

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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ON THE FAST TRACK

High-Speed Rail to Bring Jobs, Challenges For IBEW

People with big dreams about an American high-speed rail network see grand things in the nation's not-too-distant future.

By 2020, they envision trains moving at more than 200 miles an hour through California's Central Valley between Los Angeles and San Francisco. They see passengers transported at breakneck speeds across the seemingly endless miles of Illinois cornfields that connect Chicago and St. Louis. And they dream of trains gliding effortlessly across the marshy land that lies between Orlando and Tampa, with a stop just miles from Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom.

The bold plans are closer to reality than ever before, thanks to President Obama's January announcement of \$8 billion in high-speed rail grants. While challenges lie ahead for unions trying to get their fair share of the work, new and upgraded train lines could mean tens of thousands of new jobs for IBEW members in construction, rail maintenance, communications and related fields.

"Getting people back to work is the highest priority," IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said. "High-speed rail creates jobs and puts us on the forefront of a whole new transportation infrastructure for America."

The largest chunks of the railway stimulus money will go to projects in California, Florida and Illinois, with smaller amounts



California High-Speed Rail Authority

An artist's conception of California's proposed high-speed train system.

awarded to 28 other states. No area will get enough money to fully fund its project right away, but the federal government promises more rail dollars in the years ahead.

California, where a shovel-ready plan for high-speed rail is already in place, gets the most money now, about \$2.25 billion. The Web site for the state's high-speed rail authority already features slick, computer-produced simulations showing trains marked "Fly California" whisking passengers across cities, farmland and desert. The simulations also depict new, soaring train terminals and the

commercial development that could spring up around them.

A main line would first connect Anaheim to San Francisco, a trip that now requires a seven-to-eight-hour commute on congested Interstate 5.

The trip will take just 2½ hours by high-speed train. Later additions to the 800-mile system would extend south to San Diego and north to Sacramento.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger calls it the largest public works project in the nation and predicts the creation of more than 120,000 construction-related positions and another 450,000 long-term jobs.

"[It is] desperately needed good news for hundreds of thousands of unemployed California workers," said Art Pulaski of the California Labor Federation.

High-speed rail could also be good news for IBEW locals in the Midwest. A train line through central Illinois would produce an initial 40,000 construction-related jobs, according to the Midwest High Speed Rail Authority, a non-profit group that advocates for an extensive train system linking cities throughout the region.

Passengers on the 220-mile-per-hour

HIGH-SPEED RAIL *continued on page 2*

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Continued from page 1

High-Speed Rail



Sprawling new rail stations will spur development and bring jobs to local communities.

California High-Speed Rail Authority

trains will travel from Chicago to St. Louis in less than two hours—a trip that now takes five to six hours on the highway.

The railway brings the promise of construction jobs to Springfield, Ill., Local 193. In February, one out of every three members of the local was out of work.

“We think it’s great and it will definitely mean jobs,” said Local 193 Business Manager Dave Burns. “But only if it’s done right.”

Burns and other local leaders enthusiastically support the high-speed rail line, but worry that the elevated or below-grade tracks that come with it could create a major divide through a thriving business district near the Illinois State Capitol, eventually cutting off development in the area. A nearby medical center, where expansion projects have provided steady work for inside wireman over the past few years, sits right near the proposed alignment.

“We want this high-speed line,” Burns said. “We just want to make sure it can create jobs both now and in the years to come.”

With high-speed rail on the fast track in some places, there is still a question about how unions, including the IBEW, can jump on board. In some places, getting a share of the coming batch of jobs might mean a protracted battle—in state legislatures, courtrooms and the media—pitting the IBEW and the rest of organized labor against anti-union forces.

“We’re going to have to fight for these projects and the jobs that come with them,” said Bill Bohné, Director of the Railroad Department at the IBEW, which represents more than 11,000 railroad workers in the U.S. and Canada. “We can get the work, but it’s

going to be a battle for a lot of it.”

The fight to win jobs could be particularly tough in Florida, where \$1.25 billion of the president’s stimulus money will spark development of an 84-mile high-speed stretch from Orlando International Airport, in the center of the state, to downtown Tampa, on the Gulf Coast. Trains would run at an average speed of 120 miles per hour, cutting the trip from an hour-and-a-half by car to just under 45 minutes by rail.

Labor leaders face a huge challenge from the state’s Republican-controlled government and from Florida’s transportation department, which will oversee design and construction of high-speed rail. Stephanie Kopelousos, the woman in charge of the agency, was appointed by and answers directly to Republican Gov. Charlie Crist.

“The Florida Department of Transportation is not a friend of labor,” said Florida AFL-CIO President Mike Williams. At a joint conference with its biggest contractors last year, the state agency held a panel discussion aimed at showing companies how to keep their work forces union-free, he said.

Williams and other labor leaders now have to convince the governor’s office, contractors and the public that using union workers will not raise the cost of the project and will ensure a quality finished product.

“When you have trains running at 100 to 200 miles per hour, you better make sure the people who build and maintain the system know what they’re doing,” said Williams, a former business manager at Jacksonville, Fla., Local 177. “We have the most highly-trained, highly-skilled work force in the country.”

Florida also is considering a

plan that would bundle the project’s design, build-out and maintenance into a single contract to be awarded to just one company. That means competition from overseas—including firms from France, Germany and Japan, where high-speed rail is far more advanced than in the U.S.

“Ultimately, we want the infrastructure and the trains built here at home by union workers with the true expertise,” said the Railroad Department’s Bohné.

When high-speed rail finally does come to places like Florida, California, Illinois and elsewhere, economists predict the stops along those lines could become a big boon for local economies, creating even more jobs.

In Normal, Ill., planning is almost complete for a \$50 million multi-modal transit center to serve existing Amtrak trains and the new high-speed rail line. The project will put at least 20 electricians from Bloomington Local 197 back to work in the next few months, and will likely mean many more jobs in the years ahead. The local just finished work on a nine-story hotel and conference center adjacent to the new station.

“These projects are just the beginning,” said Business Manager Lance Reece. “Looking ahead, we can see how high-speed rail turns our area into a huge incubator for business. It’s a tremendous way to get our people to work.” ■

SEE THE FUTURE

California’s vision for high-speed trains comes to life in a video report at www.ibew.org.

Comcast Workers Choose IBEW Local 827

After a difficult organizing campaign filled with management misrepresentations and attempted union busting, Comcast technicians in Fairfield, N.J., elected to be represented by the IBEW. The NLRB-administered vote Feb. 25 and 26 signals a sea change in the way the company’s installation repair technicians are standing up for their rights on the job, said East Windsor Local 827 Organizing Chair Jason D’Errico.

“The win is groundbreaking for these workers,” D’Errico said. “This is their first step towards gaining a collective bargaining agreement. The Comcast workers have stood strong against this multibillion-dollar giant.”

International President Edwin D. Hill said he looks forward to a solid working relationship with the company, anticipating that the upcoming telecom Code of Excellence training will help send the message that the 70-person unit is committed to displaying continued professionalism on the job.



IBEW leaders say the February election in New Jersey may serve as a harbinger for future relations between business and management.

“Hopefully this victory will open the door for a better understanding between the IBEW and Comcast and a new approach using the Code of Excellence as a format for a better working atmosphere for our current and future members,” President Hill said.

Leaders say they hope this win will have a ripple effect, setting a precedent for future efforts. IBEW Telecommunications Director Martha Pultar said this is a good sign for the prospects of more than a dozen other Comcast campaigns from New England to Washington and Oregon.

“It shows how much can be accomplished when workers stick together,” Pultar said.

Local 827 represents more than 7,000 employees at various companies throughout New Jersey, including Verizon, AT&T, Avaya and others. The local also represents Comcast workers at Pleasantville and Toms River.

“This victory is another example of how the union movement ensures that more and more hardworking Americans maintain footing in this slippery economic climate,” President Hill said. “The stronger our numbers, the better we can advocate for working men and women in this ever-changing industry.” ■

Mississippi Shipyard Workers Maintain Amphibious Transport Dock Ships

Two years ago, members of Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733 celebrated the christening of the USS New York, a 684-foot long, 100-foot wide, vessel built to support amphibious assaults by the Marines.

Two hundred electricians who had worked on the ship at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' shipyard in Avondale, La., took particular pride in the vessel containing a bow forged out of twisted steel from the World Trade Center destroyed on 9/11. (See "Steel Salvaged from World Trade Center Builds USS New York," April 2008.)

Now, the craftsmanship and diligence of the metal trades and Local 733 members at Northrop Grumman's mammoth Pascagoula facility has been rewarded by the U.S. Navy with a \$41.3 million contract for ongoing maintenance on the USS New York and several other amphibious transport docking ships.

"By the time these ships hit the water, they are obsolete," says Local 733 Business Manager Jim Couch of the transport docks in the LPD-17 San Antonio class. As the Navy designs upgrades to offensive weaponry and defensive radar and communications, up to 300 electricians and electronics technicians will perform "short term, but high intensity" work, says Couch.

Despite a depressed national economy, Local 733 has picked up more than 500 new electricians since last July, many of them travelers from inside construction jurisdictions where unemployment is high.

Topped by unique cone-shaped masts containing state-of-the-art electronics for radar and communications, transport docks travel in excess of 22 knots (24.2 mph), accommodating up to 800 troops and 360 sailors. The ships are armed with guided missile weapons systems, up to four CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters, or five MV-22 Osprey tilt rotor aircraft and 14 expeditionary fighting vehicles.

"Our union is honored by the U.S. Navy's decision to assign the ongoing maintenance of these impressive ships to members of Local 733," says International President Edwin D. Hill. "Our members' commitment to national security and the safety of our armed forces has been proven time and again." ■



The USS New York, an amphibious transport docking ship, will be maintained by members at the company's massive Mississippi yard.

Union Plus Benefits Help Ease Medical Expenses

Mansfield, Ohio, Local 688 member Paul Nance lost his manufacturing job five years ago. He kept his union membership and health benefits, knowing that a medical catastrophe could lead to financial ruin without health insurance.

But despite the coverage, surgery, high deductibles, steep co-payments and massive out-of-pocket costs left the 22-year member struggling financially. Maintaining his union membership and his IBEW Union Plus credit card qualified him for a \$1,000 Union Plus Hospital Care grant.

Hospital Care Grants are available to union members who participate in the Union Plus credit card, mortgage or insurance program and who face out-of-pocket hospital expenses that are at least 10 percent of household income for a hospitalization of the member, spouse or dependent within the last 12 months.

Nance, who is now fully recovered, said the application process was easy. "It didn't take long at all for us to receive a check in the mail," said Nance, who is working at a local food processing company as he searches for a job in industrial wiring.

Union Plus also offers assistance in negotiating medical bills. The service provides union members with large out-of-pocket medical bills (more than \$400) free assistance negotiating medical bill reductions with physi-

The grants are part of a comprehensive package of safety net programs called Union SAFE, which helps union members through financial counseling, college savings grants, disability assistance and assistance to avoid home foreclosures.



Mansfield, Ohio, Local 688 member Paul Nance received \$1,000 toward his medical bills.

cians, hospitals and other medical providers. This typically saves between 25 and 50 percent of the total bill.

"Being a union electrician has been one of the greatest things in my life, it has given me the opportunity to provide a good living for my family," said Nance, who pays his union dues faithfully and carries his union card proudly.

The grants are part of a comprehensive package of safety net programs called Union SAFE, which helps union members through financial counseling, college savings grants, disability assistance and assistance to avoid home foreclosures. To find out more, visit www.UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE.

To apply for a Union Plus credit card, call 1-800-522-4000. ■

Hard-Hit Detroit Construction Local Looks to Future

Detroit. Despite publicity surrounding the federal bailouts of Chrysler and General Motors, the relative success of Ford and the hard-to-repair dents in Toyota's brand and reputation, this city and its people are still looked upon as withering monuments to yesterday's industrial age.

For labor unions, including Detroit's Local 58, survival and success demand that leaders figure out how to challenge the narrative of a death spiral in this once-powerful place.

Business Manager Joe Abdo and his staff are doing just that. The local and the National Electrical Contractors Association have excelled in marketing and lobbying efforts, winning federal and state training funds—keeping the faith with members by preparing them for new opportunities when the economy improves.

In January, the parties received funding for renewable energy training for incumbent journeymen and apprentices under the federal stimulus' energy training partnership grants that benefited building trades training centers across the nation. (See "IBEW Wins More Than \$20

Million in Green Jobs Training Grants," the Electrical Worker, February 2010.)

Ken Briggs and Shawn Crump, Local 58 business representatives, worked with nonprofit organizations in Wayne County to help design the grant that will return \$4 million to Detroit. Detroit's unemployment rate is around 23 percent, with underemployment more than 35 percent. A portion of the funds will be used for remedial training to prepare unemployed city residents to enter electrical training.

A photovoltaic training system at the Local 58 training center, financed by Michigan's Department of Energy is widely utilized.

But Local 58 and NECA are not depending upon government largesse alone to align new training programs with emerging opportunities.

IBEW 58 and the Southeast Michigan Chapter of NECA have erected a wind turbine for training and new programs are constantly offered. "We had 62 members waiting in the cold outside our training center to get applications for a fire alarm maintenance class," says JATC Director Gary Polulak. "Thirty-four years ago when I started in the electrical trade, it was all pipe and



Renewable energy classes are popular with Detroit Local 58 members who know that training is key to winning new projects in a region that has been slammed by deindustrialization.

Engineering Society of Detroit. The local aims to influence recommendations flowing from a new Center for Energy Excellence in Michigan.

Local 58's contribution to regional planning fits the model for manufacturing recovery promoted by the Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO. Bob Baugh, the council's executive director, says that when a number of manu-

wire," says Polulak. "Today, you have to walk around with a résumé showing your certifications."

Jared Thienel, 28, a fifth-year apprentice, has been out of work for 10 out of the last 15 months. "Our local is grateful for the good times and we take advantage of the hard times to improve our reputation and quality of work," says Thienel, a father of three, who is certified in photovoltaics. "There's a lot of pride in Detroit. If we have to travel to other jurisdictions, we want to spread a reputation of excellence." In the meantime, many members are volunteering on Habitat for Humanity projects or helping out in local schools.

