

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1893

CONSTRUCTION • UTILITIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS • MANUFACTURING • GOVERNMENT • BROADCASTING • RAILROAD

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vol. 2 | No. 3 | March 2008

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Who We Are

Jon Walters Retires

Secretary-Treasurer Jon F. Walters retires March 1, bringing to a close an eminent 48-year IBEW career that culminated with three years as the union's top financial officer.



him and his family the very best," says President Edwin D. Hill.

An Idaho native and journeyman wireman, Brother Walters was elected business manager of Pocatello Local 449 in 1977 and Eighth District International Vice President five years later. Establishing a reputation for fairness and sound judgment, Walters served as co-chairman of the IBEW-NECA Council on Industrial Relations for 22 years and as the Brotherhood's liaison to the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Walters was one of the early driving forces behind the "Code of Excellence," a written commitment to professionalism and quality work that has been implemented in many districts for construction and is being adapted for other branches.

As Secretary-Treasurer, Walters helped complete the move to a new International headquarters and led efforts to establish the

"It's difficult to say goodbye to a friend and a union brother who, at every juncture of his career, stepped up and did the right thing for the dues-paying membership, but Jon truly has earned a fine retirement. I wish



Walters with President Hill at the 2006 IBEW International Convention in Cleveland.

National Electrical Contractors Association/ IBEW Family Health Care Plan. Initiated in 2006 with 3,500 members, the plan has grown to over 12,000 participants. As a result of this plan, members, their dependents and retirees are getting cheaper and more comprehensive

health coverage under the umbrella of the largest health insurance provider in the United States, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

WALTERS RETIRES *continued on page 2*

Lindell K. Lee Named Secretary-Treasurer

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill has appointed, and the International Executive Council has confirmed, Vice President Lindell K. Lee as International Secretary-Treasurer, effective March 1, to fill the term of Jon F. Walters.

Brother Lee comes to Washington after serving as Eleventh District Vice President, where he has represented IBEW members in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. During his 40-year IBEW career, he has shown a strong commitment to promoting the Brotherhood and growing its ranks.

"He has been a real leader in building the IBEW while in the Eleventh District, and under his stewardship the IBEW will see continued growth," President Hill said. "I am



Lindell K. Lee

pleased that Brother Lee will be bringing his considerable talents to Washington, D.C., to serve the membership as a whole. I am certain he is the right man to help shepherd the Brotherhood through the challenges of the next few years."

Lee was initiated into Kansas City, Mo., Local 124 in 1969, after four years in the U.S.

LEE *continued on page 2*

LIVE!**An IBEW Video Webcast****“State of Our Union—Utilities”****Coming to Your Computer March 27 on www.ibew.org**

“State of Our Union—Utilities” is a special video presentation of the IBEW addressed to members who work in the utility industry. Presented by International President Ed Hill, the program lays out the issues confronting the modern utility industry and talks about what individual members and utility management can and must do to meet those challenges.

The video will be shown publicly for the first time as part of a specially produced one-hour television program that will broadcast live over the Internet. In the program, President Hill will take questions from a studio audience of IBEW members who work in the utility industry. Viewers from all across the Brotherhood will have the opportunity to send in questions via e-mail as well.

Don't miss this first-ever event—a live webcast for all IBEW members on www.ibew.org.

When: March 27

Live broadcast begins at **5 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.**
Please adjust viewing for your time zone.

Lee Named Secretary-Treasurer*continued from page 1*

Navy. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in business management from Webster University in St. Louis.

After working as an inside wireman for several years, he became active in the local, successfully running for executive board in 1981.

As business manager from 1993 to 2002, Brother Lee focused on organizing, increasing the local's market share. He also served as trustee and chairman of the local's health and welfare, pension annuity, 401(k), holiday and vacation trust funds and the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee.

Brother Lee was also active in the Kansas City labor movement, serving as president of the Kansas City Building Trades, and on the executive boards of the Kansas City Labor Council and the Missouri State Building Trades.

In 2002, he was appointed International Representative, servicing construction locals in Missouri. He also served as the Eleventh District organizing coordinator.

In 2005, he was appointed as Eleventh District Vice President to replace William Eads, who retired. During his tenure, Lee took an active role in organizing throughout the district, winning a big victory last year when he helped organize more than 150 production workers at Milbank Manufacturing Co., in Concordia, Mo. He was elected to a full term by delegates at the 2006 International Convention.

He also played an important role in mobilizing labor on behalf of the senatorial campaign of Missouri Democrat Claire McCaskill in 2006.

“He has big shoes to fill, but I'm confident that Brother Lee has what it takes to carry on the tradition of Jon Walters, Jerry O' Connor, Jack Moore and others,” said President Hill. ■

Henke Becomes Eleventh District International Vice President

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill

has appointed Curtis Henke as the Eleventh District Vice President effective March 1. He succeeds Lindell K. Lee, who was

appointed International Secretary-Treasurer.

Brother Henke was born in Bismarck, N.D., graduating from the University of North Dakota, Williston—now Williston State University—with a degree in building construction. In 1980, he went to work for Basin Electric Power Cooperative as a mechanic/welder and was initiated into Hazen Local 1593 a year later.

Henke soon became active in the union and was elected vice president for his unit. In 1989 he was elected president of the local



Curtis Henke

and two years later became business manager, a position he held until his appointment as an International Representative in 2002. During his 12-year tenure as business manager, Henke helped negotiate 17 separate contracts for utility workers and was active on safety issues, serving on the apprenticeship safety and training committee of the North Dakota Rural Electric Association. Brother Henke was also active in the state's labor movement, serving as a vice president for the North Dakota AFL-CIO, and as chair of the state labor education committee.

As International Representative, he serviced locals throughout North Dakota and part of South Dakota, assisting members from nearly every sector of the Brotherhood.

As the new Eleventh District Vice President, Henke will oversee IBEW operations in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. “I feel energized about the position, and I look forward to working with IBEW members from the local level on up,” Henke said. ■

Jon Walters Retires *continued from page 1*

Brother Walters also took powerful stewardship as a trustee of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, building on the work of his predecessor, Jerry O'Connor. Despite a slowing economy, Walters' efforts have helped to guard the fund against market downturns to pay benefits for tens of thousands of retirees who will be retiring over the next decade. Walters has continued efforts to support the transfer of reciprocal monies and helped to launch the new IBEW 401(k) plan.

During Walters' term, the IBEW's Political Action Committee raised between \$7 and \$10 million a year from members, consistently ranking No. 1 in labor political action committees.

Joining President Hill at the 37th International Convention in 2006 in Cleveland, Walters helped make the case for per capita increases to launch a new period of growth through vigorous organizing. “By your bold action here in Cleveland, you can propel our



In a light-hearted moment, the “IBEW Boys” sing a bluegrass number at a Convention gala in '06.

great union into an exciting new era of expansion and prosperity,” Walters said.

“In a Brotherhood, leaders develop by being mentored by others. I have been most fortunate to have followed the path of fine leaders and I thank President Hill and all IBEW members for blessing me with the opportunity to serve at the highest level of our union,” says Walters. “I am reassured to know that our finances are in the capable hands of Eleventh District International Vice President Lindell Lee.” ■

U.S., IBEW Saw Increase in Union Membership Last Year

A statistical oddity or the beginning of a trend? We'll find out next year. But in 2007, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an uptick in the number of union members in the United States. And the labor movement—and the IBEW—sees the hard numbers as reinforcement of the work of organizers.

tion branch than ever before, and that translates into a vibrancy. It shouldn't be that surprising if we do a better job of getting the word out."

On the professional and industrial side, the IBEW is stemming the flow of losses, particularly in manufacturing, mainly via a two-pronged approach to organizing that includes

Ahakuelo said. "My whole goal is to stop the bleeding. That's what we did last year. Now it's a matter of the graph going upward."

Ahakuelo pointed to a Feb. 1 election victory in which Laurel, Miss., Local 1317 gained 75 employees at Howard Industries, a manufacturer of electrical transformers.

"Our troops out there are energized. They have a hard job, getting people to believe in a cause, but they're doing it," President Hill said. "It's a long term project. We all have to be in for the long haul." ■

More people are represented now by the IBEW construction branch than ever before, and that translates into a vibrancy.

The BLS reports that labor union membership grew by 311,000 to 15.7 million, with increases in both the public and private sectors. At 12.1 percent, the overall proportion of private and public sector wage and salary workers is up from 12.0 in 2006. The AFL-CIO says the figures represent the largest single-year increase since 1979.

The data mirror similar results in the IBEW, where last November, the union reached an all-time high in the number of construction members. (That number peaked again in December, with 331,718 members in the branch at the end of the year.) This increase, along with organizing efforts in the professional and industrial branches, also translated to gains in total IBEW membership. The IBEW construction branch added 11,000 members in the past two years, with 6,500 joining last year alone. And at 1,600, the number of outside apprentices has nearly doubled since 2002.

IBEW Construction Membership Development Director Kirk Brungard said the growing construction numbers, particularly during an economic downturn, are a validation of International President Edwin D. Hill's innovative organizing initiatives that increase local union accountability, enhance contractor competitiveness and promote the IBEW's overall commitment to craft excellence.

New organizing tools—like industry nights, in which nonunion workers are invited to meet employers, new intermediate wireman classifications and the Code of Excellence, which reflects a commitment to quality workmanship and professionalism on the job—have all contributed to the membership increases.

In the construction industry, 13 percent of workers were represented by unions in 2006, BLS figures show.

"You hear so much negativity and fear about joining a union and the fact that unions are contracting and not growing," Brungard said. "Organizers have to combat that negative perception. But more people are represented now by the IBEW construc-

internal targets as well as external campaigns, said Professional and Industrial Membership Development Director Brian Ahakuelo.

"If you cannot get your own people who are under our collective bargaining agreements, how are you going to ask other people to join the union in an external campaign?"

While the bursting of the housing bubble and falling home prices have led to the collapse of the residential construction industry and talk of recession is in the air, the nonresidential construction industry—which employs the bulk of IBEW members—is still looking forward to a good year.

"I'm scrambling to make sure we have enough people to fill all the jobs," said Phoenix Local 640 Business Manager Dean Wine. While the area's nonunion residential contractors have seen their work run dry, Local 640's signatory contractors are still getting big contracts for government and commercial projects.

"Residential construction has collapsed, but because we don't have a big presence there yet, we aren't feeling the pressure," said IBEW Construction Department Director Jerry Westerholm.

The IBEW's toehold in residential is largely concentrated in either the high end of the market or in multi-family housing, both largely unaffected by the mortgage crisis.

According to Architecture Billing Index, a gauge of the nonresidential construction industry, nonresidential construction, including warehouses, offices and shopping centers

will rise for most of the year. "We aren't seeing a dramatic impact on the commercial construction market at the moment," said Building & Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, President Mark Ayers. "It's still too early to say for sure, but based on our projections for the coming year, we still see a lot of work coming our way."

The reliance of many projects on state and local government spending is one of the reasons for the continued health of the market, though depending on the length and severity of the recession, there could be a decline in tax revenues fueling such capital expenditures.

The housing slump and rising mortgage defaults in the wake of subprime mortgage crisis are being blamed by many economists for the economic slowdown and rising unemployment.

The Federal Reserve Board's recent drop in interest rates is likely to keep investment money flowing—at least in the short-term. "We could see a tightening of credit, which might lead to the cancellation of some projects but we don't see that happening right now," Ayers said.

The IBEW's increasing market share in renewable energy projects has also played a part in protecting its members from the effects

of the weakening economy. "Alternative energy is on a lot of politicians' minds, so this sector is likely to keep getting more tax credits and state and federal investment money in the future," Westerholm said.

In Colorado, signatory contractors that specialize in renewable energy are planning for a busy year, with big projects in both commercial and residential coming up, according to Denver Local 68 Business Manager Dennis Whalen.

The collapse of residential means that signatory contractors now face increased competition from nonunion contractors who are trying to move into commercial construction. "We are already seeing the nonunion companies trying to break into our market since theirs has dried up big time," said Jacksonville, Fla., Local 177 Business Manager Russell Harper.

The freeze in residential construction, however, could provide potential organizing opportunities as unemployed nonunion electricians start looking for work. "We are seeing a lot of nonunion electricians who used to work residential who are now coming to us because they want to upgrade their skills," said Detroit Local 58 Business Manager Joe Abdo. ■

Unionization Facts 2007

Full time union members had median weekly earnings of \$863, compared with a median of \$663 for those not represented by a union.

Public sector workers had a union membership rate nearly 5 times that of private sector employees.

Private industries with high unionization rates include:

- Transportation and utilities (22.1%)
- Telecommunications (19.7%)
- Construction (13.9%)

The union membership rate among demographic groups was highest for black men and lowest for Hispanic woman.

Workers ages 45 to 54 (15.7%) and 55 to 64 (16.1%) were more likely to be union members than those aged 16 to 24 (4.8%).

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Weak Economy Not Affecting IBEW Construction Yet

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IBEW Helps Make Revolutionary Wastewater Plant a Reality

An unconventional new wastewater treatment plant will supply Orange County residents with drinking water in time for the arid Southern California summer. The new \$500 million plant—built by members of Santa Ana Local 441—will turn sewer water into drinking water, purifying 70 million gallons of wastewater a day.

