

# IBEW JOURNAL

[www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)

September 2004



**OPENING  
DOORS TO THE  
UNIVERSE**



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Their Choice

After seeing the poster contest winners in the latest issue of the *IBEW Journal*, I showed the winners to my family. My wife and kids could not believe you didn't pick the drawing by Kevin E. Thompson. Kevin deserved much more than "Honorable Mention."

*[Editor's Note: A panel of impartial judges selected the winners—not a single person. The winner represents the consensus view of the judges.]*

## Stand Together

Every electrician that can read blueprints knows when the Republicans get in power there is a toolbox parade to unemployment. Now is the time to contribute to the Democratic Party, always a friend to working people. The time is now to stand and be counted, something IBEW members know how to do.

Send a message, "We will remember in November."

**H. C. McGarity, Jr.**

**IBEW Local 20 member, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas**

## Don't Be Fowl

If you're a chicken, chances are you won't be voting in Colonel Saunders to the presidency. The same concept should hold true if you are part of the organized labor market. You should think twice about reinstating the present arrogant anti-union regime to another four years of union busting.

My brothers who praise Mr. Stephen J. Lalino of New York must work directly for the presidency, because an overabundance of the loyal brotherhood across the nation is unemployed. I don't know about you, brother, but I would rather put food on my table and send my children to college than worry about gun issues and tax breaks for the rich. Why? Because I'm not rich!! Unless you are, you will be wishing that you had a union to help bargain for you in the near future. I'm not a chicken.

**Roberto J. Perez**

**Local 234 member, Castroville, California**

## Vote for Change

We need to stand united and send a message to George "W"—a message that lets him know that we are tired of sending our jobs to a foreign country, that we are tired of his attempted "shenanigans" with overtime pay, that we are tired of hearing the same old "saw" that union labor is ruining this country, and that we are tired of him and his millionaire buddies in the corporate world with their new motto—"All for one and ALL for me." They made their millions on the backs of labor and now they want to crush labor. Don't let them do it—register to vote and help kick the rascal out!

**Cliff Martin**

**Local 668 member, Lafayette, Indiana**

## Get Involved

Don't think that stupidity is limited to one electrician in New York and one in Tennessee. There are plenty of IBEW members who voted for Dubya and will vote for him again. They just don't get it and probably never will.

These are the members of unions that resent their union dues being used

*(Continued on page 25)*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

EDWIN D. HILL  
International President  
1125 15th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

JEREMIAH J. O'CONNOR  
International Secretary-Treasurer  
1125 15th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

### INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman  
MILTON L. FOSTER  
c/o IBEW Local 191  
2701 Hoyt Avenue  
Everett, Washington 98201

First District  
JOSEPH A. McCAFFERTY  
3115 Nottingham Road  
Norristown, Pennsylvania 19403

Second District  
RUI M. CARRINHO  
c/o IBEW Local 1274  
1329 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Third District  
SALVATORE J. CHILIA  
c/o IBEW Local 38  
1590 E. 23rd Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Fourth District  
LONNIE PLOTT  
c/o IBEW Local 613  
501 Pulliam Street, SW, Suite 250  
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Fifth District  
LYLE KEITH QUERRY  
c/o IBEW Local 53  
1100 E. Admiral Blvd.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Sixth District  
WILLIAM H. TURNER  
c/o IBEW Local 570  
750 S. Tuscon Boulevard  
Tuscon, Arizona 85716

Seventh District  
PATRICK LAVIN  
c/o IBEW Local 47  
600 N. Diamond Bar Blvd.  
Diamond Bar, California 91765

Eighth District  
JOSEPH FASHION  
c/o IBEW Local 353  
1377 Lawrence Avenue, East  
North York, ON, Canada M3A 3P8

### INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

First District  
PHILIP J. FLEMMING  
1450 Meyerside Drive, Suite 300  
Mississauga, Ontario,  
Canada L5T 2N5

Second District  
FRANK J. CARROLL, JR.  
4 Armstrong Road, 2nd Floor  
Shelton, Connecticut,  
06484

Third District  
DONALD C. SIEGEL  
500 Cherrington Pkwy.  
Suite 325  
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108

Fourth District  
PAUL J. WITTE  
8260 North Creek Drive, Suite 140  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Fifth District  
MELVIN W. HORTON  
100 Concourse Parkway  
Suite 300  
Birmingham, Alabama 35244

Sixth District  
LAWRENCE P. CURLEY  
8174 Cass Avenue  
Darien, Illinois 60561

Seventh District  
JONATHAN B. GARDNER  
320 Westway Place, Suite 531  
Arlington, Texas 76018

Eighth District  
JON F. WALTERS  
330 Shoup Avenue, Suite 204  
P.O. Box 51257  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83405

Ninth District  
MICHAEL S. MOWREY  
2500 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 250  
Sacramento, California  
95833-4221

Tenth District  
ROBERT P. KLEIN  
5726 Marlin Road, Suite 500  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
37411-4043

Eleventh District  
WILLIAM C. EADS  
300 South Jefferson, Suite 300  
Springfield, Missouri 65806

### IBEW JOURNAL

Edwin D. Hill, EDITOR  
C. James Spellane,  
DIRECTOR

Carol A. Cipolari,  
MANAGING EDITOR  
Carol M. Fisher,  
SR. EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Malinda R. Brent,  
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST  
Len Shindel,  
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

### WEB SITE

Carl Cantrell,  
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
Tim Prendergast,  
WEB COORDINATOR/DESIGNER  
Nancy Taylor, WEB SPECIALIST

### ARCHIVES

Mike Nugent,  
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

### 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 *Journal* is mailed. Please keep letters as brief as possible. The *Journal* reserves the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

### Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *IBEW Journal*,  
1125 15th St., N.W., Room 1001,  
Washington, D.C. 20005

or send by e-mail to:  
journal@ibew.org

©2004 International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers.  
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. on  
Union-made paper.

IBEW Journal (ISSN: 0897-2826) Published  
monthly, except January/February and  
July/August, which are combined issues, by  
the International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers, 1125 15th Street, N.W., Wash-  
ington, D.C. 20005-2765. Subscriptions prices in  
the United States and Canada, \$4 per year in  
advance. Periodicals postage paid at Wash-  
ington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
*IBEW Journal*, 1125 15th St., N.W., Room  
810, Washington, D.C. 20005-2765. This  
*Journal* will not be held responsible for  
views expressed by correspondents. Paid  
advertising is not accepted.  
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011756  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to  
B&M Mailing Services Limited, 35 VanKirk  
Drive, Unit 15, Brampton, Ontario L7A1A5.  
E-mail: bnmmail@bellnet.ca



# IBEW JOURNAL

September 2004

Volume 103

Number 7

14

HUBBLE SUPPORTERS

COVER

## Doors to the Universe

**14** IBEW Members Help in NASA's  
Hubble Space Mission—*Part I*

**ON THE COVER:** Baltimore, Maryland, Local 1501 mem-  
bers Rick Wilson (left) and Kelly Scharmann stand in front  
of doors on the model of the aft shroud of the Hubble  
telescope at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.



## NEBF and NEAP Reports

**6** Summary for the Year End  
December 31, 2003

10

MEDICARE IN CANADA

## Get in the Game

**8** It's Everybody's Duty to Register  
and Vote—Special Message from  
the International Officers



## Health Care: A North American Crisis—Part II

**10** Canada's Medicare System  
at a Crossroads

13

ON DUTY

## IBEW on Duty

**13** Dispatches from Members  
on the Front Lines



FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

**2** **IBEW Currents**  
A Farewell Cookout;  
Extreme Hobby;  
Contract at Comcast;  
Keeping Traffic  
Moving; and more...

**17** **Organizing Wire**  
Victory in Court  
Reporters Case; and  
Salting in Nova Scotia  
Pays Off

**18** **Local Lines**

**28** **In Memoriam**

3

MOVING TRAFFIC





Int'l. Rep. and former Bus. Mgr. Tony Blankenship (standing) with families at farewell picnic. Bus. Mgr. Lonnie Hawk (far right) addresses members.

## Members at Thomson Hold Farewell Cookout

In March, Thomson Inc. announced that it was closing its Circleville, Ohio, TV glass-making plant. Over 500 members of IBEW Local 2331 were left to sort through emotions that some have likened to a death in the family. They had worked hard on hot furnaces around the clock. They stood together to fight for decent pay and benefits, developing the tight bond of union brothers and sisters. (See "IBEW Members at Thomson Face Shutdown of TV Tube and Glass Plants," *IBEW Journal*, May 2004).

If the closing of the Circleville plant was a funeral of sorts, the "Thank You and Farewell" Cookout sponsored by Local 2331 on June 26 was the wake. "Our members enjoyed themselves immensely," said Lonnie Hawk, President and business manager. A lot of times, events like these turn nasty, but this was the best-attended function that we have held. Some of the members are now talking about doing an annual cookout."

As members ponder the difficult future of a community where Wal-Mart jobs have replaced good-paying manufacturing positions, some wonder if things could have ended differently. Lon-

nie Hawk, in a letter to IBEW President Ed Hill, thanked him for the approval of funds for the cookout and expressed his gratitude for being a member and local officer of "the greatest union in the United States and Canada, a union that truly cares about its members and their families." Hawk then asked Hill for one "final favor." He asked that Local 2331's story be shared with the Brotherhood. "I have to say that the past leadership and myself did not think that we would ever be shut down and did not look at job security as being at the top of the priority list. I implore other locals to bargain now when they don't need it because when they do it will be too late."



Dan Sports Photo

Local 22 member Harold Waddell flies through timing lights in a winning ride earlier this year in Tracy, California.

## Member Takes Hobby To Extreme Heights

Before he could drive a car, or even walk, Local 22 member Harold Waddell was riding a motorcycle around the Nebraska hills.

"My grandpa built me a special motorcycle out of my great-great grandmother's washing machine, a 3/4-horsepower Briggs and Stratton," said Waddell. "That was when it all started."

It was 21 years ago, when his father taught his toddler son "hill climbing," the extreme sport that requires flying up a mountain on a two-wheeled engine faster than the rest. Today he is near the top of the professional circuit, winning competitions across the country, and earning one of 10 American slots for participation in his first international competition in September.

A fifth-year wireman apprentice, Waddell squeezes his avocation in with his tradecraft in Omaha, Nebraska, where he works for Miller Electric.

But in his spare time, the four-time American Motorcyclist Association champion travels the country running courses that range between 300 to 1,000 feet in elevation. With timing lights at the bottom and at the top, contestants on 200-horsepower motorcycles vie for the fastest time to the top. On the way are obstacles like jumps, ledges and cliffs taking between four seconds to a full minute to run.

## Union Plus Awards IBEW Scholarships Seven IBEW Members, Children and Spouses Receive Awards

More than 100 union members out of 6,800 applicants were selected to receive Union Plus awards for 2004. Criteria for winners included academic achievement, character and social commitment.

IBEW member Robert Hughs was chosen by Union Plus to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to pursue business and labor studies at Missouri Western State College in his home town of St. Joseph.

Hughs is a journeyman inside wireman in Local 545 in St. Joseph and a past vice president of the Northwest Missouri Central Labor Council.

Andrew Becker-Kellis, son of Gary Kellis, member of Local 280, Salem, Oregon, has also received a \$1,000 award. He



is attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as a freshman majoring in political science. A young person with a strong social conscience

derived in part from his father's commitment to the union movement, Becker-Kellis intends to follow a career in politics.

Eagle Scout Jared Hoy of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant. Hoy, son of Local 305 member Geary Hoy, enters St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, this fall as a business major. Hoy said he values the importance of unions through his father's 27-year membership in the IBEW.

Union Plus presented Seward, Illinois, resident David Merchant, son of Local 21 member Karleen Merchant, with a \$1,000 scholarship. A freshman at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, he plans to play for the Creighton baseball team.

Joliet Junior College freshman Charles Pandolfi earned a \$1,000 scholarship. His father, Philip Pandolfi is a member of Local 176, Joliet, Illinois. Studying fire science in school, he is also a member of a local volunteer firefighters group and a licensed emergency medical technician who has dreamed of becoming a union firefighter with the city of Chicago since he was three.

Pamela Toman, daughter of Local 134 member Timothy Toman, of Westmont, Illinois, enters Brown University in Rhode Island this fall with the help of a \$1,000 Union Plus scholarship award. The straight-A student who graduated at the top of her class excelled not only in academics, but in service activities too.

Janice Gilliam, wife of Walnut Creek, California Local 1245 member Matt Gilliam, received a \$500 scholarship for her studies at Shasta College. The mother of three receives her associate's degree in education, childhood studies and early education this fall and is a teacher's aide for special education children.

Union Plus offers an education services program that includes access to scholarships, education loans and planning advice for college. Visit [www.union-plus.org/education](http://www.union-plus.org/education).

(Currents continued on next page)

### TRAFFIC AND THE ART OF SIGNAL MAINTENANCE

Southern California IBEW members will soon have the skills to install and commission traffic lights, thanks to a new course at the Orange County Electrical Training Trust around the International Municipal Signal Association Certification Program and the California Department of Transportation Traffic Manual. At



Apprentice Geraldo Javier (left) wires the signal pole base as instructor Rick Hecht mans the control cabinet at the Local 441 training school.

the Local 441 training school in Santa Ana, apprentices will be learning traffic signal installation as part of their journeyman wireman curriculum, said instructor Pat Warton.

The training school instruction, both for apprentices and for journeyman wiremen continuing their coursework under new man-

datory state licensing rules, started in response to requests from contractors who needed workers skilled in the devices.

"One of our contractors said it takes a good five years before they allow a journeyman to work on a signal alone," Warton said. "Their concern is liability as 24 different signals are being generated at any one time."

It is a skill that will improve the marketability of IBEW members and increase their value to contractors. Traffic control devices are not only found on public rights of way, Warton said, but on the many private campuses around Southern California.

## Comcast Members Win Contract In New Jersey

What happens when Comcast, a corporation with deep pockets and a history of hostility to unions, stonewalls in contract negotiations with a bargaining unit of 88 cable TV technicians and clerical workers in a small New Jersey city?

