carriers are so high that even billionaire Warren Buffett is now investing in the industry and there's even talk of building new track.

For 11,000 IBEW members in the rail industry, however, things don't look so plush. Workers on freight lines have been working without a contract for more than three years. Amtrak workers haven't had a contract in eight years and have seen only slim pay increases. On the job, conditions have deteriorated as senior workers retire and employers attempt to get by without hiring enough replacements.

Addressing these and other problems at April's 2007 IBEW Railroad Conference in Miami, President Edwin D. Hill said, "It is time to put our heads together and come up with a plan for success and positive change."

Before an effective plan can be put together, however, the IBEW Railroad Department—and the system councils and locals under its jurisdiction—have decided to take a hard look at how they are organized. President Hill has appointed an IBEW Railroad Task Force to brainstorm over how to increase the effectiveness of the department.

The group, co-chaired by Eighth District International Vice President Ted Jensen and Sixth District International Vice President Jeff Lohman, includes IBEW Railroad Department Director Bill Bohne' and 13 leaders from railroad system councils and local unions.

### N.J. Assembly Names Woman Rep Outstanding Leader

A pioneer in Jersey City, N.J., Local 164 has been recognized by the state assembly as female labor leader of the year.

Business Representative Denise Mandeville—the first woman to become a business agent at an inside local east of the Mississippi—was presented the award at a special ceremony on the floor of the New Jersey State House in Trenton during a session of the assembly in April.

"Ten years ago, I was pulling cable on a ladder," Mandeville said. "This is a thrill and an honor for me."

Mandeville, on staff at Local 164 since 2000, was among a select group of outstanding woman professionals being recognized for their roles in non-traditional jobs. At Local 164, she represents more than 1,200 telecommunications workers and handles worksite issues. She also serves as a liaison to skilled workers and contractors while overseeing the Contractor Referral Resource.

Mandeville has been a member of the IBEW since 1986. She was one of the first women Central Office telecommunications installers for Western Electric. A journeyman technician, she served as a foreman and general foreman before being promoted to superintendent for IPC Communications.

### ElectricTV: Teamwork in the Streaming Video Age



The labor-management relationship between the IBEW and National Electrical Contractors Association has reached a new milestone with the creation of a new streaming video-based Web site, ElectricTV ([www.electrictv.net](http://www.electrictv.net)). Jointly funded by both organizations, the site keeps IBEW members, contractors and the world informed about the growth and progress being achieved by the unionized electrical construction industry.

ElectricTV is an on-line "TV station" or network that provides visitors with interesting news items and stories from the electrical and information systems industry as well as the construction world. Much of the content focuses on specific projects where NECA contractors and their IBEW work force were presented with difficult or unique challenges and rose to the occasion for the owner or end user. Visit ElectricTV today. ■

### CORRECTION

The March-April issue of the *IBEW Journal* included a story entitled "Seattle Contractor's Pay Cuts Fuel Beeline to IBEW." The contractor, however, is located in Spokane. In the second paragraph, we erroneously stated that M&L is certified by the state. The contractor is certified by Avista.

## Transitions

### Retired Paul Witte



International Vice President Paul Witte, who has led IBEW's Fourth District since 1988, will retire on June 1, ending a 52-year career that included a two-year appointment as deputy

director of the Industrial Relations Department of the State of Ohio and several years as vice president of the Ohio AFL-CIO.

"I'll miss my relationships with all the good people of the IBEW," says Witte, who took the Fourth District from last to first in COPE contributions and maintained that position during the last 12 years.

In 1955, Brother Witte was initiated into Norwood, Ohio, Local 1198, representing workers at Trumbell Electric, which was later bought by General Electric. He was elected to the executive board in 1957 and financial secretary in 1960, also serving on the negotiating, safety, grievance and social committees. In 1962, Witte was elected president and acting business manager of the local, participating in the first coordinated bargaining on behalf of workers at G.E. and Westinghouse.

Appointed Fourth District International Representative in 1966, Brother Witte serviced all branches of the Brotherhood. He counts as his greatest achievements "being able to work with and influence local union leadership in developing their skills both in labor-management matters and in their political activities, and teaching young trade unionists the proper role of a union."

In 1970, the Cincinnati native was appointed by Ohio's Democratic Gov. John J. Gilligan as deputy director of the state's industrial relations department, leading a basic safety department of 400 employees. Working with a Democratic governor and a Republican legislature, was a "most interesting, difficult and challenging undertaking." But, he says, "We did lay some groundwork for the full takeover of state government by Democrats for 20 years, helping the working people of the state." Witte served as one of four labor representatives on the first Ohio Workers' Compensation Board.

Appointed in 1972 as administrative assistant to then-Fourth District Vice President B.G. "Buck" Williamson, Witte continued to service manufacturing and utility locals on special assignment. Long active in Ohio politics, Witte has served on the Ohio Labor/Management Cooperation Tripartite Committee, the Ohio Science and Technology Commission and the Greater Cincinnati Center for Economic Education.

After graduating from Purcell High School in 1955, Witte joined the U.S. Army, serving 18 months in Germany. He has taken courses at Xavier University, Cincinnati Technical College, University of Wisconsin, Ohio State University and Kentucky University.

Brother Witte has 41 years of experience as an International staff member and Vice President, working with four International Presidents, six secretary-treasurers and over 70 International Executive Council chairmen, members and International vice presidents. "I have learned to be patient, listen well, absorb much, and to act cautiously, always protecting my integrity," says Witte, who has been attending IBEW conventions since 1966.

"I'll miss the people," Witte said, "but not the pressure of being responsible for the Fourth District 24 hours a day, seven days a week." Witte looks forward to more family time with his wife, Candace, his two daughters, Karen and Janet, three stepsons, Lesley, Shane and Micah, and 11 grandchildren. Finally there will be more time to play golf, read and travel for pleasure.

The officers and members of the IBEW thank Brother Witte for his long years of service and wish him a rewarding and healthy retirement.

### Appointed Salvatore J. Chilia



Salvatore "Sam" Chilia, business manager of Cleveland Local 38, and Third District IEC member, was appointed Fourth District International Vice President, effective June 1. He replaces

Paul Witte, who is retiring. Brother Chilia had been serving as Fourth District International Representative since April 1.

"I'm thankful to President Hill for selecting me and for Paul Witte's leadership," says Chilia, expressing the desire to grow the IBEW.

Initiated into Local 38 in 1967, Chilia graduated from his inside wireman apprenticeship in 1971, working for various electrical contractors until 1989. He was elected to his local's examining board in 1977 and its executive board in 1980.

After simultaneously serving as chairman of all of his local's pension and benefit funds, Chilia was elected business manager in 1997. In 2001, he was elected to serve on the IEC.

"This coming June, my name won't appear on Local 38's ballot for the first time in 30 years," says Chilia, expressing thanks to the members who "kept asking me to come back." Addressing his final union meeting as business manager, Chilia told members that it was



a great honor to be tapped by President Hill, but emphasized that if Local 38 had not done things right, he wouldn't have been selected. "My appointment honors them," says Chilia.

Among his most memorable achievements, says Chilia, are instituting his local's 401(k) plan and full retirement at age 55. During the last economic downturn, members who had run out of benefits from lack of work were able to retire with dignity and health care insurance.

A leader in negotiating project labor agreements for construction of the Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians stadiums and the Cleveland Clinic, Chilia also serves as a board member of the Union Construction Industry Partnership.

Chilia's active participation in numerous labor, civic and industry projects earned him a place in Leadership Cleveland's Class of 2001, which brings together recognized leaders from the private, nonprofit and government sectors for courses on the challenges and dilemmas facing the region. Chilia has attended alumni functions, networking on behalf of the IBEW and the area's labor movement.

A vice president of the Cleveland AFL-CIO, Brother Chilia has also served as treasurer and board member of the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades. He is an ex-officio board member of the Ohio Construction Coalition, a group of building trades affiliates, joint employer associations and individual construction firms formed to educate legislators, the media and the general public about the industry.

Appointed by former International President J.J. Barry to serve on the National Voice/Data/Video Task Force for the electrical construction industry, Chilia was later appointed by International President Edwin D. Hill to serve on the National Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Brother Chilia and his wife Arlene have seven children and 16 grandchildren.

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Brother Chilia great success on his new position.

### Appointed John R. Clarke



John R. Clarke, business manager of Wheeling, W.Va., Local 141, has been appointed to the International Executive Council for the Third District to replace Salvatore J. Chilia, who was appointed Fourth

District International Vice President.

"This is a big honor for a boy from West Virginia. I'm humbled," says Clarke. After serving in Vietnam as a Marine Corps aircraft

electrician, Clarke returned to Wheeling, entering his inside wireman apprenticeship in 1972. Never missing a union meeting of the local unless he was traveling, Brother Clarke volunteered for several committees, including safety, pension and organizing.

Elected to Local 141's executive board in 1981, Clarke served until 1987, when he was appointed vice president. He was elected president of the local in 1990 and business manager in 1996. Local 141 represents workers at two motor winding shops and a branch of a rural electric cooperative in neighboring Ohio. The motor winding shops are facing intense nonunion competition. "The members deserve a lot of credit for working with the companies to stay competitive," says Clarke.

"Coming out of the '80's when work was slack, we had to be flexible and innovative to rebuild our market share," says Clarke.

"Every local has its own personality, but I'm confident that the IBEW is now headed in the right direction across the country."

Clarke, vice president of the West Virginia State Electrical Workers Association, attended West Liberty College from 1964 to 1967. He has taken additional courses in numerous union subjects, including arbitration. He has served as a trustee of the Fourth District Health Fund and the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades. A board member of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, Brother Clarke also serves as a member of the Downtown Economic Development Advisory Board for the City of Wheeling.

Brother Clarke and his wife, Margaret, have two sons. He is active in the Marine Corps League and enjoys following West Virginia University and Oakland Raiders football games.

The members and officers of the IBEW wish Brother Clarke great success in his tenure on the International Executive Council.

### Retired Harry "Vair" Clendenning



After 46 years of service to the IBEW, First District International Representative Harry "Vair" Clendenning retired on May 1. During his long career, Clendenning distinguished himself not only as leader of the IBEW, but as an activist in local politics, a spokesman for the Alberta labour movement, and as a labor education pioneer.

Brother Clendenning was initiated into the IBEW in 1975 as a member of Local 424 in Edmonton, Alberta. He served his local in a variety of roles, including vice president and executive board member. He was

appointed business manager in 1979 and was later elected to the position in his own right.

He also served in a variety of roles for the Alberta Building Trades Council, Alberta Council of Labour, the Union Center Credit Union and the Northern Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.

He was recruited by the New Democratic Party to run for Minister of Labour in the 1986 provincial election. He ran one of the closest elections the NDP has ever contested in Alberta, losing to the incumbent by only 71 votes.

In 1997, he was appointed International Representative for the First District by then-President J.J. Barry, servicing locals in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

He developed training courses and worked with IBEW Education Department Director Jan Schwingshagl in the creation of the International Representative "Train-the-Trainer" program. He also helped to set up business manager training program—popularly known as business manager "boot camp."

Clendenning received a certificate in adult and continuing education from the University of Alberta in 1997 and a bachelor's degree in labor education from the National Labor College in 2005.

Brother Clendenning and his wife, Donna, plan to retire in Kelowna, British Columbia, where they hope to spend their retirement exploring the Canadian West. They also plan to spend more time with their three children and seven grandchildren.