“I think it’s a viable solution everywhere in the world,” Mike Wehner, assistant general manager of the Orange County Water District, told National Public Radio. “People don’t have any objection to sending astronauts into space and having them live for weeks at a time recycling their own wastewater. Well, down here on the ground we can apply the same kind of technologies.”

The unconventional technology behind the new plant, in addition to the amount of water it is expected to save the county, has brought the project international attention. “There has been interest from as far away as Japan and the Middle East,” said Local 441 member Marshall Burns, who works as project executive for the plant’s contractor, the Morrow-Meadows Corp. “With the concern about water shortages and saving energy, we think it’s a model for other jurisdictions.”

The plant sanitizes and purifies sewer water through a three-step process. First wastewater is forced through tiny filters that remove any solid material. Then it is pushed through a thin membrane that filters out viruses and other hazardous presences, such as pharmaceuticals. Finally the water is heated by an intensive ultraviolet light for approximately six months, after which the water is pumped back underground into the aquifer to join the groundwater supply. The recycled wastewater will end up providing 10 percent of the county’s water needs.

The new system will also save on energy, consuming only half of the energy currently used to transport fresh water from Northern California. About one-fifth of California’s energy is used to move water from north to south.

The project—the world’s largest wastewater treatment plant—broke ground in 2005 and went on line in February.

According to Local 441 Business Manager Douglas Chappell, 150 members worked on everything from doing the wiring to setting up telecommunication lines on what turned out to be the biggest project the local had ever worked on. “We have worked on water treatment plants before, but never anything approaching the size of this one,” Chappell said.

The biggest challenge came soon after construction began, when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005. Basic material like copper wires and plastic conduit ran in short supply, just at the moment it was needed the most. “Patience and determination on our part got us through that stage of the project,” Burns said. ■



More than 150 Santa Ana, Calif., Local 441 members worked on Orange County’s new wastewater treatment plant, which converts wastewater into drinking water.

United Effort Finally Defeats Anti-Union Rules at Defense Dept.

It is a most unlikely place to read about one of organized labor’s best victories of the decade. But here—jammed among the billions in next year’s defense spending bill—is language that sets aside much of the damage of the National Security Personnel System, a Bush administration scheme that would have gutted the collective bargaining rights of thousands of civilian employees of the Department of Defense, including 12,000 IBEW members.

It has been five years since President Bush and former Defense Department Secretary Donald Rumsfeld first proposed the NSPS amid the wave of national anguish after 9/11, contending that the measures were needed to improve homeland security.

Since then, a coalition of 36 Defense Department unions has gone to court, rallied and lobbied to convince both the powerful and the powerless that there is no conflict between a strong national defense and dedicated employees who enjoy the rights of union membership.

“We wore out a lot of shoe leather on Capitol Hill,” says IBEW Government Employees Department Director Chico

McGill, who credits a bipartisan majority of both houses for heeding the unions’ case. Since many anti-labor efforts spread from the public to the private sector, says McGill, the victory belongs to the entire labor movement.

The legislation, signed by President Bush in January, restores collective bargaining rights and upholds current appeals processes available to Defense Department workers under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. Pay structures for predominantly blue-collar prevailing rate employees, including most IBEW members, will remain intact.

Under the original NSPS, labor disputes would have been reviewed by a third-party panel selected by the defense secretary. The modified regulations mandate an independent third-party review. Congress must be notified when remaining provisions of the NSPS are implemented, giving legislators the opportunity to prevent objectionable sections from taking effect.

The Defense Department first contended that work rule changes were needed to permit the emergency deployment of workers to foreign locations. In 2004, retired

IBEW Government Employees Department Director Gil Bateman said, “That’s never been a problem. When the USS Cole was bombed by terrorists, members of Norfolk, Va., Local 1734 volunteered to travel thousands of miles to make the repairs necessary to bring it home.” Members of Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733 who built the USS Cole restored the vessel once it arrived.

The tide began to turn against the NSPS in 2006 when the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia upheld a complaint by the unions that certain sections of the new regulations violated long-standing legal rights. When a higher court ruling reversed that opinion last year, unions lobbied the new Democrat-controlled Congress to enforce members’ rights.

In a separate action, the Department of Homeland Security has put on hold plans to implement a new personnel system that shares features with the NSPS. Parts of the system, originally called MaxHR and now called Human Capital Operations Plan, have been ruled illegal by courts. Congress has provided zero funding for the plan in 2008. ■



North of 49°

Electricity Sector Council: Meeting Manpower Needs

Solutions to the pressing shortage of skilled workers across Canada's electricity industry would be hard to achieve on a province-by-province basis. So, in 2005, the IBEW joined with industry and government entities to establish the Electricity Sector Council, a federally-funded hub for research and strategy to meet the industry's current and future manpower needs.

A 2004 study of the Canadian electricity industry showed that 17 percent of the existing work force will be eligible for retirement by 2009 and almost 40 percent will be pension-eligible by 2014. If those vacancies are not filled, the reliability of utilities could be undermined, leading to service disruptions and blackouts. The growth of the renewable energy industry is creating even more demand for skilled labor. "Because there are so many great jobs coming available as baby boomers retire, and because IBEW represents the vast majority of Canada's work force in generation, transmission and distribution, we have played a

central role in the council," says First District International President Phil Flemming.

International Representative Jerry Wilson, vice-chairman of the ESC's board of directors and chairman of the occupational standards committee, has established good relationships with industry and government members that "pay dividends all the way around," Flemming said. For many years, power line technicians, or linemen, left Canada to work in the United States without hurting the domestic electricity industry. But the crush of retirements, combined with a prior period of slowing birth rates in Canada, have left a skilled labour deficit requiring bold action.

IBEW locals are reaching out to recruit Aboriginal youth, the fastest-growing segment of the native Canadian population, into apprenticeship programs. But the labour shortage will not be solved without the recruitment of previously trained immigrants. Wilson sees the IBEW's participation in the ESC as an essential part of ensuring that immigrant workers are

not used by employers to undermine the gains of Canada's trade union movement.

IBEW locals were vocal participants in ESC's first conference last November. Brotherhood members brought solutions to the table, like the memorandum signed between Halifax, N.S., Local 1928 and a local contractor that conditions the union's approval of hiring immigrant linemen upon the employer's commitment to first attempt to hire Canadians (See "Unique Agreement Brings New Members, Citizens to Nova Scotia," December 2007, *The Electrical Worker*). Thereafter, immigrants who are hired must attain citizenship as soon as possible, pass the same certification requirements as other employees and become members of the local union.

John Briegel, business manager of Calgary Local 254, along with management representatives from ENMAX, gave a presentation on how they collectively recruited qualified power line technicians from the Philippines because there were none available in North America.

By working to develop national standards for certification, ESC members hope to enhance employer access to workers who can travel to provinces like Alberta, where 300 calls for journeyman are going unanswered.

IBEW participants are also working with contractors to enhance journeyman skills. "We've gotten everyone on the sector council to understand the importance of post-apprenticeship training in renewable energy technologies, even while we continue to stress the need for succession-planning and mentoring," says Wilson.

Brotherhood leaders on ESC committees include Briegel; Jack Dowding, executive chairman, IBEW Power Council of Ontario; Ross Galbraith, business manager, Fredericton, N.B., Local 37; Jim Greenwell, senior assistant business manager, Vancouver Local 258; Charles McKenzie, First District International Representative; and Rick Wacheski, business manager, IBEW Local 636, Toronto.

For more information, visit:
www.brightfutures.ca



Au nord du 49° parallèle

Conseil sectoriel de l'électricité: Pour répondre au besoin en ressources humaines

Trouver des solutions à l'importante pénurie de main-d'œuvre qualifiée dans l'industrie électrique au Canada, dans chacune des provinces, représentait une tâche des plus difficiles à accomplir. Le Conseil sectoriel de l'électricité a donc été fondé en 2005 dans le cadre d'un partenariat entre les entreprises, la FIOE et d'autres syndicats et les organismes gouvernementaux. Ce centre de recherche, financé par le gouvernement fédéral, a pour mandat d'élaborer et de mettre en œuvre des stratégies de recrutement afin de combler les besoins actuels et futurs de l'industrie en matière de ressources humaines.

Une étude commandée en 2004 par l'Association canadienne de l'électricité a démontré que 17 pour cent de la main-d'œuvre actuelle sera admissible à la retraite en 2009 et près de 40 pour cent en 2014. Si les postes vacants ne sont pas comblés, le manque d'effectifs pourrait affecter la maintenance et par conséquent, la fiabilité du réseau (interruptions de service, pannes d'électricité). La croissance de l'énergie électrique renouvelable crée une plus grande demande de main-d'œuvre qualifiée.

Le Vice-président international du Premier District, Phil Flemming, déclarait : "À cause du grand nombre d'emplois intéressants qui seront disponibles dans notre industrie suite aux départs à la retraite des baby-boomers et vu que la FIOE représente la

grande majorité des salariés affectés à la production, au transport et à la distribution de l'électricité au Canada, nous avons joué un rôle essentiel au sein du Conseil. Le représentant international Jerry Wilson, vice-président du conseil d'administration du CSE et président du Comité des normes professionnelles a réussi à établir des bonnes relations avec les membres de l'industrie et des organismes fédéraux, ce qui devrait nous rapporter des bénéfices."

Pendant plusieurs années, les monteurs de lignes canadiens sont allés travailler aux États-Unis sans que cela nuise à l'industrie électrique canadienne. La bousculade des départs à la retraite combinée à la période du creux de la natalité que nous avons connu au Canada, a créé une pénurie de main-d'œuvre qualifiée exigeant une mesure audacieuse. Les locaux de la FIOE se tournent vers les jeunes autochtones, le segment de la population canadienne qui connaît la plus forte croissance, afin de les inciter à suivre un programme d'apprentissage. Mais nous ne pourrions résoudre le problème de cette pénurie de main-d'œuvre sans le recrutement d'immigrants ayant déjà une formation. Selon M. Wilson, grâce à la participation de la FIOE au Conseil sectoriel, nous pourrions nous assurer que les entreprises n'utiliseront pas les travailleurs immigrants dans le but d'affaiblir les gains obtenus par les syndicats canadiens au cours des ans.

Lors de la première conférence du Conseil sectoriel de l'électricité tenue en novembre dernier, les membres des locaux participants se sont exprimés en suggérant des pistes de solutions telles que le protocole d'entente signé entre la S.L. 1928 de Halifax en N.-É. et un entrepreneur local (Voir l'article intitulé "Unique Agreement Brings New Members, Citizens to Nova Scotia" paru en décembre 2007 dans *The Electrical Worker*). Cette entente prévoit que le syndicat donnera son approbation à l'embauche de monteurs de lignes étrangers si la compagnie s'engage à favoriser d'abord l'embauche de monteurs de lignes canadiens avant de recruter des travailleurs immigrants. Lorsque des travailleurs étrangers seront embauchés, ils devront obtenir leur citoyenneté dans les meilleurs délais, acquérir les mêmes compétences professionnelles que les autres employés et devenir membres de la section locale.

Le gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 254 de Calgary, John Briegel, et les représentants de la compagnie ENMAX ont fait une présentation décrivant la façon dont, grâce à des efforts collectifs, ils ont recruté des techniciens de lignes électriques qualifiés aux Philippines, étant donné que cette main-d'œuvre n'était pas disponible en Amérique du Nord.

Avec l'élaboration des normes professionnelles nationales et d'une reconnaissance professionnelle, les membres du CS_ espèrent améliorer et faciliter la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre d'une province à l'autre. Présentement en Alberta, 300 demandes pour des monteurs de lignes ne peuvent être comblées.

Les participants de la FIOE travaillent également avec les entrepreneurs à rehausser le profil des compétences des compagnons. Comme le soulignait M. Wilson "nous avons réussi à convaincre tous les membres du Conseil de l'importance d'un apprentissage continu en ce qui a trait aux technologies des sources d'énergie renouvelable, tout en continuant d'insister sur la nécessité de préparer la relève et le mentorat."

Les dirigeants de la Fraternité siégeant à des comités du CSE sont: John Briegel, gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 254 de Calgary; Jack Dowding, président exécutif de l'IBEW Power Council of Ontario; Ross Galbraith, gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 37 de Frédéricton au N.-B.; Jim Greenwell, adjoint sénior au gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 258 de Vancouver; Charles McKenzie, représentant international du Premier District et Rick Wacheski, gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 636 de Toronto.

Visitez le site www.brightfutures.ca pour plus de détails. ■

Circuits

Vermont Utility Earns Disaster Recovery Award

A one-two punch of a classic Nor'easter snowstorm combined with hurricane force winds up to 79 miles an hour in April 2007 left nearly half of the customers of Central Vermont Public Service without power.

The small rural provider with about 90 line workers, who are members of Montpelier Local 300, was overwhelmed. Its office in Rutland wasn't even spared. But years of disaster planning paid off, making quick work of recovery and earning the utility an award from the national industry association.

"In some places, there were whole fields of trees blown down just like rows of corn," said CVPS Public Affairs Director Stephen Costello. "There were no simple fixes at all."

Mistakes and lessons learned by utilities recovering from recent hurricanes down South were the inspiration for the updated disaster plan completed by CVPS. With the help of generators, the utility opened its offices, dusted off its game plan and tripled its work force overnight with outside linemen and tree trimmers.

"I can't say enough about the employee response," Costello said. "The field people were working 18-hour shifts, taking six hours off and then were right back at it."