If you are members of IBEW Local 827 in Pleasantville, located only five miles from glitzy Atlantic City, you make so much noise that the surrounding populace would swear that you have 8,888 members. You take your issues with Comcast to the company's customers, to the news media and even to the Comcast's headquarters in the Philadelphia, with eye-catching, creative tactics. You construct a flashy "unofficial" web site, paid for by membership contributions, to keep each other informed and reach out for support. You hold informational picket lines and rallies with a simple theme—"We're Not Gonna Take It!" And you win.

On July 6, members of Local 827 ratified a new contract with Comcast that includes an 11.4 percent wage increase over 41 months and critical protections against sub-contracting when the company moves into new telephony technologies like voice-over-internet protocol (VoIP).

Dave Kubert, vice president of Local 827, who led negotiations, credits the membership of the local for the contract victory. "Comcast," he says, "is a tough company to bargain with, but the members stood together and fought." Kubert also commends Rich Spieler, Local 827's business agent for southern New Jersey, for doing a "great job" in supporting the internal organizing of the membership.

Local 827 opened discussions with Comcast in April on the contract that was due to expire on May 31. The company demanded that the union agree to the elimination of a sick day bonus that was equivalent to 2.7 percent of each member's yearly pay and a 6 percent salary increase over 3 years.

That outraged members of the local,

who had worked without a significant raise over the previous three years, and who make roughly \$7 per hour less than technicians with competing companies. Their bitterness was stoked by financial reports showing that CEO Brian Roberts and his father, Comcast founder Ralph Roberts, took home a combined \$20.3 million in 2003 with an additional \$34.2 million in exercised stock options.

While Comcast dug in its heels, and negotiators agreed to contract extensions, the local's membership got busy. Knowing, first-hand, that Comcast had a dreadful record of customer service, they took their issues to surrounding towns of Longport, Margate, Ventnor and Ocean City in several motorcades. Their [www.local827.net](http://www.local827.net) web site urged customers to write to Comcast asking them to bargain in good faith with the IBEW.

Local 827 had a deep well of union support to draw from. Vice President Kubert says: "Atlantic City is a union town. This helped us to win our contract." Joining the informational picket lines were Local 827 members from Verizon and from Comcast in Toms River, New Jersey, Teamsters from UPS and members of the Atlantic City-Cape May Central Labor Council, including IBEW Locals 351 and 210 and the Pleasantville Police Department.

The new contract with Comcast includes an \$850 signing bonus and an enhanced 401(k) retirement plan that includes a 100 percent match by Comcast. Each bargaining unit member will receive 100 stock options. Leave time is expanded from six months to one year for on-job injuries and vacation and bereavement pay are also improved.

Currently Comcast retirees receive no company medical benefits. The contract includes language requiring the company to hold discussions with the local concerning an offer of such benefits to Pleasantville workers if Comcast covers any employees in any state in the future. ■

## TRANSITIONS

**IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill has named International Representative Bill Bohne' as director of the IBEW Personnel Department effective August 1, 2004. He succeeds Glenda Thomason, who retired.**



**William T. Bohne' Jr.**

Brother Bohne' is a 30-year member of IBEW Local 2270, Wilmington, Delaware, with a lengthy record of service to IBEW railroad members. He served as Local 2270 Local Chairman and President for 13 years before becoming Assistant General Chairman of Railroad System Council 7 in 1993. He moved up to System Council Vice Chairman and legislative representative.

In 2002 International President Hill named him an International Representative and assigned him to the Railroad Department at the International Office.

Brother Bohne' holds an associate's degree in liberal arts from Delaware County Community College and in 1999 was awarded his bachelor's degree in labor studies from the Antioch University program at the George Meany Center.

During his time in his local, he spent six years in the U.S. Navy Reserves in the 1970s, including 22 months of active duty as an electronic technician.

Brother Bohne' and his wife, Cathy, have two children and three grandchildren. He is a member of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church where he serves as chairman of the Mutual Ministry Committee, chairman of the Christian Education Committee, and sings in the choir. As chairman of a Springfield Youth Aid Panel committee, he has volunteered time to his community adjudicating criminal cases for youths 18 and under.

The Brotherhood extends congratulations and best wishes to Brother Bohne' as he assumes his new responsibilities. ■

On September 1, 2004, Kenneth L. Olsen will retire as an International Representative, having passed his 35th anniversary as an IBEW member.

For all of those years, Brother Olsen says, "I loved my job because it involves working with people." He was initiated into Local 532, Billings, Montana, in 1969 and has served the Rocky Mountain area throughout his career.

He came up through the ranks at Local 532 as a member of the examining board and executive board before becoming treasurer in 1973 and assistant business manager the next year.

He then served five years as business manager before being named an International Representative in 1989 and assigned to the Eighth District. In addition to time on the



**Kenneth L. Olsen**

Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO and was for years an active member of the Democratic Party, both in the Yellowstone County and Montana State parties.

Brother Olsen graduated from Charlo (Montana) High School and attended the University of Montana as well as serving in the U.S. Army in 1961-62. He and his wife, Lois, have two daughters and three grandchildren. The IBEW wishes the Olsens a rich and fruitful retirement. ■

Fourth District International Representative Gordon L. Bray retired September 1, 2004, in his 48th year as an IBEW member and 40 years after he first became an international representative.

Born in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, Brother Bray was initiated into manufacturing Local 1842, Evendale, Ohio, in September 1956. That was soon after he finished a four-year tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force, starting during the Korean War in 1952.

Two years after he was initiated into the IBEW, he



**Gordon L. Bray**

became a member of the Local 1842 Executive Board. He took office as the local president and acting business manager in 1960.

He was named an International Representative by then-International President Gordon Freeman in 1964 and assigned to the Fourth District.

He and his wife, Gladys, have one son, Jimmy Lee, and Brother Bray is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The IBEW wishes him and his family a long and rewarding retirement. ■

Montana State Electrical Board, he has an extensive record of serving various Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees, both in Montana and in the five-state area of the Eighth District.

He has also served the labor movement as an officer of the local

Sadly, the IBEW is informed of the July 27, 2004, death of former Sixth District International Vice President T. E. Malone, who joined the IBEW in 1940 and retired in 1979. He was 86.

Brother Malone was a native of Kentucky who was initiated into the IBEW in Local 17, Detroit, Michigan. In 1969, Brother Malone was appointed Sixth District Vice President by then-President Charles Pillard, and subsequently elected to three full terms.

Brother Malone had served Local 17 as executive board member and financial secretary before being elected business manager. He was appointed an



**Thomas Earl Malone**

International Representative by then-President Gordon Freeman in 1960. Brother Malone was a pilot in both World War II and the Korean War. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as a cadet in 1942 and served in the Pacific, where he rose to the rank of first lieutenant. During the Korean conflict he served with the Strategic Air Command. He was a lifetime VFW member and a charter member of the Air Force Association.

He retired on June 1, 1979, and was residing in Alamo, Texas, at the time of his death. His wife, Delores, preceded him in death. The IBEW extends its condolences to Brother Malone's family. ■

The IBEW regrets to announce the death June 10, 2004, of Howard Moreland, a World War II veteran who retired as an IBEW International Representative in 1986.

He died a few months after the 50th anniversary of his initiation into the IBEW. He was



**Howard Moreland**

East Peoria High and attended Illinois Wesleyan University.

He began his military service in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and served to the end of World War II, seeing service in China, Burma and India. He stayed active in the Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars and was honored as a 50-year member of the VFW Post 2078.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine. They have four daughters and Brother Moreland was particularly proud that each of his daughters—Marilyn, Carol, Nancy and Janet—earned a master's degree. The IBEW extends its deepest sympathy to Brother Moreland's family and friends. ■

# 2003 Summary Annual Report For the National Electrical Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Annuity Plan, #52-6132372, for the year ended December 31, 2003. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

## Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$63,475,678. These expenses included \$5,620,555 in administrative expenses and \$57,855,123 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 70,181 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$1,543,924,752 as of December 31, 2003, compared to \$1,316,107,127 as of January 1, 2003. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$227,817,625. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$291,293,303, including

employer contributions of \$131,439,071, gains of \$6,560,786 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$152,916,629, and other income of \$376,817.

## Minimum Funding Standards

Enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

## Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

- an accountant's report;
- financial information and information on payments to service providers;
- assets held for investment;
- loans or other obligations in default or classified as uncollectible;
- transactions in excess of 5 percent of plan assets;
- insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers; and
- information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts,
- master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the

office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Annuity Plan, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$13.25 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally-protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ☐

ing employer contributions of \$354,917,998, gains of \$205,529,741 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$1,337,672,700, and other income of \$6,094,458.

## Minimum Funding Standards

An actuary's statement shows that enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

## Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

- an accountant's report;
- financial information and information on payments to service providers;
- assets held for investment;
- loans or other obligations in default or classified as uncollectible;

- transactions in excess of 5 percent of plan assets;
- insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers;
- information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts,
- master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates; and
- actuarial information regarding the funding of the plan.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, (301) 556-4300. The charge to cover copying costs will be \$31.50 for the full annual report, or \$.25 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabili-

ties of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally-protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ☐

# Notice to Participants in the National Electrical Annuity Plan

## EXPLANATION OF PRERETIREMENT SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFIT

If you are married and die before retirement, NEAP will provide your spouse with a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse will receive this benefit if: (1) you have satisfied the minimum eligibility requirement of 160 hours of service; (2) you have a balance in your Individual Account; (3) you die prior to receiving a pension benefit; (4) you are married; and (5) you have not previously declined the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit.

If you are entitled to a Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, NEAP will purchase an annuity contract from an insurance company for your spouse. The annuity contract will pay your surviving spouse a monthly benefit for life. Monthly payments will start within a reasonable period of time after your death. The amount of the monthly benefit depends upon (1) the amount in your Individual Account; (2) your spouse's age (and, therefore, his/her life expectancy and prospective benefit payment period); and (3) the insurance company's price for annuity contracts.

## Elections/Consents

If you are under age 35, your spouse will automatically receive the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit upon your death (unless your spouse selects a lump sum payment instead of the annuity). You may not decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit unless you have permanently stopped working in Covered Employment.

However, beginning the year you reach age 35 and at any time thereafter, you may decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. Your spouse must consent in writing and the consent must be witnessed by a representative of NEAP or by a notary public. Consent given by a spouse is not effective as to a subsequent spouse.

You may revoke your election to decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time. You may again decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit at any time by executing the appropriate form and obtaining your spouse's consent. Your spouse may also revoke his/her consent at any time. Contact the Plan Administrator's Office for the appropriate forms.

## Lump Sum

If you decline the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit, your Individual Account balance will be paid to your designated surviving beneficiary in a lump sum. If your designated surviving beneficiary is not your spouse, your spouse must also consent to that as well, in order for it to be valid. If you have not designated a beneficiary (or your designated beneficiary is not living at the time of your death), the balance will be paid to the following persons, if living, in the following order of priority: (1) your spouse, (2) your children, (3) your parents, or (4) your estate. The total amount of money received as a lump sum may ultimately be different (either greater or lesser) than the total amount of money your spouse would have received under the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit. This is because the Preretirement Surviving Spouse Benefit is an annuity and depends on the time value of money and how long your spouse lives. Additional information is available from the Plan Administrator's Office. ☐

# 2003 Summary Annual Report For the National Electrical Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the National Electrical Benefit Fund, #53-0181657, for the year ended December 31, 2003. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

## Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust. Plan expenses were \$604,976,367.

These expenses included \$45,751,934 in administrative expenses and \$559,224,433 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 489,261 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$9,491,317,415 as of December 31, 2003, compared to \$8,192,078,885 as of January 1, 2003. The

current value of the assets of the plan is 52.7% of the current liability under the plan. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$1,299,238,530. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$1,904,214,897, includ-

# Get In The Game

## Happy Labor Day.

The holiday, which for many people has become another day to shop at Wal-Mart—began as a celebration of the dignity of labor. Sounds kind of quaint in this day of ruthless corporate outsourcing of jobs, health care crises across North America, and a jobs picture in the United States that is the worst in 75 years.

We'd like to start with a word to our Canadian members. There has been a lot in the *Journal* this year about the U.S. elections, and there will be a lot more in the next couple of issues, so please bear with us. We envy your system where the head of government calls an election, and the campaign lasts five weeks, which is shorter than the production cycle for our magazine. Contrast that with the U.S. presidential campaigns, which now last close to three years and seem to be getting longer all the time.

We salute our Canadian members for sending a message to Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin not to become too cozy with the corporations and forcing him to take the New Democrats as coalition partners. That will keep his feet to the fire on issues of health care and labor rights. We hope our U.S. members follow your lead.

For our members in the States, we are now at the beginning of what is traditionally the hottest part of the season, the period between Labor Day and Election Day. Polls show the presidential race to be very close, so it should not be surprising that our members often disagree over their choices. We have about 735,000 active and retired members in the United States, and it would be silly to expect a unanimous opinion. We all have different influences in our lives. Within our ranks are those who care deeply about many issues in society such as religion, the Second Amendment, the environment, natural resource conservation, civil rights and liberties, education, and many other topics that affect our lives. Many of us belong to other organizations devoted to advancing these causes.

As union brothers and sisters, we have a duty to understand and respect the individuality of each member as well as the differences we may have on some of these issues. Given our numbers, it is noteworthy that the characteristic that unites us—our trade unionism—is so strong that about three-fourths of our members routinely vote for pro-labor candidates.

That's exactly why we comment on politics and try to get information into your hands about the candidates and where they stand on specific issues. No matter what other organizations you may belong to, we are the leaders of the organization that affects your working life—our Brotherhood, our IBEW. The leadership of the National Rifle Association, the Christian Coalition, the Sierra Club or National Abortion Rights League—to name a few—make no apologies for endorsing candidates or urging their members to vote a certain way. Neither will we. But unlike many of these groups, we don't need to resort to hype or fear. We ask only that you look around you at your job and in your communities. Do you like what you see?

Your union gives you a voice in the decisions that affect your life. Very few workers in any profession, no matter how well paid, can do better as "free agents" rather than standing together in unity. That is our core principle. It's why we exist. It's what drove the founders of the IBEW to defy the odds in 1891, and it's what keeps us alive and well today in the many industries where our members work.