The IBEW extends best wishes to Brother Clendenning for a rewarding retirement.

### Retired S. Eugene Ruff



A long and distinguished labor career came to a close with the April 1 retirement of Tenth District International Representative S. Eugene Ruff.

Brother Ruff was initiated into Charlotte, N.C., Local 379 in 1956, where he served on the negotiating and labor-management committees before being elected president in 1961. He was elected business manager/financial secretary in 1969, a position he held until his appointment in 1984, as an International Representative for the Twelfth District (which has since become the Tenth District).

During the Carter administration, Ruff was appointed to the board of the National Institute of Building Sciences. By North Carolina gubernatorial appointment, he served on the advisory council to the Employment

Security Commission. Ruff served as a delegate to the Charlotte labor and building and construction trade councils, and to the North Carolina AFL-CIO convention. He also served on several committees for IBEW conventions.

As International Representative, Ruff serviced most sectors of the Brotherhood in the Carolinas. He taught arbitration and steward training courses and was a special labor instructor at universities in the Carolinas. He also spent a great deal of time organizing. Ruff was instrumental in helping to bring Service Contract Act workers at Fort Bragg into the IBEW fold.

"It would be hard to explain how satisfying and wonderful my career in the IBEW has been," Ruff said. "I was appointed and elected to jobs that, honest to God, I would have done for nothing had I been independently wealthy."

At 70, he is not planning to slow down. He will stay in North Carolina, where he frequently hosts oyster roasts and serves on the board of the local electrical co-op. He plans to spend more time with his wife Joyce, two sons and granddaughter. The IBEW members, officers and staff thank Brother Ruff for his service and wish him a long and fulfilling retirement.

### Retired Albert "Cecil" Wynn Jr.



Ninth District International Representative Albert "Cecil" Wynn Jr. retired on May 1, after more than 40 years of service with the IBEW.

Born in Wasco, Calif., Wynn attended Nevada Southern University (now the University of Nevada-Las Vegas). Wynn was introduced to the IBEW after he began organizing his co-workers at an electrical warehouse. After being initiated into Las Vegas Local 357 in 1966, he served as construction unit chairman before he was elected president in 1974.

In 1985, Wynn was appointed business manager/financial secretary, a position that he was subsequently elected to in 1986. He served in that capacity until appointed International Representative by then-President J.J. Barry four years later.

Wynn was also active with local civic organizations, serving on the executive board of both the Clark County and Nevada Democratic Party and as labor liaison to the State of Nevada from 1986 to 1990. He was honored by the state as an outstanding labor leader in 1989.

Based in California, Wynn was responsible for servicing construction locals

(TRANSITIONS continued on page 13)

# Local Lines

## Trade Classifications

<b>(as)</b> Alarm and Signal	<b>(mar)</b> Marine
<b>(ars)</b> Atomic Research Service	<b>(mps)</b> Motion Picture Studios
<b>(bo)</b> Bridge Operators	<b>(nst)</b> Nuclear Service Technicians
<b>(cs)</b> Cable Splicers	<b>(o)</b> Outside
<b>(catv)</b> Cable Television	<b>(p)</b> Powerhouse
<b>(c)</b> Communications	<b>(pet)</b> Professional, Engineers and Technicians
<b>(cr)</b> Cranemen	<b>(ptc)</b> Professional, Technical and Clerical
<b>(ees)</b> Electrical Equipment Service	<b>(rr)</b> Railroad
<b>(ei)</b> Electrical Inspection	<b>(rtb)</b> Radio-Television Broadcasting
<b>(em)</b> Electrical Manufacturing	<b>(rtm)</b> Radio-Television Manufacturing
<b>(es)</b> Electric Signs	<b>(rts)</b> Radio-Television Service
<b>(et)</b> Electronic Technicians	<b>(so)</b> Service Occupations
<b>(fm)</b> Fixture Manufacturing	<b>(s)</b> Shopmen
<b>(govt)</b> Government	<b>(se)</b> Sign Erector
<b>(i)</b> Inside	<b>(spa)</b> Sound and Public Address
<b>(it)</b> Instrument Technicians	<b>(st)</b> Sound Technicians
<b>(lctt)</b> Line Clearance Tree Trimming	<b>(t)</b> Telephone
<b>(mt)</b> Maintenance	<b>(u)</b> Utility
<b>(mo)</b> Maintenance and Operation	<b>(uow)</b> Utility Office Workers
<b>(mow)</b> Manufacturing Office Workers	<b>(ws)</b> Warehouse and Supply

## ATTENTION PRESS SECRETARIES

As stated in the last issue, Local Lines will now be published in *The Electrical Worker* instead of the *IBEW Journal*.

The transition to the new publication schedule disrupted our system of publishing stories from odd-numbered locals in odd-numbered months and even-numbered locals in even-numbered months. Therefore, for this issue only, we are publishing Local Lines submissions from both odd- and even-numbered locals. We will resume our normal system starting with the July issue of *The Electrical Worker*.

Thank you for bearing with us during this transition. We apologize for any confusion. The updated schedule of 2007 deadlines appears below. This schedule and guidelines for submitting Local Lines articles have been sent to every local union and e-mailed to every press secretary for whom we have an e-mail address and can also be found on [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).

### Deadlines for Submission of Local Lines to The Electrical Worker – 2007

<u>Odd Numbered Local Unions</u>		<u>Even Numbered Local Unions</u>	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
September	July 5	August	June 5
November	September 5	October	August 6
January 2008	November 5	December	October 5
		February 2008	December 5



IBEW Electrical Workers Minority Caucus volunteers conduct a coat drive project to benefit the Echo Children's Home. From left, Local 1439 members Curt Tunstal and Derrick Carter; Local 1 members Sylvester Taylor, James Brown and Leon Arties.

## Electrical Workers Minority Caucus

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—St. Louis was proud to host the 17th annual Electrical Workers Minority Caucus in January. This year's theme was "Dedicating Our Lives to the Legacy." More than 250 delegates from across the nation attended. Over 100 delegates volunteered for several local community service projects. Volunteers performed work at the Echo Children's Home, Mathews-Dickey Boys Club, St. Patrick's DePaul Center and the Great Commission Church. These projects made a tremendous impression in the community on behalf of the IBEW. Thanks to Guarantee Electric and RJP Electric for donating tools for the projects and to Holt Electric for donating materials.

Delegates were addressed by IEC member and Local 1 Bus. Mgr. Stephen Schoemehl; Missouri AFL-CIO Pres. Hugh McVey; U. S. Rep. William Lacy Clay; and state Sen. Tim Green, a Local 1 journeyman wireman.

We mourn the recent deaths of: Bros. Edward Barnard, Donald Williams, James Fitzwater, Mark Swindle, Dorothy Little, Thomas Lee, Emerson Walter, Roy Soer, William Matthews Sr., Dorothy Kleine, Urban Dreisewerd, Curtis Gossett, James Pisoni, Edward McKeon, Henry Hopfinger, Earl Chapman, Francis Camp, Ernest Velasco and Emerich Wessels.

*Matt Gober, P.S.*



Dennis Duffey retires after 15 years as Local 8 business manager.

## Dennis Duffey Retires

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—On March 31, 2007, Bus. Mgr. Dennis Duffey retired after 15 years at the Local 8 helm. First elected to the top job in 1992, he subsequently won four successive elections.

During his tenure, Duffey was the driving force behind implementation of such programs as the Electrical Industry Advancement Program (job-

targeting), Flex Pension, Supplemental Fringe Benefit program, and the Electrical Industry Labor Management Cooperation Committee.

Bro. Duffey also served Local 8 as president, JATC committeeman, trustee, and chairman of the Safety, COPE, and Organizing Committees. He was Local 8's first organizer. In 2001 and 2006 he served on the IBEW International Convention Finance Committees. Duffey also served as Northwest Ohio Building Trades president; Lucas County Democratic Party Central Committee chairman; and Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority board member. He was active on many other civic organization committees.

Asst. Bus. Mgr. Jim "Koz" Kozlowski was appointed business manager by the Local 8 Executive Board to fill the unexpired term, which concludes in July. Toledo area rep Ken Roach was assigned the duties of assistant business manager.

*Jim Szczerbiak, P.S.  
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.*

## Photovoltaic Training

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Over 450 Local 11 members and contractors recently attended a class on installation of photovoltaic equipment at our training facility. Nearly 1,000 members and contractors have attended these classes this year, and we will offer more classes soon. We hope this program becomes a national model for the industry. Several major contractors are bidding on and being awarded this work. So don't be left out, take the class.

Refinery work is expected to pick up soon as are several major projects downtown. For those members interested in improving their skills, we are offering Refinery Proficiency training.

Organizing is going well. We have organized 23 new union shops so far this year.

Congratulations to Bus. Mgr. Marvin P. Kropke for receiving the Miguel Contreras Leadership Award.

*Bob Oedy, P.S.*



Local 26 Retirees Club Pres. Dick Bissell (left) and retired Bro. Nick Dell'Erba at the dedication of "Nick's Kitchen."

## Strong Work Picture

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Our work picture has been good. We attended the IBEW Construction Conference and the Building Trades legislative conference in March. The Minority Coalition held its third annual black history month celebration. Plans are under way for our Dollars Against Diabetes golf outing and summer picnics are planned.

We have a new agent on board, Bro. Michael Hoyt, a member since 1975. He will handle prevailing wage surveys and other duties.

Bus. Rep. Michael McArtor and Bro. Billy Cleland, former assistant apprenticeship director, retired in March. We sincerely thank Mike



and Billy for their dedicated service.

The second-floor kitchen in our new Lanham headquarters building was dedicated to retired Bro. Nick Dell'Erba, who for nearly 30 years has volunteered his cooking skills for union functions.

We mourn the deaths of Bros. Vincent F. Taylor Jr., Richard B. Barlow Jr.; and retired Bros. Dallas Kindle, Wayne K. Horstkamp, Harry Olsen Jr., Richard M. Spoicer Sr. and Paul H. Stevens.

Recent retirees include: Leslie Dodge, Jerry Hostetter, Charles Keener, Lawrence Widener, Theodore Mobley, John Donovan and Ronald Martz.

*Charles E. Graham, B.M.*



Cleveland Local 38 crew from Lake Erie Electric on the Mittal Steel blast furnace project. From left: Bran Schneider, Eric Reese, Kevin Koran, Jim Johnson, Lou Rocco, Pat O'Brien, Tom Novak Jr., Dan Dobinson and steward Tom Novak Sr.

## Cleveland Projects Under Way

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Thanks to the 150 members and their families who participated in the demonstration at the Rite-Aid drugstore in Parma, which was built nonunion. We displayed banners, hand billed the store and then spread out to leaflet surrounding neighborhoods. Business is down at the store. We will continue our campaign.

More than 50 wiremen, working 10-12 hours six and seven days a week, worked at Mittal Steel on the hot dip galvanizing line extension.

The \$400 million Cleveland Clinic Heart Center project has over 120 wiremen on site presently. The new Steelyard Commons retail center continues to employ many of our members. The South Park and Westgate Malls will continue to have many employment opportunities; about 50 wiremen are on those projects at this writing.

We thank our sister locals in Ohio and West Virginia that helped provide employment for Local 38 members over the last year.

*Dennis Meaney, B.R.*



More than 100 Local 47 members and their families participated at the 1st Annual Desert Days at Ocotillo Wells, CA. Everyone enjoyed a day of dirt biking and dune buggy riding, along with good food and camaraderie.