As a public service, a local radio station offered virtually unlimited air time so the utility could keep customers informed of the restoration effort, Costello said. Feeding the troops was also key to the plan. CVPS arranged breakfast and dinner buffets for workers, plus field lunch deliveries, to keep time off the job to a minimum. Safety also played a large role in the effort, with daily discussions centering on safe work methods, he said.

Most affected CVPS customers—concentrated in central and southern Vermont—had lost power by 9 a.m. Monday morning, Costello said. The last customer was hooked up by Friday, two days before the utility estimated full restoration. Three weeks later, the city of Rutland threw the utility and the community a party.

"It was about as well run and well worked a storm as we could have hoped," Costello said.

Local 300 Marketing and Business Development Director Matt Lash said the annual Edison Electrical Institute Emergency Recovery Award is presented to utilities that respond swiftly and efficiently, overcome difficult circumstances, utilize unique or innovative techniques, communicate effectively with customers and restore service promptly.

"CVPS is a longtime trusted partner of this union," said Local 300 Business Manager George Clain. "This award is a testament to the dedication and expertise our members have. On behalf of the Local 300 team, I congratulate CVPS on this prestigious accolade."

Lineman Pioneer Celebrates Membership Milestone



George C. Skelton

Detroit Local 17 member George C. Skelton was not a founding member of the IBEW, but he could be called a pioneer of the union. Starting his career as a lineman in 1937, he participated in the building of the

modern infrastructure in Michigan, extending electrification to the rural farms, long before the Occupational Safety and Health Administration mandated safety rules. "We were working hot wires and in the rain you'd have sparks jumping on your neck," he said. It was dangerous in those days, he said, but he and his co-workers at Detroit Edison managed to share much camaraderie and good times. An Air Force pilot who served stateside in World War II, he retired from the trade at age 63 in 1981. Last year, Skelton, who will be 90 in June, celebrated 70 years as a member of the IBEW.

Fla. Member's Son Dies in Iraq

Punta Gorda, Fla., Local 641 member Richard L. Burress lost son Richard B. Burress to hostilities in Iraq on Jan. 19. Army Spc. Richard B., 25, died in Al Jabour of wounds sustained when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device.

Richard B. Burress, of Naples, joined the Army in 2005 and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Ga. The combat engineer, who was halfway through a 15-month assignment, was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

"This true American hero will be deeply missed and never forgotten by his loved ones," said a statement from his family. "The family of Spc. Richard B. Burress is touched by the compassion, love, prayers and support for family members."

Burress, who enjoyed spending time outdoors and with family, is survived by his wife, Tabitha, and his adopted daughter, three-year-old Alyssa, father Richard L. Burress, mother Tina Ruiz, stepmother Anita Landry, three bothers and one sister. Photographs shown at his funeral captured a smiling young man, playing with his daughter or relaxing on a boat. He had "an easy-going manner and natural warmth," family said.

Richard L. Burress of Naples is a senior line specialist employed by Florida Power and Light and a 24-year IBEW member. ■

Spotlight on Safety

The Facts on Carbon Monoxide

We cannot see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but it is a lethal poison gas responsible for hundreds of deaths and hospital visits every year in North America from exposure at our homes and workplaces.

Carbon monoxide deprives the brain and the heart of necessary oxygen. Within minutes of exposure to high levels, a person can be overcome without warning.

Initial symptoms may include tightness across the chest, headache, dizziness, fatigue, nausea and drowsiness. Prolonged exposure will make symptoms worse, especially fatigue and nausea, leading to muscle weakness and loss of consciousness. Most affected individuals do not realize their lives are in danger.

If you suspect someone has carbon monoxide poisoning, take the following steps:

- Move the victim immediately to a fresh air supply in an open area
- Call 911 or another emergency number to obtain emergency medical assistance
- Administer 100 percent oxygen using a tight fitting mask if the victim is breathing
- Administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if the victim is not breathing

Rescuers should be properly trained in emergency procedures, including the recognition of hazards present at the worksite, implementation of proper rescue procedures and use of appropriate rescue equipment. Rescuers could be exposed to fatal levels of carbon monoxide, so procedures should be implemented to assure a safe rescue. ■

Organizing Wire

British Columbia Local Makes Gains in Growing Housing Market

Three years ago condominiums and high-rise apartments were sprouting all over Vancouver Island, British Columbia, but Victoria Local 230 and its signatory contractors weren't getting much of the work. "We stopped paying attention to residential in the '70s," Local 230 Business Manager Philip Venoit said. "It came back to haunt us."

The 800-member local held a strong market share in Vancouver Island's pulp and paper mills, but the decline of the industry made breaking into the residential market—in which the local held a market share of less than 5 percent—a matter of survival.

"Our industrial work was vanishing and not coming back anytime soon, but with the residential boom, we saw an opportunity to get into something new," Venoit said.

Union contractors were concerned about competing against low-wage nonunion contractors, but a residential agreement between the local and signatory contractors in 2005 managed to lower labor costs without reducing wages and benefits by increasing the apprentice-to-journeyman ratio on work sites. "Building condos is more repetitive than a lot of commercial work, so we could increase the number of apprentices without sacrificing quality of work," Venoit said.

The agreement gave contractors a new competitive edge, but it is the IBEW's commitment to quality and professionalism that made the difference when it came to effectively bidding for work, said Ross McLean, branch manager for Houle Electric.

"IBEW members take President Hill's message about the Code of Excellence to heart," McLean said. "Local 230 members show up to work on time, give us a good day's work and take safety seriously."

In addition to nearly doubling their market share, the local has increased its membership by nearly 10 percent, thanks to an advertising blitz by Local 230, which placed ads on the island's bus system. ■



More than a dozen Victoria, British Columbia, Local 230 members are employed on the Pacifica, a 177-unit luxury condominium project in Nanaimo, one of the many new residential projects staffed by the IBEW.

Local Lines

Election Holds Opportunity

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 has a storied history of participating in the political arena. Supporting labor-friendly candidates on the local, state and national level is always important—especially in November 2008. Labor has a fantastic opportunity to help elect individuals who will work for the working class. Here are some questions to ask yourself regarding upcoming elections:

Are you and your family registered to vote? If you will be unable to get to the polls, will you obtain an absentee ballot? Do you vote in all elections? Do you remind family and friends to vote? Do you support labor-friendly candidates? Do you contribute to the Local 1 Voluntary Fund, which supports labor-friendly candidates? Are you willing to canvass for candidates? Your help is needed, as candidates always need financial and volunteer support. If you wish to help, or just have questions regarding any upcoming election, please call Local 1.

We mourn the following members' deaths: Paul Benavidez, Mark McClanahan, Lloyd Carlton, Matthew McClymont, Stanley Kubiak, Margaret Barger, Roy Custer, Robert Green, William Schatz, James Metzger, Maurice Bliss, Raymond Hagan, William Smith Jr., Jacob Heutel, Archie Overturf Jr. and Martin Bresnan.

Matt Gober, P.S.

Medical Benefit Approved

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Local 11 approved a no-cost-to-the-member complete medical body scan for members and their spouses. We urge all members over a certain age to consider utilizing this great health benefit. As a preventative tool, the scan can help detect possible health problems in the early stages. We want all members to have a healthy 2008 and beyond.

A project labor agreement covering work at Los Angeles community colleges, for 44 megawatts of solar at nine locations, was approved. The agreement will result in great jobs for our members and once again solidify the IBEW as the leader in photovoltaic installations. We continue to demonstrate our commitment to the solar industry by sharing our knowledge and training with other locals throughout California. We are traveling to Santa Rosa to train approximately 200 IBEW members of Local 551 and surrounding locals. Register for solar classes at the Electrical Training Institute; now is the time to take advantage of this amazing training. Don't wait—classes are filling up fast.

Congratulations to Bro. Harvey "Butch" Bachand on his retirement. Butch served most recently in the Compliance Dept. and volunteered on the District 4 Welfare Committee for many years. We thank Butch for his dedicated service.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

Trade Classifications

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



IBEW Local 15 members at Exelon Braidwood nuclear power generating station received OSHA's Star Status Award. Accepting the award, from left, are Braidwood Plant Mgr. Larry Coyle; Local 15 member Dave Vescogni; Doris Willis, Tom Dahl, Pat Daly and Bob Nevin, Exelon reps; Local 15 member Howard Silkowski; Tony D'Antonio, Exelon rep; Local 15 members Tony Rigor and Bob Rohrer; Paul Dempsey and Todd Tierney, Exelon reps; and Donna Turner, business operations.

OSHA 'Star Status' Award

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Our members at the Exelon Braidwood nuclear power generating station achieved OSHA's highest industrial safety award, "Star Status," on Dec. 3, 2007. The award culminated a two-year union/management committee drive to improve plant safety.

Bros. John Petrussek and Bill Wells, Midwest Generation fossil generating station employees injured in a blast at the Will County plant last December, are recovering well at home and undergoing a rigid physical therapy program. Bro. Pascual Ortiz, also injured in the explosion, returned to work on restricted duties.

Our nuclear division signed an amended Outage Travel Agreement with Exelon Nuclear that allows our members to "travel" to Exelon's Clinton nuclear generating power station and assist IBEW Local 51 members with refueling activities, as well as the opportunity to do the same at Mid-Atlantic sites in the Exelon Nuclear fleet. All "travel" opportunities are voluntary.

At Dominion's Kincaid fossil generating station, the parties are finalizing review of their new six-year collective bargaining agreement in order to have new contract books printed.

At ComEd Energy Delivery and Exelon Business Service Co., preparations are underway for contract talks; the current agreement expires Sept. 30. Also, our local has negotiations with Exelon Corp. this year on a new health care benefit package and pension plan.

Ronald V. Welte, P.S.

LCTT Training Program Grows

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—Our work picture in the Local 17 jurisdiction is starting out slow for the first few months of 2008. The Energy Group, Hydaker-Wheatlake Co., the Gilbert companies and Harlon Electric were awarded a five-year contract with DTE Energy. This work will be done under the 16-17-A Bargaining Agreement. M.J. Electric and Hydaker-Wheatlake Co. have ongoing transmission projects on ITC property.

The Line Clearance Tree Trimming (LCTT) apprentice training program grew to 144 apprentices by the close of 2007. We also graduated 22 apprentices to journeyman tree trimmers. As always, it continues to be our goal to pursue and implement our training program so that our members are the safest and most productive in the line clearance industry.

Safety is always our No. 1 priority and our overall recordable accidents have declined for 2007, pushing us into the top quartile in the

industry. Remember, you are your brothers' keeper.

With sadness we report the loss of brothers Craig Simmons, Mathew Torres, James A. Sheridan, Hal Cornelius, Phillip O'Conner, Mark Lafond and Peter Zahari.

James Beaubien, P.S.

U.S. Supreme Court Appeal

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—We are anxiously awaiting the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on whether it will hear an appeal by AT&T regarding a key dispute over eligibility of the agreement for arbitration.

AT&T refused to arbitrate a grievance concerning implementation of new work-performance guidelines whereby employees could be disciplined and eventually fired. Local 21 filed a motion to compel arbitration in federal district court. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois sided with Local 21 in April 2006, and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals supported the ruling in a 2-1 decision. AT&T is now asking our land's highest court to overturn the lower courts' rulings. This is certainly a case to watch, as the Supreme Court's decision will not just impact Local 21 members; it could impact labor-management relations throughout the United States.

We are saddened to report the passing of Bus. Rep. Michael Kunas, at age 41. Bro. Kunas passed away suddenly Jan. 4, 2008. IBEW Local 21 officers, executive board and staff extend deepest sympathy to his wife Amy, daughter Zoie, family and friends. Bro. Kunas served with dedication and pride, proudly representing his union brothers and sisters. The Brotherhood lost a great friend and talented leader.

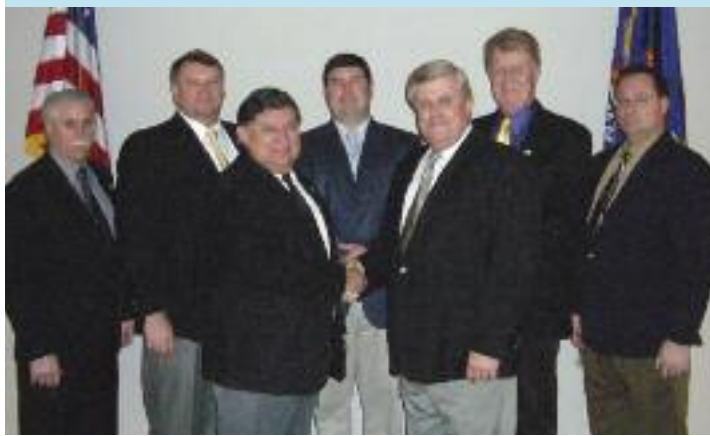
Thomas Hopper, P.S.

Long Island Labor Victory

L.U. 25 (catv,i,o&rts), LONG ISLAND, NY—Local 25 Bus. Rep. Gene Parrington was elected to the Islip Town Council on Nov. 6, 2007, giving the council its first Democratic majority in 76 years.

Bro. Parrington's campaign was spearheaded by Local 25 Bus. Mgr. Donald Fiore and his business staff. Campaign coordinators were aided by John Durso and Roger Clayman of the Long Island Federation of Labor and other trade unionists.

Every weekend labor volunteers 300 strong marched for Bro. Parrington knocking on voters' doors and hand billing at train stations, supermarkets and shopping centers. For weeks, labor staffed phone banks calling the 380,000 residents of Islip Township.