We work for justice on the job. We seek fair pay, benefits that provide adequate health and a dignified retirement, and job security. We promote the highest standards of skill and professional behavior in our trade. And we seek to extend the benefits of unionization to more workers.

And if we're not keeping an eye on the political situation in the United States and Canada, we're not doing our job.

As a result of several of our columns and other political communications we have sent, we have heard an earful from some members who support the Bush administration. Some

*(Continued on page 27)*



*Ed Hill* EDWIN D. HILL  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

*Jeremiah J. O'Connor* JEREMIAH J. O'CONNOR  
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

**“ WE ASK ONLY THAT YOU LOOK AROUND  
YOU AT YOUR JOB AND IN YOUR COMMUNITIES.  
DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? ”**

# Last Call For Local Unions!

## IBEW Register to Vote Contest



In the first week of August, International President Ed Hill announced on the IBEW's web site ([www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)) that all local unions were invited to join a contest to register voters for the 2004 elections. Voter registration deadlines are fast approaching for all states. This is the last call for local unions to step up to the plate and hit a home run in registering new voters.

Awards will be given to:

- one local in each Vice Presidential District which shows the **highest percentage improvement** in registered voters
- one local in each Vice Presidential District which **shows the highest percentage of registered voters** in 2004

To participate in this contest: Local union Mobilization 2004 coordinators (or political representatives) should report all voter registration percentages to your District's Mobilization 2004 coordinator directly following the expiration of registration deadlines in your state. **Deadlines are listed below and on the IBEW's web site.**



## VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

State	Deadline	Phone Number	State	Deadline	Phone Number	State	Deadline	Phone Number
Alabama	10/22/2004	(334) 242-7210	Kentucky	10/4/2004	(502) 573-7100	North Dakota	n/a	(701) 328-4146
Alaska	10/3/2004	(907) 465-4611	Louisiana	10/3/2004	(225) 219-9600	Ohio	10/3/2004	(614) 466-2585
Arizona	10/4/2004	(602) 542-8683	Maine	11/2/2004	(207) 287-7650	Oklahoma	10/8/2004	(405) 521-2391
Arkansas	10/3/2004	(501) 682-5070	Maryland	10/12/2004	(800) 222-VOTE	Oregon	10/12/2004	(503) 986-1518
California	10/18/2004	(916) 657-2166	Massachusetts	10/13/2004	(800) 462-VOTE	Pennsylvania	10/3/2004	(215) 686-1505
Colorado	10/4/2004	(303) 894-2680	Michigan	10/4/2004	(517) 334-8305	Rhode Island	10/3/2004	(401) 222-2357
Connecticut	10/19/2004	(860) 509-6106	Minnesota	10/12/2004	(877) 600-8683	South Carolina	10/3/2004	(843) 744-8683
Delaware	10/13/2004	(302) 577-3464	Mississippi	10/3/2004	(601) 359-1350	South Dakota	10/18/2004	(605) 773-3537
District of Columbia	10/3/2004	(202) 727-2525	Missouri	9/29/2004	(573) 751-7159	Tennessee	10/3/2004	(901) 545-4136
Florida	10/4/2004	(850) 488-7690	Montana	10/3/2004	(888) 884-VOTE	Texas	10/4/2004	(512) 463-5701
Georgia	10/4/2004	(404) 656-2871	Nebraska	10/8/2004	E-Mail: election@mail.state.ne.us	Utah	10/13/2004	(801) 538-1041
Hawaii	10/4/2004	(808) 453-VOTE	Nevada	10/2/2004	(775) 684-5708	Vermont	10/23/2004	(802) 828-2363
Idaho	10/8/2004	(208) 334-2852	New Hampshire	10/23/2004	(603) 271-3242	Virginia	10/4/2004	(804) 786-6551
Illinois	10/5/2004	(217) 782-4141	New Jersey	10/4/2004	(609) 292-3760	Washington	10/2/2004	(360) 902-4151
Indiana	10/4/2004	(317) 232-3939	New Mexico	10/5/2004	(505) 827-3600	West Virginia	10/4/2004	(304) 558-6000
Iowa	10/23/2004	(515) 281-0145	New York	10/8/2004	(518) 474-6220	Wisconsin	10/20/2004	(608) 266-8005
Kansas	10/19/2004	(785) 296-4564	North Carolina	10/8/2004	(919) 715-1792	Wyoming	10/4/2004	(608) 266-8005

# Canada's Health Care System Faces Crucial Moment

Any discussion about health care in Canada starts and ends with medicare, the publicly financed system with one level of service for everyone, regardless of health, age or employment status. Canadians go to the doctor of their choice and receive hospital care for free. It has been called Canada's greatest social achievement.

(Second in a two-part series on health care issues in North America.)

Canadians cherish medicare, and they are prouder of it in light of the United States' bumbling attempts to relieve its national health care crisis. But medicare in Canada has its own challenges. Rising prescription drugs costs have paralleled declining federal subsidies to provinces and territories. System overuse and the growing number of medical services that are not covered have tortured medicare to the point that provinces are experimenting with big changes that threaten to destroy the system's national cohesion.

Jointly funded by federal and provincial revenues, its stability is threatened by reduced federal contributions and fear that

individual provinces might opt out completely.

"The system certainly needs to be fixed," said IBEW Eighth District International Executive Council member Joseph Fashion. "It's not completely broken, but it needs to be fixed in a lot of ways."

The question for many Canadians is: Is medicare worth saving? And if so, what is the best way to make it sustainable?

"If we are able to keep medicare, it will take time, energy and money to get it right," said IBEW First District Vice President Philip Flemming. "What we have today can easily change tomorrow depending on public perception, public

manipulation and the privatization promoters who are forever looking for their opportunity."

## What is medicare?

A preacher and former newspaper printer named Tommy Douglas was the father of Canada's modern health care system. As premier of Saskatchewan in the early 1960s, Douglas presided over the first

universal health care system in Canada, and gradually the rest of the country adopted the model of the progressive province.

The 1984 Canada Health Act enshrined Canada's current national health care system. The federal government sets standards and shares funding while the provincial governments are the hands-on providers, implementing their health care rules and providing the medical services. Thirteen interlocking provincial and territorial plans comprise the national system.

The Canada Health Act does not permit private payments for services that would otherwise be covered by medicare, but medicare does not cover everything. Supplemental insurance—bargained with employers, or purchased by consumers—is a key component to health care delivery in Canada, covering all those services medicare does not—most notably, dental, eye care and prescription drugs.

Publicly funded, the medicare system never presents patients with a bill following a hospital or doctor visit—but "there's nothing free in this world," said Yves St-Germain, Local 568, Montreal, Quebec, business manager. "It's free when you're going to the hospital, but every week I'm paying for it," he said. Federal and provincial income taxes range between 17 and 45 percent combined, depending on income, and medicare is funded by general revenues.

## A Dwindling Share Spawns Independent Action

The federal government distributes money to the provinces to manage and

deliver health care. But as the federal government has emphasized tax cuts in recent years, federal "transfers" provide a dwindling pot of health care funding, leaving the provinces and territories with a greater financial burden.

"As Ottawa's share of the national health bill has shrunk over the past 30 years, the provinces have become increasingly resistant to federal attempts to dictate the terms of medicare," said *Toronto Star* columnist Carol Goar. "They contend that Ottawa has no business telling them how to deliver health care when they pay 84 percent of the cost."

For instance, in the western province of Alberta, Premier Ralph Klein (Conservative) has dealt with the decline in federal funds by increasing privatization—sometimes even in violation of the Canada Health Act.

Klein has authorized private, for-profit surgical clinics and allowed residents to buy medically-necessary services outside the public health care system. Although the federal government could penalize Alberta for violations of the Canada Health Act, observers are con-

cerned that the province could leave the national health care system for good.

In Quebec and Ontario, federal cuts led to mass staff reductions in hospitals, which contributed to the SARS epidemic in Toronto. Fashion, who is also business manager of Toronto Local 353, said the cuts have hurt the quality of medical care. "Our doctors and nurses are underpaid, so quite a number of them go to the United States to work," he said. "That means you're always dealing with inexperienced people now. It didn't used to be that way."

## Medicare Shows Its Age

Although hospital and physician services are covered by medicare, an increasing percentage of the health care dollars in Canada are spent on prescription drugs and other services that are not covered. Complaints about long waiting lists and a lack of significant investment in new technology and equipment have plagued the system for years. An aging population, higher prevalence of chronic disease and

increased demand for services are also contributing to escalating health care costs.

Prescription drugs in particular are costing Canadians dearly. From 1987 to 1996, the cost of prescription drugs increased by 93 percent, compared to overall inflation of

23 percent. In a boon for the companies, the Canadian government has repeatedly extended patent protections on popular drugs for pharmaceuticals, preventing competition from low-

priced generics.

Long waiting lines for diagnostic services and non-life-threatening elective surgery are a common criticism of the medicare system. Private imaging clinics, like those offering MRIs, have started to spring up, particularly in Quebec.

Fashion said in Ontario four- or five-month waits are not unusual for MRIs. And cancer patients must wait up to three months for chemotherapy treatments. "That kind of waiting time is unacceptable and I think it's criminal," said Fashion, adding that in some cases, the local's health plan sends members across the border to Buffalo, New York, for treatment.

## Romanow Seeks Federal Solutions

These days, there's much scrutinizing of 1984's Canada Health Act, which guarantees a publicly paid health care system, but some argue the term "public delivery" could apply to private delivery if publicly paid. Still today, support by Canadians for a government-paid, single-payer system remains strong.

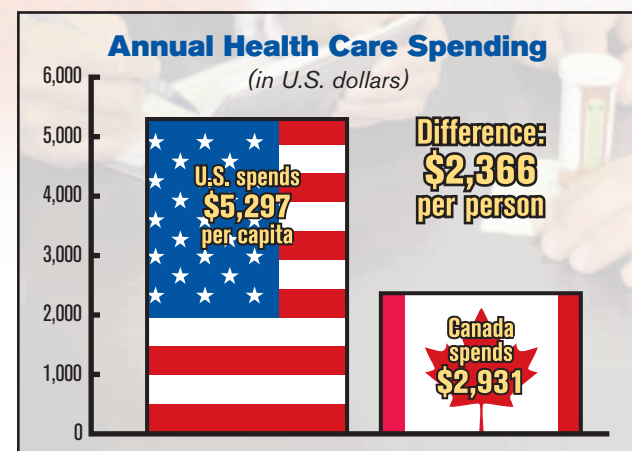
In a sweeping report released two years ago, the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada made several recommendations, key among them increasing funding and reaffirming the importance of public health care by federal, provincial and territorial governments. Specifically, the Romanow report named for the commission's chairman called for a greater emphasis on preventive health care, creation of a national health council, reforming primary care, expanding the Canada Health Act to include home health care, improving access to diagnostic services, covering a portion of prescription drug costs and addressing long waiting lists for some services.

On that advice, the Health Council of Canada has been recently created to bring

(Continued on next page)

**Medicare's Five Guiding Principles**

- 1 Accessibility**  
No financial barriers; physician autonomy
- 2 Comprehensiveness**  
broad range of services
- 3 Portability**  
Medical care in any province or territory
- 4 Public Administration**  
Government is the sole insurer
- 5 Universality**  
All residents covered



# Canada Health Care System

Continued from page 11

together federal, provincial and territorial interests to start tackling problems on a national level. But Alberta and Quebec opted out of joining the council, arguing that the alliance intruded on their jurisdiction.

## P3s to the Rescue?

A movement that started with a few entrepreneurs seeking to fill a niche in health care coverage gaps has mushroomed into a wave of privatizing. Fueled by medical insurance and pharmaceutical companies on the hunt for bigger profits, the trend in Canada appears to be in favor of increasing privatization, or P3s, "public private partnerships."

Local 258 President Michelle Laurie, Vancouver, British Columbia, said there is an obvious need for change in the system, but Canadians are likely to be unpleasantly surprised by a premature embrace of privatization.

"There's an ideological bent out there that insists we simply can't afford medicare anymore," Laurie said. "I don't believe that. I think we can support it. We just have to prioritize it."

St-Germaine of Local 568 said strictly controlled privatization might bring Canadians better service while retaining a strong universal health system. He described nightly local newscasts that report which hospital emergency rooms are so full that patients are advised to go elsewhere in case of emergencies. St-Germaine suggested a better alternative would be to open private clinics to alleviate 12-hour hospital waits some days to see a doctor.

"I don't want to jeopardize our medicare system but you could give permits for a limited number of private clinics," he said. "It would give our members the opportunity to be treated faster. One way or another it's going to happen anyway."

Laurie said private, for-profit health insurance and pharmaceutical companies see an opportunity in Canada and have their eye on a larger portion of the \$110 billion spent on the industry each year. She suspects the constant drumbeat of reporting on the system's failures really comes as a result of clever marketing from companies who see dollar signs in an increasingly privatized system.

**"THERE'S AN IDEOLOGICAL BENT OUT THERE THAT INSISTS WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD MEDICARE ANYMORE. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. I THINK WE CAN SUPPORT IT. WE JUST HAVE TO PRIORITIZE IT!"**

**-Michelle Laurie  
Local 258 President**



Health care played a prominent role in the June federal elections, which resulted in the ruling Liberal party losing its outright majority in the parliament for the first time in years, forcing Prime Minister Paul Martin to forge a new coalition to stay in office. Martin promised during the campaign to commit millions to improving the system and scheduled a health care summit for this month.

In an agenda called "ambitious" by the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Martin's top priorities included reduced wait times for cardiac care, cancer treatment, diagnostic imaging, sight restoration and joint replacement. He also committed to establishing home care and prescription drug programs.

## Labour Takes the Lead

Labour has been one of the strongest voices arguing for reinforcing and strengthening medicare. The labour-dominated New Democratic Party (NDP), which gained parliamentary seats in June, is using its increased power to push for social change.

Local 258's Laurie said people have

had the benefit of universal health care for so long that they do not properly appreciate it. Months-long waits for many services reinforce the notion that the system is in crisis and the insurance companies capitalize on that perception.