## Work Safety Top Priority

L.U. 41 (em,es,i,se,spa&govt), BUFFALO, NY—IBEW members know that work safety is our first priority. The abridged poem below (author unknown) carries an important reminder about our responsibility for ensuring a safe work environment.

*I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way.*

*It wasn't that I didn't care,  
I had the time and I was there.  
But I didn't want to seem a fool,  
Or argue over a safety rule.*

*I knew he'd done the job before,  
If I called it wrong, he might get sore.*

*So I shook my head and walked on by,  
He knew the risks as well as I.  
He took a chance. I closed an eye,  
And with that act, I let him die.*

*I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way.*

*If you see a risk that others take,  
That puts their health or life at stake,  
The question asked, or the thing you say,  
Could help them live another day.*

*Kenneth C. Zack, P.S.*

## SCE Agreement

L.U. 47 (lett,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Local 47 and Southern California Edison (SCE) teamed up to donate money to: Grossman Burn Center in Sherman Oaks, UCI Burn Center in Irvine, Arrowhead Regional Burn Center in Colton, and Torrance Memorial Hospital Burn Center in Torrance. Our members have received treatment at these facilities.

An agreement was reached with SCE on a contract for the operation of five new "peaker" generation plants.

Local 47 and the City of Riverside adopted the Code of Excellence. Bus. Mgr. Pat Lavin and Riverside Utility Dir. Dave Wright were present as well as IBEW Ninth District Int. Rep. Arthur D. Murray, who explained the program at an all-hands meeting.

We signed City Light and Power in Long Beach to a specialty agreement and a Letter of Assent to our Outside Line Agreement.

Executive Board member Pat Powell retired and Richard Paul was appointed to fill the vacated position.

At our annual stewards conference, Special Asst. to the Int. Pres. Buddy Satterfield and Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey were keynote speakers.

We mourn the passing of Troy Binder, Leroy Trimble, Robert Rodriguez, Kim Bridgewater, Frank Gaines and Jack Clayton Read. Our prayers are with their families.

*Stan Stosel, P.S.*



Local 86 assists with community project. From left, apprentices Craig Williams and Brian Smith; teacher/retiree Phil Smith; apprentice Rich Shaffer; retiree Dick Auble; and county legislator Calvin Lee.

## Community Service

L.U. 86 (ees,em,es,i,rts&spa), ROCHESTER, NY—Our work picture looks better this summer than last. We are continuing to get involved with local politics and reaching out to the community. Recently our third year apprentice class, led by retirees Bill Gilligan, Dick Auble, Phil Smith, George Norman and Dave Norman, helped change out old lighting fixtures at the Montgomery Community Center. We hope to do more projects like this one to show that it's the case not only that "we built this city"—but also that we believe it's important to give back.

*Mike Farrell, P.S.*

Local 100 members at the job site of the Saint Gobain glass plant expansion project in Madera, CA.

## Congratulations, Brothers

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts&st), FRESNO, CA—Congratulations to the 2007 apprentice graduates. Inside wireman graduates: Mark Cresci, Ray Diaz, Larry Garner, Marshall Garth, Rodney Heredia, Steven Kellerhals, Justin Linderman, Ernesto Moreno Jr., Lor Moua, David Phillips, Brandon Putnam, Shawn Pylant, Mark Rodriguez, Edgar Ruiz, Eric Schuman, Owen Teeters, Omar Vasquez Sr., Gerardo Villarreal, Paul White and Toua Yang. VDV graduates: Brandon Antonsen, Toby Barros, Timothy Cantu, Philip Jaramillo, Brandon Johnson, Jason Martynuik, Daniel San Miguel and Benjamin Speechly.

IBEW Bro. Ricardo Figueroa testified in court to help Sheet Metal Workers Local 162. Local 162 was working a case against Nolte Sheet Metal Inc, a nonunion shop that reportedly has been cheating its employees on a school project in the Porterville area. Local 162 hopes to get Nolte disbarred from future prevailing wage projects.

Congratulations to local brothers who opened shops. Chuck Mellon opened CNN Electric. Bros. Todd Nguyen and Andy Dominguez opened Advance Construction and Electrical Services. On April 13-15 Local 100 hosted a contracting class to prepare those opening shops to run a profitable business.

We look forward to a \$1 wage increase effective June 1. Election of officers takes place in June.

*M.A. Caglia, R.S.*

## Liberty Cup Champs

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—The fourth annual Liberty Cup Championship hockey game between Local 103 and New York Local 3 was held Jan. 13 in Boston. Local 103 won 6-3 and Danny Hall was selected MVP. The championship trophy was presented to Local 103 at the February union meeting.

Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick appointed IBEW Local 1505 member George Noel as Massachusetts secretary of labor.

On Feb. 3 the Massachusetts Democratic Party held caucuses in cities and towns throughout the state to elect delegates and alternates to the Democratic State Convention. The state convention was held May 19 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Thanks to IBEW members and their spouses for their participation.

*Bill Molineaux, P.S.*





Local 110 honors the class of 2006 inside wireman apprentice graduates.

## 2006 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 110 (em,i,rts,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN—At this writing, work is a slow with 176 on Book #1, and 237 on Book #2. The summer outlook is better.

Congratulations to the Local 110 inside wireman apprenticeship graduating class of 2006 shown in the accompanying photo along with local union officers, JATC directors and instructors, and NECA representatives. The photo was supplied by Mike Gombold/NowImaging.

The 2006 graduates are: Kevin Jacobson, Bradley Hutchinson, Scott King, Donald Kiserow, Joseph Koegel, Keith Hackenmiller, Nathan Koska, Steven Ladd, Brian Landgraf, Daniel Coleman, Douglas Corson, John Davis, James Egge, Michael Elofson, Ron Elwell, Christopher Feels, Eric Fritsche, Sean Gillespie, Nick Hochstein, Brandon Anderson, Joshua Babcock, Timothy Behrend, Michael Berry, Mathew Bolton, Jonathan Bowen, Aaron Boyd, Garret Bruestle, Brian Cermak, Joel Christopherson, Reed Sponsler, Jack Starceovich, Christopher Strege, John Thorvaldson, Michael Torkelson, Craig Wachter, Tony Walters, Scott Wise, Brett Wenzel, Daniel Wille, Mark Phillips, Benjamin Rechtzigel, Sean Riley, James Sawyer, Steven Schram, Jeremy Serres, Erick Sjoberg, Chad Skifstad, Mark Sorenson, Ryan Southward, David Weyandt, Karice Makousky, Brent McKean, Jody Wilde, Daniel Meyers, Jason Nord, Christopher Distad, Karl Olson, Allen Ostroviak, Anthony Paar and Chad Tietz (not pictured).

*Steve White, P.S.*



Local 111 Bro. Greg Hood (left) at work as a volunteer in the Golf Coast region. Shown at right is an unidentified fellow volunteer.

## Volunteer Program Adopted

L.U. 111 (em,govt, lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Thanks to the efforts of Local 111 Pres. Duane Lawlor, local members employed by Public Service Company of Colorado/Xcel Energy now have the opportunity to participate in the new "Volunteer Paid Time Off Program" working on behalf of any "501(c)3" organization. Pres. Lawlor

broached the idea with upper management because our members were using vacation and personal time for volunteer endeavors. The program provides for employees to give back 40 hours' per year through volunteer service, with paid time off.

Local 111 Bro. Greg Hood, lead welder, Xcel Energy, took advantage of the program in January by helping to rebuild homes in the Gulf Region devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Greg plans to use a week of vacation to return to the area this year and provide more assistance.

*Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.*

## IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—Dan Courtney, journeyman lineman, received an IBEW Lifesaving Award for his role in saving the life of a 15-year-old boy. On Aug. 1, 2006, Courtney was checking the status of a job in rural Gilliam County. After discovering an abandoned pickup truck, which he knew belonged to a local ranch owner, Courtney grew concerned. He located a boy lying facedown and noticed the victim's shallow breathing and blood. Another individual stopped and assisted Courtney with the victim, who was later diagnosed by medical personnel as suffering from extreme dehydration. Courtney's persistence, investigatory skills and genuine concern for others saved a life.

*Marcy Grail, Org.*

## Spirit of Labor Award

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY—Local 139 was proud and honored to be the first recipient of Southern Tier United Way's Spirit of Labor Award on Feb. 28, 2007. This award will be given annually and will go to an area labor union that excels in its support and involvement with United Way. Thanks go to the members of Local 139 and signatory union contractors.

*Ernie Hartman, P.S.*



Local 139 accepts Spirit of Labor Award. From left, Local 139 Organizer Ernie Hartman, a United Way board member; Bus Mgr. Rick Saltsman; Bus. Mgr. Emeritus Charlie Patton; and IBEW Int. Rep. Keenan Eagen, a Local 139 member.

## Work Looks Good

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV—Work in our area is good with many members working at the Mitchell power house. Many retail projects are starting at the Cabela's site.

The December Christmas party was well attended. Bus. Mgr. John Clarke and Pres. Tom Conner presented service pins to more than 65 members. Fifty-year pins were awarded to Walter Bishop, Louis Criminski and Henry Didion. Pins for 55 years of service went to Walter Chlon, Robert Vandray, Everett Wagner and Victor Williams. Members receiving 60-year service pins were Harrison Frey, Elbert Miller, Meredith Samples and John Yahn.

Journeyman training is continuing with many classes added. The social committee is hard at work planning many events including the annual picnic and a baseball game trip.

Our condolences to the family of Bob Holloway, who recently passed away. He will be greatly missed.

*Justin Klempe, P.S.*



Local 143 presents IBEW Lifesaving Awards. From left: Pres. Glenn Carnahan, Bro. Scott Kepler, award recipients Brien O'Donnell and Joe Fasick, and Bus. Mgr. Robert Rhoades.

## Lifesaving Awards

L.U. 143 (em,i&spa), HARRISBURG, PA—Local 143 was proud to present the IBEW Lifesaving Award to Bros. Brien O'Donnell and Joe Fasick, who performed CPR on a local brother while awaiting emergency response personnel.

We thank Bros. Steve Wolfe, Ken Neumayer, Rob Bair, Bill Anderson, Maurice Awng and Robin Snyder for their work on a Habitat for Humanity project.

Work has been active over the past several months. The positive outlook of upcoming projects is sure to keep us busy.

*Mark Holder, P.S.*

## Promising Work Picture

L.U. 153 (em,i,rtb,rts,se,spa&st), SOUTH BEND, IN—Our work picture is showing a lot of promise for the next few years. Two ethanol plants are proposed in the jurisdiction—one in Argos, IN, and the other in Watervliet, MI. A bio-diesel plant in Kosciusko County, IN, when built, will be the largest in the nation. The new \$355 million St. Joseph Hospital in Mishawaka, which has

already broken ground, will be a 2-3 year project. Memorial Hospital in South Bend has begun a new state-of-the-art \$79 million surgery center. And ground broke on March 5 for the University of Notre Dame's new 68,482 square-foot, three-story men's dormitory.

Our new Buffalo Casino is going strong. We still have approximately 70 members working the site and it is not due to wrap up until August. Finally, DC Cook is planning an outage to happen sometime this fall.

*Mike Taff, P.S.*



Local 158 member and PAC Chmn. Cyndy Williams speaks with U.S. Rep. Steve Kagen at legislative breakfast.