Long Island, NY, Local 25 Bus. Mgr. Donald Fiore (front row, left) congratulates Bro. Gene Parrington (front row, right) on his election to the Islip Town Council. Back row, from left: Local 25 Bus. Reps. Jim Wisdom, George Psillos, Kevin Casey, Kevin Harvey and John Guadagno.

Bro. Parrington, a decorated Viet Nam veteran who received two Purple Hearts, is labor's version of the movie character "Rocky." He was a decided underdog who faced a powerful Republican machine. He campaigned tirelessly before and after work, talking to area residents. He never gave up, and he drew immeasurable strength from labor's vitality, enthusiasm and support.

On election night, Bro. Parrington was declared the victor, scoring a stunning upset. When congratulated, he looked out to the ballroom flooded with supporters of labor and said, "Don't congratulate me, congratulate labor. This is their victory, this is our victory."

*Rich Kammarada, P.S.
Jack Majkut, P.S.*

Ten Ways to Kill A Union

L.U. 41 (em,es,i,se,spa&govt), BUFFALO, NY—Following are 10 ways to kill a union: 1) Don't come to meetings. 2) But if you do come, arrive late. 3) If the weather doesn't suit you, don't come. 4) If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and other members. 5) Never accept an office; it's easier to criticize than to do things. 6) Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed on a committee; but if you are appointed, do not attend the committee meetings. 7) If asked by the president to give your opinion on an important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. Then after the meeting, tell everyone how things should be done. 8) Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when other members roll up their sleeves, willingly and unselfishly using their ability to help matters along ... howl that the union is being run by a clique. 9) If your local is struggling from a financial standpoint to maintain offices in your behalf, be sure to muster up all the help you can ... to vote against a dues raise. 10) Don't bother about new members, let the other fellow do it.

Ask: "Could this be me?" Let's save a union ... do something positive!

Kenneth C. Zack, V.P./P.S.

Three-Year Contract Ratified

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy St. Pat's Day. The work picture at Local 47 remains strong.

Problems with LIUNA continue. They have joined with IBT and IUOE and forced an election at A.M. Ortega. The IBEW has represented those members since 2003. This coalition originally included the UA (Plumbers and Pipefitters); the UA has repudiated the coalition and is working with Local 47.

The regional NLRB ruled that IRBY Construction violated the NLRA when they threatened apprentices that IRBY would be

forced to eliminate the apprenticeship program if Local 47 won the representational election last fall. IRBY appealed the decision.

Bro. Eulos Miller won a 2008 Harley-Davidson Road King grand prize at the 2007 Brotherhood Motorcycle Run.

The Banning General Unit overwhelmingly ratified a three-year contract, with greatly increased health benefits. Members will receive a \$150/month utility allowance to live in Banning.

The local added Bros. Bobby Van Noy and Armando Mendez to the construction staff. Arnold Trevino was appointed to the Executive Board, and Larry Lopez and Mike Hernandez were appointed to the Examining Board.

We mourn the passing of Frank Garcia. Our condolences go out to his family.

Stan Stosel, P.S.



Local 47 member Eulos Miller (seated on bike) wins grand prize Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Utility Agreements Ratified

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—After nine months of negotiating, System Council U-05 members ratified a five-year agreement with Ameren. The council, comprised of Locals 51, 309, 649, 702 and 1306, was formed to increase bargaining strength through solidarity. Local 51 would like to acknowledge the hard work of the negotiating committee and the patience and support of the membership.

Agreements have also been reached with American Line Builders (outside teledata), WMBD-TV Nexstar and Custom Underground. Negotiations continue with American Line Builders (outside power), Nelson Tree, Wright Tree, WEEK-TV and Verizon Plus.

On Jan.10, 2008, a stewards training seminar was held in Bloomington to help further educate our stewards in the performance of their duties. Local 51 thanks Int. Rep. Richard Gessler of the

Sixth District for conducting this training. Our objective in 2008 is to schedule additional steward training in other locations of the jurisdiction.

The work outlook for 2008 is forecast as good for our outside membership.

Local 51 wishes all IBEW members and their families a safe, happy and prosperous new year. Remember to attend your union meetings as this is where it all begins.

Dan Pridemore, Pres.



Local 51 members of System Council U-05, from left: Bus. Rep. Tom Peterson, Bus. Mgr. Jim Bates and Bus. Rep. Matt Moore.

Spring Work Anticipated

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH—Local 71 officers extend belated new year's greetings to all. Outside construction work within our jurisdiction, as of early in 2008, has slowed somewhat. Our line construction work will pick up soon as our utility customers sort through their fiscal budgets and job orders. By spring we should be putting out calls for travelers, and several areas will again be working overtime schedules.

Welcome to Bro. Billy Crabtree as our newest Executive Board member. Bro. Crabtree is a second-generation journeyman lineman and proud 18-year member of Local 71.

Thank you to members who contributed to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and Toys-for-Tots campaigns. By helping families less fortunate, the IBEW is known as the "Union of Hearts and Minds."

Union loyalty and pride are cornerstones for a labor union. However, the quality of life that unions provide is sometimes taken for granted. Where would we be today without unions?

We extend deepest sympathies to the families of Durant "Chuck" Campbell and Lawrence "Butch" Lowery. Local 71 Bro. Campbell was fatally injured on the job and Bro. Lowery, a member of IBEW Toledo Local 245, suffered a heart attack while working storm restoration in Missouri last December.

Wally Sickles, B.M.

Seattle Storm Relief Work

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—As we reflect on 2007, many images arise, but for the Pacific Northwest it was a year bookended by severe weather conditions. From major storm damage to ravaging floods, our members worked around the clock on recovery efforts during extreme conditions. [See February 2008 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, Page 2.] Earlier, members helped restore power to thousands of residents, and again in December pulled together to provide aid to the communities of Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties. Even in adversity, catastrophe can sometimes have a silver lining. We received a big "thank-you," not only from customers, but also from city, county and state elected officials. IBEW

members showed the hard and dangerous work we do here at Local 77. Our dedication was also exemplified by Bus. Mgr. Don Guillot, who volunteered many hours helping flood victims of southwest Washington, demonstrating true leadership.

As we strategize for 2008, we begin by going full-steam ahead with our organizing—and we have had great success. Thanks to Organizer Chris Martin for his diligence in this cause.

The 2008 IBEW Ninth District Progress Meeting will be held in Seattle in August and we look forward to seeing our brothers and sisters.

David Wheeler, P.S.

IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 83 (u), BINGHAMTON, NY—Bus. Mgr. Dan Addy and Vice Pres. Gary Bonker presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award to lineman Rodney Ward at the Brewster Unit meeting on Nov. 27, 2007. Bro. Ward was being honored for his lifesaving efforts on April 26, 2007, when his quick reaction and use of the Heimlich maneuver saved a man's life. Bro. Ward was nominated for this honor by chief lineman and union steward Henry E. Woolley Jr. Many were in attendance at the meeting to congratulate Bro. Ward.

Don S. Tuttle, P.S.



Local 83 lineman Rodney Ward (center) receives IBEW Lifesaving Award presented by Bus. Mgr. Danny Addy (standing, left) and Vice Pres. Gary Bonker (right).

National Grid Agreement

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY—Bus. Mgr. David Falletta, along with his staff and Int. Rep. Michael Flanagan, negotiated a contract extension with National Grid, and gained additional line mechanic positions to be added over the term of the agreement, which expires in 2011. The terms of this agreement also includes substantial wage increases and the retention of our benefits package. Additionally, Bus. Mgr. Falletta was successful in retaining our Call Center located in Syracuse, which was targeted for closure after the KeySpan acquisition. Our members ratified this agreement with 80 percent in favor. One of our biggest obstacles now is to stop National Grid management from performing bargaining unit work. Local 97 representatives have been successful in negotiating with National Grid regarding education programs at local community colleges in the Eastern and Western Divisions. Also, the IBEW has introduced a range of courses that are available to Local 97 members online (www.ibewlocal97.org).

When we as your local representatives attend our conferences, we hear the same concerns from our sister locals regarding outsourcing, discipline and work practices. The similarities are astonishing. Our local stewards play an integral part in our organization. We encourage you to support them and hope to see you at our next regular meeting.

Brian J. Kilgallon, A.B.M.

Spirit of Brotherhood

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—The annual children's Christmas party, sponsored by Local 103 and the local apprentices, was held Dec. 2 last year and was again a great success.

On Dec. 11, the Brotherhood Fund Christmas party at the union hall followed the regular monthly meeting. Those who purchased tickets to the event not only had a chance to win a prize, but also to help members in great need of financial assistance. By assisting members who have suffered serious injury or illness, we reaffirm the spirit of brotherhood and help their children have a good Christmas.

A tip of the hat to Local 103 member Ron Seaboyer, who ran as a candidate for state representative in a special election held Feb. 5. The campaign was a grand effort although he was not elected. Kudos to Ron and all the members who supported him. Ron currently serves on the Melrose Board of Alderman.

Last November, 34 Local 103 members, led by Jimmy Fay, volunteered on a South Shore Habitat for Humanity project in Braintree, MA. Thanks to the volunteers.

In December Brian Proctor was sworn in as a technician. Brian recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq. We are glad to have him back home and wish him well in the program.

Bill Molineaux, P.S.

Bowling Competition Benefit

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lectt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—IBEW Local 111 and Public Service Company of Colorado challenged IBEW Locals 160, 23 and 949 and Northern States Power Company to a bowling competition. All proceeds were donated to the United Way annual campaign.

Everyone had a great time and showed that labor and employers can come together and support a worthwhile cause. Local 111 and Public Service Company of Colorado came out victorious. The event raised over \$3,000. Local 111's team looks forward to the competition next year, plus it gives the Northern team a year to hone their skills.

Dennis Z. LeTurgez, P.S.



IBEW Local 111 Public Service Company of Colorado employees participated in a bowling competition, with three sister IBEW locals representing Northern State Power Company, to raise funds for a United Way campaign.

Business Rep Retires

L.U. 125 (lectt,o&u), PORTLAND, OR—Bus. Rep. J.B. Dick has retired from Local 125. After spending the majority of his career at Bonneville Power Administration, Dick, a journeyman wireman, retired after more than 34 years of service.

At the urging of former business representative John Bomar, Dick joined the staff of Local 125 in February 2005. Dick enjoyed his time working as a business representative for a variety of reasons, he said; he mentions the ability to maintain

contact with the crews as a primary motivator. "I'll miss the camaraderie," Dick added.

Brian Gray has joined our staff to assume Dick's duties. "The picture is bigger than you think, and there is always another side to the story," said Dick when asked what advice he has given to Gray.

In retirement, Dick's work with Al Kader Shrine organization will keep him quite busy. He and his wife, Linda, also have extensive travel plans and look forward to spending time with their two sons and six grandchildren.

The Executive Board, staff and members of Local 125 thank J.B. for his service and professionalism in representing our membership. Best wishes for a healthy, happy retirement, J.B.!

Marcy Putman, P.S.

Graduates & Awardees

L.U. 141 (ees,i,o&u) WHEELING, WV—Work in the area is fair.

Congratulations to the class of 2007. The graduates were honored at a completion dinner held at the Wheeling Island Hotel Casino and Racetrack. It was a great evening with IBEW Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Salvatore J. Chilia and NECA Chapter Mgr. Steven Allred as guest speakers. Graduates are: Jesse Booth, Jason Conner, Kurt Frasnely, James Kinnison, Jesse Kleeh, Ian Mayhew, Charles O'Donnell, Jacob Roth, Kenny Roth, James Ryder, Paul Shaver, Ray Suchy and Matthew Willis.

The 2007 Christmas party was well-attended and many service pins were presented. Receiving 50-year pins were Joseph Bauduin, Joseph Campbell, James Hossman and Thomas Otto; 55-year pins, Raymond Gwennap, Thomas Schultz Sr. and Carl Valloric; and 60-year pins, Harry Gunto, John Lavender Sr., Thomas Lloyd, and Edmund Yahn Sr. Awarded posthumously were recently deceased members Louis Yahn (65-year pin), Raymond Eimer (60-year pin), and Walter Duncan (55-year pin).

We thank the social committee for their hard work.

Our condolences to the families of Thomas Edgel Sr. and James Fizer, who recently passed away. They will be greatly missed.

Justin Klempa, P.S.

February Casino Opening

L.U. 143 (em,i&spa), HARRISBURG, PA—February marked the opening of the Hollywood Casino at Penn National in Grantville, PA.

Battaglia Electric along with 240 IBEW members worked diligently for the past 15 months to construct the first casino in central Pennsylvania. Thank you to everyone who had a part in bringing this project together.

Work has slowed in our area over the winter, but we do anticipate that it will pick up in late spring.

Mark Holder, P.S.

Good Works Highlighted

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—At this writing, work in our area had slowed just a little over the holiday season but we should pick back up come spring.

One of the highlights at our November 2007 membership meeting was Pres. Mike Mueller's presentation of a retirement watch, from Local 159 officers and members, to his father, Bro. Stephen Mueller. It's nice to see such a strong union family.

Local 159 also sponsored a blood drive on behalf of Bro. Dave Johnson, who is battling



Local 199 members and their families gather for Veterans Day excursion to a Miami Dolphins game.

leukemia. Thirty-five units of blood were donated. We received coverage from two area radio stations and two area TV stations. Several Local 159 members, along with Bro. Johnson, were interviewed, helping portray the good work unions are doing.