"We need to be more prudent in how we spend our dollars," said IBEW Local 1928 Business Manager Michael MacDonald in Halifax, Nova Scotia. "We don't want to lose the good system we have. The NDP and others will keep the government to their promises or we'll have a new election."

Medicare proponents who would like to see the system kept intact have a powerful argument in their favor against privatization: the United States. The patchwork of public and private health care providers in the United States contributes to the high administrative costs built into the American system. In Canada, less than 3 percent of the expenditures go to administrative costs; in the United States, administration is 15 percent of costs.

First District International Representative Peter Routliff said the "free market" in health care in the U.S. has more than 1,500 insurance providers with 10 different fee schedules, and a wide variety of co-payments, eligibility and deductibles. "From all the reports I have read, the U.S. health care model has created an expensive and complex health care administrative structure. Our national health care plan could not support these inefficiencies," Routliff said.

And the proliferation of managed care in the United States has severely limited choices of providers. In Canada's publicly run system, patients go to the physician of their choice and the doctors never worry about their ability to pay for treatment.

Laurie said she can see Canada moving toward greater privatization just as the United States contemplates embracing a universal-care model like Canada.

"The problem is we're being led into a mindset that privatization is the only solution and I don't believe that," Laurie said. "I think there are some things people don't need to profit off of and health care is one. We're losing some of our social conscience and it scares me."

# THE IBEW ON DUTY

## 'They're All Jealous, And Want To Work Where I Work'

The word from Tasha Swarts in Iraq is, "I wouldn't be surprised if in the next year or so, there will be an increase in applications to union contractors and apprenticeship programs! You have all given 'Union' an outstanding reputation." Everyone here wants to work where I work, or says 'I want your friends.'

So, she says, "Being a proud American woman is one thing. Being a proud Local 212 member IS BEST." Local 212 of Cincinnati, Ohio, is one of many IBEW locals helping their members who are on military duty. Tasha is a single mother



Local 212 member Tasha Swarts

who was a member of the Ohio National Guard, says Cincinnati JATC Director Dan Danzinger, and "when she got her orders to Iraq, she had already worked enough hours to top out. Her fifth year apprentice instructor worked with her individually to complete the curriculum and Tasha was able to reach journeyman status before leaving in January 2004."

"We sent Tasha three LARGE packages stuffed with every supply you could think of."

"Our living conditions started out fairly nice and are slowly becoming worse," she says. "When my packages arrive, they swear you're sending me midget carnies."

Tom Trew sums up widespread sentiments when he signs off: "I can't wait to get back home to see all bro's and sis's."

## IBEW Skills Found To Be 'Exceptional Asset' in War

He came to the war with his IBEW skills and those, together with his dedication and perseverance, won Chuck Duffy an Army Commendation medal. "Sgt. Charles Duff has proven to be an exceptional asset to the 279th Detachment (utilities) with technical skills well in advance of soldiers at his level," reads his nomination for a Bronze Star.

Brother Duff, whose service in Afghanistan was previously noted in the *IBEW Journal* (see "IBEW in Afghanistan," p.7, January-February 2004), is a member of Local 380, Norristown, Pennsylvania. The citation notes three spectacular achievements by Brother Duff, starting

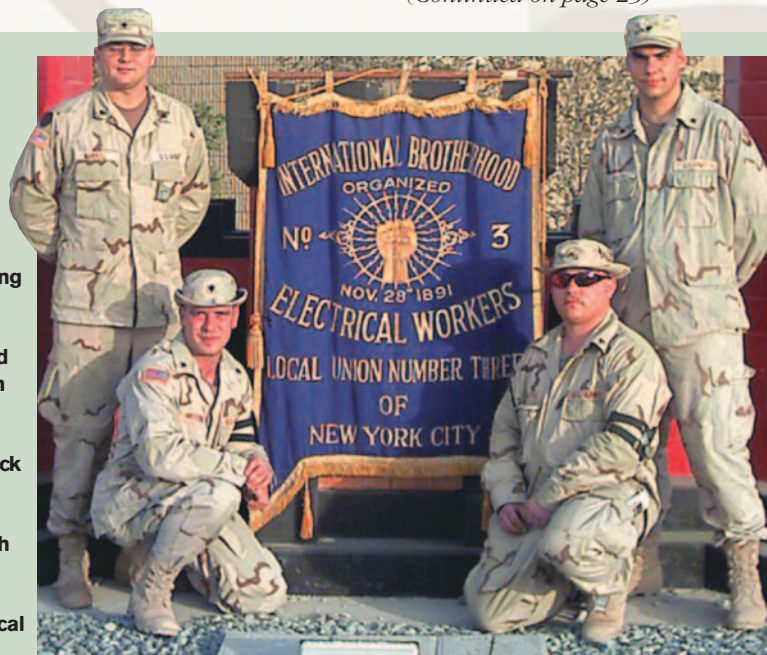
(Continued on page 25)

## 'Can't Wait to See All My Bro's and Sis's'

"I am currently in Kuwait, awaiting departure to Iraq," Tom Trew said in the e-mail he wrote "to say thank you for all your generosity, kindness and brotherly spirit shown to my family and me."

Tom describes himself as "a proud member of Local 270 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee." The local plans to do the same for Chris Crawford, who is also in Iraq, and Matthew Schultz, who is on standby to ship out.

Kenneth Gratto Jr., at left in photo, says the first pictures in *IBEW Journal* excited him "to see other IBEW brothers in the same situation" in Kuwait and Iraq, but now he has met many—including Tom Trew (story this page) and those who posed with him around the banner sent to him by his local, Local 3, New York City. Next to Gratto on the left is Jack Pritchard of Local 98, Philadelphia, and at right are Andrew Smith (standing) of Local 35, Hartford, Connecticut, and Kyle Markle of Local 683, Columbus, Ohio.





# Doors To The Universe

From East to West, IBEW Members Help Expand Frontiers of Knowledge

Technology not only expands humankind's capabilities on Earth, it is helping scientists push the limits of knowledge about the universe. But even the most advanced technology needs the skilled minds and hands of human beings behind it. IBEW members do just such work in missions that have opened doors to the universe and in monitoring every deep space mission undertaken by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA). This two-part series explores the work done by these highly skilled brothers and sisters and recounts some of the down-to-earth job struggles they face.

## Part I—Local 1501 and the Hubble Telescope

The concept of a whole being greater than its parts is nowhere represented more powerfully than by the Hubble Space Telescope and its radiant images of other galaxies.

Since its launch in 1990, the Hubble has provided astronomers, students and the world community with unprecedented discoveries such as the birth of stars, and the accelerated growth of the universe.

Hubble's parts, including its batteries and gyroscopes, are wearing out. Without repairs, they will not sustain the telescope beyond 2008.



After a contentious debate over Hubble's future—a debate that involved the Brotherhood—NASA announced on August 9 that a robotic mission would be launched to install new parts and scientific equipment that will enhance its research capabilities.

NASA's announcement reminds us that Hubble's magnificence is only possible because of its parts.

Engineer from MD Robotics (lower left) directs the robot (next to white-suited worker) on Hubble model. The frame above and weights in center of picture were positioned by IBEW members to simulate a weightless environment.

These parts deliver their wonders through the work of members of the IBEW who work for Mantech Inc. at NASA's Goddard Space Center in Maryland, and who helped the Hubble overcome early difficulties to become one of the most productive missions in NASA history.

Mike Kurtz, unit chairman and vice president of IBEW Local 1501, based in Cockeysville, Maryland, a Mantech group leader, describes the work of the local's 200 engineers, technicians, draftsmen and sanitation technicians as "support." The Hubble has provided steady employment to between 50 and 70 Local 1501 members and also members who perform facilities maintenance, represented by IBEW Local 26 in Washington, D.C., hundreds more at Goddard and over 400 scientists and technicians at Johns Hopkins University in nearby Baltimore.

## Crews Go the Extra Mile

After leaving an "air shower," that vacuums dust from his street clothes, Kelly Scharmann, an engineering technician and Local 1501 member, slips into white coveralls, boots and gloves. He pulls a hood over his head and a mask over his mouth and nose. Scharmann will spend the next 12 hours in Goddard's vast "clean room," where airborne matter is reduced to micron-sized particles to protect sensitive electronic devices. The one million cubic foot room, where astronauts have trained for Hubble repair missions, contains equipment massive enough to require lifting by two 35-ton overhead cranes. A splash of metallic orange insulating foil that protects equipment from extreme space temperatures shrouds several of the hulking structures, some of which accompanied prior Hubble repair missions. The foil is space-age upholstery, custom-cut by IBEW members.

Scharmann, a 15-year veteran of Mantech, has been working on one of the robots that could be commanded to repair the Hubble. "The robot would fall under its own weight," says Scharmann, "without the support structure that we

*(Continued on page 16)*

# Doors To The Universe

Continued from page 15

designed to simulate a weightless environment."

"They worked 'flat out', 12-hour days, seven days a week," says Giles Robinson, of Canada's MD Robotics, who credits IBEW members with "remarkable progress in a short time," to meet the August review of the robotic repair option. It's not the first time that Scharmann, his co-worker, senior technician Rick Wilson, and others have gone the extra mile.

Some were trained to simulate weightless equipment repairs in underwater tanks, training astronauts in facilities in Alabama and Texas. Others accompanied freshly retrofitted satellite parts on 3-day barge trips from the Chesapeake Bay to Cape Kennedy in Florida. Some are in France for two months working on a new satellite.

Dion Guthrie, business manager and president of Local 1501, champions the unique attributes of the Goddard work force. "Job responsibilities change almost daily," he says. "The workers thirst for training. This is the only workplace that I have experienced where workers insisted—in contract negotiations—that the company evaluates them on a yearly basis. If the evaluation is not performed within 30 days of a member's anniversary date, the worker does a self-evaluation, and it

**Standing outside the Clean Room at Goddard Space Center from left, Mike Kurtz, unit chair, vice president, Local 1501; Frank Cepollina, Hubble project manager; Dion Guthrie, business manager/president, Local 1501; Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.); Mike Yachmetz, Mantech project manager; and Dolly Perkins, flight programs director.**



goes into his or her personnel record."

"The Hubble is just one part of the work of our members at Goddard," explains Kurtz. One building houses a noise simulator that tests parts for vibration resistance. Even with the bank vault-thick doors shut, he says, "the noise will blow you out of the building."

Across from the noise simulator is the thermal vacuum chamber that tests satellites for their ability to withstand the severity of low vacuum and temperature extremes. Entire satellites are lowered by crane into the colossal cauldron, like ice cubes into a glass, and left to cook or freeze for days. A centrifuge, resembling a giant kitchen blender, spins satellites at speeds that simulate the gravitational force that will be encountered on the mission.

Prior to one satellite launch, Kurtz recalls, astronauts encountered an unexpected problem with the operation of certain equipment. "The mission was delayed for four days. Our crews were on call the entire time," he says, "repeatedly working with replicas at Goddard to help solve the problem."

Laura McKelvey, a mechanical integration engineer, works on the Wide Field Camera 3, that will provide high-resolution coverage from the near-infrared domain of the spectrum to the

ultraviolet. IBEW members built the camera. "I love the job," says McKelvey, who started with Mantech in November 2003 after graduating from Penn State University-Erie with a B.A. in engineering.

Niko Stergiou works on the Wide Field Camera and shares McKelvey's enthusiasm. Stergiou, an optics engineering technician, says, "This is a good working environment. I think that you will find a consensus that nobody is worried about anyone else getting the spotlight because we are one entity." Nearby is the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (see photo, page 26), also supported by IBEW members, which will accompany the Wide Field Camera on the robotic mission.

## NASA's January Announcement on Hubble Shocks Nation

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe shocked the Goddard work force, the astronomy community and the nation when he announced in January that he would cancel a fourth previously designed manned servicing mission to Hubble. O'Keefe based his decision on recommendations from the investigation of the Columbia space shuttle disaster

(Continued on page 26)

# ORGANIZINGWIRE

## Objection Overruled! Court Reporters Finally Win Voice With IBEW 1220



The victory was featured at the Sixth District Organizing Conference. From left are Local 1220 Business Manager Ro Wratschko, IBEW Secretary-Treasurer Jerry O'Connor, court reporters Renia Boykin and John Tominello, Sixth District Vice President Pat Curley, court reporter Sue Gruszka and former Local 1220 Business Manager Jessica Logan, who is also project organizing coordinator.

Justice and fairness have a key role in any courtroom. But it took 15 years of struggle, a signed law by the governor and a vote by the state legislature to extend those principles to nearly 200 court reporters at the Illinois Supreme Court. Early this month, the workers finally won the right to union representation by IBEW Local 1220 in Chicago.

"AFSCME [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees] tried to organize them and they gave up; the Teamsters tried to organize them, and they gave up," said Sixth District Vice President Pat Curley. "We didn't give up."

The court reporters have been trying to organize since the late 1980s. In the past four years, thanks to Local 1220, those efforts intensified. A public awareness campaign emphasized that workers were being denied collective bargaining rights explicitly granted to state workers under the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. But the justices continued to resist voluntary recognition, even after a new Illinois law giving the reporters a right to union representation was signed in June 2003.

Finally on July 1, the Illinois Supreme

Court, by a 4-3 vote, recognized Local 1220 as the collective bargaining representative of the 187 court reporters in Cook County. Local 1220 will continue to fight to represent 319 additional court reporters in other districts in Illinois.

"We will continue the fight and we will not give up until all the official court reporters are represented by Local 1220," Curley said at the recent Sixth District Organizing Conference.

Two court reporters, Renia Boykin and John Tominello, were featured at the organizing conference. Tominello was fired in May 2001 for what he and Local 1220 contend was his organizing activities. The two received a standing ovation from the audience, said Sixth District International Representative Lonnie Stephenson.

## Early Salting Pays Off In Nova Scotia

Hi Lan Electric is now an IBEW contractor, thanks to aggressive organizing by Local 625 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In late 2003, Hi Lan was a member of Merit Contractors Association, Canada's version of the ABC, and was unknown in Local 625's jurisdiction. When Hi Lan bid a job in Bridgewater, "it provided an opportunity to salt them right from the beginning," said organizer Tom Griffiths. Hi Lan got the contract and a lot of resumes and phone calls from Local 625 members.