With nearly half of 4,200 local members out of work, abundant opportunities exist for refresher training and teaching new skills, but Polulak says that positioning the local union to tap a pickup in the national economy will take a lot more than résumé building. It will take a regional strategy for rebuilding an industrial base.

More than half of Local 58's jobs were directly tied to manufacturing before the wave of plant shutdowns in auto and the outsourcing of suppliers in the 1980s. So Polulak and Business Agent Mike Moran and Gary Hellmer joined the work force development board of Macomb, Livingston, and St. Clair counties to support development

in the renewable energy sector. Tax incentives for startups are showing promise as a shuttered Ford plant is being re-tooled to produce storage batteries and other alternative energy products are considering setting up shop.

"We are constantly opening up our training center to the vendor community," says Polulak, who invites engineers and architects to audit apprenticeship classes. Their firsthand understanding of the skill sets developed in training is essential because job specification language "often determines whether or not our members get the work," says Polulak who credits the NJATC's green jobs curriculum as an important factor in promoting the union's expertise and winning grants.

"You can't 'part-time' efforts to develop lasting relationships with business, government and academic institutions," says Polulak. Full-time responsibility for marketing IBEW and NECA and building ties falls to Business Development Representative Jennifer Mefford.

Mefford, says Abdo, helps bring the union and signatory contractors to the table with industry and government leaders. Mefford's work paved the way for Tom Bowes, assistant JATC training director, to be on the inside planning a well-attended alternative energy conference on March 3 sponsored by the

facturers cluster in one area, "they feed off each other and create a market that's big enough to develop a vibrant supply chain."

Polulak sees evidence of the IBEW's improved stature in articles in Crain's Detroit Business, a weekly newspaper that seldom places unions in a favorable light. "We're explaining how positive labor-management relationships can improve safety and productivity," says Abdo, adding, "the business community is more and more seeing us as a partner." That same message is sent to public officials who regulate electricians.

Because Michigan requires licensed electricians be qualified to perform solar installations, Bowes has been relieved of some training responsibilities, making time for dialogue with licensing authorities to ensure that skills and professionalism are maintained in all renewable energy installations.

On March 31, Local 58 and NECA hosted the second "All Things Green" Conference and Expo in partnership with the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce.

The event, at the IBEW-NECA Electrical Industry Training Center in Warren, featured 50 exhibits and several seminars showcasing regional efforts and issues in renewable energy. ■

Career: Up

Tuition: Down

CONTROL VOLTAGE

Excelsior College gives IBEW members and spouses access to college degree with significant discounts on tuition and fees.

ibew.excelsior.edu

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Political Action Spells 'J-O-B-S' in Cleveland

Cleveland's financial problems have never been quiet. From front page stories back in the late 1970s about the city's near plunge into bankruptcy to more recent coverage of the region's industrial decline, the city has been a symbol, an economic and political weather vane.

For Cleveland Local 38, national and local politics is not someone else's game. It's an essential ingredient in determining who works and who ends up jobless. With 300 out of 1,800 local members out of work, the local is stepping up its game.

Winning Referendum on Casino Gambling

Last year, after word went out that an amendment to the state's constitution to permit casino gambling was going to be put to a referendum, Business Agent Dennis Meaney and other trade union leaders took a giant leap into the political process. Casinos mean construction and service jobs. And taxes on jackpots could support still more economic development.

So Meaney and members of the

building and construction trades contacted Dan Gilbert, the owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Quicken Loans and a friend of organized labor, to design a plan for winning a referendum in favor of casino gambling. Gilbert agreed to finance the project and guarantee union involvement in all phases of casino construction.

Local 38 promoted the referendum at union meetings, leafleted job sites, held rallies and encouraged members and their neighbors to put up lawn signs.

Those efforts paid off last November when Ohio citizens voted 53 percent to 47 percent in favor of changing the constitution. A temporary casino is being designed for downtown Cleveland. A permanent casino is planned for a site on the Cuyahoga River.

Development Revives Cuyahoga's East Bank

The job-creating potential of the casino project is richly supplemented by a major development on the Cuyahoga's east bank to be built by union labor.



Members of Cleveland, Ohio, Local 38 listen to Cleveland Cavalier's owner Dan Gilbert pledge to build casinos with union labor, in anticipation of the campaign last fall to win a constitutional amendment to permit casino gambling.

The \$300 million Flats East Bank project will be located near the future casino and include an office building, recreation center, retail businesses and a parking garage.

Anchored by the international financial firm Ernst and Young, the Flats' office tower will be joined to a hotel that is expected to stay booked with visitors in town for short and long-term meetings at Ernst and Young and Tucker Ellis and

West, a law firm. Construction is expected to begin in May.

Grassroots Politics Key to School Construction Contracts

Local 38's success in Cleveland has helped push forward pro-labor politics and the creation of good jobs in neighboring Euclid.

Six years ago, Euclid's school

board proposed a levy to provide for more school construction. The school board at first refused to consider a project labor agreement, relying upon a 1997 measure passed by the Republican-dominated state legislature that eliminated requiring such agreements on school construction.

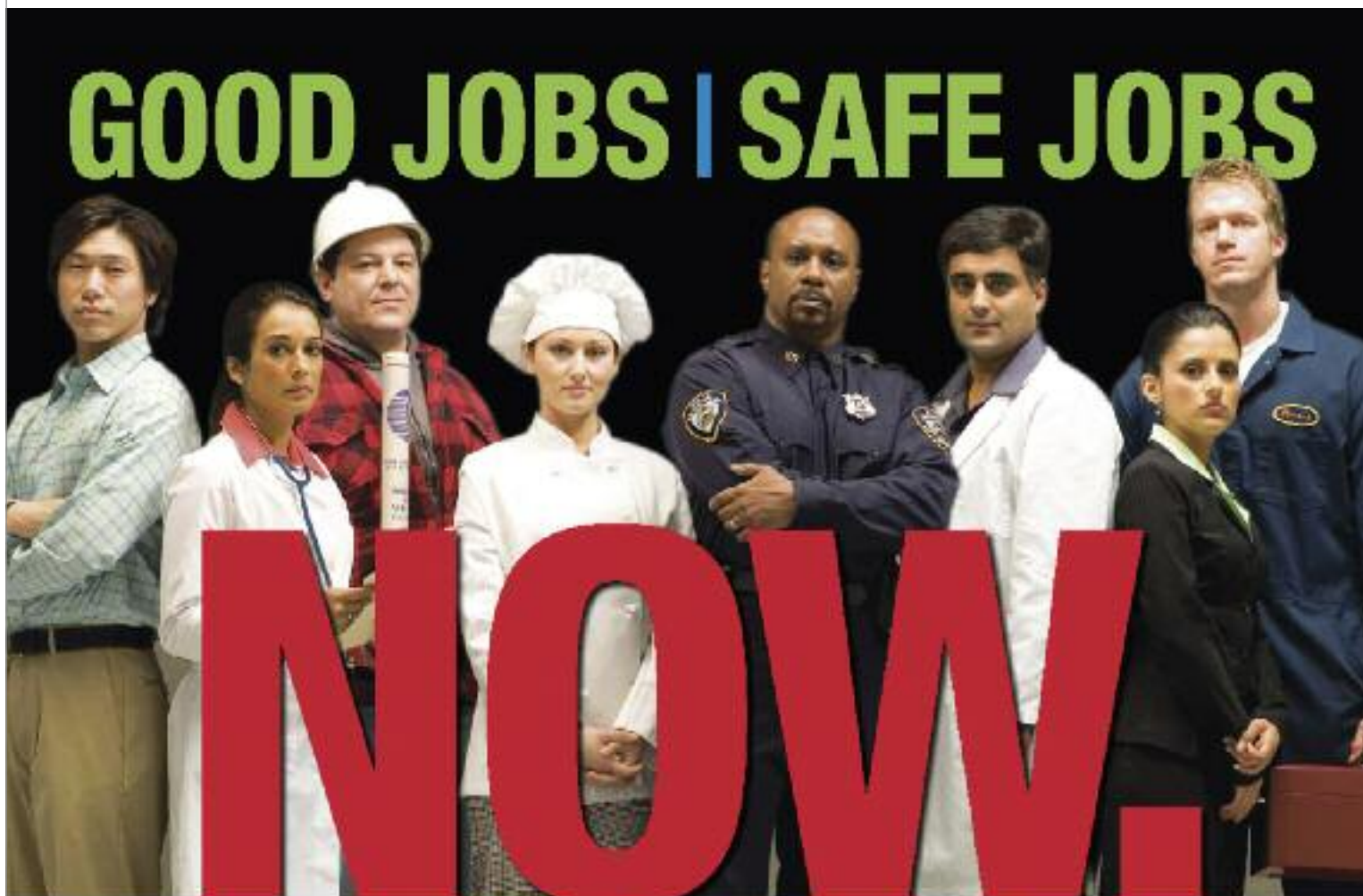
The building trades and other trade unionists agreed to campaign in support of the school levy if the municipality dropped its resistance to a PLA. The measure passed, with the building trades picking up the work.

Last November, another school levy was proposed. Once again, the building trades promised support under the condition that the school board agree to a PLA.

"We got our people energized," says Meaney. Like in Cleveland, yard signs were posted around town. Local members conducted volunteer phone banking and a letter-writing campaign from the union hall. The school levy passed by only 71 votes. The measure provides \$65 million for new school construction, 10 percent of which will be electrical work performed by Local 38 members.

Another school construction PLA was successfully negotiated with neighboring Berea last year.

"If we weren't out there and active in politics, we wouldn't be securing these projects for our members," says Local 38 Business Manager J. Gilbert Steele Jr. "We need to elect labor-friendly candidates for school boards and other offices or we will lose work to nonunion contractors who are coming in from all over the country, taking away local jobs and taking dollars out of our communities." ■



WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • AFL-CIO

Maine Local Gets Ready for Wind-Energy Revolution



Portland, Maine, Local 567 member Shianne Valenzuela was one of more than 30 electricians who took part in a training course in wind turbine maintenance.

Despite a statewide slowdown in construction, the wind-energy industry in Maine is going strong. To make sure it is staffed with highly trained electrical workers, the IBEW has partnered with government officials and clean-energy entrepreneurs to provide training to its members in this fast-growing sector of the clean-energy economy.

"In Maine, renewable energy is the hot buzzword," said Portland Local 567 Business Manager Richard Deering. "It has made a real commitment to wind farm development."

Late last year, more than 30 electricians from Local 567 took part in a two-week tower training course, which covered everything from fixing broken blades to rescuing injured crew members stuck on the top of turbines. The training was sponsored by the IBEW and Larkin Enterprises Inc., a wind-energy contractor. Funding was provided by the North Star Alliance Initiative, a state job-creation effort, using monies from a \$14.4 million federal work grant from the Department of Labor.

"The training was incredible," said Local 567 member Shianne Valenzuela, who took part in the course.

If it wasn't for wind power, Valenzuela says she would have likely sat on the bench all year.

"I've never been out of work this long in my life," the fourth-year apprentice said. "Things have been really rough."

But despite the recession, Valenzuela found work last summer working on the \$320 million, 132-megawatt Kibby Mountain Wind Power Project in northwest Maine.

More than 20 IBEW members worked on the first phase of the project, building half of the planned 44-turbine farm. Valenzuela—working on her first wind farm—ran a cable tie-down crew, making sure the weight of the cables—which ran from the top of the tower (known as the nacelle) to its base—were weighted properly.

"There is zero room for error when you're dealing with wind towers," she said. "Safety has to be the top priority."

The second phase of Kibby Mountain is expected to begin this summer.

If all of Maine's planned wind projects become a reality, Deering says that the wind-energy sector could grow employment in construction by as much as 25 percent.

Local 567's Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee is in the process of incorporating wind training into its curriculum.

"It's the future for us," Deering said. ■

"In Maine, renewable energy is the hot buzzword. It has made a real commitment to wind farm development."

— Richard Deering, Portland Local 567 Business Manager

ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE for National Electrical Benefit Fund

Introduction

This notice includes important funding information about your pension plan ("the Plan"). This notice also provides a summary of federal rules governing multiemployer plans in reorganization and insolvent plans and benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal agency. Please note that the Plan is not in reorganization or insolvent. In fact, despite the difficult economic times and the market losses in 2008, the Plan substantially rebounded in 2009. As a result, the Plan is in sound financial condition and is considered a "green zone" plan (rather than a plan in endangered or critical status). This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2009 (referred to hereafter as "Plan Year").

Funded Percentage

The funded percentage of a plan is a measure of how well that plan is funded. This percentage is obtained by dividing the Plan's assets by its liabilities on the valuation date for the plan year. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The Plan's funded percentage for the Plan Year and two preceding plan years is set forth in the chart below, along with a statement of the value of the Plan's assets and liabilities for the same period.

	2009 Plan Year	2008 Plan Year	2007 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2009	January 1, 2008	January 1, 2007
Funded Percentage	82.1%	93.5%	N/A
Value of Assets	\$10,787,685,180	\$11,857,581,409	N/A
Value of Liabilities	\$13,142,152,828	\$12,682,101,271	N/A

For a brief transition period, the Plan is not required by law to report certain funding related information because such information may not exist for plan years before 2008. The Plan has entered "not applicable" in the chart above to identify the information it does not have. In lieu of that information, however, the Plan is providing you with comparable information that reflects the funding status of the Plan under the law then in effect. That prior law required the Plan to use a very conservative interest rate assumption and very general actuarial assumptions that often do not reflect the Plan's actual experience. Using these assumptions, for 2007 the Plan's "funded current liability percentage" was 67.4%, the Plan's assets were \$11,042,265,595, and Plan liabilities were \$16,390,082,960. If the Plan were to use the currently required (and we believe more realistic) assumptions, the funded percentages would be 90.9% in 2007.