In December 2007, we held the first Wisconsin residential blitz, spearheaded by our organizer, Chris Crossen. We are working hard to take back the residential market.

I hope spring finds everyone with plenty of work and opportunities for growth.

Joel Kapusta, B.A./P.S.

IBEW Habitat Volunteers

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—2007 was a good year for our local. For the majority of the year, Book 1 was clear and we were able to put some travelling brothers and sisters to work. Going into the new year, work has slowed a little but the outlook is promising as we move toward spring.

At our 2007 Christmas party, the spirit of brotherhood was enjoyed along with good food, drink and door prizes. Congratulations to all who received service pins and thanks for your hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence.

Eric Post has been wiring homes for Habitat for Humanity in his free time. He has had help from Luke Brown, Dusty Epperson, Dax Hedden, Clint Johnson, Jonathon Leman, Jason Pascal and Joshua Scaggs. Thanks to the volunteers, who help make our local and our community better.

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Ed Wartena, Bob Koons and Jerry Wagner.

In the year ahead we must work diligently to elect politicians who support union labor, and everyone needs to do their part. Take pride in our union.

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Solidarity Strong

L.U. 199 (t), FT. MYERS, FL—In 2007 our local held contract negotiations with Embarq. During this time, union members proudly marched many morn-

ings displaying signs for informational picketing. We also had many members and their families march in Ft. Myers on several Saturdays, with news media coverage. On the last day of negotiations, a federal mediator was involved. Local 199 and the company reached an agreement and the contract was ratified. We thank our Negotiating Committee for a great job. Thanks also to all the members who marched and rallied together to make our voices heard.

Last summer Local 199 helped out on a Habitat for Humanity project by pulling wire and installing jacks. Terry Carroll, a member from North Ft. Myers, organized all the labor. Thank you, Terry, and all who participated for a job well-done.

On January 1, 2007, former Tallahassee Local 1496 amalgamated into Local 199. Welcome to all.

Our members and their families enjoyed a fun-filled bus trip, along with Fire Fighters members, to a Dolphins football game in Miami.

Susan Ankrom, P.S.

Code of Excellence Adopted

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—At our December 2007 union meeting, Local 223 adopted the Code of Excellence program. IBEW Second District Int. Rep. Brian Maher gave a presentation to the membership about the Code of Excellence at the December meeting. He began the training in January with all Local 223 apprentices taking part in the first



Local 223 members enrolled in the apprenticeship program attend Code of Excellence training with IBEW Int. Rep. Brian S. Maher (standing).



Local 197 Bus. Mgr. Lance Reece (front row, far right) congratulates service pin honorees at the 2007 Christmas party. From left, front row, Thomas Wall, Robin Roberts, Ken McLean, Jack Clem, Dan Uhlir and Bus. Mgr. Reece. Back row, James Miller, Dennis Rexroat, Mike Douglas, Matt Wall, Rich Veitengruber, Tim Mattson and Brian Graves.

class. Bus. Mgr. Timothy Cayton has started to meet with developers and end users, to show them the benefits of using Local 223 contractors that have signed on to the Code of Excellence program. We anticipate that the COE program will give our contractors another tool to use when bidding on private projects, and help us increase our market share.

Kinsman Electric and Local 223 members teamed up and provided material and labor for a home for a war veteran who was injured in the Iraqi war. Kinsman Electric works with Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit organization that builds homes for disabled veterans. In early winter the home was roughed in and completion is due in late winter. We thank all who participated and Kinsman Electric for taking on this project.

Dave Fenton, A.B.M.

IBEW Solar Project at Cornell



IBEW Local 241 donated labor for a solar installation at Cornell University. Shown here is the McGraw clock tower, located on the university campus.

L.U. 241 (i), ITHACA, NY—In late December 2007, installation of solar panels on the roof of Day Hall at Cornell University was completed. The panels will generate slightly more electricity

than is used to light the university's McGraw Tower clock lights, so the tower was chosen to symbolize the new energy source.

The solar project was led by the Cornell University department of planning, design and construction. Installation was supervised by a certified North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) technician.

IBEW Local 241 donated the labor for the solar installation. Participating on the project from Local 241 were Training Dir. Jake Benninger, Instructor Lynn Landon, and apprentices Shane Adams, Al Budd, Brad Jump, Steve Martin and Eric Quinn.

Upon completion of a second solar project, which is in the works, the union will be able to train other electricians in the technology and add union electricians to the list of certified photovoltaic installers in the region.

On a related note, Local 241 received an Excellence in Training Award for the tenth year in a row.

Special thanks to all involved in these efforts. Work productively and safely.

Michael A. Creasy, V.P./P.S.

Let Us Not Forget

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH—2008 is a big year for us working men and women. It's the year we start to right eight years of wrong. With the presidential elections, we have a chance to put people in Washington who represent the working class. We must not get caught up in all the rhetoric. We can't forget what we've been through the last eight years. We've seen a president and vice president whose arrogance led us into a war with false information and then lied about it. We've seen innocent people bombed and many of our sons and daughters killed. We've seen gas prices triple, and no one seems to care enough to do anything about it. We've seen big tax breaks for the rich while most of us are fed crumbs that fell from the table. We've seen our own freedoms eroded by a president who

acts like a dictator. We've seen a president spend billions to support his war, but veto a bill that could have provided health care for needy children. I could go on and on if space allowed.

In 2008 we could be great. Let us not forget—the time to prepare is now.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.

Donald "Red" Kennedy Honored

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—On Nov. 10, 2007, the New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council held its second annual Veterans' Day celebration. Military veterans and members of the New Jersey trade union movement were recognized for their commitment and sacrifice to their country, as well as for their dedication and leadership on their jobs and in their communities. New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, a former Marine, was keynote speaker. Guest speakers included U.S. Reps. Rush Holt and Steven Rothman and New Jersey Commissioner of Labor David Socolow.

Receiving special recognition from Local 269 was Donald "Red" Kennedy, retired former business manager and Executive Board chairman. Bro. Kennedy served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954. A Local 269 member since 1961, he is also past president of the Mercer County & Vicinity Building and Construction Trades Council, a former member of the New Jersey Building Authority and former director of the Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia.

Presenting the award to Bro. Kennedy was Local 269 Asst. Bus. Agent and New Jersey State Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo. Congratulations also to Bro. DeAngelo on his recent election to the state assembly. We thank him for his commitment to making New Jersey a better state.

D. Brian Proctor, P.S.



Local 269 former business agent Donald Kennedy (right) is honored at Veterans Rally. From left are: New Jersey Assemblyman and Local 269 Asst. Bus. Agent Wayne DeAngelo; William T. Mullen, president, New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council; Morris Rubino, Iron Workers Local 68 business agent; and Bro. Kennedy.

Arkansas Electric Co-op

L.U. 295 (em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), LITTLE ROCK, AR—The employees of South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative in Arkadelphia, AR, recently voted 19 to 2 to be represented by IBEW Local 295. From the first time we met with this group, all the way through the election, they held strong and stuck together. It fires you up to work with a group that is so eager to get involved and put it all on the line to be part of the IBEW and help make working conditions better for themselves and their co-workers. As you read this, we should be working on the first of many agreements with co-op management that will serve as a partnership for years to come. We thank our Tenth District Int. Rep. Dale McCoy and IBEW Int. Lead Organizer Joseph Skinner for working with us during this organizing campaign.

David W. Stephens, A.B.M.



IBEW Local 295 welcomes new members employed by South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative.



Local 351 committee members at holiday party, from left: Pres. Bill Hosey, Bus. Agent Dan Cosner, Bros. Ed Reiser, Joe Trumbetti and T.J. Wolfe, Bus. Agent Duke Collins, Bus. Agent Dennis Kleiner, and Bros. Ray Listman and Wayne Bumm. Bro. Walt Ruch appeared as Santa.

Thanks to Volunteers

L.U. 313 (i&spa), WILMINGTON, DE—Big thanks to the Entertainment Committee for another wonderful Christmas party last year. Bro. Eric Lewis and his hard working crew of active and retired members put on a gala event that left hundreds of kids smiling. The kids were entertained with food, games, toys, lots of characters (such as Spiderman) and especially Santa.

In 2007, Local 313 continued its long history of charity work. Fine examples of this work are the Children's Variety Charity and the Adopt-a-Highway project. The local extends heartfelt thanks to members who volunteered for charity events our local supports.

Local 313 congratulates our softball team for winning the 12th annual Solidarity Softball Tournament last year. Bros. Edgar Baez, Ryan Bartkowski, Jason Bundy, Jon Dennis, Danny Edgar, Mark Foster, Eric Marston, Joe McBride, John McElrone, Bill Orga, Pete Pesce, Ron White, Joe Witzman and Larry Wolfe represented their local well.

Scott A. Lupinek, P.S.



Local 313 softball team won the 12th annual Solidarity Softball Trophy.

2007 Holiday Party

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—Our annual childrens Christmas party was held Dec. 16, 2007. Everyone enjoyed the festivities. Shown in the accompanying photo are our committee members who helped make the party a huge success. Thanks to all who participated.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.

Honored for Service

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Local 357 celebrated the annual retirees Christmas party on Dec. 13, 2007, and many retirees received pins for their service to the IBEW.

Honored as 60-year members were Walter Barrett, James Cook, Verne Fratt, Charles Ghormely, Robert James, Herbert Johnson, Clifford Pitts, Cal Potter, Hugh Richardson, Harley Rush and Horace Wylie; 55-year members—James Alexander, Bob Barker Jr., Paul Carter, Gerald Cass, Raymond Christensen, William Cochran, Alvan Davis, Paul Freeman, James Haynes, Richard Hefner, Sol Kleinman, Ernest Lebfrom, Eugene Singer, Earl Snyder, James Stahl, Willard Sufian, Lloyd Theisen and Johnny Vincent Jr.; 50-year members—Davis Adkins, Pete Allen, Lamar Briley, William Bryson, William Butterowe III, Gerald Clements, Johnny Coons, Odis Felkins, Charles Harper, Mathais Harting, Leslie Hinton, H. Loring Keach, Bobby Koon, James Matthews, Norman McMurray, Bruce Melloy, Robert Smith and Kenneth Wayne; 45-year member—William Fritchley; and 35-year members—Robert Greenhalgh and Gary Hallmark.

Charles "Tom" Stetson, Pres.



Local 357 honors retirees for their service to the local.

Sands Bethworks Casino PLA

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—We wish all members a safe, happy and prosperous 2008!

In December 2007, Lehigh Valley Building Trades Pres. and IBEW Local 375 Bus. Mgr. William H. Newhard, in conjunction with the other area building trades, negotiated a project labor agreement with the Sands Bethworks Casino project in Bethlehem, PA. The PLA ensures the casino construction and all future projects on this site will be done with union labor! Phase I of this \$600 million project will involve site and utility work, a parking deck, casino, hotel, over 200,000 square feet of retail space, and a multi-purpose arena! Phase I and future phases of this project will provide much needed employment for our members for many years to come! This is just one of many examples of the need for political participation by our members, which in this case paid off in a huge way!

To correct an oversight in our previous article listing the families with three generations of membership: Bro. Dave Maurer, son of Charles Maurer, should also have been listed. Sorry for the oversight. If any other members were overlooked, please contact the hall for proper recognition!

Roger Gaydos, P.S.

Bidding More Jobs

L.U. 379 (i,o&rtb), CHARLOTTE, NC—The work situation here, as of this writing, looks to continue to be good for 2008. Our local contractors are bidding more jobs and getting the work to help our local union continue to grow and increase our market share in the industry. We're also fortunate to have contractors from outside our jurisdiction securing work here. Construction in our area is still going strong. I thank all Local 379 members and the travelers we've been able to put to work for their efforts. The contractors know they can get the manpower to do any job, and that's a big part of our success.

Spring is getting close, so members need to be ready for a clean-up day at the hall; and if the weather looks good we may have an early picnic. Be sure to read your newsletter.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of retiree Fred William Wilson Sr., a former Local 379 business manager, who passed away Dec. 28, 2007. He was 82. Bro. Wilson will be missed.

Bob Krebs, B.M.

Greater Work Opportunities

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN—Our work picture in 2007 was good and the work outlook for 2008 appears even better. Special thanks to all the traveling brothers and sisters helping us staff our work. Without the travelers we would not have been able to man all our work. Thanks to the contractors and members for making 2007 a very successful year, and thanks to all involved for progress made in organizing new members and gaining work.

Congratulations to the new journeyman wiremen who completed the five-year JATC program in 2007. Spring graduates: Larry Black Jr., Jacob Davis, Rusty England, Brian Fritcher, Jerry Ligon and Robert Scalf. Fall graduates: Kevin Adams, Jody Beard, Robert Dougherty, Marcus Frey, Michael Guest, Brian Gunn, Clayton Hamilton, Ronald Huey, Aaron Jenkins, Brian Koon, John Kuffel, Jason Lewis, Jeffery Miller, Daniel Mills, Matthew Sansom, Christopher Solomon and Fred Grider IV.

August 31, 2008, is the expiration date for most of our Inside agreements. So, please attend

union meetings, held the first and third Mondays at 7 p.m. We need to show our strength, voice our opinions and become informed about our business and our agreements. Look forward to seeing you at a meeting.

Gerald A. Grant, P.S.