When Local 625 applied for certification of Hi Lan, the company approached Griffiths and met with him and Business Manager Cordell Cole. In March 2004, Hi Lan signed a recognition agreement, used 30 members on that first job and has employed Local 625 members on several jobs since.



Local 625 organizer Tom Griffiths (front row, right) with some of the Local 625 members working for newly organized Hi Lan Electric in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. Front row from left are: Jeff Ross, Chris Oakes, Terry Stevens, Matthew Wardell and Griffiths. Back row, Tim Peitzsche, Rick Slaunwhite, Jeff Campbell, Pat Doubleday, Willie Murray, Laurie Burris and Noel Williams.

Local 625 also had a recent success when its charges against Linair Electric of Truro resulted in owner Blair Aucoin pleading guilty to employing persons prohibited from working in the electrical trade, Griffiths said. A one-to-one journeyman to apprentice ratio is required by Nova Scotia law, Griffiths said, and Linair "had tried to do renovation job with one journeyman and four apprentices—two of whom were not registered as apprentice construction electricians."



## Trade Classifications

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

### ATTENTION PRESS SECRETARIES:

The *Journal* has an e-mail address dedicated exclusively to receiving "Local Lines" articles from press secretaries. If you wish to submit your articles via e-mail, please forward them directly to [locallines@ibew.org](mailto:locallines@ibew.org). This will help expedite the production process. As always, inquiries of a general nature or letters to the editor should still be sent to [journal@ibew.org](mailto:journal@ibew.org).

### Future Hinges on November

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rs,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—The future of this local, and all that so many have worked so hard for, hinges on the November elections. Leading the fight for the interests of IBEW Local 1 and labor throughout Missouri are several Local 1 members who need our support.

Local 1 Pres./Missouri Rep. Tom George is seeking reelection to his fourth term in the Legislature in the 74th District. Journeyman wireman Tom Green is seeking re-election as a state representative from the 15th District. Journeyman wireman Tim Green is seeking election to the 13th Senatorial District after his four terms as state representative. Mike Vogt, stepson of Local 1 Bus. Rep. Mike Garavaglia, is seeking re-election as state representative in the 66th District. And Sue Schoemehl, wife of Local 1 electrician Chris Schoemehl, is seeking re-election as state representative in the 100th District. Also, please support our members who hold positions on school boards, fire protection districts, etc., all key to our survival.

We mourn the death of members Thomas Sweeney, Alfred Pondrom, John Hughes, Georgia Rogers, Frances Moses, Myron Kelly, David Pasley, William Piller, William Donovan, Virginia Brauch, Steven Peterson, Claude Capps and Karl Webers. MATTHEW F. GOBER, P.S.

### Restructuring Saga

L.U. 17 (catv, em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—The saga of restructuring the electrical industry in Michigan continues. PA141 was viewed in June 2000 as a transition toward the ultimate deregulation in Michigan; this is not a politically

# LOCAL LINES



Local 41 members volunteered their skills to help wire two Habitat for Humanity houses. From left: Curtis Johnson, Carl Peters, Frank Ford, Ed Empl, Mike Moran, Leo Kogler, Jim McCullough, Steve Robinson, Ed Wesolowski and Frank Pusatier. Not pictured, Avi Isreal.

viable option today. PA141 calls for financially healthy and competitive Michigan utilities, yet implementation of choice is leading the home based utilities toward a financial crisis. True competition does not exist today—there is not a level playing field for the utility.

On July 1, 2004, Senate leadership offered up bills and referred them to the committee on Technology and Energy for consideration. These bills, as amended, create a structure to further the Electric Choice Program in Michigan while resolving distortions and regulatory challenges created by the co-existence of two fundamentally different market and regulatory systems.

The union continues to work with Protect Michigan and the Clear Coalition in an effort to correct the structural problems and establish an "Electric Choice" law that works for everyone in Michigan. The work picture remained steady through the summer with a few areas working extended hours.

With sadness we report the loss of Bros. John P. Higgins, Donald McLaughlin, Frank Tarala and William J. Trask.

BOB ECKHOUT, PRES./P.S.

Local 43 graduating class of 2004. Seated (L-R), Scot Garland, Mike Bailey, Matt Sprague, Dan Olivia, Ed Lynch and Chris Poplaski. Standing, Peter Vineyard, Shannon Briggs, Martin Frappier, Mark Pontello, Scott Dufrane, Jeremy Hildreth, Chris Allen, Josh Bard and Richard Longden and Jeff Storey. Not pictured: Kris Chwiejczak, David Maher and Lynn Thomson.



### 'Bush Must be Defeated'

L.U. 41 (em,es,i,se&spa), BUF-FALO, NY—Local 41 thanks the members who volunteered for projects in the area. Ten members worked on wiring two Habitat for Humanity houses in the city (see photo).

We are also involved with Adopt-a-Highway clean up on Genesee Street between Holtz and Transit Rd., with signs designating Local 41 as the sponsor. Ten members gave up a Saturday morning to clean two miles of highway. These two projects were coordinated through Dispatcher Rick Ehlers and Bus. Mgr. John Pavlovic.

This is an important election year. Two important congressional district seats are at stake here and several state Legislature seats. The biggest race is for president. Bush must be defeated. He has destroyed the labor market, working conditions, health care, safety, the NLRB, OSHA, jobs, pensions, veterans' benefits—and now his policies are undermining hunting and fishing for all sportsmen. Labor unions are preparing for this election. We will need volunteers to help elect candidates who care about workers and families.

CHARLES P. MOORE, P.S.

### Apprentice Graduation

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Congratulations to the Local 43 graduating class of 2004 (see photo). Special congratulations to Jeff Storey, who achieved the highest cumulative five-year average. Good luck to our newest journeymen.

Organizing continues in Local 43. We welcome 12 new members and AVR Electric to the IBEW and our local. Best of luck to AVR and its employees.

Buy American, Build Union.  
DENNIS A. BREHENY, P.S.

### Help Us Out: Vote

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rs&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Bus. Rep. Bob Stuart reports that construction is good at this time.

Local 53 held a crappie tournament in May. Members and their families had a great time, so that makes everyone a winner. Cash prizes went to winners of the top five spots: In 1st place, Rex Richardson/Scott Richardson (construction); 2nd place, Mike Gilkerson/Harmon (Associated Electric Coop); 3rd place, Dave Holland/Darrell Hutchins (IP&L); and 4th place Donnie Wright/Ronnie Gaylord (construction). Fifth place was a tie between Jody Kapp/Ron Kapp (construction) and Garry Jump/Sharp (Southwest Coop).

To All Local 53 Members: Please get out and vote in upcoming elections. The whole country needs to get involved. We all know which candidates our local and the International supports, so help us out and help yourselves. Let's put this great country and our great unions back where they should be. Vote for labor friendly candidates who will put us back on the right track. This is the greatest country in the world. Don't forget our military men and women who are risking their lives for us to keep this country free. Don't forget the ones who paid the dearest price to keep our country strong.

DUANE PEARCE, V.P./P.S.

### Get Out the Vote

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—Our local held its election of officers in the spring. Newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Don Guillot, Pres. Rick Johnson, Vice Pres. Lou Walter, Rec. Sec. Sylvia Hanson, Treas. Joe Simpson and Executive Board members Robert Boode Gary Lawson, Art Locken, Steve Easton, Dave Humlicek and Rick Kenny. Thanks to all members who took the time to cast their ballots.

A next major concern is "getting out the vote" for the presidential election. If we don't have jobs with decent wages, hours and working conditions, the rest of the details don't really matter. While some of

our work can't be "outsourced," much of it can be so it is imperative that we not sit on the sidelines. Understand that recommendations by PACs are made for candidates who will best represent working people and the rules that govern their work life. The recommendations are made based only on issues that affect one very important and time-consuming aspect of your life—your work.

Special thanks to outgoing Pres. Dick Vaughn for his 35-plus years of exemplary guidance, service and leadership. We also salute outgoing Bus. Mgr. Dave Timothy for his service on behalf of the membership.

SYLVIA HANSON, P.S.

### At Stake in November

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—More than at any time in our generation, far too much is at stake in the November election for any union member to be a passive bystander. On behalf of organized labor and working families everywhere, please vote. Together, with our families and friends, we can make a difference and end the remorseless, anti-worker policies we now face.

Executive Board member Louis Antonellis accepted a position as business agent. Peter Callaghan was appointed to replace Louis on the board. Examining Board member Richard Antonellis was appointed to the Executive Board to replace Joe Monahan. We thank Joe for his hard work through the years. Tom Leahy was appointed to replace Richard Antonellis on the Examining Board.

On Father's Day weekend, Local 103 joined the Building Trades to raise money for "Dollars Against Diabetes." On June 19, the 32nd annual Brotherhood Golf Classic was held to raise money for the Brotherhood Fund.

Sign-up sheets are now available for Local 103 Intramural Hockey. We plan to form teams for our own intramural league beginning this fall.

Congratulations to recently retired Bus. Agent Joe Sheehan and Frank Nigro from the JATC.

BILL MOLINEAUX, P.S.

### Bus. Mgr. Byrd Elected

L.U. 111 (em,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—Michael A. Byrd was elected business manager/financial secretary of Local 111 on June 4, 2004. He initially was appointed to that post on Oct. 1, 2003, following the retirement of Robert H. Mason. Mike ran a positive campaign, in which he laid out goals and plans for the future of the local, and this was done following a very serious auto accident on Feb. 23, 2004, which kept him in intensive care for five weeks.

The top priority for Bus. Mgr.

Byrd and his staff is to represent all the members of Local 111, "no matter what their classification, no matter which company they work for, no matter which service center, plant, or office they work out of and no matter what unit they belong to." To accomplish this, Mike is establishing an office in Craig, CO, with an agent at that location full time.

The second area of concern is the financial condition of the local, which has seen many changes since Mike's appointment in October. Mike's goal is to operate the local in the black, and to be sure the membership has complete financial information. Great things are ahead for Local 111.

DENNIS Z. LE TURGEZ, P.S.

### Oregon Burn Center Benefit

L.U. 125 (lctt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—The 2004 Eighth Annual Benefit Golf Classic to support the Oregon Burn Center was held June 26 in Hood River, OR, at Indian Creek Golf Club. It was a beautiful day for 132 golfers from the IBEW and sponsoring companies to make new friends while supporting the Oregon Burn Center. A barbecue lunch prepared by Ted Bland of Houston, TX, and Jay Caulk, Portland, was outstanding as always. Thanks to Ted for making the trip up from Texas to support this event.

This year's event raised over \$50,000 to bring the event's eight-year total to \$400,000. Special thanks to our sponsors and all the volunteers who made the event a success. The 2004 "Sponsor of the Year" award went to Wilson Construction for its eight-year support of the Oregon Burn Center and the tournament.

Congratulations to tournament winners! Local 125 Pres. Walt Banker won the "Lost Ball" guess and donated his \$500 winnings to the Oregon Burn Center.

BYRON F. BABKA, B.R.

### Graduation Celebration

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY—On June 21, 2004, Local 139's JATC held a graduation party for nine new journeymen.

Congratulations to: John "Possum" Hamilton, Mark Saltsman,

Mike Jack, Lee "Corky" Kent, Ed Atwood, Josh Sykes, Glen Decker, Scott Lumbard and Andy Henegar.

Let's hope there is a sweeping layoff at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in November so these men can have an opportunity to work at the trade that they trained so hard for.

ERNIE HARTMAN, P.S.

### Members Politically Active

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u), WHEELING, WV—Work in our area remains good as both the Cabela's retail store and distribution center projects are peaking. We are hopeful there will be much more development in and around the Dallas Pike area where these projects are located.

Wheeling Mayor Nick Sparachane announced formation of the Downtown Wheeling Advisory Commission, which is charged with developing a new marketing strategy for the city, revitalizing the city and attracting new business here. We are represented on the commission by Local 141 Bus. Mgr. John Clarke, who serves the commission as a delegate from Project BEST, a coalition of local union labor and building contractors.

As November elections near, more and more of our members are becoming politically active. Some are walking door-to-door campaigning. Others are volunteering to staff phone banks. We need to be united to protect our interests in November. Please register and vote.

Our condolences to the families of Bros. Frank Stoy and Anthony Scotka, Local 141 retirees who recently passed away. They will be missed.

TOM CONNER, P.S.

### 'Damage to Our Country'

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Greetings from Wisconsin's Capitol City local, where we continue to benefit from "virtual" Pres. George Bush's "jobless recovery." As of early July we still count over 40 members on our Commercial Book 1.

Local 159's election season recently concluded with a run-off election for business manager. Elected to serve the local are: Bus. Mgr. Mark Hoffmann, Pres. Joseph Spataro, Vice Pres. David Boetcher, Rec. Sec. Dennis Eley, Treas. John

Recent Local 139 JATC graduates: (L-R), John Hamilton, Mark Saltsman, Mike Jack, Lee Kent, Ed Atwood, Josh Sykes, Glen Decker, Scott Lumbard and Andy Henegar.



Whitman; Executive Board members Steve Bersing, Craig Hein, Scott Swenson and Thomas Dehnert; and Examining Board member Daniel McGrath. Elected as IBEW Convention delegates: Dave Boetcher, Mike Killian and Matt Parks.

This misguided administration of unelected Pres. Bush must end in November. This crew has done so much damage to our country. Our construction economy is mostly flat across the whole country and has been under enormous pressure. The Bushies have seen fit to decertify unions, attack overtime pay and tamper with Project Labor Agreements. Factories (and the jobs they provide) are being airlifted wholesale to Asia and anyplace else on the planet where workers are inhumanely exploited. How could any working person vote for this crew? Vote as though your union depends on it. It does.

MICHAEL H. LEADERMAN, P.S.