Fair Market Value of Assets

Asset values in the chart above are actuarial values, not market values. Market values tend to show a clearer picture of a plan's funded status as of a given point in time. However, because market values can fluctuate daily based on factors in the marketplace, such as changes in the stock market, pension law allows plans to use actuarial values for funding purposes. While actuarial values fluctuate less than market values, they are estimates. As of December 31, 2009, the fair market value of the Plan's assets was \$9,706,376,475. While this fair market value continues to reflect the market losses suffered by virtually all pension plans in 2008, the Plan remains in sound financial condition and the Plan's investments are well situated to keep the Plan healthy. As of December 31, 2008, the fair market value of the Plan's assets was \$8,989,737,650. As of December 31, 2007, the fair market value of the Plan's assets was \$11,857,581,409.

Participant Information

The total number of participants in the Plan as of the Plan's valuation date was 491,240. Of this number, 257,448 were active participants, 105,409 were retired or separated from service and receiving benefits, and 128,383 were retired or separated from service and entitled to future benefits.

Funding and Investment Policies

The law requires that every pension plan have a procedure for establishing a funding policy to carry out the plan objectives. A funding policy relates to the level of contributions needed to pay for benefits promised under the plan currently and over the years. The funding policy of the Plan is to ensure that the employer contributions to the Plan, coupled with long-term investment returns, will keep the Plan financially secure and permit the Plan to meet all current and future liabilities. The Trustees have determined that the 3% of gross labor payroll contribution rate will continue to satisfy this funding policy.

Once money is contributed to the Plan, the money is invested by plan officials called fiduciaries. Specific investments are made in accordance with the Plan's investment policy. Generally speaking, an investment policy is a written statement that provides the fiduciaries who are responsible for plan investments with guidelines or general instructions concerning various types or categories of investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan is to select a diversified investment portfolio designed to balance risk and return, and to hire or contract with professional investment staff and advisers to ensure that the allocation of investments are prudent and that the individual investment funds and managers are achieving the goals established by the Plan.

In accordance with the Plan's investment policy, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
1. Interest-bearing cash	0.61%
2. U.S. Government securities	9.62
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	—
All other	8.29
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	0.35
Common	21.43
5. Partnership / joint venture interests	9.77
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	0.06
7. Loans (other than to participants)	4.92
8. Participant loans	—
9. Value of interest in common / collective trusts	25.17
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	0.71
11. Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	—
12. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	—
13. Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2.62
14. Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	—
15. Other general investments	11.00
16. Employer-related investments:	
Employer Securities	—
Employer real property	—
17. Receivables	5.33
18. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	0.12

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above—common / collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, or 103-12 investment entities—contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300.

Critical or Endangered Status

Under federal pension law a plan generally will be considered to be in "endangered" status if, at the beginning of the plan year, the funded percentage of the plan is less than 80 percent or in "critical" status if the percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Rehabilitation and funding improvement plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time.

The Plan was not in endangered or critical status in the Plan Year or in past Plan Years.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

A pension plan is required to file with the U.S. Department of Labor an annual report (i.e., Form 5500) containing financial and other information about the plan. Copies of the annual report are available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling (202) 693-8673. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator.

Summary of Rules Governing Plans in Reorganization and Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans. Under so-called "plan reorganization rules," a plan with adverse financial experience may need to increase required contributions and may, under certain circumstances, reduce benefits that are not eligible for the PBGC's guarantee (generally, benefits that have been in effect for less than 60 months). If a plan is in reorganization status, it must provide notification that the plan is in reorganization status and that, if contributions are not increased, accrued benefits under the plan may be reduced or an excise tax may be imposed (or both). The law requires the plan to furnish this notification to each contributing employer and the labor organization.

Despite the special plan reorganization rules, a plan in reorganization nevertheless could become insolvent. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for the plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available financial resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at a level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC, by law, will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notification of the insolvency to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected as a result of the insolvency, including loss of a lump sum option. This information will be provided for each year the plan is insolvent.

The Plan was not in reorganization status or insolvent in the Plan Year or in past Plan Years.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only vested benefits are guaranteed. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC's maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant's years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$500, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service ($\$500/10$), which equals \$50. The guaranteed amount for a \$50 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus $\$24.75 (.75 \times \$33)$, or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 ($\35.75×10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20 (or $\$200/10$). The guaranteed amount for a \$20 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus $\$6.75 (.75 \times \$9)$, or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ($\17.75×10).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under the plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee pre-retirement death benefits to a spouse or beneficiary (e.g., a qualified pre-retirement survivor annuity) if the participant dies after the plan terminates, benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, who are the plan administrators, at 2400 Research Boulevard, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3266, or (301) 556-4300. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's employer identification number or "EIN" is 53-0181657. For more information about the PBGC and benefit guarantees, go to PBGC's website, www.pbgc.gov, or call PBGC toll-free at 1-800-400-7242 (TTY/TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 1-800-400-7242). ■



Ontario IBEW Renews 'Win-Win' Bargaining Partnership

IBEW construction members and signatory contractors throughout Ontario overwhelmingly voted for the renewal of a joint labour-management "no-strike" pact this winter, helping to lay the groundwork for another three years of labour peace in the province.

"We've gone 20 years without a strike or lockout," said IBEW Construction Council of Ontario Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Pender. "And we want to keep it that way."

More than 80 percent of construction members who mailed in their ballot voted "yes" on the question of whether to continue the "joint proposal"—an agreement between the Ontario IBEW Construction Council and the Electrical Contractors Association to waive strikes and lockouts while both sides negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement.

Since 1978, all building trades contracts in Ontario are required by law to be negotiated on a province-wide basis. By centralizing bargaining, the Ontario government hoped to streamline labour negotiations, but the ruling ended up increasing the number of strikes by effectively giving individual locals the power to take out every other construction trade on strike, resulting in poisoned labour-management relations and declining union market share.

First District International Representative Jerry Wilson, who was business manager of Kitchener Local 804 in the '80s, remembers going out on strike at least four times during his tenure in office—strikes he didn't call. "We would have never gone out, except that all the locals had to bargain together," he said.

The IBEW and its signatory contractors realized that something had to change. Inspired by the philosophy of "win-win" bargaining, both parties created the joint proposal in 1992.

"We realized that we had to work together to jointly expand our industry," Pender said.

Developed in part by the late former Cornell University labor rela-

tions professor Bernard Flaherty, win-win or partnership bargaining is premised on the idea that successful collective bargaining requires labour and management to form mutually beneficial partnerships, avoiding aggressive negotiating tactics.

Under the agreement, every three years—the length of a provincial contract—the IBEW and the contractors' association polls its members on extending the agreement for another term. If ratified, both sides agree to waive on-the-job

"We've gone 20 years without a strike or lockout. And we want to keep it that way."

John Pender, IBEW Construction Council of Ontario Executive Secretary-Treasurer

actions for the life of the agreement.

"It's great for us and great for the industry," Wilson said. "It beats having pointless strikes."

For Pender, the agreement has

provided nearly two decades of labour stability in union construction, leading to steady growth of the IBEW throughout Ontario and fair compensation for its members.

The provincial-wide agreement, which covers 13 locals, deals with basic wage and benefits compensation. It also establishes an ongoing joint labour-management mediation board—chaired by a neutral party—that deals with grievances and other issues.

Pender congratulated IBEW members who took the time to cast their ballot and sustain this concept of bargaining.

To see the results from negotiations, go to www.ibewcco.org. ■

La FIOE renouvelle son partenariat du système de négociation gagnant-gagnant en Ontario

La FIOE renouvelle son partenariat du système de négociation gagnant-gagnant en Ontario.

Cet hiver, les membres de la FIOE oeuvrant dans l'industrie de la construction et les entrepreneurs signataires de l'Ontario ont voté dans une majorité écrasante en faveur du renouvellement d'un pacte syndical-patronal dont l'objectif est de renoncer à tout arrêt de travail, ce qui devrait aider à poser les fondations d'une autre période de répit de trois ans dans l'ensemble de la province.

« Nous n'avons eu aucune grève et aucun lock-out au cours des vingt dernières années et nous voulons que ça continue ainsi. » dit John Pender, Secrétaire trésorier exécutif du Conseil de la construction de la FIOE de l'Ontario.

Les membres de l'industrie de la construction ont été consultés afin de décider si la proposition conjointe devait être maintenue et une majorité de 80% des répondants ont voté dans l'affirmative; cette entente entre le Conseil de la construction de la FIOE de l'Ontario et l'Association des entrepreneurs-

électriciens stipule que les parties renoncent à faire la grève ou à décréter un lock-out pendant que les deux parties négocient une nouvelle convention collective.

Depuis 1978, la loi exige que toutes les conventions collectives pour les métiers de la construction en Ontario soient négociées pour l'ensemble de la province. En centralisant les négociations, le gouvernement de l'Ontario espérait simplifier les négociations, mais cette décision a fini par augmenter le nombre de grèves en offrant aux locaux individuels le pouvoir d'amener tous les autres métiers de la construction à faire la grève. Cette situation a grandement envenimé les relations syndicales-patronales et a entraîné une baisse de la part du marché syndical.

Le confrère Jerry Wilson, représentant international pour le Premier District, a occupé la fonction de gérant d'affaires de la section locale 804 à Kitchener, dans les années 80. Il se souvient être allé en grève au moins à quatre reprises au cours de son mandat, bien qu'il n'ait pas appelé une seule fois à la

grève. « Nous ne serions jamais allés en grève si ce n'était du fait que tous les locaux devaient négocier ensemble. » déclare-t-il.

La FIOE et les entrepreneurs signataires se sont rendus compte qu'il fallait que les choses changent. C'est en s'inspirant de la philosophie du système de négociation gagnant-gagnant que les deux parties ont créé, en 1992, cette proposition conjointe. « Nous avons compris qu'il fallait travailler ensemble pour que notre industrie connaisse une expansion. » affirme M. Pender.

Ce système gagnant-gagnant pour les négociations a été élaboré en partie par M. Bernard Flaherty, ancien professeur en relations du travail à l'Université Cornell, et est basé sur l'idée qu'une négociation collective réussie nécessite que les syndicats et les patronats forment des partenariats mutuellement profitables, empêchant ainsi le recours à des tactiques de négociations agressives.

En vertu de cette entente, la FIOE et l'association des entrepreneurs consultent leurs membres à tous les trois ans, soit à l'expiration de la convention provinciale, afin

qu'ils se prononcent sur la prolongation de ladite entente. Si la majorité des membres votent en faveur, les parties conviennent de renoncer à tout arrêt de travail pour la durée de la convention.

« C'est bon pour nous et bon pour l'industrie. C'est mieux que des grèves inutiles. » ajoute le confrère Wilson.

Selon Monsieur Pender, cette entente a assuré la stabilité au travail dans l'industrie de la construction, pendant près de deux décennies, favorisant la progression constante du membership de la FIOE à travers l'Ontario ainsi qu'une rémunération équitable pour ses membres.

Treize locaux sont régis par cette convention provinciale, qui contient les salaires horaires de base de même que la rémunération des avantages. Elle prévoit également un service continu de médiation avec un comité conjoint syndical-patronal présidé par une tierce partie neutre, qui s'occupe de la résolution des griefs et autres problèmes.

Vous trouverez le résultat des négociations en visitant le www.ibewcco.org. ■

Transitions

RETIRED Larry Liles



International Representative Lawrence E. "Larry" Liles retired effective April 1. Initiated into Santa

Barbara, Calif., Local 413 in 1978, Brother Liles worked as a journeyman inside wireman on onshore and offshore petrochemical projects and space shuttle launch facilities. He served as an apprentice instructor for more than four years and was elected business manager in 1987.

Under Liles' leadership, Local 413 initiated goal setting, established a funded targeting program and eliminated a dual-tiered wage scale through organizing. Liles solidified the local's benefit plans and training program. He also served as chairman of the Santa Barbara Building Trades Center Corp. and on the executive board of the State Association of Electrical Workers.

A 1969 graduate of Humboldt State College in Arcata, Calif., Brother Liles, the son of a career Air Force detective, earned his Masters of Business Administration from California Lutheran University in 1986.

Appointed International Representative and assigned to the Research Department in 1992, Liles specialized in international trade and testified in congressional hearings on NAFTA, performed union staff work on the President's Export Council and the Competitiveness Policy Council, and represented the union on the Citizens Trade Campaign. He worked on a wide variety of projects, from monitoring the growth of the renewable energy industry to helping develop the Helmets to Hardhats program and the union's museum, including guiding the museum display at the 2001 IBEW Convention.

In 1994, Liles was stricken with liver disease, suffering for 10 years before undergoing a successful living-donor transplant in 2004. After his ordeal, Liles says, "I have a deeper appreciation for life, and past worries now amuse me. I'm living on grace and it's great to be here." Brother Liles encourages everyone to

sign up as an organ donor.

A voracious reader, Liles acknowledges the deep challenges facing IBEW and the labor movement, but sees signs of hope for positive change. "There is a growing understanding that predatory capitalism just isn't working," says Liles. "We need to refocus ourselves on union values and promote all of the gains that labor has made in our society to counter the messages of the corporate-dominated media."

A resident of rural western Fauquier County, Va., Brother Liles has actively promoted renewable energy projects and pushed for innovations by his local electric cooperative. After commuting more than two hours each way to work for four years, he looks forward to spending more time with his wife Mary and his son, Carl, who is in high school. He has a daughter, Lauren, and three stepchildren from an earlier marriage. Brother Liles has numerous home improvement jobs planned and will deepen research into his family's genealogy. He also intends to participate more in the Masons, where he is a past master of a D.C. lodge.

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Liles a long and healthy retirement. ■

RETIRED H. James Pelley



Eleventh District International Representative H. James Pelley retired April 1 after almost 40 years in the IBEW.

Raised in a union household in Nebraska, Pelley joined the U.S. Army at age 18. A trained paratrooper, he served on the front lines during the Vietnam War, from 1966 to 1968.

He started work as an apprentice in 1971, joining Lincoln Local 265. He was elected business manager in 1987. He served in the post until his appointment to the International staff 11 years later.