Solidarity & Growth

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—Our last article ended with Bus. Mgr. Robert Bodell asking that we support and participate in our union. Do we take every opportunity to support our union by reaching out to nonmembers and finding out if we can talk with one another? Let's all at least take an opportunity to invite a new member or apprentice (or even one of our familiar brothers or sisters) to join us in going to a union meeting or one of our scheduled events.

Several outings are scheduled during the year that are sponsored by the local union or with our management partners through the Labor Management Cooperation Committee. The purpose of these events is to build the community we share as members and strengthen our bonds. This helps to meet one of the "objects" outlined in our Constitution—"To cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry." We also need to go back to the top of the list of "objects" and reach beyond our existing membership, "To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry . . . into local unions." Please do your part so that our IBEW will grow and we will all prosper.

Don Watters, Pres.

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 453 (govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), SPRINGFIELD, MO—Congratulations to all our active and retired members who recently received their years-of-service pins. The event was a success and enjoyed by all. Retired Int. Sec. Emeritus Jack F. Moore spoke at the event.

Remember that local elections are coming up soon. Nominations for candidacy will be held in May 2008, with the election following in June.

Hope to see all our fellow members at the meetings.

Ryan Huff, P.S.

District Membership Meetings

L.U. 459 (ees,em,so,govt&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Last summer, the local officers decided that instead of a picnic for the members, we would hold Local 459 District Membership Meetings in all four local districts. The district chairmen would be in charge of deciding a place, time and type of food to be served.

The Northeast District Meeting was held in Towanda at the American Legion on Sept. 8, 2007.

They held a clambake and many other types of food were also available. It was a beautiful day and the turnout was great.

The Central District Meeting was Sept. 28, 2007. This district also had a great turnout of members. The event was held at the Clearfield VFW picnic grounds. Pork barbeque was on the menu there. Unfortunately, that same day, Bus. Mgr. Don Hoak and I were returning from the IBEW Third District Progress Meeting in Atlantic City and were stuck in traffic on Interstate 80 for over two hours. Needless to say, we were a little late. Both our Northeast and Central districts enjoyed the meetings and wish to continue in 2008.

At this writing, the Southwest District Meeting was scheduled for Jan. 25, 2008. The Northwest District Meeting is set for June 14, 2008.

Kenneth L. Richards, Pres./A.B.M.



Local 459 members enjoy the local's September 2007 Northeast District meeting.

Project Labor Agreement

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Bus. Mgr. Tom O'Donnell worked hard on obtaining a project labor agreement (PLA) on a \$325 million JW Marriott project. The hotel will be the largest in Indianapolis with 1,000 rooms. The work outlook remains steady in the area. Local 481 appreciates the help from all the brothers and sisters helping us staff work in our jurisdiction.

Special thanks go out to all the retirees of Local 481. They do a tremendous amount of volunteer work in our 16-county jurisdiction. The retirees deserve greater recognition for all the good deeds they do. These dedicated union retirees help present a positive image of our local in the community.

Steve Montgomery, P.S.

2008 Work Picture Bright

L.U. 531 (i), LaPORTE, IN—Spring is around the corner; winter will soon depart and summer sunshine will arrive. The work picture for 2007 was excellent, with much work here being manned by our traveling brothers and sisters.

The work picture for 2008 also looks bright, with the prospect of two new hospitals in our jurisdiction, as well as a food distribution center, a possible ethanol plant and continued upgrading in our steel industry.

In 2007 we gained some vast improvements to our health and welfare plan, including increased weekly benefits, lowered prescription drug

deductible, and vision and dental benefit increases. We all know these are very important to our families.

Congratulations to our 2007 apprentice graduates: Michael Busse, Michael Cargo, Scott Collier, Paul Forney, Fernando Gonzelez and Kelly Radinski.

We remember our brothers who passed away in 2007: Robert Wright, Robert Morrisroe, Dan Nowlin, Ted Lamberson and Donald Deardorff. May they rest in peace.

Jim Switzer, P.S.

IBEW Scholarship Winner

L.U. 547 (rr), GALESBURG, IL—In late 2007, Local 547 Bro. Gordon Shaw was awarded the IBEW Scholarship. This prestigious award is highly deserved by Brother Shaw. Gordon is using the scholarship to further his education by taking courses with the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He is always interested in furthering his education either on the job or in his free time. His fellow union brothers and sisters congratulate Gordon on his accomplishment.

Gordon also serves as the Local 547 political officer and is on the audit committee. His volunteer work with Local 547 is greatly appreciated.

Paul D. Miller, F.S.

Saginaw Work Picture

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—I am happy to report that the Saginaw area has experienced another few months of employment, including overtime to keep local and out-of-the-area hands busy and help Michigan's economy. There has been much discussion at recent meetings over contract changes and how supplemental unemployment and related fund monies are dealt with.

New approaches to organizing have begun—there are lots of questions about how problems are being handled and solutions have been considered. Our International leadership makes regular mailings to inform us of how to implement programs. Given the tools and accurate information, we repeatedly demonstrate that jobs get done when contractors elect to compete for the work.

Educational opportunities are available. Paul Dupuis Jr. has scheduled Michigan Code update classes; so we are prepared for license renewal in 2009, which requires a 15-hour update certificate. As JEATC director, Bro. Dupuis seeks suggestions to keep training current.

Saginaw Township Schools will again look for ways to find support for a mileage election. Public schools committed to union labor that favor all students need our support. Some see "School of Choice" as a negative, but the district is advantaged to draw more students and offer a broader selection of career preparation options.

John E. Clemens, P.S.



Local 453 congratulates years-of-service award recipients.



A Covenant Hospital addition created work for Saginaw, MI, Local 557 members working with Thiel Electric. From left are: Chad Barckholtz, Chris Nickodemus, Jason Rivette, and Evan Allardyce. Front row is Bob Shultz, Rick Reinelt, Ryan Nelson, Randy Halas and Al Wicker.

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Service pins were presented at our August 2007 general membership meeting.

The following brothers were recognized for their years of service. For 70 years—Arthur Down; for 65 years—William Davis, Norman Dreher, Enos Flint, Eugene Nothwang; for 60 years—Sidney Fuller, Walter Guire, Gerard Haff, Leo Hampton, Murray Howell, Morris Kelly, James Ogden Jr., Theodore Palmer, Sidney Stenmore, Manford Stubblefield; for 55 years—James Anderson, Gaylord Arnold, Walter Bacchi, James Berkley, Eugene Birdsall, Arthur Butcher, Robert Cleveland, Leslie Fowler, Edward Garcia, David Hara, Joseph Jackson, Billy Jacobs, Kenneth Johnson, Donald Kearney, Robert Krus, Charles Lawhorn, John McCurry, Orville Monroe, Arthur Munger, Kenneth Rahn, Joseph Reed, Francis Root, Herschel Sammann, Thomas Sarff, George Simpson, James Stanfield, William Steer, Richard Willenberg, Donald Williams; and for 50 years—Edward Balmos, Russell Bonner, William Bospflug, Glen Chandler, Jerome Cwiak, Ralph Edwards, Clifford Eister, Raymond Flahive, William Gilmore, Walter Hayward, James Hjalmarson, Eaul Hughes Jr., Duane Hunn, Raymond King, Gerald Moore, Walter Neal, Joseph Powell, Raymond Robinson, Henry Romano, Glenn Rose, Leon Sempstrot, Harold Simpson, Jim Sklar, Bruce Skovmand, Alvin Swinney, Bobby Wagner and Leroy Zimmerlee.

We also presented a great many pins for members with 45 to 20 years of service.

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.



Members with 55-plus years of service are honored at the Local 569 general membership meeting in August 2007.

NJATC Training Award

L.U. 577 (em&i), APPLETON, WI—As we transition from cold and snow to construction season, opportunities for local employment should also thaw up, as local contractors have been able to win projects that will need the services of our skilled work force. It is hoped that we will be able put some of our unemployed members back to work soon.

Our local's first industry night will be held later this month. As reported in other areas, these gatherings are a great way to bring our union, contractors, and nonmembers together to explain the benefits of being an IBEW member and working for signatory employers. Contact the hall if you would like to participate on the Volunteer Organizing Committee.

We will be recognized by the NJATC with its



Local 577 members attend December 2007 safety training class.

National Excellence in Training Award for 2007. The minimum training requirements changed this year. For a local to qualify, 75 percent of the local's journey level members need to attend a continuing education course. Thanks in large part to the 67 students who attended the December safety training class, we were able to reach our goal. Help the local achieve this recognition again in 2008 by attending a safety and code change class during the spring semester.

Greg Breaker, B.M.

Inside Agreement Ratified

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Our inside collective bargaining agreement was recently ratified by the membership. The two-year contract includes a \$1.50 per hour raise. A big thanks to the Negotiating Committee for all their efforts.

Local 611 had a great turnout for the 2007 children's Christmas party. Every member, joined by their families, showed up. It was the biggest turnout I've ever seen. The hall had to open another area of the building for all the spillover. The Christmas Committee did a fantastic job. Thanks also to Junior Pedroncelli, who was great as Santa.

The local welcomes the newest addition to its staff, Jerry Lynch, assistant business manager. Jerry will take care of Los Alamos along with some of the other northern area.

Reminder: There is only one regular meeting in Albuquerque—held the second Wednesday of the month. There is no longer a Saturday meeting.

Local 611 extends condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Oliver C. Squires, William T. Phol, Donald R. Miller, George G. Loddy, Kelly K. Blount, Glenn L. Crawford, Jose Rudolfo Vigil, Trinidad J. Chavez and Orlando E. Anaya.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.



Attending the Local 611 children's Christmas party, from left: Bro. William L. Britton, Pres. Carl Condit and his wife Maryann, and Bro. Hugo Shulte.

Retirees & Union Experience

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—Are retirees bored? Not at all—as can be seen by the evident enthusiasm of those pictured in the accompanying photo. These retirees met in January to celebrate the 90th birthday of Bro. Charlie Balestrero, who became a member of Local 617 in 1940 and retired in 1984.



Local 617 retirees gather for birthday celebrations. From left, standing, Paul Regnier, former business manager; Lidio Dal Maso, Rich Helfrich, Don Dent, Jessie Stoney, former president; Bob Keating, Bob Lynch, Bill Green, Bernie Davey, John Valdez, former president; and Ed Towle, former vice president; seated, Ray Yoschak, Jim Gallagher, Joe Bingley, former vice president; Bob Gillim, Ernie Howe, former president; Lyn Cardelli, Charlie Balestrero and Joe Hogan, former business manager.

Charlie is an active, vibrant member of our retired community. It was also the 70th birthday of retired business manager Joe Hogan. Over 100 members and family gathered for the event. Tenacity, endurance, consciousness, pride and professionalism are attributes that come to mind when watching these retired brothers sharing stories and camaraderie.

We, who are reaping the benefits of knowledge from these pioneers, must learn from them in order to continue our growth. Therefore, the administration hired a videographer to interview some retirees as a way to enrich our historical archives. The feeling of interacting with members who were active before most of us were born is indescribable.

Also, the local's 2008 calendar was presented at the December 2007 union meeting. The calendar features the historical theme of "100 years of service" and includes pictures of some recent retirees photographed in earlier years.

Pierre St-Cyr, P.S.

Red Seal Certifications

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Congratulations to Brendan Eisan on obtaining his journeyman welder certificate. Brendan is now a dual Red Seal holder, as welder and construction electrician. Also, congratulations to Steve Chiasson on earning his Red Seal certification.

Members who earned 40-year pins in December 2007 are: Bros. Brian Adams, John Bobbitt, Bill Coffin, Ken Cole, Peter Comeau, Carl Conrad, Gary Cunningham, Ken Grantham, David Miller, George Moore, Jim Newell, Robert Pellerine, Norm Sawler, Don Staples and Doug Wilson. Forty-five year pins were earned by Bros. Charles Dillman and Charlie Zwicker.

Winners of the 100th anniversary cash draw were: Bros. Mike Oickle (\$5,000), Bill Bleakney (\$1,000) and Jack Ripley (\$250). Thanks to all who purchased tickets to raise funds for the celebration and congratulations to the winners.

The local mourns the death of Bro. Vincent Burke, who passed away at age 54 on Nov. 19, 2007. Our condolences go out to his family.



Local 625 Bus. Mgr. Cordell Cole (center) presented service pins in December 2007 at the union meeting in Halifax. From left, 30-year pin recipients Bros. John Ross, Harris Lefresne and Garnet Lake; Bus. Mgr. Cole; 40-year pin recipient Ken Grantham; and 30-year pin recipients Brayne McGrath and Murray Purcell.

Retired Bro. Darrell Walker passed away suddenly on Jan. 2, 2008. Bro. Walker was an Executive Board member (in the 1970s and from 1988-1996) when he served as Unit #3 chairman. Darrell will be greatly missed by members of Local 625 and all the locals he traveled to.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

Pueblo Local Holds Food Drive

L.U. 667 (u), PUEBLO, CO—Our local wishes to recognize member Juan Lucero and the rest of the IBEW members and food drive participants at the Aquila service center in Rocky Ford, CO. The union members' efforts led to a successful sixth year of their food drive.

This project began when, over six years ago, Juan put out a donation jar to collect funds for needy families, and employees generously donated. This money was used to buy food during the holiday season for a few families in need. All of the Aquila Rocky Ford employees have since assisted Juan with this worthy cause, which has grown into an annual project. Six years ago this food drive helped 10-12 families, and the drive has grown every year since. For the 2007 holiday season, these IBEW members assisted 20 families, from La Junta to Fowler, with food and gift baskets. Great job, Juan. Thanks to all who participated.