**Local 177 Electrical "Apprentice of the Year" Daniel Pine (left) and VDV "Apprentice of the Year" Mark Clawson received special recognition at a local union general membership meeting.**

#### Apprenticeship Graduation

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL—June 4, 2004, was a special evening for 42 Local 177 apprenticeship graduates. This year 37 graduates completed the Inside Electrical apprenticeship program, and five graduates completed the Voice Data Video (VDV) apprenticeship program.

Daniel Pine was awarded "Apprentice of the Year" for the electrical apprenticeship program and Mark Clawson received the "Apprentice of the Year" award for the VDV apprenticeship program. The Apprenticeship Committee selected award recipients based on job performance, grades, school attendance and attitude.

Bus. Mgr. Eddie L. Dedmon presented each graduating apprentice with a check totaling almost \$500 for reimbursement of apprenticeship book fees. Pres. Russell Harper presented each Apprentice of the Year with a complete set of tools, as required by the collective bargaining agreements.

LISA STUART, P.S.

#### 'Not Politically Correct'

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—You've heard the expression "not politically correct"—well this country is not politically correct. Any country that can be lied to on issues such as 9-11, weapons of mass destruction, prisoner abuse, and the state of terrorism in the world, just to name a few, and then say that the man is just doing his job while condemning a man who had an affair and wanting to impeach him, is not politically correct.

Any country that can go overseas and fight for another country's freedom while stripping their own country's freedoms in the name of Homeland Security is not politically correct. Any country that can demand to know every sordid detail of a president's sexual affair while protecting information on the other party's vice presidential deal-cutting energy policy that's crippling this country is not politically correct. Any country that thinks it's right to export good manufacturing jobs as long as we replace them with jobs at Wal-Mart and then call that economic recovery is not politically correct.

This fall we have a chance to correct all this political incorrectness. Don't miss it—Please Get Out and Vote!

RAY ZYCHOWICZ, P.S.

#### Inside Work Very Slow

L.U. 317 (i,o,rtb&t&u), HUNTINGTON, WV—Work is still very slow on the inside with very few projects on the drawing boards. Outside work remains steady with work on the high line project. The 99-mile long 765k six-bundle line starts in Oceana, WV, and goes into Virginia.

Local 317 officers recently elected for a three-year term are: Bus. Mgr. Brent Gray, Pres. Ted Kinder, Vice Pres. Carl Cardwell, Treas. Kevin Rayburn and Rec. Sec. Dwight Dunford; Executive Board members Shane Wolfe, Larry Booth, Gary Simmons, Jeff Thompson, Jim Davis, David Shaffer and Skip Bailey; Examining Board members Ryan Harris, Clay Hudson, Chuck Taylor and Mike Free. Delegates to the International Convention: Brent Gray, Ted Kinder and Clay Hudson. Congratulations to all officers and thanks to the Election Committee.

The office of local union president was decided by two votes in a run-off election. I know you have heard it before but every vote counts.

Don't forget to vote in November national elections!

Congratulations to Local 317's softball team on winning second place in their league. Thanks to the credit union for helping with the sponsorship.

The first meeting in our new union hall was held June 22. TED KINDER, P.S.

#### Fall Activities

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—We look forward to an exciting autumn season. Our annual clambake is Sept. 11, and on Oct. 8 we have our Graduation/Retiree dinner dance. We are expecting 400 guests for the celebration in honor of the 2004 graduates and 2003 retirees.

Spring and summer were filled with activity as well. We participated in the Ancient Order of Hibernian's St. Patrick's Day parade on March 21. It was a great event attended by many labor groups, as well as U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel.

Our annual golf outing was May 8. The turnout was to capacity and, as always, the event was an enormous success. Thank you to all involved who volunteered their time and talents to keeping this the organized, accomplished event we look forward to each spring.

TIMOTHY POULIN, P.S.

#### Special Tribute

L.U. 387 (em,lctt&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Election of our local union officers is complete. Three positions changed, and the newly elected are: Bus. Mgr. Robert E. DeSpain; Power Plant Executive Board member Jeff Miller and Phoenix Executive Board member Michael Hintz. Congratulations to all elected officers!

Congratulations to linemen and electricians who passed their orals and are now looking for jobs. We are having issues with the smaller companies we represent. With our summer season upon us, the membership is busy with lots of work.

Retired IBEW member Rodney W. Phipps reports that his son Staff Sgt. Rodney B. Phipps, U.S. Army, was awarded a Bronze Star medal for courageous combat actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A citation for the award stated: "Sgt. Phipp's courage and personal sacrifice uphold the highest military traditions and reflect distinct credit upon himself, the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and the U.S. Army."

The elder Phipps worked as a traveler in Local 387's jurisdiction with Arizona Public Service for many years. We pay tribute to all IBEW members who are serving, or have family members serving, our country in the military overseas.

SAM HOOVER, PRES.

#### Officers Elected

L.U. 401 (c,i,o,rtb&st), RENO, NV—Congratulations to the Graduating Apprentice Class of 2004. Our



Local 401 Bus. Mgr. Tim McGough.

new inside journeymen are: Casey Bean, Aaron Bissell, Christopher Bumb, Jason Carlton, Chris Gilwee, Dugan Hadler, Curt Jentzsch, Mitch Jones, Peter Laubscher, Alan Nishimoto, Joel Perry, Jason Pistone, Eric Reedy and Matthew Stahlke. The new S&C installers are Robin Rosario and Ron Allega.

We also congratulate the newly elected officers of Local 401: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Tim McGough, Pres. Ralph Doucette, Vice Pres. Bill Byrne, Rec. Sec. Gary Slattengren, and Treas. Kevin Horner. Elected to the Executive Board: Myles Schwabke, Mike Affinito, Steven Combs, Bert Gamble and Tony Lau. Newly elected to the Examining Board: Bart McAfee, Karren Goulet, Jim Dunning, Kirk Taylor and Matt Stahlke.

The annual Local 401 Golf Tournament held June 12 was a great success. A foursome led by Todd Davis won. Thanks to all who participated. At this writing, our local was looking forward to its annual picnic scheduled for Aug. 14 at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno. Our softball team did a good job this year. We look forward to a new season.

J. GABRIELLI, P.S.

**Job Well Done**  
L.U. 405 (em,i,rtb&spa), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA—Congratulations on a job well done to Local 405's 2003-2004 graduating apprentices. We turned out 23 Inside wiremen, three Residential wiremen and five VDV technicians.

The award for "Outstanding Graduating Apprentice" went to Eric Phillips and runner up was Tim Kohrs. Our annual turnout barbecue at the union hall was well attended. Thanks to all who helped make it a night to remember.

Bus. Mgr. Joe Luense is working hard to make our membership aware of just how important November elections are for working people. We all must work hard to bring needed change this fall. Let's focus on the "big picture" and not just the small personal issues.

Thanks to all Negotiation Committee members. Their hard work paid off with our recent C.I.R. results. Great job!

Our work picture still looks slow. Although our contractors are talking optimistic, we have yet to see much



Local 405's JATC graduating class celebrates at a cookout held at the union hall.

positive movement in our out-of-work list. Thanks to all the locals that have provided our members with work. We hope we can reciprocate soon. Let's hope the work outlook will improve when we vote the "son-of-a-Bush" out of office come November!

GREG GRANT, P.S.

#### Graduates Honored

L.U. 413 (em,i&o), SANTA BARBARA, CA—Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2004: Anthony Benoit, Ron Boyd, James Brown, Brian Gregory, Tele Hernandez, David Herrmann, Jon Leslie, Glenn Neal, Lee Peneranda, Erik Reid, Paul Roberts and Juan Vital.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Brooks Firestone, First District Santa Barbara County supervisor-elect. Brian Gregory will be sent to NTI as a reward for being named the Outstanding Graduate. David Herrmann garnered the Instructor's Award. Undergraduate award winners were Aaron Holtgrewe, Miguel Cruz, Andy Freitas, Matthew Johnson and Nathan Quackenbush. The incoming first-year apprentice class will be our biggest ever, marking our consistent growth. The JATC is looking to improve instruction next year, especially "hands on" instruction.

We are excited that our local LMCC will provide financing for the football scoreboard at the new Pioneer Valley High School in Santa Maria. Our Partnering Committee will provide the expertise and labor for the scoreboard installation.

We look forward to occupying our new two-story office building early next year. Bro. Jerry Wood is heading up the solar installation. Work has been very good and looks to be good for the near future. Please attend union meetings and get involved!

CHUCK HUDDLESTON, B.M./F.S.

**Attending the Local 413 JATC graduation for the Class of 2004: (L-R), Anthony Benoit, Tele Hernandez, James Brown, Paul Roberts, Brian Gregory, Jon Leslie, guest speaker Brooks Firestone, Lee Peneranda, Ron Boyd, Erik Reid, David Herrmann, Juan Vital, NECA Chapter Mgr. Jerri Booth, Bus. Mgr. Chuck Huddleston and Pres./Organizer Joe Furino. Glenn Neal not pictured.**



Local 415 Bro. Doug Wiesman (right) receives an IBEW Life Saving Award presented by Bus. Mgr. Harvey Humphrey.

#### A Critical Crossroads

L.U. 415 (c,govt,i&u), CHEYENNE, WY—Congratulations to Local 415's graduating apprentices: Paul Bullock, Dwayne Fagenbush, Josh Gutierrez, Shane Hardy, Ryan Hixson, David Kelley, Glen Wagner, and Travis Heimsoth. Ryan Hixson earned the highest grade point average.

Recently elected Local 415 officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Harvey Humphrey, Pres. Brian Cox, Vice Pres. Doyle Eggli, Rec. Sec. Sheryl McDaniel and Treas. Paul Brown; E-Board members Daniel Freeman, Paul Hernandez, Jeremy Hewey and Robert Lundberg; and Examining Board members Vickie Eggli and Bart McCellan.

Bro. Doug Wiesman received an IBEW Life Saving Award. Doug removed Bro. Jeremy Hewey from the scene of an explosion at a recent refinery accident. We hope Jeremy will recover soon from the serious burns he suffered. Bro. Jim Jairell established a raffle to benefit all the brothers injured in the fire.

November elections are a critical crossroads for our country and our union. The greedy have been in control for too long. It's time to give this country back to working people. We cannot afford four more years of Republican control. Bush has alienated much of the free

world. Diplomacy, cooperation and the needs of working people are concepts he does not understand. Help defeat Bush and the anti-union Republicans. Vote!

JOHN J. OCCHIPINTI, P.S.

#### Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rtb,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Congratulations to our newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Robert Bodell, Pres. Donald Watters, Vice Pres. Jim Reed, Rec. Sec. Russell Hill and Treas. Steve Drayton; Executive Board members Gino Endo, Bryon Cottrell, Chris Lochridge, Doug Frugoli and Rodney James; Examining Board members Allan Allred, Armando Archuleta and Ross Hayes. We are thankful for their dedication to the IBEW. We look forward to working with them. And to past officers: Thanks for your contribution and dedication as well.

Our work picture has improved tremendously in recent months. We have gone from 122 members on Book I to the low 40s. This is a lot of movement for our local, and I expect the book to clear this summer. We are even working a few Book II members.

Our condolences to the families of the following members who

"Year" for the December 2003 class was Michael Summers and runner-up was Ronald Snead. "Solidarity Award" winners were Jason Mackintosh and Jake Young. For the May 2004 class, "Apprentice of the Year" is Chris Rather and runner-up is Ronald Stevens; "Solidarity Award" winner is Kenneth Lucero.

Local 481 is working jobsite organizers in an effort to organize nonunion contractors. We obtained a court injunction against a nonunion contractor for NLRA violations involving discriminatory actions against organizers.

Congratulations and best wishes to Bus. Rep. Jim Webb, who retired in June after 45 years of dedicated service. New Bus. Rep. Steve Menses's job is to help our local grow in the telecommunication field. Best wishes to Jim Patterson as our new JATC director.

STEVE MONTGOMERY, P.S.

#### Vote For Jobs!

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rtb&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Our local election results are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Robert C. Orr, Pres. Charles J. Gricar, Vice Pres. Maynard G. Whitman, Rec. Sec. John Clemens and Treas. Paul D. Dupuis Jr.; Executive Board members Reuben Ceja, Russell Combs, James



Local 557 members joined a labor coalition looking for promised jobs from the Bush administration as Vice Pres. Dick Cheney spoke at an area roofing manufacturer. The manufacturer recently closed a plant in the South. Union members hoisting "Show Us Jobs" signs stood in front of a once-thriving (during the Clinton years) retail store.

passed away recently: R. Dale Chadwick, Jerry Lindsey and Irving Kacalek.

Remember to register and VOTE!  
ROBERT K. CHANDLER  
FORMER B.M./F.S.

#### Apprentice Classes Top Out

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rtb,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Work has been steady in our area, thanks to PLA agreements our business manager negotiated. The Lilly's shutdown is coming to an end. Thanks to travelers helping us fill jobs.

November elections draw near. We encourage members to inform their family and friends about candidates who support working people. Our web site www.ibew481.org has helpful information.

Congratulations to recent apprentice graduates. Two classes topped out in August. "Apprentice of the

Darling, Timothy Iles, William Link Jr. and John McKay; and Examining Board members Richard Urbany and James Von Berg. Delegate to the International Convention: Robert Orr. Alternate delegate: Charles J. Gricar.

November presidential elections will decide our out-of-work list. The current state and national public officials who have created economic loss for us must be informed that they have crossed the line by not supporting our out-of-work situation by passing supplemental unemployment benefits.

The current administration in Washington has only supported the highest income earners, who don't have to worry about mortgage payments and look for food pantry handouts. Elected officials who have great health care and turn a deaf ear to 40 million who don't have insurance need to be voted

out. Look at the candidates running; make sure they support labor. VOTE. Every vote counts! Mr. Bush was not elected by any mandate—he was selected by judges his father appointed.

JOHN E. CLEMENS, P.S.