He spent the past decade servicing local unions and conducting

steward and organizer training in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota.

"Organizing new members was always the best part of my job," he said. "Sitting down with working families and seeing that light bulb click on when they realize all the good the union can do for them. That made it really worthwhile."

In retirement, Pelley, who lives in Savannah, Mo., north of Kansas City, plans to spend his time hunting and fishing. He and his wife, Cheryl, celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary in March. The couple has three children, including a son who is a fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy, and three grandchildren.

"I have great friends in the IBEW. They are good professional people," he said. "That's what I'm going to miss the most."

The officers and brothers of the IBEW wish Brother Pelley great health and much happiness in his retirement. ■

Organizing Wire

Arizona Utility Workers Vote IBEW

Most of the public service inspectors for Arizona Public Service had been union linemen at one point in their careers.

So when they found out that management at the state's largest utility had unilaterally changed their work rules, they knew just what to do: they contacted the IBEW.

"These guys understood what joining a union meant," said Seventh District International Representative Tim Bowden. "And the company had done just enough to get them upset and ready to do something about their job situation."

The workers, who are responsible for making sure construction contractors comply with official company building guidelines, started having breakfast meetings to talk strategy.

"They got together on their own and said 'Are we going to do this or not?'" said Bowden, who is also Region 4 Organizing Coordinator.

They filed for an election on January 2. "The company wasn't exactly thrilled, but these guys are ex-linemen, so there isn't much that can intimidate them," Bowden said. "All they wanted was a contract like everyone else at the company."

On Feb. 24, they voted 18-5 to be represented by Phoenix Local 387. The local already represents the majority of linemen and power plant workers at the utility.

Bowden credits Seventh District International Vice President Jonathan Gardner, Local 387 Business Manager Robert DeSpain and Asst. Business Manager Veronica Hensley for their role in helping to make the victory happen.

The recent win in Arizona puts the IBEW at a nearly 70 percent win rate in non-construction organizing for 2010, says Director of Professional and Industrial Organizing Brian Ahakuelo. ■

Circuits

104-Year-Old Member Looks Back on Proud Career

When Norbert Schuh started his role as an electrical engineer with the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Co. in 1929, the world was about to absorb the first economic blast of what would become the Great Depression.

But hard work, frugality and union membership with Milwaukee Local 494 helped ensure that Schuh was able to continue to provide for his family—even during the leanest of times—for decades to come.

"The union helped get me work," Schuh said. "I was paid well. They also helped me get very good benefits."

Now at the Rose Manor Assisted Living facility in Zephyrhills, Fla., Schuh, now 104, looks forward to his monthly issue of The Electrical Worker and takes pride in his decades of IBEW membership.

Schuh was featured in a July 2009 article in the local weekly newspaper The Laker holding an issue of The Electrical Worker. Family and friends are quick to point out his appreciation of the Brotherhood.

"He was so happy when he received his 75-year pin," said Schuh's daughter Marillyn Evaska, who lives outside of Milwaukee, not far from the plant where her father spent most of his life working. "He keeps all of his IBEW memorabilia and loves to talk about the union."

Schuh worked at the same facility from 1929 to 1970. Now called Wisconsin Energy, the company went through many changes over the years, as did the responsibilities of Schuh's



Centenarian Norbert Schuh is a Milwaukee Local 494 retiree.

job. He said one of his biggest accomplishments was when he single-handedly got a substation up and running in the middle of the night.

To young trade unionists just starting out in the field, Schuh tells them, "It's a special career. The IBEW will take good care of you." ■

Local Lines

St. Patrick's Day Parade

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Local 6 is preparing its annual entry for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Parade committee co-chairs Lou Sullivan and Brendan Greene are working with volunteers and liaison Jeff Phillips to organize and build a triple-faceted entry including a float, a marching contingent of our membership, and a motorized cable car for our retired members.

Work in the jurisdiction is still slow. Apprentice furloughing administered by training director Steve Powers and assistant Tom Lauchenauer has been very successful in helping apprentices share the work. A reduced four-day work week has been instituted to help journeymen share the available work. A great deal of the planned development in our jurisdiction has been stalled as a result of the financial crisis and the banking industries' failure to lend. Hopefully the Obama administration's focus on job creation will inspire Congress to enact a second round of stimulus to rehabilitate our aging infrastructure and get America back to work.

Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.

Standing Up for Jobs

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Work in our area is still a bit slow, but we're grateful in these tough times to have a little movement on the book. There are a few good-size projects coming our way, but not until later this year. There should be some good school work coming to the Sylvania area, thanks to our members and the Building Trades members who attended school board meetings and helped turn around work that would have otherwise gone nonunion.

Please keep in mind the Home Depot boycott. Let all your friends and family know how the company is doing bad business in our area. The more people who participate in the boycott, the better we get our point across to the people in charge. Let's send them a message that northwest Ohio is no place to bring out-of-towners to do our work. With that in mind, spend your locally earned money locally with businesses that support us with jobs.

*Ben "Red" Tackett, P.S.
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.*



IBEW Local 24 team gathers for the 2010 Special Olympics Maryland Polar Bear Plunge.

Value of IBEW Construction

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—Members of Local 16 donated their skills to make the 16th annual Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights possible again last year. The 2009 show featured 61 holiday-themed displays, including reindeer, Santas, dancing bears, toy soldiers, etc. With a new emphasis on energy conservation at the IBEW-NECA sponsored display, the installation went "green" with LED lamps powered from a portable trailer that provided both solar and wind-generated electricity. This lowered the wattage from 11,500 to 805. Funds raised benefited rehabilitation services for handicapped children and needy adults.

A \$9,573,669 electrical project recently was awarded to a local signatory contractor. Some of the reasons the job went fair included drug testing, excellent apprentice training and rigorous journeyman licensing. Unfortunately, this might still not have been enough had it not been for the diligent efforts of the local's leadership to clarify the value of IBEW construction. They advanced the cause of quality construction in our area.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

'Polar Bear Plunge 2010'

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—I am extremely proud of one of Local 24's latest endeavors. On Sat., Jan. 30, we joined thousands of others for the Special Olympics Maryland Polar Bear Plunge. This is a fundraising event where people sponsor participants to jump into the icy waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The Polar Bear Plunge is held at Sandy Point Park, MD, located at the western end of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Local 24 has had members participate in the past, but this is the first year we formed a Local 24 team. Our team is now at 39 members strong and growing. We raised more than \$16,000.

Approximately 25,000 people participated in

the event—and 15,000 went into the 18 degree water (7 degree wind chill). More than \$3 million total was raised. We hope to grow our team and contributions year to year. Thank you to all who participated (plungers, sponsors and cheerleaders). It was a great event for a great cause.

Gary R. Griffin, B.M.

Spring Golf Outing

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Preparations have begun for our spring golf outing and our picnic is on the horizon as well! The golf outing will be Monday, June 14. Send in your registration as soon as possible! It can be found in the quarterly magazine or you can download it from our Web site, www.ibewlocal26.org. The local's picnic will be Sat., Aug. 7. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

The Local 26 Scholarship Committee is reviewing the many scholarship applications and will make a decision soon for this year's two recipients. Thanks to all the outstanding applicants for their participation.

Please be sure the Finance Office has your correct address since elections for your local union officers will take place in June. Ballots will be mailed to your home address.

We mourn the recent death of several members: Richard K. Sams, William D. Godfrey, Robert E. Goldsmith, Richard E. Hardin, Vincent E. Hawkins, Mark W. Gingrich, Jeffrey L. Kaufman, Gaylord W. Cochran, Christopher G. Pilkerton, Philip W. Spelta and Allen C. Warf.

Best wishes to recent new retirees: Gary L. McKinney, Glenn J. Murray, Byoung H. Bhak, Fletcher A. Smith and Granville X. Walker.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Appreciation to Retirees

L.U. 32 (i&u), LIMA, OH—Retired members were invited to a Dec. 16, 2009, Christmas luncheon by the local membership. The membership wanted to express apprecia-

tion to the retirees for the good job they have done over the years promoting the IBEW, creating and maintaining a good image of our union with the customers and communities in the jurisdiction. It is the retirees' hard work and dedication that helped build the reputation and strong foundation on which the IBEW is built. The retirees are the reason we have jobs today, and it is also up to us to continue the tradition for the future of the IBEW.

We also wish a happy retirement to the following members: Louis Boughan, Len Meyer, Jerry A. McClure and Gary Bias. We thank them for their longtime, dedicated service. The Local 32 Retirees Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month, 2 p.m. at the Local 32 union hall.

Our December 2009 union meeting was well-attended; pizza was provided and presents were given away. At this writing, the work situation is as slow as it has been in a long time. Code of Excellence and journeyman education classes are being scheduled for 2010.

*Jerry Dickrede, B.M.
Doug Beining, P.S.*

Upcoming Projects

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Good news was announced regarding several upcoming projects in our area. [See pg. 5.] Huron Hospital, which is part of the Cleveland Clinic, announced plans to expand at its property along Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland with a \$20 - \$30 million addition. Zenith Electric was recently awarded the new Center for Emergency Medicine The Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland announced plans to construct a new \$29 million building at University Circle.

Ground was broken at the new \$100 million



Retirees attend IBEW Local 32's Christmas luncheon. Front row, from left: Jim Reynolds, William McKnight, Retirees Club Pres. Cloyne Stouffer, Larry Thomas, Jim Hoskins; back row, Gary Bias, Boyd Arnold, Cynce Cooper, Tom Overly, Tim Martin, Mike Bockey and Jerry Fraber.

Trade Classifications

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

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.



A crew of IBEW members from Locals 38 and 306 are working for Didado Electric on the new Cleveland State University student housing project. CSU continues to expand its downtown campus, providing job opportunities for the membership.

Veterans Administration complex and we should have members working on-site soon. Pre-bid meetings were held for the \$300 million East Bank Flats job on the Cuyahoga River and the developers anticipate starting work in May.

Members are reminded to help themselves and help the local become stronger by upgrading their skills and enrolling in the free journeyman classes held at the JATC. Having the skills and certifications, such as a fire alarm license, temperature control, motor control, welding and OSHA 10 and 30, increases your employment opportunities.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.

EWMC National Conference

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—IBEW Local 48 was proud to host the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus 20th National Conference, which took place over the 2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day national holiday weekend. The conference was held Jan. 14 - 17 at the historic Benson Hotel. The theme was “The Courage to Lead - The Power to Make a Difference.”

Local 48 Bus. Mgr. Clif Davis, Pres. Eric Hayes, officers and members were truly honored that Portland was chosen as the site for the 2010 conference.

IBEW members traveled from across the United States to attend the EWMC conference and provide volunteer service. The City of Portland received more than 200 volunteers, who provided 1,200 hours of service in various Portland area communities.

Volunteers worked at food banks, provided repair work at treatment centers, installed electrical service at a community church, performed electrical repairs for low income and disabled senior homeowners, and much more. The volunteers also donated cell phones for local domestic violence support.

The delegates attended leadership workshops and received information about the green electrical industry. Guest speakers included U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and Portland Mayor Sam Adams.

The primary goal of the EWMC is to promote and develop leadership of minorities in the IBEW. Local 48 has supported and embraced the EWMC since 1991.

Bob Blair, P.S.

Rockfish Tournament Benefit

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA—Congratulations and special thanks to Doug Williams, Ray Cassidy, Bill Peeples, Sharon Herring, IBEW Local 50, Virginia Natural Gas, Nancy Cobb from Cobb's Marina, and all those who participated in the 6th Annual Rockfish Tournament held Nov. 14-15, 2009. Although the event had to be moved from Friday to

Sunday because of the nor'easter; it was still a huge success. A total of \$3,525 was raised to benefit the United Way of South Hampton Roads, VA.

First place for the 2009 tourney went to Tim Perry. IBEW Local 50 Bus. Mgr. Jack Wells and Local 50 Senior Bus. Rep. Roger Sulenski were on hand to assist in the tournament.

Bill Peeples from Virginia Natural Gas helped Doug and Ray in organizing the event. Because of extensive damage to Cobb's Marina during the storm, Virginia Natural Gas paid to have the event catered. Special thanks to VNG for its support in making the event a success. Nancy Cobb, despite the damage to her marina, welcomed all participants with open arms. She is commended for her hospitality and giving spirit in such trying times. Thanks, Nancy. Also, thanks to all those members and participants who turned out despite the weather and made the tournament a great success.

Mike Barclay, R.S.



Local 50 members Ray Cassidy (left) and Doug Williams (right), standing in front of Doug's VNG line truck, present a check for \$3,525 to Desi Nichols (center), director of labor participation from United Way of South Hampton Roads, VA.

Members Hold Public Office

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—“The world is run by those who show up.” How many times do we hear that quote and simply pass it off as just another cliché?

We are very fortunate to have some who indeed step up and show up and therefore help to run the world. Colorado State Rep. John Soper (House District 34) is a retired Local 68 member, as is Thornton City Council member Mack Goodman. Current Local 68 member Mike Ciezlak is a Federal Heights City Council member. Step right up, brothers and sisters; there are leadership positions waiting for you!

Local 68 is included in the recent green jobs training grant, and the local continues to lead the way in renewable energy, green jobs, and photovoltaic installation and training. The grant will enable the building of a wind turbine simulator for training, which will include climbing certification, wiring techniques, first responder first aid and rescue operations.

With summer just ahead, dress accordingly and drink plenty of water. Keep safety for yourself and your family in mind when planning your outdoor activities!

We extend deepest sympathy to the families of our recently deceased brothers: George Allenbach Jr., Ivan L. Bolter, Richard Klassen, Robert G. Dunmire, Anthony Gattar and Robert McNulty.

Ed Knox, Pres.



Local 96 crew members gather at Wal-Mart construction project jobsite.

Report from Dayton

L.U. 82 (em,i,mt&rtb), DAYTON, OH—Last year was an eventful one for Local 82, from elections to illnesses. Work is scarce here in Dayton and we are now working to build our city back up.