## Special Events Well-Attended

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Local 158 recently celebrated 88 years in existence at our annual banquet held March 3. The event was a success thanks to a fine job by the Entertainment Committee, Bob Novoselatz, Jason Sullivan and Jesse Michalski. Service pins were awarded to eligible recipients in attendance. A 60-year award was presented to Richard Haslitt Sr.

The annual legislative breakfast at the Green Bay Labor Temple was held Sat., March 24 and was well-received. Many of our local, state and federal political representatives attended. These events help strengthen our relationships within the community and local.

*Jack G. Heyer, B.M.*

## Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—Local 191 dedicates this month's article to Turner Patterson, son of Local 191 member Travis Patterson. Young Turner was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002 when he was 4 years old. He has since then bravely endured numerous surgeries and chemotherapy. Bro. Travis thanks IBEW brothers and sisters nationwide who have assisted in various ways.

Local 191 also thanks the many people in the Pacific Northwest who donated bone marrow in an attempt to find a match for Turner. Numerous organizations locally have helped in the effort, including the Everett Silvertips hockey team. Contributions may be made in Turner Patterson's name at any Washington Mutual Bank.

Local 191 has increased the number of apprentices coming into our program by over 90 percent in the last five years. Our union leadership will use this increased manpower to aggressively pursue some of the market share lost in the past. This also guarantees replacement for our brothers and sisters reaching retirement.

*Marcus Abarcus, P.S.*





IBEW Local 197 members, working jointly with members from several sister IBEW Illinois locals, help make the Twin Groves Wind Project a success. The Twin Groves project reportedly is the second largest wind producing farm in the United States.



Local 351's 2006 Picnic Committee members at Lenape Park.

## Twin Groves Wind Project

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—The first phase of the Twin Groves Wind Project is winding down. Our brothers and sisters on the project endured harsh elements last winter. Now into spring we have had to deal with the rain and mud. However, the project remains a success. It has been a dual effort between the inside and outside branches on the project including Local 197, Local 601, Champaign-Urbana; and Local 51, Springfield. We truly showed the professionalism of the IBEW. Thanks to contractors Egizii Electric and Henkels & McCoy for working with us.

Local 197 presented service pins recently to several members. A 60-year pin was awarded to Bro. Edmund Purkey. Awarded 55-year pins were: Edgar Wartena, Thomas Swearingen and Richard Ashenbrenner. Receiving 50-year pins were: Stanley Thompson, Walter Kraft and Carl Kerner.

Congratulations also to apprentices Luther Butler, Eric White and Craig Riddle, who received the John Moss Memorial Scholarship, which was a cash prize awarded by the Bloomington NECA division.

As we head into summer the work outlook looks promising.

*Mike Raikes, P.S.*

## On Prime-Time TV

L.U. 236 (catv,ees,govt,i,mo,rtb&t), ALBANY, NY—Approximately 40 journeyman wiremen from Local 236 volunteered their time to work with ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" team for a program that aired May 20, 2007.

Upcoming events planned for Local 236 include the Great Escape Day on July 14 and the clam bake on Sept. 8.

*Mark LaJeunesse, Pres.*

## Topping Out

L.U. 252 (ees,i,rts&spa), ANN ARBOR, MI—Bus. Mgr. Greg Stephens, Training Dir. Jeff Grimston, staff and members congratulate the graduating



Local 357 graduating class of 2007 shown with, second row from back, standing: Local 357 Pres. Charles Tom Stetson (far left), JATC Dir. Madison Bernett (second from right), and JATC Asst. Robert Bunjer (far right).

residential class of 2006. Local 252 is proud to announce that Don Bragg, Brian Cochran, Dwight Crow, Andrew Winter and Mark Witthoff successfully completed the three-year residential apprenticeship program. Don Bragg won the Hollis Hamm Award for academic excellence.

Our residential program has been in existence for over 24 years, and the number of residential wiremen has more than doubled in the past six years. The residential market generates over \$20 million in electrical work annually.

*Timothy Bortles, P.S.*

## Education/Politics Are Key

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—On March 20, IBEW locals from across Minnesota gathered at the state Capitol for the first annual IBEW Day on the Hill. Bill Heaney, IBEW political coordinator for Minnesota, scheduled appointments for union members to visit their state representatives.

Nearly 250 members attended a House higher education committee hearing, where Local 292 Bus. Mgr. Steve Claypatch and Bus. Rep. Dan McConnell testified that state universities are producing too many electricians for the market. State colleges and universities are reviewing their enrollments and reportedly plan to cut back the number of new classes starting in fall 2007.

Local 292 thanks the Iowa State IBEW JATC for the BICSI technician training provided for our members. Ten Local 292 members took the class



Local 302 Bro. Don Prentice receives award for service to the JATC.

and received BICSI technician certification: Dale Hechsel, Anthony Ogren, Dyle Westman, Timm Larson, Stephen Satterfield, Anthony Joseph, Allen Puckett, Rob Morrison and Steve Cosgrove.

At a June 6 ceremony, our JATC training facility was dedicated in honor of Local 292 retiree Charles "Chuck" Lindberg, USMC, last surviving Iwo Jima flag raiser.

Jesse Davis was appointed to the Safety Committee. We held a great Joint Safety Fair with Local 110 and NECA. Thanks to volunteers and vendors. Many Code of Excellence projects are breaking ground.

*Devin Hall, B.R.*

## Award for Service

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Bro. Don Prentice has retired from the JATC committee. Don served on the Contra Costa County Electrical Worker's JATC from December 1990 until his November 2006 retirement. Don began his IBEW career as an inside wireman in 1972.

As a JATC committee member and JATC trustee, Don was extremely conscientious, always having the apprentices' training and best interest at the forefront as well as the good of the indus-

try. He mentored many apprentices on the job as well, and all became better hands. IBEW Local 302 and the Contra Costa NECA Chapter owe a huge debt of gratitude to Don for his service.

*Peter Smith, P.S.*

## June Graduation Banquet

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE—The work picture has slowed significantly in Delaware and in Cecil County, MD. We thank the traveling brothers and sisters who provided us with relief this past year supporting our local hands through the wealth of projects then in the area. We welcome you back when that situation develops again.

Our diligent Entertainment and Activities Committees are at it again. They held an extraordinary "beef and beverage" event. Thanks to Bros. Ozzie May Jr., Chuck Wilson, Johnny Mac and others who made it a success. Thanks also to Eric Lewis and his Entertainment Committee who held the Christmas party in December and the annual Shrimp Feast in April.

Congratulations to the JATC apprentice class graduating this spring. Graduates will be honored at the Building Trades banquet in June.

Local 313 JATC secretary Therese Stymerski retired March 23, 2007. She concludes a career that spans more than 30 years and seven business managers. Happy retirement, Therese.

*Douglas Drummond, B.M.*

## Candidate Stops By

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Democratic presidential candidate and former Sen. John Edwards visited Local 357 on Feb. 17, 2007.

Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones introduced Edwards, who thanked the local and told the story of how his brother is an IBEW journeyman electrician and a member of the same local where our business manager served his apprenticeship. Edwards said health care, the environment and the war are the biggest issues facing the country today. He laid out his universal health care plan to an audience of about 300 people. Edwards said, "The greatest anti-poverty program



Attending a banquet for Local 252's graduating residential class of 2006 are, from left, Instructor Bro. Bob Kosky; graduates Don Bragg, Mark Witthoff, Brian Cochran, Andrew Winter and Dwight Crow; and Instructor Bro. Steve Minix.



in America is the organized labor movement.”

The 41st annual St. Patrick's Day parade was held March 17. The Springsational Heritage parade was April 21, and the Helldorado evening parade was held May 19. These parades are an excellent way for our local to be involved with the community. Special thanks to Mark Stratton and Warren Parker for heading this project.

Congratulations to our 53 journeyman wiremen and 17 technicians who will graduate this year.

*Timothy W. Bolton, P.S.*

## IBEW Community Service

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—We continue to create good will within our communities. The Veterans Memorial Association of Congers, NY, sent a letter thanking Local 363 for assistance in the repair, installation and removal of the holiday lights in the hamlet. DeLeonardis Electric donated a bucket truck and electrical materials for this event.

Other union contractors and our Local 363 electricians also assisted other communities within our local union's jurisdiction. Special thanks also to Eagle Electric and All Bright Electric for assistance on the holiday project in New City, NY, and to Rotolo Electric for assistance in Middletown, NY. Area political leaders and neighbors appreciate this community service and remember that IBEW members live where they work and give back their time and talents to our towns.

*Timothy J. Poulin, P.S.*

## Tom Eschen Retires

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Local 364 Bus. Mgr. Tom Eschen announced he's retiring at the end of his current term. A 40-year member, Bro. Eschen has proudly and tirelessly served as an officer for 30 years—four as business manager, 18 as assistant business manager and eight as president. Because of his hard work and determination, Local 364 has done much to improve the lives of our members and families. He'll be missed.

June brings Local 364's election of officers. Balloting occurs on union meeting day. Installation of officers takes place in July. Union democracy makes unions stronger and better able to fight for workers' interests. Members, please exercise your democratic right and vote.

Our LMCC hosted the leadership dinner for members and NECA representatives. A guest speaker from the Center for Generational Studies spoke on "Understanding Age Diversity in Union Environments." The dinner is an opportunity for members and contractor representatives to share a meal and camaraderie away from the job and gain greater insight from different perspectives on our industry.

*Ray Pendzinski, P.S.*

## Recapturing Market Share

L.U. 380 (ei,es,i&it), NORRISTOWN, PA—Local 380 and the Penn/Del/Jersey chapter of NECA recently hosted a night with guest speaker Mark Breslin, a trainer and strategist who works with labor organizations to regain market share. Guests in attendance included journeymen, contractors, NECA representatives, committee members, area business managers, and Local 380 apprentices.

Breslin discussed the electrical industry's past, present and future. He showed examples of

industries that embraced change and have succeeded in recapturing their markets. He gave examples of what we must do as individuals and as a group to recapture our market. Breslin emphasized the important role apprentices can play to advance union growth. Many in attendance said they left the event feeling energized, educated and better prepared to do whatever it takes to succeed in this ever-changing industry.

In other news, Local 380 held its first financial fair at the union hall. Financial professionals were on hand to speak with members about managing personal financial matters. Topics included pensions, retirement savings and college planning.

*Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.*

## Transition Announced

L.U. 386 (mo), TEXARKANA, AR—Congratulations to our local's longtime business manager, Bro. Dale McCoy, on his appointment as IBEW Tenth District International Representative effective March 1, 2007.

Bro. McCoy resigned his post as business manager/president, effective March 1. He served as Local 386 business manager for 25 years, beginning in 1982. We thank Dale for his dedicated tenure at Local 386 and wish him all the best in his new position. The Local 386 Executive Board appointed Bro. Jeff Hale as president/business manager to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

*Jeff Hale, B.M./Pres.*



Local 402 Bus. Mgr. Glen Drewes (left) presents IBEW Lifesaving Award to Bro. Ed Ronald.

## IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 402 (i&o), THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA—On Oct. 19, 2006, Bros. Lawrence Larson and Ed Ronald of Local 402 were called out after hours to repair an electrical transfer switch at a government facility.