Jerry Bellah, B.M./F.S.



IBEW Local 667 members/Aquila employees conduct annual food drive. Participants include, from left, back row, Juan Lucero, Lisa Montanez, Julio Monroy, Vince Flores, Arnie Chavez, Larry White, Tom Cruz and Chris Grinstead; front row, John Nettik, Moises Medina and Clay Stephenson. Not pictured: Cindy Hart and Glen Nevins.

March Awards Banquet



Local 681 retired member Billy O. Pettyjohn, a former contractor, displays his 60-year service award.

L.U. 681 (i,o&spa), WICHITA FALLS, TX—At this writing we are in the usual end-of-the-year slump, when jobs are finishing; we are waiting until after the first of the year to start the next one. There are 19 members on Book 1 and four are on Book 2. We

are starting a new referral procedure with a "hickey system" on Jan. 1, 2008. When this is in place for a while, Book 1 will change some. There is some work on the horizon that may start in the first half of the year.

On March 8 we will hold an awards banquet to honor several members for their years of service. One member will receive his 60-year pin. Three members will receive 55-year pins and five members will receive 50-year pins. Our 60-year member is Billy O. Pettyjohn, who was initiated in 1947 and later was a contractor for many years before retiring in 1985.

Leland Welborn, A.B.M.

Thanks to Volunteers

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—The close of 2007 was very busy here. In November, Christmas decorations were put up at the hall. Thanks to volunteers, and to Roberts Electric for the use of the bucket truck. The Sports Committee sponsored the annual OSU/Michigan Party. A win for the Buckeyes! Local 683 hosted the Ohio AFL-CIO Election Seminar on Nov. 29 to inform us how to help our candidates in 2008.

December events included the retirees luncheon at the hall, emceed by "Uncle" Bob Garich. Local officers appreciated the invitation; the hospitality and food were great. The union meeting/Christmas party held Dec 13 was well-attended and greatly enjoyed.

The 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Frank Shortridge. An Appreciation Award went to John Obert for his years of service.

Dec 15-16 was dedicated to the "One New Toy" Program, which assists union families in need at Christmastime. Thanks to co-chairs Bill Davies and Skip Teaford. The "Friends of Labor" luncheon on Dec. 19 was held to thank all who helped labor last year—including politicians, contractors and others.

Johnny O says: "Don't ask what your local can do for you, ask what you can do for your local." Make sure your dues are paid on time.

Rick Deime, V.P./P.S.

Code of Excellence Projects

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—Bus. Mgr. Raymond E. Kasmark reported that the IBEW Code of Excellence has been formally instituted in Local 697's jurisdiction. In November 2007, the \$450 million Harrah's Horseshoe Casino expansion project became an IBEW Code of Excellence job site. This job, being worked under a locally negotiated building trades project labor agreement, is a natural fit for the



Shown at the site of a Harrah's Casino expansion project are, from left, Local 697 Code of Excellence Stewards Pat Bailey and Ivan Simmons, and Bus. Mgr. Ray Kasmark.

IBEW's Code of Excellence. Electrical contractors EMCOR/Hyre Electric and Bellsom Electric will employ roughly 180 IBEW craftsmen during peak times of construction over nine months.

Local 697 officially adopted the Code of Excellence by resolution at the January 2007 general meeting, and spent last year preparing for its implementation. Videos funded by NECA, Local 697 and the LMCC detail the premise and expectations for all parties involved to ensure successful completion of the customer's projects. The marketing video, "We are 697," may be viewed on our Web site www.ibew697.org.

The Harrah's project, being built 100 percent union, shows the customer's confidence in our local contractors' and union craftsmen's ability to get the job done on time, within budget and done right the first time. Plans are on track for implementing the Code of Excellence at BP's Whiting refinery reconfiguration project, estimated at \$3.5 billion.

David A. Soderquist, P.S.

Storm Restoration Efforts

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA—IBEW Local 777 expresses our sincere gratitude for the assistance rendered in the restoration efforts by our brothers and sisters from across the northeast during the winter storm of Dec. 15-22, 2007. Your safe and professional workmanship is appreciated by our members and the customers we serve. Thank you for putting it back together in time for Christmas.

Sadly, this effort to do our jobs came at a great cost. Our brother lineman Donald "Joe" Gibbons, from IBEW Philadelphia Local 126, was killed by a passing vehicle while working along Route 22 in Lebanon County on Dec. 19. He was 61. Donald was contracted to Northeast Live Line. His crew was involved in storm restoration at the time of this unfortunate accident. He will be sadly missed.

In lieu of flowers, the Gibbons family would prefer offerings in Joe's memory. Donations may be mailed to either: Nancy Gibbons (Donald's spouse), 915 Dysart Dr., Dysart, PA 16636; or to Bob Gibbons (brother), 118 Walnut St., P.O. Box 23, Ashville, PA 16631.

Stephen T. Krause, Pres.

Call for Political Volunteers

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Local 915 held its first Christmas party at the union hall with many members and their families attending. Thanks to Bros. Roberto Rosa and John Dehmel for chairing this event. Bros. Lindy Wooten and Mark Ellis also helped with the cooking. We hope, as the word gets out, this event will become a new local tradition.

2008 elections are upon us and we all need to come out of our comfort zones and work diligently

in supporting the candidates who support union labor. I encourage everyone to volunteer time and energy where needed. This may be the most important election of our lifetime. Contact the union hall for any questions about where you are most needed.

We remember the brothers we lost in 2007 and keep their families in our prayers. Mourned are: Bros. Edward Terrell, William Hobbs, Albert Bailey, Calvin Simmons, Lazaro Mederos, Earl Knepp, Lewis Hancock, Arthur Keene, Melvin Griffith, Ronald Schrecengost, Martin Wilson, James Runkle, Robert Miller, Charles Toler, Charles Brannon, Robert Jacket, Norman Brunton and Jeffrey Hughes, who was killed on the job site. Let's remember to be safe in 2008.

Theresa King, P.S.



Attending the Local 915 Christmas party, from left: Roddy Alvarez, Leon Ward, Bruce Barrow and Roberto Rosa.

'A Tough, But Good Year'

L.U. 953 (catv,em,lctt,o,spa&u), EAU CLAIRE, WI—As we look back on 2007 and review our accomplishments, Local 953 can say it was a tough, but good year.

Our Outside Construction work picture is healthy, and our contract negotiations for our cooperatives and municipals are going well. A new twist for us in the Xcel Energy-North contract was a new insurance plan, a high deductible, high premium Health Savings Account. This is new for 2,800 members in five different locals. We hope this works out well, as it's quite a change from a standard PPO.

Also, my staff at Local 953 and I wish to thank our union stewards and members who make our job easier; it is much appreciated. Have a happy and safe 2008!

Arlin Ziemann, B.M./F.S.

Power Plant Projects

L.U. 1205 (em,govt,i&u), GAINESVILLE, FL—We mourn the loss of Bros. Frank Brabham and Curt Carlson Jr., both of whom passed away in December 2007. They will be missed.

Our work has slowed a bit. The shutdown at Crystal River nuclear power plant was a success, as was the work at Seminole Power. We should be picking back up in the spring.

We held our first Local 1205 children's Christmas party last year, attended by approximately

25 kids. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

Our poker tournament for the sick and needy will be held March 8 at the Gainesville union hall, time to be determined. The W.S. Brown Bream Fishing Tournament will be held in April 19, place and time to be determined. The Easter party will be March 22, at 11 a.m., at the Gainesville union hall.

We welcome any traveling brothers and sisters in the area to attend both of these events; they are usually a good time for all!

Lanny Mathis, Pres.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Members overwhelmingly rejected a last, best and final offer from Sacramento Regional Transit. The vote on Dec. 10, 2007, was one in favor and 202 opposed. On a separate question, seven members preferred arbitration while 195 voted for mediation and strike authorization. The Sacramento Central Labor Council voted to grant strike authorization.

Contract negotiations are now underway with the four biggest tree trimming contractors: Davey Tree Surgery, Asplundh Tree Expert, Utility Tree Service and Trees Inc.

Local 1245 members working for PAR Electric braved severe weather last December working in Elko and Fallon, NV. In Fallon the temperature was around 2 degrees. Work in Outside Construction looks good for 2008, including three small transmission projects started on three different utilities properties.

We mourn the passing of longtime union activist Orville Owen, who died Jan. 1 at age 80. Owen, initiated in 1952, was hired in 1963 as an organizer. He became assistant business manager in 1980. His responsibilities included negotiating with Sierra Pacific Power and with line clearance tree trimming contractors. Owen, over 6 feet tall, was an imposing figure at the bargaining table, and a union man down to the bone. After retiring in 1992, Owen was active in the Local 1245 Retirees Club and wrote for the union newspaper on retiree issues.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

Congratulations to Retirees

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 celebrated the 2007 retirement of five members: Walter Cohee, Linda Fisher, Harold Calloway, Paul Sturgis and Elwood "Woody" Washburn.

Bro. Cohee began at Delmarva Power as a laborer in 1970. He later worked as auxiliary operator, assistant control room operator, power plant machinist and qualified welder. He retired last June.

LOCAL LINES continued on page 16



IBEW Local 1245 outside line construction members worked with PAR Electric in Elko, NV, in particularly nasty weather last December. Shown here are, from left: Mike Cochran, Jerry Novler, Blake Eckstein, Tim Riddle and Pat Scibior.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

The *Electrical Worker* 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:

P.O. Box 503

RPO West Beaver Creek

Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6

FROM THE OFFICERS**New Day in Utilities**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

If you haven't seen it already, turn to page 2—after you're done reading this—and take look at the notice of our first ever IBEW webcast. On March 27, we will present a live television program viewable on www.ibew.org in which we will have the first public showing of our video presentation called "State of Our Union—Utilities" followed by a real-time Q&A session. We'll be broadcasting live from Television City, the CBS facility represented by the IBEW in Hollywood, Calif.

Why all the fanfare? We are serious about our commitment in the IBEW to being the best we can be. The first such video presentation made its debut two years ago in the construction branch. The message was one of personal responsibility and living up to our own claim of excellence before we can expect management or the public to view us that way.

Each branch of the Brotherhood is different, and the message for our utility members reflects that. In the program, I urge all members to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay and to take charge of their own future by becoming active, committed members of the IBEW. We extend our hand to work in cooperation with management, with a frank message that we expect the utilities themselves to work with us to make the industry better. Given that utilities are still sorting out the deregulation mess of the 1990s and facing a wave of retirements that threatens to leave us shorthanded within five years, the time is right for a new way of doing business. That's why we are working on IBEW-operated regional training centers to get a new generation of skilled workers onto the job at utilities. That's why we're adapting the Code of Excellence for utilities and working on a version for our other branches.

We invite everyone to tune in on their computers on March 27. Many utility local unions will be holding special events so that members can watch the program together, so check with your steward.

It's a new day in the IBEW. Be a part of it. ■

A Real Economic Stimulus

Economists are in increasing agreement: the popping of the housing bubble has set off an economic slowdown that could send the U.S. economy into a recession later this year, if not sooner.

Congress is trying to help, but the recently passed economic stimulus bill doesn't go far enough.

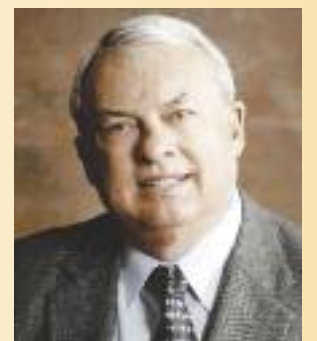
A real federal stimulus program needs to prioritize investing in good-paying jobs here at home, and there is no better way to do this than by putting money into rebuilding the United States' aging infrastructure.

Federal spending on highways, dams, and rural electrification after World War II gave this country an unprecedented period of prosperity that created our modern middle class. Federal dollars invested in infrastructure today can have an immediate impact on job creation now and, in the long run, advance the productivity of the entire economy.

We can't expect to have a 21st century economy using 20th century roads, bridges and transmission lines, and we can't modernize by relying on private investment alone. The tremendous costs involved means the federal government must take the lead.

The Bush administration has prioritized tax relief for corporate America over creating jobs for working families. It's time for Congress to chart a new direction in favor of putting Americans to work.

With this final column, I leave behind 48 years as an active member of our Brotherhood. As I head into retirement, I will never forget or fail to appreciate what the IBEW has meant to me and my family. No friendships are stronger than those where we stand shoulder to shoulder to build a better labor movement and a better society. From the first day of my apprenticeship to the deep honor of working beside President Hill, I consider myself among the most fortunate of men. Thank you, Ed. And thank you, brothers and sisters, for everything that you are doing to make the best union in North America even greater. Goodbye and best of luck to all of you. ■



Jon F. Walters
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

A Lineman's Life

My husband has been an IBEW member for over 30 years but sometimes I feel like I work for his employer, PG&E. He was just called out again and has been gone since the big storm two weeks ago. When that phone rings, he's gone. When the storms hit, he's there helping thousands of people put their lights back on. His boots are soaked, his socks dripping with water, and he's cold, but not hungry. He works long hours, comes home, and snores like no other. We've been married 30 years on March 4 and I feel lucky that my husband likes what he does and has a job to go to every day. It's a privilege to send you this picture of him and his crew. I trust all of them with my husband's life, and he feels the same.