We have many small jobs in progress and our largest projects include the Human Performance Wing at Wright Patterson Air Force Base being done by ESI Electrical Contractors, and the Southeast Edition (“Heart Tower”) at Miami Valley Hospital being done by Chapel Electric. While our economy is still in trouble and we still have many members on the books, we are recovering. It has been a battle but we are confident here in Dayton that we will pull through. Our brother and sister members have done it before us, and we can do it today.

As the recently appointed Local 82 press secretary, it is an honor to be able to report on our local. I look forward to keeping the tradition of reporting on our local union alive.

Claire Rairden, P.S.



Local 82 members working at Wright Patterson Air Force Base for ESI Electrical Contractors include journeyman Lucas Bates (left) and apprentice Gabe Thomas.

Legislative Session

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—Local 90 members and their families had a great time at our children's Christmas party last December. More than 125 attended for food, fun and a visit with Santa. We thank our Christmas party committee for the great job they do to make this event a success every year.

For the 2010 Connecticut state legislative session, we are hopeful we can get some decent legislation passed that will benefit our members and their families.

We had a terrible accident with a gas explosion at a power plant under construction in Middletown, CT. There were five fatalities, none of which were IBEW members. We want to keep the families of all those who were tragically lost in our prayers.

Sean Daly, V.P.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—2010 contract negotiations are under way. All members are encouraged to vote on the contract in June.

Thanks to all members who assisted with the campaign and to those who voted for Martha Coakley in her bid for a U.S. Senate seat. Her defeat is a strong reminder of how every vote counts.

The new Wal-Mart construction was completed. This was the only Wal-Mart contract to go union in the Northeast and the job was completed without concessions. The accompanying photo of Local 96 workers at the Wal-Mart site includes: Dave Martinelli, Tom Travers, Abe Lempicki, Moe Salinas, Matt Mooskian, Miguel Galindo, Peter Roy, Frank Chionchio, Sean Courtney, Dick Roy, Kevin Courtney, Mike Feeley, Angel Torres, Justin Nordquist, Jeff Plotczyk, Cory Gustafson, Steve Tagney, James Burke, Jacob Kilgore, David Coll, Mike Castillo, David Mikles, Brian Duteau, Rich Pelosi, John Barnett, Arnold Melanson, Scott Wagner, Nick Gouveia, James Morrill, Joe Bianchi, Russell Willett, Stan Skamarycz, Rich Gagnon, John Ledger, Jerry Johnson, Rob Horner, Rob McDonald, Jorge Rodriguez, Pete Valinski, Derek Gilroy and Luke Austin.

For more information visit us online at www.ibewlocal96.org.

Luke E. Carpenter, P.S.

Volunteer Service Award

L.U. 100 (c,em,i,rts&st), FRESNO, CA—Work is slow in Local 100's jurisdiction. The potential for full employment is hopeful with an underground natural gas storage project in Mendota, a possible 650 megawatt power plant in Avenal and several solar projects expected to start soon.

The election of local union officers will be held in June 2010. If you are able to invest three years to better our union, consider running for a position as an officer.

Habitat for Humanity of Tulare County requested that Bros. Denis Doran and Ronny Jungk attend Habitat's annual board of directors meeting Jan. 21, 2010. Denis, Ronny and Kevin Cole attended the meeting and, on behalf of Local 100, received the President's Volunteer Service Award. Local 100 was presented a certificate and letter from the



Local 100 Organizer Ronny Jungk (second from left) and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Kevin Cole (at right) talk with a veteran at the “Hire a Hero, Hire a Vet” job fair in Kings County, CA.

Local Lines

White House, signed by Pres. Barack Obama, in recognition of volunteer work done for Habitat for Humanity on its Celebration House. Local 100 members who helped wire the Celebration House were: Denis Doran, Jeff Hall, Lou Gutierrez, Rafael Adame, William Hodge, Joshua Fleming and Ronny Jungk.

We mourn the loss of Bros. Cecil Owens, Al Bardone, Robert "Zap" Zapoli, Rudy Orona, Loye Casey, John Ferro, John Williams, Ken Clerkin and Roy Allen. Think safety always.

M.A. Caglia, R.S.

Service Awards Presented

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—Our annual Christmas meeting was held Dec. 17, 2009, in Charlestown, MA. For the second year in a row we invited our retirees to meet before this meeting. Every year we honor our members and retirees with years-of-service pins. Among those in attendance last year were Bro. Paul Boufford, who received a 50-year pin, and Bro. Frank Place, awarded his 55-year pin!

Honorees not in attendance to receive their service pins included Bro. Edward Ellies, for 55 years of service, and Bro. Herb Chapman, for 50 years' service. The late Bro. Stanley Swiecicki was honored posthumously for 55 years of service. We are grateful for our retirees' contributions to Local 104.

We are trying to establish a meeting for the retirees, scheduled every four months. The next meeting will be on April 15. Please contact the hall for details.

Hugh Boyd, Treas./B.R.

Solar Photovoltaic Project

L.U. 124 (ees,em,i,mar,rts,se&spa), KANSAS CITY, MO—The availability of stimulus money means one thing, jobs! Where are they? When will the projects start? Questions everyone is asking.

With work slowing to a standstill in recent months, the time is right for journeyman upgrading. Education, classes, training to improve our skills to be the best we can be. Local 124 is doing just that. We have answered the call for green technology training. The first class of journeymen finished solar photovoltaic training last December and more training is scheduled for spring. Green technology is here and Local 124 is going after the market.

A major project is under way at Local 124. Solar photovoltaic panels are being installed on our meeting hall and business office. Future plans are to also install solar panels on our training center. The solar panels and equipment are 100 percent American made, installed by a union contractor using IBEW wiremen.

Marketing tools have been prepared to help our contractors sell prospective clients on our training and abilities. Local 124 has made an entry into the Green Book to claim this work, and with the partnership of our contractors we intend to capture green work.

We remember the following deceased members: Robert N. Gentry, Frank W. Hays, Glenn A. Long, Gary S. Olson and Claude T. Owen.

Congratulations to recent retired members: William F. Joyce, Joseph E. Powell and Glen Leehy.

Frank D. Mathews Jr., P.S.

New Orleans Celebrates

L.U. 130 (i), NEW ORLEANS, LA—At this writing, there is excitement in the air in New Orleans. The New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl. Go Saints! The other buzz is that labor-endorsed candidate Mitch Landrieu won the mayoral race. Thanks to Local 130 members who rallied to help elect a new labor-friendly mayor.

For the past eight years, we've had an anti-organized labor mayor and the slow work pace that goes with it. Our city urgently needed a new leader who supports working people.

Our local's longtime safety director, Bro. John Bowers, announced his decision to retire. Congratulations, John. Congratulations to our new safety director, Bro. Charles Weatherly.

Bus. Mgr. Clay Leon has been in many discussions with our local contractors about the upcoming work picture. Our contractors have informed Bro. Leon about new projects, which should break soon. Hopefully our work situation will break wide open in the spring.

The local thanks Sister Janelle Dejean and Bro. Alvin Riley for their recent participation at the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus national conference in Portland, OR.

Remember, brothers and sisters, to keep all your safety courses and certifications up to date so we can staff the industrial jobs in our jurisdiction in an emergency event. Please apply for your TWIC (Transportation Workers Identification Credentials) card if you haven't already done so.

Sandy Theriot, P.S.

Negotiations Under Way

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We congratulate Asst. Bus. Mgr./Recruiter John Taylor on his announced retirement and wish him the very best. Also, congratulations to Bro. Ron Cummings on his appointment to the position vacated by John, and we wish him well in his new post.

The next few months will be very active for Local 146 as our contractual agreements will be opened for negotiations. The sign shop bargaining began in February; the inside agreement expires in May, and the residential and Eastern Illinois University agreements in August. With the current economic conditions we expect tough negotiating.

We encourage all members to attend their respective union meetings and get the facts, not jobsite rumors. Have a safe, productive spring.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

Scholarships Available

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—The SPARKS 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off was held and if you didn't attend, you missed a great variety of good chili. There were 15 different entries so everyone could find one that they liked. If you missed the event, mark your calendar next time it comes around and be sure to attend.

It comes as no surprise to those of us in the building trades, but unemployment in the construction industry continues to run in excess of 18 percent. It is heartbreaking to see so many good brothers and sisters out of work and struggling to hang on financially.

Brothers Larry Grams, Jim Sychala and Fred Russell recently retired. Congratulations to them and many warm wishes for long and healthy retirements. Brother Leonard Taylor retired on disability.

Scholarship applications are available at the hall. The scholarship is open to all full-time students. Applications must be returned by Friday, April 30, 2010.

Please take a few minutes to read your Safety Newsletter from our Safety Committee. It contains important information regarding temporary panel boards and power distribution safety. If you have any ideas on how to keep unauthorized personnel from accessing jobsite panel boards and switchgear please contact the safety committee.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Photovoltaic Training

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—We had a pretty busy November and December 2009. Some of the work we were planning on for early 2010 at Point Beach Nuclear Plant got postponed, hopefully to a future date. The spring outage will not require the manpower that was originally thought. We had a few larger commercial jobs that took members off the book also come to an end. There are a few other larger commercial jobs starting in 2010 that we are doing whatever we can to secure. Our local, like many other locals, is trying to get through the rough economic times and get back to work.

Local 158 had 15 members complete an advanced photovoltaic systems training class. At this writing, 20 additional members are enrolled in another class. Interest in the classes has been very good. Our three trainers—Jesse Michalski, Andrew Reinhard and Keith Ruben—are doing an outstanding job. The more trained the better for our local as well for the industry.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Barry Hammond Mourned



L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NY—Local 164 sustained a tremendous loss on Dec. 20, 2009, with the passing of Vice Pres. Barry M. Hammond as a result of cancer.

Local 164 mourns the passing of Vice Pres. Barry M. Hammond.

Bus. Mgr. Richard Dressel called Barry "The Very Best Brother" in the entire union. Barry could have been

the original model for the Code of Excellence. He worked for more than 20 years as the foreman at a large corporate complex, keeping the customer happy and the facility running like a clock. He always treated the men and women who worked for him with dignity and respect. He upheld the rules and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Barry was perhaps the most active member of the local. He headed our Volunteer Committee as well as the Project Grandma Committee, a committee dedicated to raising money to help breast cancer patients, survivors and their families.

Barry was constantly out working with the volunteer committee members helping many civic organizations in need of a helping hand by doing what we do best, installing electrical equipment with donated material and labor. He was chairman of the outing committee for numerous years; he always came out for labor walks and rallies and he was a constant that we could always count on whenever anything needed to be done.

Billy Joel said in one of his songs, "Only the Good Die Young." He was right on the mark with Barry. He was the best of the best, and he will be sorely missed by all at Local 164 who knew and loved him.

John M. DeBouter, Pres.

Local to Dedicate Memorial

L.U. 176 (es,i,rts&spa), JOLIET, IL—On Workers Memorial Day, April 28, Local 176 will dedicate a memorial to the 12 known local members who lost their lives due to illness or injury suffered on the job. The bronze memorial will read: "The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers owes its existence to the concept of working men and women in the electrical trade standing united. When one of our own loses his or her life in the course of making a living at our trade, it is a loss to the entire IBEW family. In honor of our brothers and sisters who have lost their lives on the job, we, the members of IBEW Local 176, dedicate this Memorial so that they will be kept alive in our Brotherhood."

We honor the late Lloyd Butterfield, Olvin Davis, Walter E. Ollom, Joseph E. Colmane, Delmar C. Schulte, Don Bilyeu, Donald F. "Syd" Hammen, Stokley Henderson, Brad Dado, James F. Elliot, Greg Briddick and Lloyd Tinsman on April 28 and will remember and appreciate their service and sacrifice forever.

Mark Ferry, V.P.

Scoreboard Installations

L.U. 180 (c,i&st), VALLEJO, CA—The local provided a number of scoreboards to fields and courts in 2009. These projects were funded by the membership under the theme, "IBEW & California Schools Building Careers Together." Vacaville's Georgie Duke Center—installed by A&F Electric; Vacaville Christian School—installed by Mills Electric; Justin-Siena High School in Napa—installed by Napa Electric.

Funding difficulties for future community benefit projects require us to think more creatively. For most of 2009 we assisted in the development of green jobs that will improve our efforts in returning the hundreds of existing green collar IBEW members out of work. So as the scoreboards relay the message of building careers together, we are now stimulating the green movement for renewable and retrofit projects.



Dave Mills (top right), of Mills Electric, donated labor for a scoreboard installation under less than ideal weather conditions. IBEW Local 180 provided scoreboards for several area projects.

Our first project includes teaming with a local renewable developer and Camp Fire. We will host a one-week photovoltaic (PV) boot camp for the Camp Fire's Green Team. Afterward, one of our local contractors will supervise the Green Team's installation of a PV power pumping system at the elementary school farm. Those who wish to help with this worthy cause and put a local face to IBEW should contact Michael Smith at Local 180.



Local 196 holds a stewards training class.

Michael C. Smith, B.A.

Stewards Training Class

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our outside construction remains very slow as of this writing. Many thanks to the surrounding locals for providing work opportunities for our members.

We recently held a stewards training class presented by Sixth District Int. Rep. Don Woolridge and Int. Rep. Clarence "C.J." King, regional trainer for the Education Department. [Photo above.] The class went very well. Our members who attended provided positive feedback on the class and we appreciate the reps and stewards giving up a Saturday to attend.

Chuck Harrington, our organizer, retired after 35 years of IBEW service. We wish him a happy retirement. He is union through and through and we appreciate his contributions to our local.

We have ongoing problems with one of our line contractors in our jurisdiction, as the company continually attempts to circumvent its obligations under the contract. The company now claims it does not have to provide PPE, personal protective equipment, (flame resistant clothing) to our members who worked for them on a wind farm, and we have grieved the violation. "Safety First" must mean "safety when convenient or cost effective" to some contractors. Stay involved in your local union; work safe and make your voice heard in every election. Vote!

Eric Patrick, B.M.



Local 234 receives certificate for the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program. From left are: Training Dir. Ed Sudyka, Bus. Mgr. Ken Scherpinski and Pres. Andy Hartmann.