For most of the night they worked within a 600-volt transfer switch re-feeding a temporary power cable. Toward the end of the night, with the project near completion, Bro. Larson was working alone in the electrical room and was two steps up on a step-ladder when the 600 volt equipment malfunctioned causing an explosion. The arc flash threw Bro. Larson from the ladder and left him temporarily blind and unable to hear and with third-degree burns on his arm.

Bro. Ronald heard the explosion and ran to check on his partner, who lay incapacitated within 8 feet of the still burning switchgear. With the equipment still arcing and on fire, and with little regard for his own safety, Ronald pulled Larson from the room, administered first aid and called an ambulance.

We are proud of Bro. Ronald, who received the IBEW Lifesaving Award, for his heroic actions. We also are thankful that Bro. Larson's injuries were not more severe.

*Glen Drewes, B.M./F.S.*

## Sioux Falls Unity Fund

L.U. 426 (i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), SIOUX FALLS, SD—On Nov. 16, 2006, the first meeting of Local 426's Unity Fund was called to order. Originally started earlier in 2005 as the Sick and Needy Fund, it has now been redefined to provide financial help to brothers and sisters, as well as to plan events to bring members and their families together. Several poker tournaments, Super Bowl parties, and basketball pools have already taken place. At press time a summer picnic is being planned.

We were saddened by the passing of Bro. Rodney Park. Rodney was a lineman for Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, SD. He died suddenly, while on a hunting trip, on Nov. 30, 2006.

The addition to the Big Stone Power Plant in Milbank, SD, seems to be having some difficulties with easements for new transmission lines through the state of Minnesota. We are being told that is the reason the start date has not been given. Many ethanol plants are currently in the planning stages in South Dakota and we hope to have a chance to wire them. To this date we have only done two of the dozen in our jurisdiction.

*Jon Olson, P.S.*

## Local Welcomes Growth

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—With the arrival of spring, as trees and grass experience new birth and growth, Local 449 will also. We are excited about the construction of our new hall and the abundant work on the horizon. A special welcome goes out to three new contractors, Craft Electric, Bear River Electric and B&D Electric. We hope they will be successful in their new endeavors as signatory contractors.

Congratulations and best wishes to Gordon Hudson on his recent retirement.

Local 449 extends condolences to the family of Frank Fisher, who passed away in February.

*Russell Hill, Org./R.S.*

## Local Lends a Helping Hand

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—Whenever our brothers and sisters are asked to help, they always are ready to respond. Our friends at the Knights of Columbus recently asked if we could help with an electrical issue. Because of our long relationship with the Knights, many members volunteered to help out.

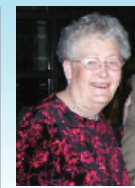
Thanks to brothers and sisters Cathy Gallagher, Eli Gallagher, Dave Trill, Cody Malko, William McMunn, Jonathon Garbalino, William Koch, Chase Layne, Bryan Georges, Jeffery Shaute Jr., Joshua Gente, Michael Villanuevo, Shawn Finnegan and all who helped.

Many activities are planned for the summer: two fishing trips, a day at the races, family picnic and the member's picnic. Thanks to all who help with these events. Call the hall for information.

As reported at a recent meeting, the market recovery fund has produced 12,840 hours of union labor. This fund, along with recent passage of new laws at the state level to protect workers, has proven to be a powerful tool for our union.

*Wayne Martiak, P.S.*

## Congratulations & Thanks



Local 474 office staff employee Laverne Hill recently retired.

L.U. 474 (em,i,lctt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), MEMPHIS, TN—Congratulations to Ms. Laverne Hill, a Local 474 office staff employee for 23 years, on her recent retirement. Ms. Hill began her employment with Local 474 in 1985. She has always demonstrated professionalism, integrity and unionism. We thank Ms. Hill for all she has done for our local, and hope she enjoys those grandchildren for many years to come.

Kudos to Local 474 officers and members, whose efforts, along with support from Rev. Rebekah Jordan, helped establish a Living Wage Resolution for the City of Memphis. The resolution establishes a good and decent minimum wage to be paid to city workers, and also to "service contract" employees who work for companies doing business with the city. The resolution also contains provisions for addressing health insurance coverage for workers. Further efforts are being made to enact the same resolution for employees working for the county.

*Sam LaDart, P.S.*

## Work Outlook Good

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—Local 494 has full employment and we are starting to put travelers to work. Both of our power houses are hiring and we are expecting all other jobs to follow suit.

The fourth annual Valentine's dance was a huge success. Thank-you to all the contractors who donated gifts to make the event such a success.

Our summer picnic will be held June 16 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. It's always a great time for our members and families.

On a sad note, Bro. Scott Huggins was killed in an armed robbery attempt on March 21, 2007, while at a gas station. Scott was well-known for his service as a mentor at a boxing gym where troubled kids can learn boxing and respect for others. Scott leaves behind a wife, four children and six grandchildren.

*David Miller, B.A.*



Local 456 Pres. Michael McLaughlin receives the Albert Hudanish Leadership Award presented by Dr. Karen McCloud-Hjازه, superintendent of Middlesex County Vocational and Technical schools.



## Atlanta Organizing Blitz

L.U. 508 (i,it&o), SAVANNAH, GA—Local 508 participated in the IBEW's Atlanta organizing blitz conducted during the second week of February. I was privileged to take part in this innovative initiative, sponsored by the International Office, to regain market share. [See "Florida Initiative's Spirit Spreads Across the South" and "IBEW Volunteers Boost Atlanta Organizing Event," The Electrical Worker, May 2007]

The key to a successful blitz is the planning. Construction jobs are mapped out by local organizers months in advance. Teams are established and given maps of construction jobs in certain areas of the local. At each job site, members of the team distribute flyers and invite the electricians to an "industry night" event. The blitz culminates in a gathering of the team, union contractors and electricians from nonunion shops. Usually a meal and door prizes are included to draw a greater crowd.

Another key element in the success of a labor blitz is the co-operation of our signatory contractors. They must agree to act jointly with the local union to gain a favorable outcome, namely a united electrical industry.

If you have a chance to participate in a labor blitz, you will never regret it.

*Judith U. Sheahan, P.S.*

## Big Jobs Coming Up

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—Local 551 welcomes our newest organizer, John Lloyd, to the membership. John has worked in the office since February and is integral to our organizing campaign. Keep up the good work.

Our local union elections are coming up and participation is key. The elected officers represent you and your union.

We have lots of work coming up, big jobs. The Eureka power plant anticipates breaking ground at the end of the year and PG&E estimates 75-100 electricians will be needed.

There are lots of new things at the union hall. Flagpoles were added to the front of the building, where the American and IBEW flags now proudly fly. New Local 551 apparel and gear is on display at the hall. And the new office expansion is a success, with dispatch now in the old Health and Welfare space. The Health and Welfare offices moved across the hall.

At this writing our local had challenged Vallejo Local 180 to a Paintball face-off and nearly 30 of our members were ready to go head to head for a fun time.

*Jennifer Greenwood, P.S.*



Local 557 members working at the Intermediate School District addition project with Bender Electric, from left: Bob Bostwick, Dan Beyerlein, Dave Hayward, Dave Luth and Mike Ducham.

## Spring Work Anticipated

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Our out-of-work list has started to move! Contractors on the Hemlock Semiconductor Corp. (HSC) project are slowly putting members to work. Jobs are moving due to a warm early winter and mid-January snow that kept frost from going deep. We eagerly await more projects.

We had a photovoltaic display set up in our booth at the popular Home Builders Show in March. Many hands participated by helping set up and were available to answer questions.

Many thanks to local unions nationwide for providing our members with work opportunities. We hope to be able to return the favor if jobs break as predicted.

Contract demands were discussed at the February union meeting. These one-year contracts seem to be an endless negotiation. With the cut-and-run attitude of big business in this country, along with endless, through the roof health-care costs, our bargaining committee members are again in for hard work. Look toward the future, America, and create an equitable health-care system.

*John E. Clemens, P.S.*

## IBEW Scoreboard Program

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—The local is participating in a scoreboard program, endorsed by the International, to help spread the IBEW's goodwill. Donating scoreboards to the schools is one way to educate the public as to who we are and possibly recruit students to IBEW careers. The Vista High School Panthers are the proud owners of the first state-of-the-art Trans-Lux/Fair Play Scoreboards (TLFP) wireless scoreboard provided by our members.

The scoreboard and signs are union built by members of IBEW Local 347 of Des Moines, IA. The contract to install the board was won by Chula Vista Electric. Local 569 members Doyle Morrison, Allan Chupa (graduate of Vista H.S.) and Greg Mattingly proudly and professionally installed the new board and sign displaying our local's Web site www.IBEW569.org and the IBEW emblem.



Local 569 donates state-of-the-art scoreboard. Standing on lift in front of scoreboard are Local 569 members Allan Chupa (left), Doyle Morrison and Nick Segura.

Currently, there are plans for another scoreboard donation in the South Bay area of San Diego.

*[Editor's Note: Please see article "Scoreboards and Community Goodwill Win for California Local" in the December 2006 IBEW Journal.]*

*Nicholas J. Segura, Jr.*



Local 577 recent retirees Samuel Clark (left) and Peter Vander Heyden (right) receive IBEW retirement watches presented by Bus. Mgr. Greg Breaker (center).

## Spring Banquet

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—The annual spring banquet was held March 3 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Members and guests who attended enjoyed excellent food and conversations. Recent retirees were honored: Tom Becher, Lee Belanger, Dennis Biedermann, Sam Clark, James Laux, Daniel Merryfield, Joan Miller, Dennis Tiedt and Peter Vander Heyden. Also honored was 60-year member Norbert Jack. Celebrating IBEW anniversaries were 50-year members Edward Bolte, Theodore Cook, Jerome Dorn, Walter Kasper Jr., John Phillips, James Running and Merlin Swenson. Thank-you to Tom Van Heuklon and Social Committee members Mike Parker, Doug Schulz, and Jerry Schraufnagel for their efforts in making this event an annual success.

Thanks to the members who voluntarily signed COPE check-off authorizations, Local 577 will be recognized by the IBEW Political/Legislative

Affairs Department for 100 percent collections in 2006. Many of the IBEW endorsed candidates in Wisconsin's November 2006 elections benefited from COPE donations. Organizations that support candidates who do not have working families' best interests in mind are well-funded. If you are not currently contributing, please consider authorizing this deduction.

*Greg Breaker, B.M.*

## 50-Year Members Honored



Local 606 Bro. Charlie Durrance receives 50-year service award.

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb, spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Retired Bros. Charlie Durrance and William L. Robinson recently received their IBEW 50-year service awards.

Congratulations to these truly skilled IBEW craftsmen on their longtime, dedicated service.

Bro. Durrance began his apprenticeship in 1955. Bro. Durrance's son Robbie is a 28-year IBEW member and four nephews are IBEW members. Bro. Durrance's brother T.J. Durrance received his 50-year service pin several years ago. Bro. Robinson's son Billy is a 31-year IBEW member.

Our condolences to the families of Local 606 member Leo Robison and former member Danny Swaford, who recently passed away.

*Janet D. Skipper, P.S.*

## Member-Contractors Honored

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lectt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—At press time the work picture is slow with only a few calls every couple of days.

Thanks to all who attended the annual Jobs



Local 551 inside wireman class of 2007 graduates Steven Rangel, Brandon Taylor, Bryan Van Fossen, Eric Rummel, Craig DeRosa, James Johnson, William Rogers, John Bryan, Steven O'Brien, Calder Rossi, Joey Burtner, Brian Johnson, Leland Cole, Sean Corcoran, Brad Smith and Joseph Corcoran. Also pictured are Training Dir. William Campbell and Instructors Gary Giuliani and Tom Ritch.