#### Officers Elected

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,o,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Local 569 officers elected June 5, 2004, are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Allen Shur, Pres. Joe Heisler, Vice Pres. Gregg Martin, Rec. Sec. Patrick Knighton and Treas. Keith Richardson; Executive Board members Billy Wooten, Brian Wooten, Nick Segura Jr., Walt Whelan and Jaime Leon; Examining Board members Duncan Abrams, Robert Koser, Jeremy Abrams, Harry Smith III and Jayne Haugen. Convention Delegates: Billy Wooten, Brian Wooten, Nick Segura Jr., Duncan Abrams, Joe Martin and Gary Reyes. Alternate Convention Delegates: Patrick Knighton and Billy Duggins

With Local 569 elections behind us, we are gearing up on our job-

wise judgment by choosing a union electrical contractor. It is my hope that by the time you get this issue, we will have already referred several more wiremen to that project.

At the June local union meeting, the membership authorized an LMCC allocation that will allow the committee to press forward with a coordinated and sustained market recovery program. This is envisioned as a means to advertise using several mediums and to have some presence in community activities.

There is a full schedule of continuing education classes set for the fall semester. Look in your August newsletter and call the office to pre-register. Remember to schedule your annual safety training also.

GREG BREAKER, P.S.

#### Local 595 Was There

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i,o&st), DUBLIN, CA—Union workers led the throng on June 19 during the "Bridge the Gap for Health Care" event. Working people walked across bridges



Recently elected Local 569 officers are sworn in.

sites for the November elections. We had a great turnout by activists to help with voter registration and volunteer recruitment phone banking in June and we look forward to a high level of involvement throughout the election campaign. In addition to the presidential race we have important state and local races and ballot measures about which we will be educating ourselves and our families in the weeks leading up to Election Day.

JENNIFER BADGLEY, P.S.

#### Market Recovery Program

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—The work picture in the Fox Valley has improved slightly as the hall has gotten calls for manpower since early May. Several calls were for short-term work, but this brought some needed relief for those members who have exhausted their unemployment. As this article is written, all available apprentices are employed. There still are many local journeymen looking for more steady work.

One of the last bid packages for the Fox Energies Center will come out in the next couple of weeks. We hope Calpine will continue to exer-

nationwide to call attention to the health care crisis in this country. Some 44 million Americans currently lack health care insurance. As more Americans are unable to afford health care, the cost to those who are covered is rising at an alarming rate. It is no wonder that health care costs have become the hot issue in negotiating new contracts. Local 595 recently negotiated a very successful contract but health care took its bite.

You can bet that this \$1.4 trillion dollar industry has its advocates. The state of California is facing a repeal referendum on the November ballot to turn back SB2. SB2 limits employee contributions to 20 per-



Local 601's 2004 JATC Inside Wireman graduates.

cent of the premium cost. Under SB2 the law requires businesses with 200 or more employees to provide health care insurance by 2006. This attempt at repeal is yet another reason to vote in November. VOTE! We are in a serious tug of war with the wealthy who are threatening the balance of power. They want it all. Don't hand it to them. VOTE!

MARTA SHULTZ, P.S.

#### Graduation & Election

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—Congratulations to our new Inside Wiremen and Telecommunications graduates. In all, 22 apprentices graduated on June 11 at the annual graduation banquet. Telecommunications graduates are: Daniel Bolin, Aaron Harmon, Lisa Matthews, Jason Sefrhans and Kenny Whited. Inside Wiremen graduates are: Tui Lynch, Brian Young, Dave Smith, Shannon Patterson, Tom Clark, Pat Landgraver, Shane Street, Brad Hadfield, Dan Kindred, Kevin Coleman, Jeff Unangst, Jim Dorner, Ian Stevens, Mike Burge, John Walker Dan Gantz and Corey Gudenrath.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers: Bus. Mgr. Micheal Herbert, Pres. Brian Holderfield;

Humes. International Convention delegate is Mark Oliveira.

On May 8 we held our annual "Steak Stag," with a great turnout of active members and retirees celebrating the spirit of brotherhood. Bro. Bobby Woodard organized the event and did a fantastic job.

Retirees recently recognized for their IBEW service include 50-year members Leo Francis, Robert Hauser, Fred McClellan and Fred Tjarks Sr.; and 55-year members Clarence Berger, Ross Brown, Evan Renn and Bruce Schweighart.

Local 601 mourns the death of Bro. Bob Hubert.

CHRIS COOK, P.S.

#### New Journeymen Welcomed

L.U. 611 (catv,es,i,lctt,o,spa&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—On March 7, 2004, Angela Horchheimer was presented with a much deserved Certificate of Appreciation. Angela has been a dedicated employee of Local 611 for 25 years. On behalf of the local, thanks to Angela for all her hard work and being able to keep so many business managers in line.

Congratulations to this year's newest journeymen wiremen: M. Sue Balderas, Eric Barros, Leroy A. Brazfield, Harrison W. Brown Jason N. Flesher, Violet Y. Pavelski, Kenneth E. Romero, Marti J. Smith and "Apprentice of the Year" Jason E. King. Welcome aboard.

The newest delegates to the CLC are Trey Fraiser, Ted Lopez, Jerry Lynch, Waldo Montoya and Rex Ward.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of the following members who passed away recently: O. T. Thorp, Joe C. Goodall, Manuel Blea, Matthew E. Sisneros, James E. Waid Jr., Fernandez Barreras, Don W. Neal, A. L. Vance, Duane A. Curl, Darrell Brooks, Woodrow W. Sutton and Jack E. Longstaff.

This is an election year—don't forget to vote.

DARRELL J. BLAIR, P.S.

Executive Board members Bob Withers, John Lasater, Charlie Hoss, Shawn Davis and Randy Cooper; and Examining Board members Lauro Acevedo, Darrin and Dennis



Local 611 officers and staff present Angela Horchheimer (seated) with a certificate of appreciation. Standing, from left: Bus. Mgr. Ruben Romero, Administrative Asst. Gloria Maxey, Research Analyst Sean Cunniff, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Ed Tafoya, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Lloyd Beebe and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Rex Ward.



Local 625 Bro. Arron Little presents Kerry Munroe, chairperson, Victoria Park Pool Replacement Committee, with a donation to pay for four season passes for underprivileged children to attend Victoria Park pool.

#### Victoria Park Volunteers

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NS, CANADA—Local 625 members in the Truro area can be proud of their volunteer work at the Victoria Park Pool Project. Bro. Arron Little called up volunteers and kept a steady supply of hands on the job for its duration. Sixteen members helped out with tools and ladders supplied by CTS Electric. The refit of the 40-year-old facility was a grand success with five pool areas opening on time June 26.

The work picture looks good for the summer with several large institutional and commercial jobs manning up in Halifax. Tufts Cove Gas Turbine promises to keep a lot of hands busy. Two schools in Cumberland County, which were initially low bid by a non-union shop, were turned around and re-tendered union.

Thanks to all who attended our June 5 "New Member Orientation" class. A Shop Steward course is scheduled for Nov. 6 & 7 and "Conducting Effective Union Meetings" for Nov. 8 & 9. Please register soon. Tim and I will start our COMET program this fall. Please sign up soon—for your own good and the good of the union, all members must have this course.

TOM GRIFFITHS, P.S.

#### Habitat for Humanity

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ON, CANADA—Our local held an election of officers in June. Officers elected are: Bus. Mgr. Sol Furer, Pres. Ed McDowell, Vice Pres. Sean Bristow, Treas. Ken Hompoth, Rec. Sec. Kip Stratichuk and Executive Board members Norm Ball, Drew Camman, Dana Chappell, Ryan Johnson and Mark Stobbs.

Congratulations and thanks to all the members who were willing to do their part for the union.

Newly appointed Organizer Karl Lovett has had his first successful certification.



Local 773 members participate in a "Hoisting and Rigging" training course.

We welcome Bros. Gord McKinnon and John Lock into membership of Local 773.

Local 773 is saddened to report that Bro. Walter Culligan, at the age of 55, lost his three-year-battle against cancer.

Once again our local will participate in Habitat for Humanity's current project. Asst. Bus. Mgr. John McInnis reviews the drawings and material lists and will coordinate the volunteers from the local. This is a great community event where we showcase Local 773.

Work is slow and while members are off we have stepped up our training. Among courses offered are: Rigging, Welding, Fire Alarm and First Aid-CPR.

DAVID SPENCER, P.S.

from Klein. Our "Top Residential Apprentice" was Martin Weems, who received a \$500 savings bond and a set of tools from Ideal.

Best of luck all our new Local 855 journeymen.

DAVE BLACKFORD, JATC DIR.

#### JATC Director Appointed

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our Retirees Club is showing signs of activity again after a long dormant spell. The club's June luncheon meeting featured as guest speaker national AFL-CIO Field Rep. Chip Barnes. He gave an excellent talk about how community involvement benefits us all. The food was good, old ties were renewed and brotherhood was at its best. See you at the next meeting!



Local 855's 2004 graduating Inside class, joined by JATC and local union well-wishers: Front row (L-R), JATC Instructor Allard Cooper, Dan Rogers, John May, Jim Pitts, Audrey Harless, Local 855 Pres./Cte. Chmn. Mike Scarberry. Back row: Eric Wilson, Matt Herig, Alex Cooper (Top Apprentice), Robert Meyers, Kevin Cope, Markus Watts and JATC Dir. Dave Blackford.



Local 855's 2004 graduating Residential class accepts congratulations from instructors and officers. Front row (L-R), Martin Weems (Top Apprentice) and Gary McHatton. Back row: Local 855 Pres./Cte. Chmn. Mike Scarberry, JATC Instructor Keith Brown and JATC Dir. Dave Blackford.

#### JATC Graduation Banquet

L.U. 855 (c,i&spa), MUNCIE, IN—Congratulations to the 2004 graduates! The new journeymen were recognized at our annual JATC banquet on June 23, 2004.

Our "Top Inside Apprentice" was Alex Cooper. Alex received a \$1,000 savings bond and a set of tools

Elected as Retirees Club officers were: Pres. Howard Ritchie (813) 988-5091; Vice Pres. Howard Fields (813) 689-8382; Sec./Treas. Buddy Wade (813) 237-1037; and Press Sec. Pat Beall. Anyone interested in attending Retirees meetings or activities may contact one of them.

Our new JATC director is David



Local 915 JATC Dir. David McCraw (left) shakes hands with Mike Callanan, director of the NJATC.

McCraw, a 20-year member of Local 915. Bro. McCraw, age 42, is the son of 40-year member Jesse McCraw. David was formerly a field superintendent for Ken Robinson of Florida, now White Electric. He was appointed to the JATC post effective June 2004. David served his apprenticeship at Local 915 and was "apprentice of the year" for three years. He served the local on various committees and in capacities including election judge and local union treasurer. He worked on many projects for area community-based organizations on behalf of Local 915.

BOB KAISER, P.S.

#### Political Action is Key

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o&u), LONG ISLAND, NY—Now is the time for you as an American and a union member to say NO to Washington's anti-worker policies. We must stop the Bush administration's trampling on our hard earned union rights.

It's not about the war, gun rights or abortion rights. It's about your rights as a union member—your right to fair representation, a voice in the workplace, and a fair day's pay. Bush has made it clear that if re-elected he will come after labor. He already proved this when he signed an executive order, overriding Congress' veto and the will of the people, instituting the overtime bill. As workers in the energy industry we have too much to lose. Bush has shown that taking care of the very wealthy takes precedent over the needs of working families. On Nov. 2 vote Sen. John Kerry for president. Let's reclaim our rights as union members and build a foundation for a strong future.

Former Asst. Bus. Mgr. John Gilbert, a 42-year member, has retired. Robert Shand was appointed assistant business manager to fill that post. Patrick Guidice, 1049's former organizer, is our new business representative and Bro. Robert Podlaski joined the staff as our new organizer.

THOMAS DOWLING, R.S.



**Zimmerman Re-elected: Local 1245 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Perry Zimmerman.**

**Officers Elected**

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), WALNUT CREEK, CA—Perry Zimmerman won a second term as business manager of Local 1245 in a mail ballot election counted June 22. Zimmerman captured about 63 percent of the vote, while four challengers divided the remainder.

"I'd like to thank all the members who supported me in this election. I really appreciate your vote of confidence in me and my staff," said Zimmerman. "For those of you who didn't vote for me, I will try my best to earn your confidence by what we do during the next three years. This union always works best when we find a way to put aside our differences and work for our common goals."

Zimmerman offered his congratulations to all the winners in this election, both those who won re-election and those elected to office for the first time.

Besides Zimmerman, officers winning re-election were Pres. Ed Mallory and Rec. Sec. Chris Habecker. The election also brought new faces into the local union leadership: Art Freitas in the position of vice president, and Cecelia De La Torre as treasurer.

Executive Board members Anna Bayless-Martinez, John Mendoza, Dave Scott and Kathy Tindall won re-election. All had faced opposition except Bayless-Martinez, who ran unopposed.  
ERIC WOLFE, P.S.

**Register By Oct. 8**

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY—All members should remember that October 8 is the last day to register for voting in New York state. You may pick up a voter registration form at any DMV office or at the union hall. Members working out of town may call their County Board of Elections to request an absentee ballot. Vote 'labor friendly.'

Work remains a little slow at this time. Currently 47 linemen are on Book 1. Some work has been let out in Westchester County and for a 10-mile, 115kv double circuit "re-conductoring" job in Niagara Falls. In our BA Chapter, 745 line clear-

ance people are working and 90 are on the bench. Just a reminder to those: When you are laid off, remember to pay your dues so you will not have a break in service.

There seem to be more and more non-union contractors out there. If any member sees a contractor who has a truck with no name on it, or if you spot any other non-union contractor, please call the hall and tell Steve or Marty so they can check it out!

With sadness we report the recent passing of Bro. Joseph "Jake" Jakub. Our condolences to his family.

WILLIAM C. BOIRE  
ASST. B.A./PRES./P.S.

**Vote Jobs!**

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Members employed by NRG Energy ratified a new four-year contract. It includes general wage increases of 3.5 percent, 3.25 percent, 3.25 percent and 3 percent. Also, wage and incentive adjustments were added to several classifications and an improvement was made in the 401(k) plan. The employee contribution for health care will increase from 10 percent to 20 percent by the end of the contract and changes were made in the way the pension and retiree medical plans will be



**Local 1307 E-Board member Robert "Buzz" Gregory takes time to enjoy the moon bounce at the local union picnic.**

administered to all new hires coming in after the start of this contract. Local 1307 Negotiating Committee members were: Pres. Mike Dennis, E-Board member Tom Sonnier and local union members Mitch Lagowski, Tom Peet, Jeff Breasure and Geoff Haley. It was a tough negotiation and the committee is commended for a job well done.