Monterey Bay Green Business

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—Local 234 recently achieved certification as a "Green Business" for the Monterey Bay area.

The Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program is a partnership of local governments, environmental agencies, utilities and nonprofit organizations that assist, recognize and promote businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in an environmentally responsible way. To be certified

"green," participants must be in compliance with all regulations and meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste. More information and our green business listing may be found at <http://bit.ly/ibewgreen>.

Andy Hartmann, Pres.



IBEW Local 280 members gathered for a "Save our Jobs" rally at the Oregon state Capitol, sending a message to political leaders in advance of upcoming elections. Carrying the IBEW banner were members Phil Garcia (right) and John Payne (obscured from view). Organizer Bill Kisselburgh coordinated the rally.

Facebook Data Center Project

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Good news for Local 280 came this winter with Facebook company breaking ground on its custom data center in Prineville, OR, as this article is written. This job will employ approximately 60 of our members, employ all our-out-of-work apprentices at its peak and should last seven months to a year in duration. Bro./Organizer Bill Kisselburgh is teaching "Code of Excellence" classes to make sure that the general contractor, DPR Construction of San Jose, CA, sees the best in IBEW trained wireman.

A pat on the back is deserved for Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew and Dispatcher Tom Baumann for working with Local 424, Edmonton, Alberta, to send our members to work on the oil sands projects. Both Tim and Tom spent countless hours working through the red tape of customs, licensing, referral, etc., to get Local 280 members working again.

2009 is behind us and it was a very tough year economically and in brotherhood. We lost some very good union brothers in 2009 and Local 280 grieves for deceased members Bernard Cooke, Scott Hurst, Ross Westbrook, Ron Meyers, Derek Keith, Jeff Clontz, Dave Campbell, John Howard and Ron Petsch. We all will miss them. Please have a safe 2010 and come to the union meetings!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

Support for Vermont Yankee

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Despite a vote by the Vermont Senate to close the state's only nuclear power plant, a coalition of construction unions maintain their support for Vermont Yankee, a unionized nuclear power facility whose license is up for renewal in 2012.

The Vermont Building and Construction Trades Council is a partnership of 15 labor unions that represent several thousand workers—many of whom work at Vermont Yankee as both year-round employees and subcontractors. A founding affiliate of the council, IBEW Local 300 represents approximately 200 permanent, full-time Vermont Yankee employees. In addition, IBEW electricians and apprentices have logged thousands of hours working for subcontractors at the plant. A typical refueling outage temporarily employs 1,100 trade workers.

"Closing Vermont Yankee will effectively squash hundreds of union jobs that pay wages far exceeding the norm for our area," said IBEW Local 300 Pres. George Clain. "Eliminating these careers, along with the almost certain rise of statewide electricity rates if Vermont Yankee exits our energy portfolio, is not in the best interests of working Vermonters. Nor is it responsible to chase off an employer that annually pumps millions in payroll, state and local taxes, as well as \$100 million in economic activity into the coffers."

Vermont Yankee, a 650-megawatt power plant, employs 650 people and provides more than one-third of the state's electricity at the lowest costs in New England. Vermont Yankee personnel get intensive, year-round training—a key factor in recently receiving a Green Mountain Voluntary Protection Program STAR flag from the Vermont Department of Labor for exemplary commitment to workplace safety.

"Given our turbulent economy, Vermont is in need of quality jobs and access to reasonably priced, low-carbon, domestically-produced energy. Vermont Yankee provides both," said Clain. "Renewable power sources and efficiency should definitely be in the mix and will create jobs, but cannot reasonably be expected to replace Vermont Yankee in the near term. Now is not the time to gamble with so many livelihoods."

Matthew Lash, P.S.

2009 Lineman's Rodeo

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—Local 304 sponsored 28 members at the 26th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo held Oct. 17, 2009. The construction apprentices helped in preparing the grounds. Seven journeyman teams and seven apprentices competed, with the winning team from Wichita receiving top place in three events, and taking 3rd Place in Overall for World Champions Luke Justice, Clint Tankersley and Donnie Johannsen. Midwest Energy sponsored four teams and three apprentices.

Congratulations to all who participated: Randy VanNess, J. J. Pitts, Nathan Pineau, Nick Krueger, Cody Krueger, Dan White, Jonah Longenecker, Jake Adkins, Drew Sweany, Sam Lobb, Greg McDaniel, Dave Shockley, Justin Kennedy, Todd Theel, David Evans, Loren Zook, Rob Mattal, Rich Toledo, Shane Wente, Justin Church, Derek Jones, Travis Dinges, Nathan Schippers, Bill Nowlin, Kevin McCarvill, Mike Stremel, Kevin Renz, Alex Breeding, Chris Traylor, Daniel Hodges, Ryan Janzen, Brad Fairbanks, Carl Wiseley II, Mark Gustafson, Brandon Jones, Jarrod

Konecny, Michael Finnegan, Dustin Kibel, Tru Knudsen and Jake Dozier.

We are proud of all who participated in the rodeo. Thanks also to all judges who volunteered.

Paul Lira, B.M.

Service Award Honorees

L.U. 306 (j), AKRON, OH—Service awards were presented at our December 2009 monthly meeting. Honoring hundreds of cumulative years of membership and service, in good years and bad, in all kinds of weather, these awards represent what mere words cannot express.

Presented 60-year awards were: Robert Adolph and Wilbur Repp Sr. Receiving 55-year awards—Harold Albright, Franklin Bowers, Robert Cannady, Anthony Felber, Norman Hisao, Donald Kingan, Ronald Peck, Donald Schofield, Alvin Tasker, Joseph Tassone and John Weber; 50-year awards—Frank Bindreiter, Gary Carpenter, Richard Dewitt, Gerald Ferrell, William Hose and Glenn Stoltz.; and 25-year awards—Blaine Peck, David Romito, Michael Sutter, Frank Tyler and Thomas Wright.

Congratulations to all the awardees and thank you for mentoring our younger members during your careers.

The economy is news, along with national health care—and the situation reminds me of the TV game show "Wheel of Fortune." Congress keeps spinning the wheel, collecting money from various sources while doing so, and we keep waiting for it to land on the right spot!

Get current with CPR, wear your PPE (personal protective equipment) everyday; and most of all, may you have work.

Bob Sallaz, P.S.

Solar PV Safety Training

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—IBEW Local 332 and the San Jose International Association of Fire Fighters are working together to educate union fire fighters from across northern California about the electrical hazards first responders encounter from the increasing number of solar photovoltaic installations in the region. At our Santa Clara Electrical JATC, the latest class of new recruits to the San Jose Fire Department participated in sessions geared toward general utility hazard awareness and specific hazards present at occupancies with solar PV systems installed.

At another recent event, The 'Nobody Gets Left Behind' Training Group (<http://leerescue.com>) held workshops for fire fighters at the IBEW Local 332 union hall. Fire fighters from across northern California participated. We are proud to work with our brothers and sisters in the IAFF to provide safety education for our dedicated emergency responders.

David Bear, Organizer

Local Honors All Veterans

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—Last fall, Local 340 unveiled the IBEW Local 340 Veterans Memorial Park, built in honor of all IBEW Local 340 active, retired and deceased veterans of all wars. This park is a small token of the appreciation we feel toward the courageous men and women who sacrifice their lives so the rest of us can be free. The idea for this small gathering site was the inspiration

Local Lines



Attending dedication of IBEW Local 340's Veterans Memorial Park are, from left: JATC Asst. Tom Okumura, Instructors Jim Hegarty and Ken Irwin, and JATC Training Dir. Dennis Morin.

of Local 340 Bro. Lud Larson, now deceased; Bro. Larson's family planted a tree in the park in his honor. The labor for the park was done by our JATC instructors and some rank and file members. Be sure to check out the site when you come by the business office. The Memorial Park is located right behind our Training Center.

Local 340 is still holding its own in 2010. So far, no big jobs have laid off members and we feel very fortunate our work has remained steady since August 2009. At the time of this writing in February, a good majority of our members are working.

I am saddened to report the passing of Bro. Herbert Clements, Art Stone, Lloyd Dunwald, Jerome Milota and Willie D. Mock Jr.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Members Politically Active

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—One of Local 364 Bus. Mgr. Darrin Golden's most often spoken adages regarding politics is when he rhetorically asks: "Who better to represent organized labor politically than members of organized labor?"

In February Local 364 Bros. Ray Pendzinski and Paul Williams ran as Democrats for Illinois State Representative of the 69th and 68th Districts, respectively, and they both garnered our PAC's endorsement as well as that of the Illinois AFL-CIO. Bro. Pendzinski has the primary for the Boone/northeast Winnebago County area sewn up, having no opponent; while Bro. Williams was unfortunately bested by his Democratic challenger in the northern Winnebago County area.

In other election news, numerous Local 364 members ran unopposed as Democratic Party precinct committeemen to better represent working families and organized labor within the Winnebago County Democratic Party. They are: Bros. Patrick Elliott, Ed Ure, Tim Tammen, Matt Horn, Chris Dismuke, Matt

New Brunswick, NJ, Local 456 members work on Habitat for Humanity project. From left, front row, Pres. Michael McLaughlin and young "assistants" Kevin, Ryan and Nick, Michael Villanueva, Steve Amador, Carlos Gomez; back row, John Mulvey, Bryan Georges, Steve Tatarka, Ken Tallman, retired member Bill McEvoy, Kevin Stevens and Tim Kenny.



Shutte, Jimmy Liebgott, Paul Williams, Oscar Garza, Patrick Cooling, Tony Satterlee, Gary Adams, Matt Michel, Tyler Hillman, Patrick Tomlin, Tom Sink, Charlie Laskonis and Darrin Golden Thanks to all of them for making this commitment.

Please remember to vote and encourage your friends and family to vote for friends of labor at every opportunity.

Ray Pendzinski, P.S.

Spearville Wind Energy

L.U. 412 (u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 412 is engaged in contract negotiations with Kansas City Power & Light Company.

The Spearville Wind Energy Facility added 100.5 megawatts of emission-free, environmentally friendly energy generation to KCP&L. There are 67 towers currently. The size of the site is approximately 5,000 acres, and each turbine takes up about one acre of land, while the remainder is farmed.

Three jobs have been posted for this facility, with three more coming by year's end. These positions were secured by Local 412. These positions were not previously covered by the Local 412 collective bargaining unit agreement. The city of Spearville, KS, is located approximately 130 miles west of Wichita, KS, and 200 miles northwest of Oklahoma City and has a population of 813.

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.

'A Bright Future'

L.U. 456 (i&o), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—As we begin the next decade, the strength of our members and the work of our leaders have painted a bright future for our local. Even through last year's economic crisis, we have been able to battle back and improve our employment future. The leadership has worked hard in tackling the many critical issues we have had to face as a local. Between unemployment, benefits, political backlash, and the non-stop war to preserve our craft, the officers of this local and our membership have shown that we are committed to maintaining our way of life.

The money we invested into the market recovery fund has, again this year, shown to be a valuable tool and has helped us to maintain employment. One project alone created more than \$2 million in salaries and benefits. With President Obama's Recovery Act and the responsible use of employment tools such as the market recovery fund, we have been able to move ahead through this economic climate.

Please make every effort to attend meetings.

Wayne Martiak, P.S.



Among Local 538 members who recently retired are, from left: Frank "Doc" Norman, Michael "Mick" Burch and Steve Millsbaugh.

Members Complete NFPA Course

L.U. 538 (i), DANVILLE, IL—Congratulations to recent retirees: George Pratt, Steve Pratt, Tom Boyle, Clarence "Reggie" Mullins, Frank "Doc" Norman, Michael "Mick" Burch and Steve Millsbaugh. You will be missed.

Members who completed a NFPA 70E course last December are: Jim Bailey, Sky Bailey, Scott Callahan Sr., John Gallez, Kevin Goepfner, Matt Hinchee, Wylie McIntosh, John Millsbaugh, Kim Millsbaugh, Errol Mussatto, Chris Nelson, Jeff Owen, Tom Peach, Kathie Porter, Mark Price, John Scott, Bob Singleton, Jim Seibold and Mike Walters. The JATC thanks the journeymen for their interest in continued education. Special thanks to Eric Biernbaum, of Terre Haute, IN, Local 725, who taught the course. Please contact the JATC office with any education requests and/or questions.

The local's 2009 Christmas party, held after the December meeting, was enjoyed and well-attended by members, a few retirees, and former business manager Steve Myers.

Volunteer work continues with Habitat for Humanity. Leading the project is Rex Modglin. Member volunteers on various area projects include: Mike Noel, Rey Teran, David Boothe, Zach Montgomery, Joe Stelzer, Scott Price, Amanda Rice, James Garrett Jr., Mark Price, Sue Modglin, Larry Van Vickle, Chuck Briggs, Doug Hamilton, John Moore, Reggie Mullins, Kathie Porter and Jim Bailey. Material was donated by Illinois Chapter Danville Division NECA. Please contact Rex if you wish to volunteer.

Union meetings: 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Kathie Porter, Training Dir.

The Puck Drops in Stratford

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—The City of Stratford is known worldwide for its Shakespeare Festival but this community took center stage in a different production this past January, as host site for the 10th annual Tim Hortons Hockey Day in Canada.

Electricity filled the air as this municipality prepared for a starring role in a Canadian tradition celebrated from coast to coast, and around the globe. With numerous activities planned—both indoors and outdoors—and the CBC broadcast trucks rolling into town for this event, crews from Festival Hydro were called off the bench to make sure that all their energy needs were met.

Members of Local 636 (Unit 15) supported the team in a variety of ways: hanging banners and billboards (that included the IBEW logo); installing temporary transformers; running secondary lines through surface ducts; connecting sea containers that served as distribution centres and; making sure that there were plenty of lights on the Avon and Lake Victoria—for family fun and a little 'shiny' on the many rinks made

by volunteers. All proceeds from the day were shared by Stratford Hockey and the Hockey Night in Canada Help Fund. The IBEW is proud of our sisters and brothers for lending a helping hand in an event that scored a victory for kids and their community!