Local 611 Bus. Mgr. Chris Frentzel, Martin Armstong, Ferdy Martinez, O.L. Davis and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Robert Atencio.



Day in Santa Fe. It was a great success.

At the Outside Line Unit meeting held Aug. 4, 2006, Local 611 members honored three member-contractors for their IBEW service. Bro. Ferdy Martinez, Line Constructors Inc., received a 40-year service pin; Martin Armstrong, New Mexico Pole Line Inc., a 45-year pin; and O.L. Davis, Manzano Western (retired) a 65-year pin. These brothers were all strong supporters of the IBEW and the Outside Line Apprenticeship program.

Bro. Davis was a trustee on the Southwest Line Joint Apprenticeship Committee from its inception in 1965, until he retired in 1992. Davis served on the New Mexico Subcommittee. Bro. Armstrong was in the first graduating class of the Southwest Line Joint Apprenticeship, and served on the New Mexico Subcommittee. Bro. Martinez also served his apprenticeship under the New Mexico Subcommittee and was an apprenticeship instructor.

Condolences to the families of brothers who recently passed away: Billy D. Hathcock, Randall C. Hand, Mike T. Romero, Richard L. Patton, Royce L. Wisener, James Calvert, Connie B. Sewell and Charles J. Stein.

*Darrell J. Blair, P.S.*

## Regaining Market Share

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—We have more apprentices moving up to journeyman status lately. Congratulations to newly certified journeymen: Michael Moore, Jaron Byrne, Brian Martin, Denny David and Daniel Haskett.

The IBEW has struggled through hard times in the past. Still today, some jurisdictions have a tough time surviving against a growing nonunion work force. Local 625 in Mainland, Nova Scotia is recovering commercial market share. Our members demonstrate to clients that union workers are the best value. Local 625 members work in partnership with our contractors.

Our high work ethic was apparent at the Springhill Penitentiary job where J.S. Murray Electrical Service was organized early into an 18 month job. The job was completed on time and under budget. J.S. Murray was so impressed with Local 625 members that the company decided to become a signatory contractor with other locals in Atlantic Canada including Locals 2330 St. John's, NL; 1555, Moncton, NB; 2166, Fredericton, NB; and 502, St. John, NB. J.S. Murray does large federal projects such as airports and prisons, as well as hospitals. Both the IBEW and J.S. Murray will benefit from this partnership.

*Tom Griffiths, Pres.*



Local 625 member Jonathan Faulkner competes for his second gold medal in the Provincial Skills Competition. Bro. Faulkner will go to Saskatoon to represent Nova Scotia in the nationals.

## Safe Crew Award

L.U. 640 (em.govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—The work picture is steady in the Phoenix area. We are still sending out Book 2 regularly. Phase three of the Phoenix Civic Plaza is well under way, as well as the Sheraton Hotel and many other smaller projects.

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3 is taking some workers now and will staff up toward fall to replace a giant steam generator. To take a call at Palo Verde, workers must complete security screening and pre-qualification requirements.

Congratulations to our members on the Rosendin Electric job at the Sheraton Hotel. In February, they received the Safe Crew Award presented by Perini Construction for no lost-time or recordable accidents.

At this writing, Local 640 is in negotiations with our Inside contractors for wages and benefits only. For updates and other Local 640 news, check out our new, updated Web site [www.ibew640.com](http://www.ibew640.com).

Local 640 members approved a long-term radio advertising campaign on KTAR (620 AM) Sports Radio. We are sponsoring Arizona Diamondbacks baseball and Arizona Cardinals football and running daily ads as well. So far, we have received contacts from interested contractors and from interested open-shop workers.

*Dean Wine, P.S.*



Local 640 members on Rosendin Electric's Sheraton Hotel job in Phoenix receive the Perini Safe Crew Award.

## Projects Under Way

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—The Bank of America project, Qimonda, Philip Morris at Park 500 and the work at Fort Lee are in progress. The data center at Capital One is pending.

The Central Virginia LMCC is a sponsor for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Mechanicsville. To serve as a team captain please contact the union office. On April 28 the local held a fund-raiser for this event. Special thanks to Bro. James Bell Jr. and all members who participated.

The Employee Free Choice Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and is now introduced in the Senate. Please e-mail or write your senators to support this bill (S. 1041).

Thanks to the COPE Committee for their 2006 election work. For the first time in a while, a U.S. senator is communicating with our local.

The JATC is accepting applications for the apprenticeship and construction wireman programs.

Congratulations to recent retirees: James Bowles Sr., Frank Brunner, Andrew Coe Jr., Richard Corker, Aubrey Hobson, Joseph Jernigan, Cecil Kimble Sr., Roger King, James May, Wiley Metts, Clyde Poole Jr., Edward Pulley, and Floyd Worsham.

We mourn the passing of: Reginald Baker, Andrew Cecchi, Ralph Dent Sr., Robert "Cotton" Hairfield Sr., John Harris, John Massey Jr., Robert Pittard, Huela Ramsey, Jesse Roberts and Julian Sneed.

*Larry Southward, P.S.*



Local 681 retired Bros. Ray E. Spangler (left) and Kenneth Adair display their 50-year service awards.

## 50-Year Members

L.U. 681 (i,o&spa), WICHITA FALLS, TX—We congratulate our retired members for their life-long commitment to the IBEW. Bros. Kenneth Adair and Ray Spangler were honored at our January union meeting with 50-year service pins. These dedicated members fought for what we have today. Their leadership and experience have been passed on from generation to generation and will continue to keep us above the competition. Thank our older members and listen to them, for they are the foundation of the IBEW.

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of the following brothers, who recently passed away: Daryl Burleson, Clarence Conner, Lowell Copeland and Ellis C. Wilson. Bro. Copeland served as business manager from Nov. 1974 to Aug. 1983, when he retired.

We send our prayers out for all traveling members on the road, and for men and women serving our country in the armed forces.

*Justin Boone, A.B.M./Org.*

## Union Skill on Display

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—At press time we have 82 members on Book 1. That's the lowest in a long time, but it's still moving very slowly. We have a few projects starting this spring. The hospital project started, as well as the LaFarge Cement project in Alpena and the Ashman Court Hotel project. Dow Corning has some projects coming out for bid and some work is coming to the Karn plant. We look forward to school projects this summer. No word yet on the new power plant. Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the nation. We don't foresee getting into Book 2 for some time.

We were invited to help finish work on the nonunion Dow Diamond baseball field project, which was behind schedule. Thanks to IBEW members, the job was finished on time. This shows that union workers are highly skilled, safety oriented, productive, available in numbers and willing. The baseball project should be an eye opener for future work.

Our condolences to the families of members who recently passed away: Robert McLean, Bruce Faber, Louis Smith and John "Jack" Burley.

*Tom Bartosek, P.S.*

## A Busy Spring

L.U. 725 (i,rts&spa), TERRE HAUTE, IN—We are busy with many tasks in our local. The area Children's Museum is undertaking a project to move to a new facility, and we will be working with the museum to show the children of the Wabash Valley the importance of our craft and the proper training to perform our work. We hope some of these children will be encouraged

to pursue a career in the building trades and specifically the IBEW.

At this writing, we are preparing for our local's annual members only cookout in May. We are hopeful for a prosperous summer.

Our Local 725 election of officers takes place in June and we wish all seeking election or re-election the best. Check out our Web page [www.ibew725.org](http://www.ibew725.org) for information about many local union functions.

*Gayle Meeker Jr., P.S.*

## Five-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—Journeyman wiremen ratified a new five-year contract with a \$1.40 increase the first year and a \$1.50 increase each year after. The first year a \$1 increase will go into our pay and 40 cents into our pension.

Pay for cable splicer (5 KV and up), welder, tunnel rates and high time was increased from \$1 to \$1.50 over journeyman wireman rate. Other small language changes were made in the contract.

*Roger LaPlatney, P.S.*



Local 915 class of 2007 apprentice graduates. From left, front row, Max Smith, Jason Riley, Stephen Wallen and Matthew Lyon; back row, George Whitt, Donald Craft Jr., Anthony Martin, Chris Everingham, Timothy Bentley, Shawn McDonnell, Mike Samol, Jeffrey Jensen, Scott Emmerman, David Senquist, Jeffrey Hubbard, Jeffrey Knoll and Dan Strickland.

## 2007 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Congratulations go to our newest apprentice graduates. Their JATC banquet and completion ceremony held in March was chaired by Bro. Jonathon Dehmel.

Three graduates had perfect attendance for their entire apprenticeship program: Stephen Foster, Jeffery Hubbard and Anthony Martin. They received a plaque of recognition and \$50. Seven graduates had perfect attendance for their last year: Stephen Foster, Jeffery Hubbard, Shawn McDonnell, Anthony Martin, David Senquist, Stephen Wallen and George Whitt. They received a plaque of recognition.

The fifth-year outstanding apprentice, Shawn McDonnell, received a plaque and \$500 from the JATC, \$250 from PowerNet Credit Union and a set of tools from Klein Tool Company. Timothy Bentley was the recipient of our local's Brad Felker Memorial Award, which honors leadership, volunteerism, service and academic achievement. We wish all our newest inside journeyman wiremen the best in their careers.

*Theresa King, P.S.*

## Careers of Service

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—On March 2, 2007, after a combined 70 years of service to the IBEW, Bus. Mgr. Ralph Ranghelli and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Everett Lewis retired.

Ralph began his IBEW career in 1964 as a util-



ity-man with the Long Island Lighting Company. Since 1997, Ralph led this local through the transition of LILCO to Keyspan, utility deregulation and the evolution of LIPA. He was on many negotiating committees, always bringing back contracts that enhanced the lives of members and their families. He served on the boards of many organizations including the United Way and the Long Island Federation of Labor. He also was appointed to the IBEW Law Committee and Deregulation Task Force.

Always advising Ralph was Everett Lewis, who has been a trade unionist most of his adult life and joined the IBEW in 1980. Throughout his career as a business representative then assistant business manager, Everett negotiated numerous contracts and agreements. Everett's input, wisdom, advice and humor were invaluable.

On behalf of newly appointed Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand, the business staff, officers and members thank Everett and Ralph and wish them all the best.

*Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.*

## National CBS Contract

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—Local 1220 staff and members answered pledge callers for their local PBS station, WTTW, Channel 11, on a Sunday in March (see photo). Local 1220 technicians broadcast WTTW across Chicago.

"The national CBS contract was extended with improvements for another three years," said Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco. "We also concluded negotiations on a three-year contract with WCEV radio," Monaco added.

Local 1220 members are actively involved in the design of the new CBS studios in the Loop at Washington and Dearborn Streets. Taking account of new technologies and accommodating the current ones are challenging tasks. "We are broadcasting high definition at 1080i (interlaced scan) but we are designing the new studio to accommodate production in 1080p (progressive scan)," said John Trautschold, Local 1220 vice president and CBS steward.

The Chicago Entertainment Industry Labor Council (CEILC)—composed of leaders from organizations including AFTRA/SAG, IATSE, ATPAM, NABET, the Newspaper Guild and others—met on April 4 for education and coordination, as well as election of new officers for the year. Monaco was elected secretary/treasurer of CEILC.