Local 1245 member Steve Lopez, left, with fellow crew members Jim Fabrique, Rod Hess, Steve Pastor and Scott Goldston.

Lori Lopez

Spouse of Steve Lopez, Local 1245 member, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Union Yesterday and Tomorrow

It's easy to forget and hard to remember. I look back and see how the union has structured my life. There were several paths to follow; I chose the best one: Brother- and Sisterhood. My family emigrated here legally from the Ukraine in 1918. My grandfather was a union painter in Chattanooga, Tenn. My father was a chemical worker in Oak Ridge, Tenn. I'm a journeyman electrician of Local 760, Knoxville, Tenn. We're union past, present and future.

Promote livelihood. Let's pave a path that not only you, but our next generation, would feel proud to follow. God bless the United States of America!

Lee Kennedy

Local 760 member, Knoxville, Tenn.

Back in the Saddle

I got in a motorcycle accident on June 25, 2005. After a year and a half in a wheelchair, I was able to walk. By hard work and the Lord above, I am doing well today. I will be back on a motorcycle this spring! My brothers of the Local 3 Motorcycle Club were so good to me during my ordeal. They really stood by me strong. The club made Chris Erikson, our business manager, a member of our club. His grandfather was Harry Van Arsdale Jr., the man who made the electrical union possible. Ed Hill, IBEW President, called Joseph Bechtold, Local 3 Motorcycle Club liaison between the union and our bike club, and arranged to meet at Mike's Famous Harley Davidson! We took a vote and elected to make Ed Hill a member of our club. At Delaware, we presented Mr. Hill with a vest with our colors. In the picture, I stood on my two legs, something I could not do two years ago! Ed looking at me with that smile made my day! We had 60 bikes go down to Delaware that day. You can see pictures at LU3MC.com; go to index. "Just a little ride" is where the pictures are located.

Patrick Gilmartin
Local 3 member, New York



Local 3 member Patrick Gilmartin, front wearing baseball hat, and the local's motorcycle club met President Hill for a bike ride in Delaware.

Who We Are

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

Bus Accident, IBEW Training, Make Hero of Local 47 Member

Kevin Longnaker and his wife, Michelle, were traveling home to southern California after a long weekend in Las Vegas when fate—in the form of a passenger bus hurtling out of control—collided with his day.

Longnaker, a Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 member and December graduate of the California-Nevada JATC Power Line Apprenticeship program, was traveling east on I-15 on Jan. 17 when the bus suddenly careened off the road a few car lengths ahead.

"The bus rolled onto its side and slid for 600 feet on the asphalt and went down a hill," Longnaker said. "There was so much friction and sparks, it ignited the fuel tank."

At least one of the approximately 30 people on the full-sized tour bus—mostly employees of a casino in Primm, Nev., were trapped in the burning bus, passengers told Longnaker as he ran to the scene.

"Everybody was yelling 'The driver is stuck!'" he said. "As soon as I went onto the bus to get the driver, the bus exploded. I was thinking that this guy needed help. My wife said she started panicking. Then she saw me come out with the driver on my shoulders."

Longnaker carried the driver to safety, and went back to help a woman who was bleeding profusely from the leg, ripping off his sweatshirt and applying direct pressure to her wound.

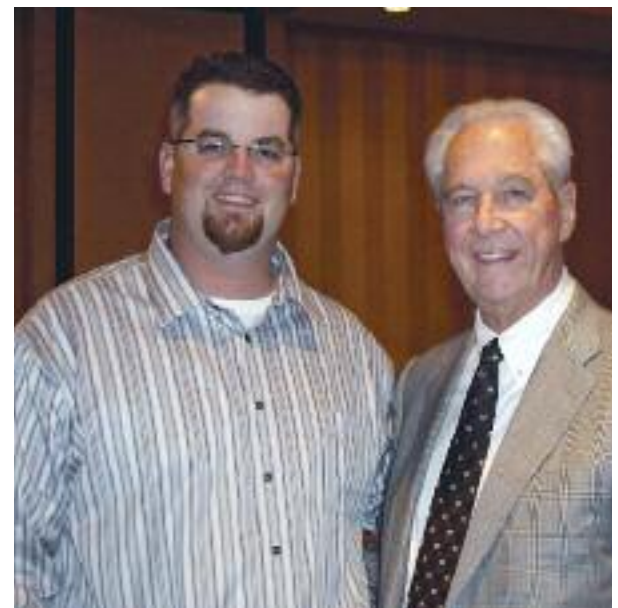
"She was 10 feet from the bus and her legs were on fire, so I dragged her about 150 feet," he said.

By then the first paramedics had arrived. One handed Longnaker a pair of rubber gloves and asked him to help his partner. So the outside lineman rushed back to the bus to help render first aid to two other victims, carry gurneys and load others onto a helicopter. Luckily, none of the injuries were life threatening. Longnaker said he was told by a Nevada highway patrol officer that because of his bravery, no one died.

"I was glad to be able to help somebody out," said Longnaker, who is employed by Pouk and Steinle. "Hopefully they would help me if I needed it."

Longnaker, who is a Navy veteran and an inside wireman who belonged to Phoenix Locals 640 and 769 before his lineman apprenticeship, said his military first aid and CPR training kicked in as an instinct. All members of Local 47 can get CPR training every year, he said. Somehow, despite his heroics dodging onto the burning bus, he was not hurt himself.

California-Nevada JATC Assistant Director David Crawford said Longnaker stood out in his class of 54 students for his outgoing, playful nature, and his commitment to the trade. "We just convinced him to come back and instruct on Saturdays," Crawford said. "It shows he wants to give back to the industry." ■



President Hill congratulates new lineman Kevin Longnaker for his bravery.

Get Connected

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Local Lines

continued from page 13

Sister Fisher started at Delmarva Power as a junior clerk at Vienna power plant. She became a senior clerical associate and retired last July.

Bro. Calloway started at Choptank Electric Co-op in 1970, as a machine equipment operator. He completed the apprentice lineman program and became a journeyman lineman in 1975. Bro. Calloway became a chief lineman and retired as a serviceman last August.

Bro. Sturgis began at Delmarva Power as a laborer in 1970. He completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman lineman in 1988. He retired from a meter tech job last July.

Bro. Washburn started at Choptank Electric Co-op as a groundman in 1971. He completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman lineman in 1976. He was a chief lineman and retired as a serviceman last July. Woody was president of former Local 1707 before that local merged into Local 1307.

Best wishes to all for a happy retirement.

Edward D. Sparks Jr., F.S.

St. Louis 1439 News

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—We came through a big winter ice storm last December. Crews were sent all over our system restoring power to customers in four days without any recordable injuries. A job well-done.

Our December 2007 election results are in and Mike Walter retained his position as business manager/financial secretary. Mike has done an exemplary job; we are grateful to keep him on board. He is trustworthy, diligent and dependable.

Remember, your local is looking for members to serve in all capacities in the union. Please encourage your fellow members to stay informed by reading union publications; and attend regular union meetings. Local 1439's intent is to provide more education and information for all members in a variety of areas and by a variety of methods. This will make a stronger local, with members who have a better understanding of why we do certain things. An informed membership also helps produce leaders.

Joseph Pulitzer said: "Give the people all of the facts and they will make the right choice." Unless they choose, like General Custer, to ignore the facts.

Ken Carroll, P.S.

Raytheon Contract

L.U. 1505 (em), WALTHAM, MA—The fall of 2007 saw Local 1505 in the midst of contentious negotiations with the Raytheon Company. Bus. Mgr. David Johnson, along with his team, fought back the vicious attack on our medical benefits and our earned time off.

Bus. Mgr. Johnson's presentation at our ratification meeting at Rockingham Park was outstanding. Over 1,700 members present listened so closely that you could have heard a pin drop. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation. Bus. Mgr. Johnson took the time to explain each and every proposal, why we accepted those that protected our rights and refused those that sought to undue our hard-fought-for benefits. When Bus. Mgr. Johnson completed the presentation, there was thunderous applause. The membership voted almost unanimously to accept the three-year con-



Local 1701 awarded service pins at its November 2007 union meeting. Recipients, shown from left, are: Ron Schwartztrauber (20-year pin recipient), Gary Nance (55-year pin), Bob Risley (50-year pin), Bob Renfrow (60-year pin), James Brown (50-year pin) and Joe Bickwermert (20-year pin).

tract retaining medical benefits, vacation, sick and personal time. The membership also received an immediate \$3 per month per year of service increase in the pension, a 3 percent raise per year and a \$1,000 ratification bonus. A giant step forward for our local was a company guarantee to hire new members. I am proud to stand with Bus. Mgr. David Johnson and to have been a part of the Local 1505 negotiating team.

Betty Lapointe, P.S.

Organizing in Motion

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—Organizing efforts are in motion. And just in the short time that we have taken the effort to talk to new employees, and even some of the employees who are covered by the Local 1523 contract but were not members, we have made gains and strengthened our solidarity. We can and will make a difference. We're on a roll—talk about pulling up your boot straps, wow. Proposals are coming in at a good pace, and negotiations will be here before we know it. Keep'em coming. Congratulations to our new journeymen.

Local 1523 offers condolences to the families of our members who passed away recently.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

Anchorage Outlook Strong

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—With more than 586,000 square miles to cover, 2007 was a good year for IBEW Local 1547. The North Slope provided steady opportunities for power linemen and kept the wiremen even busier during the later half of the year. By August, the books were cleared, with many inside wiremen working 7/12s at full scale. Communication and line work was good to excellent statewide. A 100 mile fiber job required hands who normally work elsewhere in Alaska to move into the interior part of the state. "The work picture for our local has been steady over the last decade and the outlook remains strong," said Larry Bell, business manager of Local 1547. This upcoming political season will be critical for the survival of working families and we encourage everyone to get involved.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Our Appreciation

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—Local 1579 officers, members and staff extend congratulations to Nona Zimmerman, secretary/office manager, on her retirement effective Feb. 29, 2008.

Hired by former business manager T. S. Yarbrough, Nona began her career with IBEW in 1994. Her administrative skills and energetic personality proved to be an invaluable asset to our local. Her commitment to our organization and

the membership are greatly appreciated. Nona's dedication and determination are genuine qualities that will continue to benefit our local into the future. We are grateful to Nona for her 14 years of service as secretary/office manager.

On behalf of Bus. Mgr. Ken Ward, officers, members and staff we wish you, Nona, a long and happy retirement. May all your hopes of a wonderful retirement be all you planned it would be. We will miss you!

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Project Turned Around

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—Work looks favorable for 2008 and beyond. The Cash Creek power plant locating in Henderson County was granted its final air quality permit last November. Owensboro Mercy Hospital purchased property needed to start construction. The Cannelton Dam project should be underway. The Office Depot in Henderson, KY, is under construction. The Carhart expansion is setting steel in Hanson, KY.

And, the Owensboro Kroger super mart was turned around. A nonunion contractor was low bidder on the project, but constant pressure put on Kroger management at all locations by the membership paid off and the electrical work was awarded to Premier Electric. Well done, brothers and sisters.

Newly appointed Examining Board members are: Kenny Woodward, Larry Boswell, Eddie Young and Jim Bishop. Welcome aboard to Kenny Gwin, who passed the journeyman exam last November. Congratulations to 2007 retirees recognized at the November meeting: Alan Abel, Jim Chappell, Larry Roby, Bob & Glenn Self, Bill Taylor and Don Weldon.

Tom Millay, executive director of Southern Indiana NECA Chapter, attended our December 2007 meeting and presented a check to JATC Secretary and Organizer Mike Roby for \$10,000 for our JATC training center building fund. The membership responded with a standing ovation.

We mourn the passing of retired members John Ambs, James Scott and Willard Bowman. May they rest in peace.

Tim Blandford, P.S.

Community Service

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Local 1749 sponsored the Helping Hands Committee at our hall. Participants collected and wrapped Christmas gifts for several needy families from Humphreys and Benton Counties. Among the folks shown in the accompanying photo who helped wrap gifts are Robin Spicer and his parents; Jeff Rosentretter, his wife and daughters; and several other Local 1749 members.

Also—on behalf of Local 1749 Bus. Mgr. Kim Dawson, the officers and the membership—E-Board Chair George Potter and I presented a check to the Cumberland City Toys for Tots project.

Please check with your county election office and make sure your voter registration is up-to-date, including any change of address. If you need assistance, e-mail me at guido@peoplestel.net and I will send you a link to get a form to mail in. The 2008 presidential election is an important one for all working families.

Mark DeJuliis, P.S./Registrar



Local 1749 members and their families help wrap gifts for needy families.

Solidarity for Victory

L.U. 2325 (t), WORCESTER, MA—We congratulate the members of Local 2325 who retired from Verizon Communications in late 2007. The new retirees took early retirement packages in an attempt to help relieve a surplus situation that was declared by the company. Our local wishes the retirees and their families the best of luck in the future.

Local 2325's involvement in the 2007 Toys for Tots campaign was an enormous success. Our local, in coordination with the U.S. Marine Corps, raised \$4,000 and collected over 400 toys to benefit needy children during the holiday season. Thank you to all members who participated and donated.

We also remind our members to be prepared for our contract expiration in August. Contract negotiations are about to begin and our solidarity is the most important piece of our strategy for victory!

Paul Mark, P.S.



Local 2325 members participate in Toys for Tots campaign.