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.



Stanley visits Stratford: Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson (left) joins IBEW Local 636 Bus. Rep. Tracy O'Meara (center) and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Rick Wacheski for a photo with hockey's holy grail, the Stanley Cup—on display as part of Hockey Day in Canada.

Innovation & Market Share

L.U. 640 (em,govt,i,mo,mt,rts,spa&u), PHOENIX, AZ—Two of our contractors, G&S Electric and Parsons Electric, along with Local 640 are currently promoting innovative programs geared to IBEW members that will simplify the process for journeyman wiremen to install solar voltaic systems on their homes. The companies will offer assistance in obtaining permits, engineering, rebates and financing. Both will provide training, enabling the journeymen to perform the complete installation. These new programs will showcase IBEW craftsmanship and pride within the communities where members live, and should prove to be effective marketing tools for our involved contractors to expand our industry's market in the renewable sector.

G&S Electric has successfully obtained numerous solar projects at Arizona State University in various capacities around 1.5 megawatts. G&S Electric takes great pride in its use of union made panels and inverters. In addition to its expanding renewable energy sector work, Parsons Electric secured the contract for the new Arizona Diamondbacks training facility. We appreciate all of our contractors that continue to exhibit the innovation and ability to think outside the box and find success in this extremely competitive market.

Frank Cissne, P.S.

A Better Year Ahead

L.U. 648 (em,i,spa&u), HAMILTON, OH—The Local 648 Kid's Christmas Party was a huge success last year with more than 100 children and grandchildren and their families celebrating the holiday season with a visit and a gift from Santa.

This past year has been a tough one for Local 648 members with the rough economic times, but work has picked up a little and the EPA permit was issued for the new coke plant coming to our area. This project should put nearly 100 of our members to work, along with more than 400 additional building trades members. With this project off the ground, 2010 should be a much better year for our local.

Jeff McGuffey, P.S.

Centennial Celebration in May

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Congratulations to recent graduates: Enrico Adkins, Robert Allen, Donald Anderson, Dawn Bein-Rivera, Richard Bradley, Omar Burrow, Billy Butler, Kenneth Dean, John Edmundson III, Cody Garrett, Mark Graves, Charles Gresham, Jesse Gunn, David Hague, Cameron Harler, Demond Harris, Aaron Heidlebaugh, Brandon Jones, Telly Keys, James Lewis, John Merridew, Mark Mobley, Boyd Payne, Michael Roberts, Gerald Thomas, Arvin Thornton, William Utley and Brian West. Recipients of the Outstanding Apprentice of the Year Award were: Cody Garrett, David Hague and Michael Roberts.

Cody Garrett also received the Virginia Outstanding Apprentice Award for 2009, awarded by Virginia Apprenticeship Council at a ceremony held Dec. 10, 2009. Thank you, Cody, for giving our union some much-needed attention!

Our new retirees are: Lloyd Deane, David Chambers, Ronald Jackson, Dennis Sims, Donald Shinn, Robert Game, Bruce Bachman and John Owen III.

We mourn the loss of Michael Schooff and Donald Welch.

On May 28, Local 666 will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Centennial Committee is planning a memorable celebration.

Work is slow in our area with many projects being pushed back or cancelled. It is more important than ever that we stick together during these tough times. Please make every effort to get involved with your local.

Kendra Logan, P.S.

May 15 Union Picnic

L.U. 684 (c,i,rts&st), MODESTO, CA—The arrival of a new year means it's time to plan our events. At the January meeting it was announced that the union picnic has changed venues and will now be held at Winton Park in Winton. Winton Park is located at the corner of Winton Way and Olive Avenue. Winton Park has everything Hagan Park has with the addition of two more horseshoe pits, at least 10 more covered benches and a volleyball court. The IBEW Local 684 picnic will be held May 15. It will be great fun as it always is—see you there. If you wish to be in the horseshoe tournament, please RSVP to Linda at the hall with you and your partner's names.

IBEW Local 684, in conjunction with the Northern California Chapter of NECA, donated another scoreboard, this time to Modesto Junior College East Campus. The work was done by Matt Paine, Adam Jautais and Bus. Mgr. Billy Powell. Local 684 and NorCal NECA have donated a total of five scoreboards to help get our name and services out to the public.

A reminder: the Retirees Breakfast is the last Wednesday of every month at the Old Mill Café at 9 a.m.

Allen Avalos, P.S.

Update from Mansfield

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—We welcome apprentice Jared Clady, who was inducted as a new member on Oct. 13, 2009.

A delicious dinner and fine show featuring an Eagles tribute band was held at the Palace Theater in Marion on Oct. 10, 2009. Thank you to Owens Electric and the IBEW Local 688-NECA Labor Management Committee for sponsoring the event.

John Wallery was appointed as Local 688 president in October 2009. Dan Lloyd was appointed as the new Local 699 vice president in November 2009.

The AFL-CIO entered a float in the annual Mansfield Holiday Parade. IBEW Local 688 members who participated were Jerry Conrad and his daughter Madison; Dan Lloyd and his family; and Carl Neutzling.

Local 688 raised \$224 for the United Way through member donations.

Thank you to Jim Herrick and Harold Walker, who cooked walleye and perch for our annual Christmas party last year. Congratulations to Rich Rondy on the birth of his new twins, and to Andy Biglin, Mike Dishon and Don Geary for the new additions to their families.

We mourn the passing of former contractors William Linkenbach and Leo Laffey. We extend condolences to their families.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

Work Outlook Picks Up

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—We have 135 on Book 1 and almost 900 on Book 2. And we don't foresee getting into Book 2 in 2010. The work outlook has picked up with a couple of bigger jobs and school work.

Local members recently completed the DCS 8 Upgrade at Consumers Energy's Karn/Weadock plant. With more than 5,000 terminations, many obstacles and one big hurdle, members were able to complete their outage work on schedule in a window of just over a month. There was plenty of support from CE Local 144 during the outage.

Many organizations opposing clean coal do not fully understand how far American coal plants have come. Coal is still the No. 1 source for energy. America has the biggest coal reserves in the world. Today plants are far cleaner and safer than they have ever been, thanks to regulations and upgrades. Americans really need to help America.

Continued thanks to all our brother locals for helping keep our members employed in these times.

Tom Bartosek, P.S.



IBEW Local 692 members working at the Karn/Weadock plant include, from left: Jeff Kehoe, Nick Calkins, Bob Parr, Sid Render, Mike Sitkowski, Tom Bartosek, Mike Eddy, Adam Thompson, Jerry Montgomery, Bob Hurley, Chuck Combs and Brian Ciesla.

Projects Starting Up

L.U. 716 (em,i,lct,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—The 2010 work picture started out slower than we anticipated. Some projects were put on hold because of the weather and the economy. Now that our weather has cleared, projects are starting up and contractors are putting in calls. Our books should be clear by summer.

Thanks to all who participated in the Aetna Wellness Program, we had a great response. This should help us when our medical insurance comes up for renewal. If you did not participate in this program, please make note that your deductibles and co-pays did increase. For more information, call the Electrical Medical Trust office for a list of changes.

The hall conducted a Foreman Training Class and hosted a New Contractor Seminar. We also participated in the Houston St. Patrick's Day event, the Cesar Chavez parade, and the Extreme Home Makeover project in Kemah, TX, for a Local 66 member and his family. Many thanks to all who donated time and support for the Home Makeover project.

A reminder to members: The last Code Update Class for state licensing for this year will be held Sat., May 8.

Keep up to date about local union business; visit our Web site ibew716@ibew716.net.

John E. Easton Jr., B.M./F.S.

Prevailing Wage Attacked

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—On Feb. 17 the local newspaper published a front-page article about the new privately funded aerospace company SpaceX. Less than a month prior it was announced that NASA will abandon the Constellation program that has already spent \$9 billion, in taxpayer dollars, and turn space exploration over to private companies. [See "Outsourcing Space: IBEW Workers Face End of Shuttle Era," *The Electrical Worker*, January 2010.]



IBEW Local 716 members, joined by Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John E. Easton Jr. (front row center, dark shirt), participated in an Extreme Home Makeover project.

These private companies are still funded with public money. Space X doesn't hide the fact that NASA has contributed more than \$200 million to their experiment. Because this endeavor is labeled "private," it has been exempt from the Davis-Bacon Act throughout construction on U.S. Air Force property.

Watch out, America—big business couldn't get Davis-Bacon repealed so now they figured out how to work around it. It's not just construction either; maintenance workers enjoying service contract protections are also under attack. These private companies that will be funded publicly will also be exempt from paying prevailing wage for maintenance. And those nonunion workers enjoying union-negotiated wages at the space center without joining our ranks—there will be a surprise in their paychecks, too.

A rally themed "SOS — Save our Space Industry" was held Feb. 27 in Titusville, FL, a city that neighbors the space facility. We hope to grab the attention of the public and the politicians. Maybe we can stop or slow down this race to the bottom. I apologize for not sounding more upbeat, but I'm watching a place where tradesman could make a decent wage, while participating in the awe-inspiring space industry, go down the drain. I hope I'm wrong.

Daniel Hunt, P.S.

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Local Lines

'On The Move'

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—IBEW Local 760 is on the move in 2010, with political activity, volunteering, contract negotiations and more.

Recently two elected officials—Tennessee state Sen. Tim Burchett (Knox County mayoral candidate) and Tennessee state Rep. Harry Brooks—stopped by the local union offices and met with members.

State of Tennessee 2010 election dates are as follows: May 4 - county primary; Aug. 5—state primary and county general election; and Nov. 2—state general election.

2009 was “the year of contract extensions,” with one-year extensions for the following contracts: Inside Construction, Knoxville Utilities Board and Sound and Construction.

For 2010, scheduled Local 760 contract negotiations include: Sevier County Utility, Inside Construction, Lenoir City Utility Board, Sound and Communications, TN Statewide Outside, and Knoxville Utilities Board.

George A. Bove, B.M./F.S.

'Not the Time to Retreat'

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—“Now is not the time to retreat.”—Those were the words spoken to us by AFL-CIO Executive Vice Pres. Arlene Holt-Baker at a recent jobs rally/town hall meeting here in Charleston.

In a tribute to the 10th anniversary of the historic and victorious solidarity movement to “Free the Charleston 5” (ILA Local 1422 longshoremen who stood courageously in the struggle to defend dockworkers’ union jobs at the Port of Charleston), Holt-Baker took the time to listen to the concerns of all the different unions locally.

Among the speakers at the jobs rally was one of our own, King Singletary of IBEW Local 776, who spoke about having sporadic work over the past two years, interrupted health insurance and the resultant toll on family life. After listening, Holt-Baker gave an inspiring speech on not giving up and reminding us that we have to be *bold* to turn around the economy. Referrals have been slow, but we are far from giving up.

Chuck Moore, B.M.

Family Fun Day & Solidarity

L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL—Recently Bus. Mgr. Robert Prunn asked for volunteers to form a Solidarity Committee. The goal was to find ways to get more members involved and strengthen unity. The first event planned was a Family Fun Day at the hall on Sunday, Jan. 31. More than 350 members, family and friends attended making the day an outstanding success.



Local 824 Pres. Erik Jones greets IBEW/NECA-sponsored ARCA race car driver Alli Owens at the local's Family Fun Day.

Solidarity Committee planners were: Ben Navarre, Jody Irish, April O'Neal, Zaida Menendez, Harry Kooshak, Fred Lauper, Melissa Vivian, Lynette Ettouati, Tina Tyler, Pam Elleby and Frank Leonetti. The Fun Day included bounce houses, face painting, volleyball, sack races and more. The dedicated cooking crew was led by Bobby Bellott with assistance from Jeff Lane, Bob Dixon, Scott Craddock, Noah Kaaa, Wendell Greenhalgh and Robert Bellott Sr. The cooking team got started at 2 a.m. and provided a great spread including ribs, pulled pork and much more.

Pres. Erik Jones arranged a special appearance by Alli Owens, an ARCA race car driver sponsored by the IBEW and NECA. Owens talked to members, signed autographs and thrilled the stock car buffs by displaying her race car.

Many volunteers assisted the Solidarity Committee and cooking crew. Thanks to all who helped make the day a huge success, reminding everyone that the union helps us keep our families strong.

Dawn Livingston, P.S.

Service Pins Awarded

L.U. 910 (ees,i&t), WATERTOWN, NY—Local 910 members received service pins at the December 2009 regular meeting in Watertown and at the satellite meeting in Plattsburgh. For those who reached a service milestone last year but were unable to attend the meeting, pins were sent

out by mail. For additional photos of members receiving their pins, please go to the Local 910 Web site www.ibew910.org and click on the announcements page. Congratulations to all!

Bro. Paul Cochran received his 70-year award and pin. Bro. Cochran was initiated in 1939. He stayed active in the trade for 42 years as a journeyman wireman until his retirement in 1981. Congratulations, Bro. Cochran!

Last winter work slowed down some. Projects this spring will increase with more wind farm work on Fort Drum and college work.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

'Respect Earned'

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Respect among union members is something that Bro. Jesse Eckenrod earned during his 37 years of service at Tucson Electric Power, serving as an E-Board officer, steward and sitting on various committees. Jesse and Bros. Pete Roll, Chuck Hart, Cal Ishikawa and Ben Alvarez (who were also involved in various committees or stewardship, benefiting our local) retired in February. All had 30 or more years of union membership. Our local wishes to express great appreciation for their dedication and we wish them all the best. As in the past, our local now looks to all fellow members to get involved.

In late winter, our region experienced snow storms that kept Bro. John Dungan, Trico Electric Cooperative unit chairman, and other Trico members busy until power was restored with some assistance



Local 1116 Bro. Jess Eckenrod gives a “thumbs-up” at his retirement breakfast, noting that it’s a sure thing this time.

from TEP and Bro. Al Cain operating the TEP snow cat. Just goes to show that management and union can work together when the need arises to get power restored and meet the customers’ needs.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

Georgia Labor Leader of the Year

L.U. 1316 (i&o), MACON, GA—Local 1316 Bus. Mgr. Johnny Mack Nickles was recognized as Georgia Labor Leader of the Year for 2009, by the Georgia State AFL-CIO Labor Awards Committee, in Atlanta, GA. Bro. Nickles entered the electrical trade in 1967 and completed his IBEW apprenticeship in 1972.