*Jim Sterne, B.R.*

## PGE Agreements

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt, lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell negotiated three new letter agreements with Pacific Gas & Electric that enhance job security for current members and assist retired members with health care costs.

First, PG&E agreed to scale back its original plan to close all its front counter offices, which had



Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell negotiated three recent PG&E agreements.

threatened as many as 375 bargaining unit jobs. Under the new agreement only nine offices will be closed, affecting eight employees, who will receive accelerated bidding rights and other assistance.

A second agreement reduced the threat of displacements in Local 1245's clerical bargaining unit at PG&E.

Third, PG&E agreed to contribute an additional \$25 million to the Retiree Premium Offset Account to further cushion retirees against spiraling medical insurance premiums. A recent surge in retirees' organizing activity made this unprecedented agreement possible.

At a big stewards' gathering at Ronald T. Weakley Hall in Vacaville, members from Outside Line, Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, Sacramento Regional Transit, Western Area Power Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation received intensive instruction in representing members at the work site. Bus. Mgr. Dalzell praised the role of stewards in resolving workplace disputes.

Local 1245 mourns the death of former Bus. Rep. Kathy Maas, who served on the staff from 1990-2000.

*Eric Wolfe, P.S.*

## Three Members Retire

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Our local extends congratulations and best wishes to several brothers who recently retired.

Bro. Robert Dickerson began his career with Delmarva Power in 1968 as a laborer in the Building and Maintenance Dept. in Salisbury. Over the years he worked as an engineer's helper, meter tester 1st class and service dispatcher.

Bro. Larry Gum was hired as a laborer at Delmarva Power's Indian River power plant in 1969. He advanced over the years and worked as a fuel equipment operator, qualified machinist, district utility man and field service person.

Bro. Edward Cropper Jr. started with Choptank Electric Co-op in 1998 as a meter reader in the Berlin District. He held that position until he went on long-term disability, due to illness, in November 2006. Our best wishes go out to Bro. Cropper.

*Edward D. Sparks, F.S.*

## What's Ahead for Us

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1439 is doing well in an age of aggressive change and many heavy-handed management tactics. As always our responsibility is to do the right thing regardless of their inability to do the same. The proverb "no pil-

low is as soft as a clear conscience" is true and we should be the ones benefiting from good sleep.

We may be living in a global economy, but the need for "quality labor, professional service and dependable product" is as real today as ever. If we can work together and stand right, stand strong and stand together, that's a difficult rope to break. This heritage has been given to us with much effort. What legacy will we leave for those who follow behind us? It is written that "to whom much is given, much is required." We've been given much here at Local 1439, and it will require much to keep it that way.

I'm proud of and grateful for everyone's performance during the past year. A lot of work and difficulty were put behind us in grand fashion.

*Ken Carroll, P.S.*

## Charlie Carr Tribute

L.U. 2321 (t), MIDDLETON, MA—With great sadness the local announces the passing on March 15 of Charles "Charlie" Carr.

Charlie was very instrumental in organizing employees of the New England Telephone Company in 1970, to help them gain IBEW representation. He also served as the first business manager of Local 2321, which was chartered in January 1971. Charlie retired in 1997, after 40 years of service, from what was then Bell Atlantic, now Verizon. He was a member of the Local 2321 Retirees Club.

Charlie was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and motorcycle riding. Charlie is survived by his wife, Betty, four daughters, three stepdaughters, one stepson and 11 grandchildren. The local established a scholarship in Charlie's memory and extends deepest condolences to his family and friends.

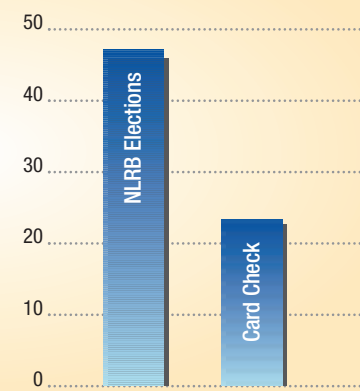
*John DeRosa, P.S.*

## NLRB Elections Invite Management Coercion

Workers in NLRB elections were twice as likely as those in card check campaigns to report that management coerced them to oppose the union.

■ Percentage of Workers Responding Yes

Source: Adrienne Eaton, Ph.D., and Jill Kriesky, Ph.D., Fact Over Fiction: Opposition to Card Check Doesn't Add Up, American Rights at Work, March 2006.



## Why Workers Need the Employee Free Choice Act

The numbers above show that drawn-out elections in front of the National Labor Relations Board only encourage anti-union managers to use coercion against workers. This is why the IBEW and the whole labor movement are pushing for the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which is currently under consideration before the Senate after it was passed by the House of Representatives in March. The Employee Free Choice Act will help eliminate the problem of anti-union coercion by making forming a union as simple as convincing a majority of workers to sign a union card and cutting out the lengthy waiting time now required for an NLRB sponsored election.

For more about the Employee Free Choice Act, check out [www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voiceatwork/efca/](http://www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voiceatwork/efca/)

## Transitions continued from page 5

throughout Southern California. Wynn was instrumental in setting up the Henry Miller Salting School, which trained over 400 IBEW members in the basics of salting and construction organizing. The success of the school was one of the inspirations for the COMET "Train the Trainer" program.

Wynn was also the driving force in getting the IBEW to establish a standard international specialty agreement for conventions and trade shows. Under the agreement pioneered by Wynn, contractors who specialize in trade shows who have signed an agreement with a local will remain covered by the agreement wherever their next trade show is held.

With Nevada now playing an important early role in the presidential primaries, Wynn hopes to work actively with Local 357's political action committee to make the IBEW's political muscle felt in the 2008 elections.

The IBEW extends best wishes to Brother Wynn for a healthy and rewarding retirement. ■

## Get Connected

If you would like to receive your Electrical Worker via e-mail instead of in your mailbox, contact us at [publications@ibew.org](mailto:publications@ibew.org). Give us your name, IBEW local union number, card number and e-mail address and we will send you the link to access *The Electrical Worker* electronically.



Local 1220 pledges for PBS. Standing, crew members/camera operators Rafael Ramirez, Charles Evans and Tim Boyd. Seated, Local 1220 Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco, Admin. Asst. Marie Kowalski, and Bus. Reps. Jenn Kastigar and Jim Sterne. Photo by Dan Rozkuszka, WTTW steward.





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

*The Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper, along with the *IBEW Journal* magazine, now published quarterly, now constitute the official publications of the IBEW and seek to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## Hard Truths on Immigration



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

Immigration is back on center stage, and once again all workers are being used as pawns.

As we went to press, the Senate had recessed during its consideration of legislation on immigration. That body rejected an amendment which would strike from the bill a program to allow up to 600,000 workers to enter the United States every year. The Senate limited that number to 200,000. Small comfort.

The working people of North America have some questions for supporters of the bill: Why do you think that bringing in a sanctioned temporary work force will do anything but allow for equal opportunity exploitation of both the immigrants and the native born? What makes you think that these "temporary" workers will leave when their time is up? Why do you believe that the estimated 12 million illegal migrants now in America will go home and voluntarily get in line to become legal?

When organized labor has dared to protest the decline of real wages in America or the still growing gap between the wealthiest 2 percent and the rest of the country, we are derided for engaging in "class warfare." Yet, the unrelenting war on the middle class goes on, as wages, health benefits, pensions, educational opportunities and all of the factors that created the largest, most vibrant standard of living in the world are being systematically destroyed.

We have plenty of people in America—native born, legal immigrants and those with lawful residency permits—who are unemployed or underemployed. As global economic policies have sucked good-paying jobs overseas, we have more than enough men and women willing to learn and take jobs in growing fields, including our own trade. It makes me raging mad to hear politicians talk about jobs that "Americans won't do" when they fail to add the words "at poverty wages."

We are rapidly sliding from being the land of opportunity to the land of perpetual servitude. We will not take this. The IBEW is going to raise its collective voice to let elected officials know that if they want to wage war on the middle class, then their positions will be among the casualties.

## A New Capitalism?

In February, an earthquake hit the IBEW when Texas' largest utility, TXU, sold the utility to a group of private equity investors for \$45 billion. The transaction, the largest private buyout in U.S. corporate history, came only two months after hundreds of TXU's workers had voted to be represented by the IBEW.

Only three months after the TXU announcement, business journalists had a field day as DaimlerChrysler, the nine year-old pairing of historic German and U.S. automakers, was purchased by a private equity firm.

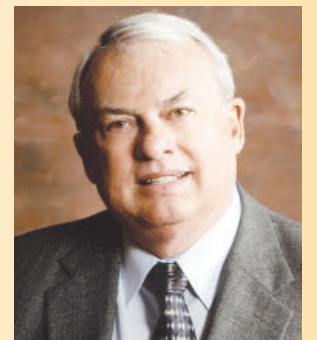
What are private equity companies? Think about groups of investors piling up their cash looking for the biggest bang for their billions. If they can snatch a company in trouble like Chrysler, life is good. Shake things up, turn the profits around and harvest the windfall a few short years later. Daimler-Benz paid \$36 billion for Chrysler in 1998. Cerberus, the equity investors, only paid \$7 billion.

Owners come and owners go, but the biggest question for the IBEW is always what is best for our members. Is the growing influence of private equity money good for our members and for U.S. workers? That's a tricky question, particularly since some of the cash for buyouts comes out of our own pension fund investments.

At TXU, the IBEW and our supporters in the AFL-CIO wasted no time sitting down with the private firms, Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts and Co. and Texas Pacific Group, to hammer out an agreement to recognize the workers' right to organize and to invest in growing the business. In return, the IBEW pledged to support TXU's sale at the public utility commission.

The IBEW will harness every tool in our pouch to insist that our members share in any gains as new names are tacked on the doors of the executive suites.

But we're keeping a close eye on what some European unionists are calling "the New Capitalism" to ensure that growth in profits comes from building up, not tearing down, the companies that we rely on for our bread and butter.



**Jon F. Walters**  
International Secretary-Treasurer



## Letters to the Editor

### The Changing Workplace

It is in fact beginning to appear that the talks in Congress concerning immigration are close to being resolved. With this issue seemingly coming to a conclusion of some type, NOW is the time for organized labor to format a plan for this issue to work into OUR favor. I bring this to your attention because of what I have seen accomplished here in Florida. I am a foreman at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in construction and renovation. I work with a construction electrician from Cuba who speaks little English. I was apprehensive at accepting his referral, but said to myself that this was a two-week call and everyone deserves a chance. Although we do have a language barrier, I found a good, hard-working mechanic and find myself beginning to learn another language. I am not saying that this is an easy task, and there are probably still a lot of brothers out there that would not extend themselves. I am simply saying that our workplace has been changing and we MUST change with it and find a way for it to work into our favor or we will PERISH! God bless the IBEW.

*Lou Amandola  
Local 915 member, Tampa, Fla.*

### A True Brotherhood

It is common for a business to do something for an employee who is suffering from a natural disaster, but it was my local union, Local 55 in Des Moines, Iowa, that remembered me and rose to the occasion. The recent storm caused a power outage for my household for 150 hours. This was during a time when outside temperatures were in the teens.

The evenings were the worst times. After working mandatory overtime, the evenings were spent sitting in a dark house with no running water, only a small amount of heat, and reading by candlelight. Eating the cold food on hand was naturally dispiriting. Their gift to me of a gift certificate to a local restaurant was greatly appreciated and gave my wife and I a warm place to go and enjoy a nice meal.