On June 12 the local held a picnic at the union hall for members and guests. There were activities for the kids, plenty of good food, and everyone had a good time.

Election time draws near. Be sure you are registered—and Vote! Help elect labor friendly people. The job you save may be your own.

E.D. SPARKS, F.S.

**School Partnership Award**

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—The Anchorage school district School Business Part-



**From left, Anchorage School Board member Jake Metcalfe, Denali Elementary School Principal Karen Rigg, IBEW Local 1547 member and Denali Elementary parent Dora Wilson, and Anchorage School District Supt. Carol Comeau.**

nerships awarded IBEW Local 1547 the "Star Rookie of the Year" award at a special ceremony for outstanding performance as a new School Business Partner with Denali Elementary.

The Star Award was initiated in 1996 to recognize the outstanding School Business Partnerships in the Anchorage School District. There are over 500 established partnerships. The Rookie award is given to a partner of less than three years. This is IBEW 1547's first year as a School Business Partner.

Being involved in a school business partnership takes time, effort, commitment, caring, and planning. As a first-year partner, IBEW 1547 went above and beyond the call of

that includes substantial increases. We thank the Negotiating Committee: Mike Roby, Mike Likens, Jerry Howton and Bus. Mgr. Gary Osborne.

At this writing, the Western Kentucky Energy utility unit was in negotiations.

Local 1701 officers elected in June are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Gary Osborne, Pres. Tim Blandford, Vice Pres. Richard Thomson, Rec. Sec. Mike Roby, Treas. Richard Fry; Executive Board members John Bishop, David Cheek, Jerry Howton, Steve Kaelim, Jim Miller, Steve Thomson, Tim West; and Examining Board members Jim Bishop, Larry Boswell, Mike VanWinkle and Kenny Woodward. Delegates to the IBEW Convention are Gary Osborne, Tim Blandford and Jerry Howton.

Thanks to the Election Committee: Larry McMahan, Charlie Daugherty and Estil Woodward.

A job fair was held in May in Owensboro. Thanks to Bro. David Carrico for setting up a booth and supporting Local 1701/JATC.

November elections approach. The Bush/Chaney administration has been very hostile to organized labor. Four more years of these two would be disastrous for our livelihood. Please register, vote and support labor-endorsed candidates. For a list contact the hall.

We mourn the passing of retired Bro. Robert White.

TIM BLANDFORD, P.S.

**Bus. Mgr. Leduc Re-elected**

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ON, CANADA—There was a tremen-

**From left, Local 1739 Bus. Mgr. Tom Leduc, E-Board member Doug Reid, Pres. Neil Lumiss, Vice Pres. Marc Dupuis, E-Board member John Truscott and E-Board member Randy Jamieson.**



dous turnout for our recent local union elections. Bus. Mgr. Tom Leduc's hard work on behalf of Local 1739 over the past three years resulted in his re-election by a very clear majority.

Three years ago Bro. Tom was elected business manager by a single vote majority. This year's results made it clear that Tom's efforts won over a lot of members who may not have known Tom well or were unsure of his abilities.

The slate of nominated candidates for the various positions was one we can be proud of. It was filled with dedicated members who have freely given their time and effort to the local over the years. Elected or not, all are to be commended for their efforts and for offering themselves for the next three years. Thank you to everyone.

BILL CARSON, P.S.

**THE IBEW ON DUTY**

*(Continued from page 13)*

with restoring power to a base in Salerno, Afghanistan, in September 2003, after which he was much in demand.

He installed the first electrical to service at an Air Force Base, then was sent to an air traffic facility in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. "And this mission," the commendation says, "is once again far above the level normally undertaken by a utility detachment."

He worked 12- and 14-hour days to get the jobs done and left behind a permanent contribution by training

two or other three soldiers at each stop, according to his superior officers.

**It's a Proud Flag Flying At Local 702**

No American flag was ever flown with more pride than the one at Local 702, West Frankfort, Illinois, because member Charles "Wes" Briddick sent it home after it flew a symbolic 9-11—nine hours and eleven minutes—over Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. He sent it to his dad, David Briddick, a



**Local 702 member Charles "Wes" Briddick on duty with the 221st Ordnance Company.**

journey wireman in Local 701, and his brother, Jeff, an apprentice, to use to say thanks to Local 702 for the fundraising to send packages to their members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and their immediate families.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

*continued from inside front cover*

to help labor-friendly candidates who vote for us on many issues. These are the union members who don't do a thing to contribute to the union, volunteering to be on committees, run for offices, attend meetings, etc. These are the union members who haven't got a clue what is really going on in this country concerning Bush and his real attack on working people. These are the union mem-

bers who reap the benefits of belonging to an organization and vote to destroy the very idea of unions by backing Republicans like Dubya. These are the union members who should leave the union and see what they have afterward.

We must keep trying and get the message out. Get as many people registered to vote and volunteer at your union to do whatever you can do to help get Bush out of the White House before it is too late.

**Michael Ray Dillier  
Local 309 retiree, Collinsville, Illinois**

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Brothers and Sisters, we want you to have your JOURNAL! When you have a change of address, please let us know. Be sure to include your old address and please don't forget to fill in L.U. and Card No. This information will be helpful in checking and keeping our records straight.

**If you have changed local unions, we must have numbers of both.**

**U.S. members**—mail this form to IBEW, Address Change Department, 1125 15th Street, N.W., Suite 810, Washington, DC 20005.

**Canadian members**—mail this form to IBEW First District, 1450 Meyerside Drive, Suite 300, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2N5.

**All members**—you can change your address on line at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENT LOCAL UNION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If unknown, check with Local Union)*  
CURRENTLY ON PENSION  Soc. Sec. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please affix mailing label from magazine)*  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
FORMER LOCAL UNION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget to register to vote at your new address!**







# Doors To The Universe

Continued from page 16

and the risks of manned missions.

O'Keefe's announcement lit a fuse in the broad and influential community supporting the Hubble. On March 25, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Senator Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate to save the Hubble. The resolution, concurrently

door open on a manned mission while simultaneously investigating the option of a robotic servicing procedure.

## Fearful Workers Relieved By Announcement

Dion Guthrie, Mike Kurtz and the members of Local 1501 rallied political support for continuing the Hubble mission.

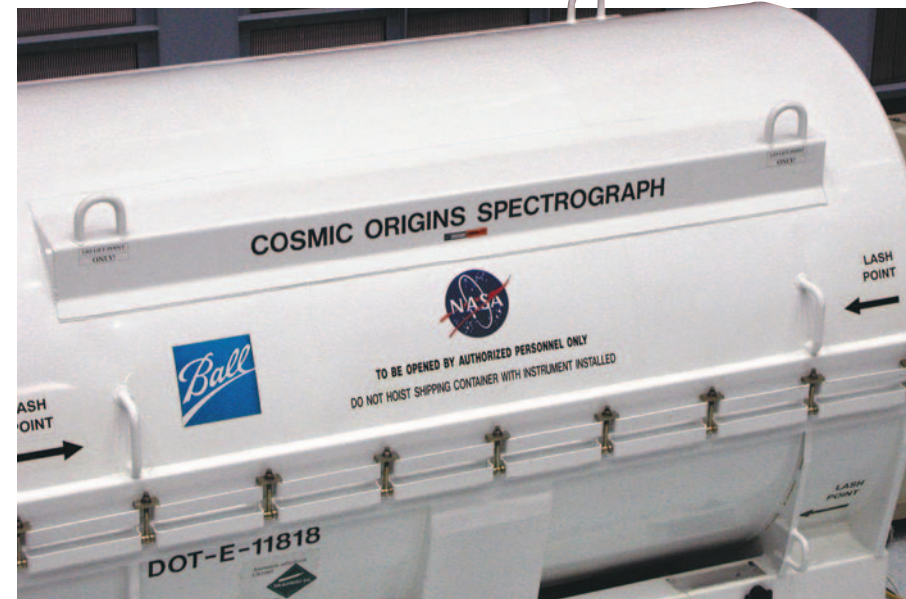
On July 21, Guthrie and Kurtz accompanied Senator Mikulski, Hubble Project Manager Frank Cepollina and Mantech Project Manager Mike Yachmetz on a

including the CWA, the Teamsters, the IAM and others are among Goddard's 10,000 employees, spread over a 1,121-acre campus of 33 buildings, totaling 3 million square feet.

Guthrie remembers the panic that spread through the facility about 13 years ago when there was talk about closing Goddard and moving its work to California. To fend off the closing threat, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), whose district includes the space center, initiated the Goddard Alliance, a coalition of political, business and labor organizations. Guthrie is the alliance's vice president and the only labor member on the board of directors.

## Pressure and Hard Work Lead to Victory

"This is great," says Guthrie about the robotic repair mission. "It would have been a tragedy to lose Hubble's contribution to science. A robotic mission means a lot more work for our members here at Goddard and also for IBEW members at other NASA facilities." Guthrie continues, "I want to thank Senator Barbara Mikulski for her steadfast leadership in support of the telescope. Without her efforts and the hard work of our IBEW brothers and sisters, the Hubble might not have been saved."



introduced in the House of Representatives, outlined the scientific achievements of the telescope, calling it "NASA's most scientifically productive mission, accounting for 35 percent of all [the agency's] discoveries in the last 20 years." The resolution stated, "approximately \$200 million worth of instruments have largely been built" for the planned repair flight. It concluded with a recommendation that "NASA appoint an independent panel of expert scientists and engineers to examine all possible options for safely carrying out the planned servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope and assess alternate servicing methods..."

O'Keefe called upon the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a review of options.

In a July 13 interim report, the academy recommended that NASA leave the

tour of Goddard's Hubble facilities.

On August 9, O'Keefe announced a robotic servicing mission to repair the Hubble before 200 cheering engineers, astronomers and technicians. The mission that will cost between \$1 billion to \$1.6 billion will be developed over three years.

Business Manager Guthrie had worried about the job security of workers at Goddard prior to the August 9 announcement. About 10 Local 1501 members were already on lay-off from Goddard.

An abandonment of the Hubble would have been a deep blow. Local 1501's top bargaining unit position, "engineer 5," carries an hourly rate of \$54.95 per hour. Engineering technicians can promote to over \$35 per hour. Clean room sanitation workers earn up to \$20 per hour.

Members of seven different unions,

**NEXT ISSUE:** *The Mars Rover Mission and other deep space monitoring by IBEW members in Local 543 in San Bernardino, California.*



**Steve Smith, unit chairman and chief steward, IBEW Local 543 in San Bernardino, California, stands beside the directional receiving antenna for the Mars Rover mission.**

## Get In The Game

(Continued from page 8)

have even accused us of demanding "blind obedience" to the Democrats and the Kerry/Edwards ticket.

"Blind obedience" is not our thing. It doesn't work. We learn that when we go out to organize new bargaining units. It takes clear thinking folks to join a union and reject the arguments from employers. In fact, a presidential election is a lot like an organizing drive. It takes clear thinking folks to make the right decision. It's not about Ed Hill and Jerry O'Connor making decisions. It's all of us coming together to exercise some common sense.

Like an employer who resists unionization, the Bush/Cheney administration wants us to vacate common sense, forget every policy of theirs that has hurt us and spread the notion that things would be even worse if we elect Kerry/Edwards. If we are still unmoved, they try to convince us—again like that tired, old anti-union employer—that, "yes, we've made mis-

takes, but really we share your 'values' more than the other guy."

And like an organizing campaign, the best weapon is the truth.

The IBEW and the other unions in the AFL-CIO have been waging a grassroots campaign this year. For your part, we have appointed coordinators in almost every state, especially those considered the battleground states. Many locals have appointed their own political action coordinators. Even in an age when the media chatter never stops, the good old-fashioned shoe leather and worker-to-worker approach is still effective. We're fighting this campaign on the ground and via the Internet, where our web site has a ton of good political information. And we will run more about the issues in the next issue of the *IBEW Journal*.

In the meantime, we are going to ask you to do two things. First, we want every IBEW member in the United States to register and vote in this election. No matter what your opinions or whom you support, your vote is your voice in our democracy—in federal, state and local elections.

Brave young men and women are serving in uniform to protect our freedoms. Many are our own members. What would you say to them if you don't even bother to exercise one of the most precious rights that they are defending?

Second, we want to know what you think. We want everyone to feel free to send their opinions, and we will publish as many as we can in a future issue of this magazine before the election as well as on our web site. Do you see this as the most important election your lifetime? What issues will motivate you to vote? Do you plan to take an active role in the election? Write to the *Journal* or send an e-mail to [journal@ibew.org](mailto:journal@ibew.org).

This Brotherhood belongs to all of us. And it will be up to all of us who live in the United States to be a part of the process that shapes the future of our country.

On November 2, you should either be in line at the polls or secure in the knowledge that you have sent in your absentee ballot. As we all learned in 2000, one vote counts. Use yours.

## Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The NECA Show!

October 17-19, 2004 • Los Angeles Convention Center • Los Angeles, California



**NECA Show Hours:**  
 Sunday, October 17 11:30 am - 5 pm  
 Monday, October 18 10:30 am - 5 pm  
 Tuesday, October 19 10 am - 2 pm

Fill out and fax this card to 301-215-4553 by Sept. 15 and receive FREE ADMISSION to The NECA Show. Or, bring this card with you to The Show and get in FREE! (regular price: \$20)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**America's Leading Power Distribution and Cabling Exposition**

# SCHOOL. BUS SAFETY

Millions of children ride school buses every day. Thousands of children are injured or killed in school bus related incidents. Follow these basic rules to help keep children safe:

- Slow down for school zones
- Stop for flashing red lights on school buses
- Obey crossing guard instructions
- Be especially careful while driving in residential neighborhoods

SOURCE: National Safety Council Fact Sheet Library—School Bus Safety Rules



An IBEW SAFETY REMINDER