Bro. Nickles was elected president of IBEW Local 1316 in 1981. He became assistant business manager of Local 1316 in 1990, and was appointed to fill the unexpired term of business manager in 1992.

Nickles has been a trustee from IBEW Local 1316 on the Health Insurance and Pension Fund for the last 17 years. He has been a member of the JATC for 29 years.

He is secretary-treasurer of the Central Georgia Federation of Trades & Labor Council AFL-CIO. In 2005, he was appointed by IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill to serve on the Council on Industrial Relations. In 2006, he was appointed as trustee on the IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan.

Bro. Nickles represents labor on the Workforce Development Task Force in Bibb County, GA. He was appointed to the Job Training Partnership Act and Workforce Investment Board in 1994 by former Georgia governor Zell Miller.

Michael H. Gardner, P.S./Organizer



IBEW Local 1316 Bus. Mgr. Johnny Mack Nickles (second from right) is named 2009 Georgia Labor Leader of the Year. Attending the ceremony are, from left: Georgia State AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Ray, an IBEW Local 84 member; IBEW Int. Rep. Fielding Gurley; Nickles and his wife, Pat Nickles.

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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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 is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks 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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FROM THE OFFICERS**Accountability**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

that we would have a seat at the table for every issue, but at least we would be off the menu. And that has proven to be true.

We don't discount the very real progress that has been made in the last year, from the appointment of the outstanding Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to Obama's efforts to get our economy moving again by investing in our infrastructure. If you are tempted to give the other side another shot, remember not one Republican on Capitol Hill offered any input into the health care reform fight that went much beyond the word "No!"

Still, even with our allies in control, this year has reminded us once again that organized labor has to fight for every step on the road to progress for working families. We labored long and hard to make sure we got a health care bill that did no harm to our existing plans and provided the basis of strengthening them as well as extending coverage to more Americans. And as of this writing, much needed reform of our labor laws is still not in the pipeline.

There is only one answer, and that is accountability. Our members, and those who voted like us, didn't elect President Obama, Vice President Biden and members of the House and Senate to maintain the status quo. We wanted and expected change and to be part of the process of creating it. That is still our goal, and we will let our elected officials know that the real America is heard in union halls, work sites and communities, not on Fox News or the tea parties. Let's all deliver that message. ■

Real Life in Ohio

Here's a snapshot of life in the North America of 2010 from Ohio, one of our hardest-hit areas:

Nick Comstock was more than willing to recommend his members approve giving the AFL-CIO's community services agency room in their local union hall for a food pantry to help unemployed union members.

But Comstock, business manager of Dayton, Ohio, Local 82, is still angry that hard-working men and women are forced to swallow their pride just to feed their families. Ruined lives are everywhere around him.

In 2006, Local 82 merged with the local that represented 60 manufacturing members from A.O. Smith, a producer of small appliances. Only 11 workers are left at the plant that once employed 900. The Dayton region has lost 55,000 jobs since 2000.

It wasn't so long ago that Dayton was a hotbed of tool and dye making plants. When General Motors shut down its one there in December 2008, none were left.

The membership of the Dayton-Miami Valley AFL-CIO has plummeted from 36,000 to 5,000. The United Way sold its building and now Comstock is making plans to move Executive Director Wes Wells into the Local 82 hall. Last year, says Wells, the pantry gave out food for 270,000 meals to families, many of whom were once sustained by good-paying jobs at General Motors and Delphi.

Out of 870 inside wiremen, Local 82 has 190 out of work. That's a better percentage than many others, but it's small consolation in a broken industrial landscape.

Last week—up the street from the union hall—Comstock passed a picket line outside one of the few manufacturing facilities left in Dayton. Machinists there hadn't struck in 39 years, but now they were fighting for their jobs. The company wasted no time lining up buses to carry replacement workers through the gates. He's offered the local's help.

We can all be proud that Nick Comstock and Local 82, like so many others in our Brotherhood, are always there with open doors and open arms for those who are hurting and struggling.

But our unemployed brothers and sisters need more than our charity. They need their union now more than ever to fight for a continent that manufactures things again. We all need to take up the cause. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

**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.

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Letters to the Editor

Another Republican Roadblock?

I was glad to see International Secretary-Treasurer Lindell Lee write about President Obama's excellent selection of Ms. Hilda Solis as Labor Secretary. It is good for all workers, union and nonunion alike, to have someone of her background and caliber. Solis understands that OSHA regulations are meant to protect workers on the job from the many hazards inherent on the jobsites across the country.

Unfortunately, Senate Republicans have recently succeeded in blocking the nomination of Craig Becker, President Barack Obama's choice for a seat on the National Labor Relations Board. This nomination has been held up with the assistance of two Democrats (Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas) because they say Becker would push an aggressive union agenda at the agency that referees labor disputes between unions and management. I say it's about time that the NLRB has someone who is not intent on tearing down our ability to fairly negotiate working agreements. Please let your senators know that it is time to let this nomination stand and be approved.

Larry Meads
Local 500 member, San Antonio, Texas

What's Wrong With America

OK, so the banking system has been saved from collapse and houses are beginning to sell again, but the catch phrase "jobless recovery" is nothing more than spin. Let us be honest, a jobless recovery is no recovery at all. Wall Street, outsourcing and downsizing created this mess with the help of creative finance (read that "deregulation"). So who benefits the most from the troubled asset relief program, TARP? The very same perpetrators.

The root cause of our economic woes is greed. The robber baron is alive and well in the current economy. The recent payback of TARP funds was motivated by the need for the affluent to escape the limitations of the pay and bonus requirements that are part of accepting the government bailout money.

We need to demand real economic recovery for all.

Mike Schweiger
Local 347 member, Des Moines, Iowa

The problem with America is greed. It runs in big business, Wall Street, our government and the American people. Our government and big business can't figure out how to get our economy jumpstarted with 10 percent unemployment. It's so simple: bring those factories in China, India, Mexico and other countries back into the U.S.A. and we will have jobs, taxes, Social Security, welfare, Medicare and money to spend.

Big business and Wall Street want cheaper labor for higher returns of investment. No jobs in America means we buy just the basic needs. It's biting big business right back. You can't buy anything if you don't have a job.

Our government is greedy because all they know is to borrow and spend. Not to live within their means. Keep the jobs, the factories and the money in the U.S.A.. Pay those overseas the same wage the American people get. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. What this country needs is a return to God, but its master is greed.

George O. Curry
Local 126 member, Philadelphia

Anyone Remember 'Rattler'?

I am a member of L.U. 508, Savannah, Ga., who retired in June 1983. I also worked for a number of years out of Local 613 in Atlanta. I turned 92 on March 10. I think I am the oldest retiree in the Fifth District. I look forward to your newspaper each month.

I'm hoping one of my old working buddies will read this and contact me. They used to call me "Rattler." My phone number is 702-982-7044.

Charles Kessler
Local 508 retiree, Savannah, Georgia

Who We Are

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

Injured Member Aids Burn Survivors

The blast was so sudden that Dave Schury lost all sense of time and space.

While he was performing an otherwise routine switchgear upgrade on a sunny April morning in south Chicago, a rat chewed through some wiring and caused the 12,000-volt piece of equipment to immediately explode—engulfing the Commonwealth Edison Co. area operator in flames and sending searing heat and smoke down his lungs.

Barely breathing and in tremendous pain, Schury was rushed to Cook County Hospital. The next two weeks were critical. With second- and third-degree burns covering 30 percent of his body, the Chicago Local 15 member was clinging to survival one breath at a time.

"It was brutal," Schury said of the 2000 tragedy. "I'll never forget the fear I felt."

With time, he took well to his doctors' treatments. His breathing returned to normal after eight days on a ventilator and his skin began to heal.

"We all strive to find normalcy again."

— Dave Schury, Chicago Local 15 member

Despite all odds, Schury was back on the job four months later, doing the same work he'd done for the company for more than two decades.

"I'm not someone who gives up," Schury said. "And I like what I do for a living. I didn't really want to change career paths. But things were psychologically terrible for the first year. When I had to work on similar equipment, it was scary. I said, 'God, please don't let this happen again.'"

But the more time he put in, the more the fear went away—and the greater sense of peace he gained in the wake of the disaster.

"I had a lot of support from my family and the company," Schury said. "But what was missing was someone who'd experienced something similar to talk me through it."

Recognizing that need, Schury began immersing himself in advocacy for burn victims. One of his first endeavors was volunteering at Camp I Am Me, a summer burn camp program outside of Chicago for children aged 8 to 16. Schury said it was



Chicago Local 15 member Dave Schury serves as a counselor for injured children at Camp I Am Me.

through working with the youth and noting their resilience that he truly started to feel like himself again.

One afternoon at the camp, a youngster came up to him and asked why he was wearing long sleeves.

"We're all the same here at camp," Schury recalled the child saying. "You don't need to hide your burns."

The exchange encouraged Schury to ramp up his activism. Soon, he and his wife Michele were

Schury launched the From Tragedy to Triumph Foundation to help young burn victims regain confidence after their ordeals. One of the foundation's goals is to provide scholarships to families with financial needs so that their children can attend college or enter post-secondary vocational training.

"When a loved one goes through a life-changing tragedy, it affects the entire family," Schury said. "We all strive to find normalcy again. What we realize through any tragedy, once we survive, we are living a 'new normal' life."

With the foundation's first major fundraiser coming up on April 25, members of Local 15 have thrown their support behind Schury by purchasing hundreds of dollars in raffle tickets and donating merchandise for the event.

"You couldn't ask for a nicer guy who's always there in a time of need," Local 15 Business Manager Dean Apple said of Schury. "He's a rare person with a heart of gold, especially when some people these days tend to be all about themselves."

Schury says his advocacy is a reward unto itself.

"When I'm at the burn unit talking with a patient and their family, I start to see their faces going from being stressed to relaxed. What I do, I don't want to do for recognition. The rewards are when I talk to the people and I get a hug or a smile—then I know I made a difference in their lives. That's worth the effort."

For more on the From Tragedy to Triumph Foundation, or to contact Schury regarding burn recovery, visit www.fttf.org. ■

Ontario Locals Pitch in for Volunteer Work



Local 804 retirees Doug Richards, left, Wayne Stevens, Ron Kutazinski, Bob Hutchinson, Thomas Gardner, Harry Holloway and Bob Kaufman helped build a Habitat for Humanity home last fall.

Nearly 20 needy families in Kitchener, Ontario, have new homes, thanks in part to retirees and members of Local 804.

Over the past six years, the retirees have volunteered their expertise, time and skills to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity. They plan to do the electrical work for another 16 homes over the next three years.

"This has been a tremendous effort," said Local 804 President Corina Hicks.

Hicks was one of several members who took part in a

women's-only build for Habitat last year. Some of the Local 804 members gave up a double-time day to be a part of the volunteer effort. Retired members also volunteer for Habitat in Warton, Ontario.

Families who will move into the homes also help with the construction. "They are so appreciative," Hicks said. "They almost can't believe that we're there working for them, and doing it for free."

The retirees have been so successful at their building efforts, they have managed to transform the job sites from mixed union and nonunion volunteers to an all-union effort.

"After two years, they've managed to scoop up all the work," Hicks said. "It's great to be on a union jobsite, even when we're volunteers doing it for a great cause." ■



IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDED ONLY TO IBEW MEMBERS

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

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

RULES FOR ENTRY

Eligibility Checklist

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

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an Honorary Withdrawal for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete personal résumé is required. The résumé should outline education and work history, any special honors or awards, military service, involvement in union, local, civic, community or religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay. The title and topic must be: "How the Founders' Scholarship will benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the electrical industry." The essay must be typed and double-spaced.
7. Applicants must submit a test score from the SAT I or the ACT. NO OTHER TESTING SERVICES ARE ACCEPTABLE. Archived scores or new test registration may be obtained by contacting: SAT (www.collegeboard.org) or ACT (www.act.org). To send scores directly to the IBEW Founders' Scholarship, the code numbers are 0485 for SAT and 0697 for ACT. It is strongly suggested that any new test taken should be the SAT I.
8. Materials need not be sent at the same time but must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

Selection of Winners

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

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

Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

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

APPLICATION

Name _____ Telephone # (____) _____

Please print or type

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip/Postal _____

SS/SIN # _____ Birthdate _____ Member of local # _____

Card # _____ Initiated into IBEW _____
On IBEW Membership Card or Dues Receipt Month/Year

Most recent employer _____

Job classification _____ Work telephone # (____) _____

I wish to study for a _____ degree in _____

Note: Field of study must contribute to the development and improvement of the electrical industry as determined by the Founders' Scholarship Administrator.

List your first and second choices for school:

1 _____ 2 _____

Did you complete high school or the GED? Yes No

Send transcripts or other evidence to the Scholarship Committee.

Did you have the opportunity to take apprenticeship or skill improvement training? Yes No

Send transcripts or your courses to the Scholarship Committee.

Do you have any education certificates or professional licenses? Yes No

Send evidence to the Scholarship Committee.

Have you taken any college courses? Yes No

Send transcripts of all college courses to the Scholarship Committee.

Name used on class records _____

When did you take the SAT I or the ACT? (Month/Year) _____

To submit new test scores, it is strongly suggested that you take the SAT I. We will use your highest score; therefore, it is in your best interest to retake the test.

The creation of this scholarship program is a free act of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The IBEW retains its right to alter, suspend, cancel or halt the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program at any time and without giving any reason, provided that each scholarship winner already in school under the program will continue to receive the stipends until graduation or the receipt of \$24,000 for undergraduate study under his/her IBEW Founders' Scholarship—whichever comes first.

My signature is evidence that I understand and agree to all the rules governing the scholarship as listed on this application.

Signature _____ *Date*

Mail application materials postmarked prior to **May 1** to:

IBEW FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
900 Seventh Street, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001