I want to thank Local 55 for their generosity and foresightedness.

*Bret McGreer  
Local 55 member, Des Moines, Iowa*

## Who We Are

This letter was written in response to the December 2006 *Journal* column by International President Hill entitled "A Solid Foundation," on the great strides the IBEW made last year. If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [publications@ibew.org](mailto:publications@ibew.org).

## 'We Are Americans, We Are Union'

Dear Mr. Hill,

After reading your editorial, "A Solid Foundation," in my husband's *IBEW Journal*, I felt compelled to write you. I read the *Journal* cover to cover, always have. My daddy, Robert L. Tittle, was an electrician out of Local 143 in Harrisburg [Pa.]. I grew up in a union household. My parents encouraged reading, including the *Journal*. My daddy was very proud to be in the union. It did not come easy for him. He was severely wounded in World War II, came home and went to work. He married, had two daughters and a son that died when he was three days old. He hitchhiked to Harrisburg in the evening after work to attend electrical school. This was in itself quite an accomplishment because he had no high school diploma. He also had his right eye shot out in the war. My daddy had grit. He never gave up on anything. To support your family, work hard and trust in the Lord were his ideals. He loved to hunt and fish. Losing his right eye never stopped him. He taught himself to shoot left-handed, cast left-handed and to thank God he still had one eye.

The reason I tell you all of this is because I truly believe people who are union members are



Robert Tittle

some of the finest people on this earth. They are not self-serving, or greedy. You wrote, "Being the best is the only ticket for demanding fair compensation for our labor." That statement dealt not just with the union but my dad's way of life. I lost my daddy in 2002. He

was elated when his grandson joined. I just wish he was here to hear his great-grandson say, "I want to be a trician like my Pap." I truly know he showed a lot of apprenticeship what union membership could do for you, but also what it demanded out of you.

My husband Clair and I married in 1966, had two children, and tried to make a living on one paycheck. I wanted to stay home and raise our children. My dad saw this and encouraged my husband to apply for an apprenticeship. He started in 1968, and became a journeyman wireman four years later. The work picture was not good in 1973 so my husband worked in Montana, New York, New Jersey—anywhere he could find work. I knew about this lifestyle. My dad worked out of town also. He still works out of Local 143.

Our daughter Melissa worked right out of high school. She went into radio, then newspapers. She was editor of one paper and assistant editor for the *Lewistown Sentinel*. She has loved animals all her life so two years ago, she applied for the job of dog law enforcement officer. She is now the dog warden for Juniata and Mifflin counties. She is a union member and proud of it, proud of the job she does.

Our son Robert certainly could have attended the college of his choice but he chose Local 143's apprenticeship program. He is an electrician now and a very proud union member. It just runs in the family. My point in all of this is that my family is very grateful to be part of a brotherhood, a gift indeed inherited from others who have since passed on to their reward.

The world is such a terrifying place right now. We are Americans; we are union and I truly believe it is families like mine who are helping the world to be a better place for the future sons and daughters.

My family has a great foundation. The structure we build will be built with hard and honest work, with fairness, dedication and love of God.

I wanted to say thank you for recognizing in your editorial the ideals I grew up with, and live with now. You said, "The union is moving ahead." I truly believe in it.

*Janie Bair  
Port Royal, Pa.*



change and opportunity that empowers our union to set trends that others follow.

*Eugene Ascherman  
Local 11 member, Los Angeles*

I believe to attract young people into the IBEW we must be able to put them to work. This will not happen with our number of members. We must allow our older members to retire early without penalty, thus opening the books for younger members. If a young nonunion worker knows he can join our ranks and go out to work, why would he not want to come with us. As it is now when we take in new members they aren't working steady enough to encourage friends to join.

*Peter J Lee  
Local 81 member, Scranton, Pa.*

## What Do You Think?

Every month we will be asking a different question and inviting reader responses.

Please e-mail your response to the following question to [publications@ibew.org](mailto:publications@ibew.org).

**How would you get your fellow members more involved in their local union?**

**These are some of the first responses to last month's question:**

**What do you think should be done to attract young people into the IBEW?**

For more responses, check [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org):

When I was in high school, nobody ever told me about the IBEW. I think we should make a bigger impact on high school students looking for something after high school. I would have become a member a lot sooner in my life, had somebody informed me back then. I am a proud member of Local 890, Janesville, Wis.

*Steve Glissendorf  
Local 890 member, Janesville, Wis.*

While some people talk about the idea of reaching out toward high school students, Brother Chris Guerra, recording secretary for Los Angeles Local 11's District 2, is already doing so. He recently visited a high school for at-risk teens. Wearing an IBEW/NECA shirt, he draped a T-shirt with a large IBEW logo over the podium from which he was speaking. He emphasized the history, achievements and future of the IBEW. He encouraged these students to stay in school and welcomed them into a brighter future for themselves in our apprenticeship programs.

Students were amazed to see Guerra demonstrate various tools, especially different types of voltage testers. Guerra is well known in Local 11 and is an energetic exemplar of IBEW professionalism. He promotes the growth,



## Spotlight on Safety

### Building Trades Department Settles Lawsuit Over Key Cement Ingredient

The Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, has reached a settlement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that will require the agency to inspect construction sites for safety procedures to reduce worker exposure to Portland cement, a basic ingredient used in mortar, concrete, cement bricks, stucco and grout. Portland cement contains hexavalent chromium, a known carcinogen hazardous to skin, eyes and lungs.

The April agreement settles a lawsuit filed by the BCTD a year ago when OSHA's new regulation on hexavalent chromium excluded exposures to Portland cement. The BCTD had spent years in the rulemaking process submitting evidence on the negative health effects of hexavalent chromium. The settlement commits OSHA to enforce existing regulations that provide construction workers with the same sorts of protections they would have gained under the new standard.

The agreement requires OSHA compliance officers to ensure that employers using Portland cement are following regulations for safe working procedures. Compliance officers will evaluate whether proper washing facilities, protective equipment, adequate worker training and accurate injury and illness recordkeeping are in place.

Negative health effects of exposure to hexavalent chromium are well documented. Very small quantities in cement can cause allergic contact dermatitis, a severe skin disease. Even dry Portland cement can cause similar skin problems.

"When wet, Portland cement is highly caustic and can cause cracking and thickening of skin," said Pete Stafford, BCTD safety and health director. "Prolonged exposure can cause severe caustic burns and damage the skin so much that the worker requires skin grafts or even limb amputation."

Inhaling large quantities of dry Portland cement can cause severe lung hazards. The settlement agreement requires OSHA compliance officers to make sure workers performing these tasks are not overexposed to airborne dusts. ■

June is  
National  
Safety Month

## Nashville Organizing Blitz Nets Electricians, Contractors

Looking at IBEW market share in Nashville is a glass half empty/glass half full proposition. On the bright side, the growing metropolitan area is bursting with ripe targets. The downer is construction market share is about 19 percent.

But all that may change for the better since a group of organizers came to town for a one-week blitz in April, visiting job sites and nonunion contractors and spreading the union gospel.

The blitz, from April 23-26, follows a new formula in construction organizing that has been used successfully in the past several months: using around 30 organizers, spending several days blanketing nonunion job sites, hand-billing, making contact with workers and inviting them to an "industry night"—in a few days. At the event, give them a chance to meet union signatory contractors and hear the benefits of IBEW membership. Sign workers on the spot.

"We decided that if we are going to make gains, we need to be aggressive and do things differently than we did before," said Tenth District International Vice President Robert



The Nashville "blitz team" included members and organizers from 12 locals and three districts. This photo also includes signatory contractors.

Klein. "It's been a long time since I've seen as much excitement as I did in Nashville."

As a result of the organizing effort, Nashville Local 429 has 70 new electricians. Signatory contractors who had been reluctant to bid on jobs because of a lack of manpower are thrilled, said blitz organizer Nathan Edgar, Tenth District International Representative.

"The contractors were elated and said with this type of effort, they can succeed and grow the market in the Nashville area," said Edgar, who added that Local 429 had up to 30 unfilled calls every day. "The numbers of

people we are processing into membership tell the whole story."

Twelve locals unions in three districts pitched in for the blitz, which also included International Representatives from the Tenth, Fifth and Sixth districts. Besides members of Local 429, members from locals 136 (Birmingham, Ala.), 175 (Chattanooga, Tenn.), 270 (Oak Ridge, Tenn.), 445 (Battle Creek, Mich.), 474 (Memphis), 481 (Indianapolis), 700 (Ft. Smith, Ark.), 728 (Ft. Lauderdale), 760 (Knoxville, Tenn.), 934 (Kingsport, Tenn.) and 1205 (Gainesville, Fla.) participated. ■

## Outside Line Contractor Continues to Grow

### At a Glance

#### Quanta Services Inc.

**Services:** contractor services within the electrical utility, telecommunications, broadband cable and gas pipeline industries

**Headquarters:** Houston, Texas

**Work force:** Over 13,000

**Some Subsidiaries:** Arby Construction Inc., Golden State Utility Co., North Sky Communications, Seaward Corporation, Tom Allen Construction Co.

#### InfraSource

**Services:** designs, builds, and maintains transmission and distribution networks for utilities, power producers, and industrial customers.

**Headquarters:** Media, Pa.

**Work force:** Over 4,000

**Subsidiaries:** Danshiell, MJ Electric, LLC, Suneyes, LLC, Blair Park Services, LLC

In a move that will greatly expand its national presence in the utility and telecommunications industry, the Houston, Texas-based Quanta Services Inc. announced in March that it would buy its long time competitor, InfraSource Services in a \$1.3 billion stock deal. The merger, if approved, will make Quanta one of the biggest electrical contractors in the United States.

Quanta—which has more than 13,000 employees—provides specialized contractor services within the electrical utility, telecommunications, broadband cable and gas pipeline industries. The deal would give Quanta access to markets in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic where it was previously not active. Many Quanta subsidiaries are represented by the IBEW, with organizing efforts ongoing at others.

While the merger could create surpluses for Quanta on the corporate level, it is unlikely to affect utility or construction workers. "In most of our locals the change will be invisible," said IBEW Safety Department Director Jim Tomaseski.

Business Representative Brett Stone from Kansas City, Mo., Local 53, which represents workers at Quanta subsidiary PAR Electrical Contractors Inc., said that the merger is not having an effect of their members at this point.

The short-term impact of the buyout on members at the Media, Pa.-based InfraSource

will also be minimal, Tomaseski said. "There is so much work out there and such a shortage of quality labor that it is unlikely to affect our numbers. Our hall will still dispatch workers to InfraSource subsidiaries, even if it's now owned by Quanta," said Tomaseski.

Detroit Local 17—which represents workers at MJ Electric, an InfraSource subsidiary—is still waiting to see how the merger will affect their members, but it hopes that its good relations with MJ Electric will continue under Quanta. "MJ Electric is a labor- and safety-conscious company and we're hoping on

our end that there aren't any changes to that," said Local 17 Assistant Business Manager Mike Kozlowski. "We want to work with them to let them know that we want to move the electrical energy industry forward."

Diamond Head, Calif., Local 47—which represents workers at both Quanta and InfraSource subsidiaries—is taking a similar approach. The local wrote in the March issue of its publication that "Local 47 has no position on the merger. We will wait to see how the deal works out. We wish Quanta well and will work to protect and advance the interests of our members and the industry at large." ■