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Boots & Blogs

ORGANIZERS COMBINE OLD-, NEW-SCHOOL TACTICS TO WIN VOICE FOR WORKERS

▲ *The use of social media in organizing campaigns has helped to level the playing field, connecting workers who are miles apart, yet face the same challenges from employers who deny them a voice on the job.*

IBEW activists integrated new media technologies with tenacious shoe-leather campaigning at two breakthrough victories for the IBEW last fall—campaigns which may provide a blueprint for unions looking to successfully organize workers that many observers had long considered unorganizable.

Both campaigns faced hostile employers and a geographically dispersed work force that made traditional union organizing tactics difficult.

But in Illinois, more than 300 Sears technicians successfully took on their hostile management by tapping into the resources of seven locals and the power of the Internet, while in the Northwest, organizers experimented with new media tools to build solidarity among more than 200 Star West Satellite installers—laying the groundwork for the IBEW's historic election victory last September.

Read on to see how employees overcame steep odds at both companies to come together and build power in the workplace—even in these tough economic times.

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Boots & Blogs Organizers Combine Old-, New-School Tactics to Win Voice for Workers

Continued from page 1

Ill. Sears Service Techs Win Innovative Organizing Campaign

Vic Carusi knew what he had to do. For 17 years, he had serviced lawn and exercise equipment for Sears in northeast Illinois. But a new district manager was making life miserable for him and more than 300 other technicians who work primarily in the state's northeast.

Technicians always expected some jobs to run into overtime, but the manager's lack of respect for basic family needs had reached a breaking point. Like when a technician, Lou Ervin, with more than 20 years of seniority asked for time off to attend his daughter's college graduation, and was told, "Sure, turn in your keys, take all the time you want."

"My father told me growing up, 'Don't let anyone step on you,'" says Carusi.

So, in October 2010, Carusi talked to a couple of players on his softball team who are members of Local 176 in Joliet. Carusi, who knew that Sears technicians in Colorado and Wyoming were represented by Denver Local 68, told the electricians that conditions might be ripe for his co-workers to follow suit.

Joliet members advised Carusi to talk to the Local 176 Organizer Matt



Sixth District Organizing Coordinator Jeff Radjewski, left, and Chicago Local 134 Organizer Abe Rodriguez discuss upcoming first contract negotiations covering newly organized Sears service technicians.

Kenney, who contacted the Membership Development Department.

Eleven months later, an innovative organizing campaign that combined the efforts of seven locals representing multiple IBEW branches reached the finish line as technicians voted 184 to 125 in favor of representation by Chicago Local

134. It was the largest win in the Sixth District in many years and a critical one in the IBEW's efforts to organize Sears workers across North America.

Dirty Tricks

Sixth District International Organizing Coordinator Jeff Radjewski says Sears was relentless, employing carrot and stick tactics to oppose the campaign. The company held captive audience meetings. They tried to sidetrack organizers by removing some poor managers, reducing overtime requirements and handing out gift certificates.

Simultaneously, however, Sears played hardball, giving the union an inaccurate worker contact list, spreading misinformation about the IBEW and trying to confuse workers on voting locations.

Despite the company's efforts, a strong, well-respected volunteer organizing committee came together, preparing their co-workers for the company's tactics and setting up a Web site for them to share comments and information.

Internet Levels Playing Field

Pierre Powell, a Chicago-area repairman with 32 years at Sears, had participated in past unsuccessful organizing campaigns. He followed organizing activities by other Sears technicians by visiting a Yahoo online group set up about 10 years ago.

"The Internet leveled the playing field," says Powell, adding that Sears had combined two districts in Illinois "with the mentality that the geographical spread would be enough to calm down the union talk.

"Sears told technicians 'the union was going after us,'" says Powell. But workers knew the truth—that technicians had sought out the union. The techs and the IBEW became partners after that, says Powell.

Before the campaign, Sears had "targeted some technicians because of their outspokenness," says Powell, who repairs cooking appliances. The customers loved them, but they were fired anyway. "That was a game changer," he says.

"I can't be anything but hopeful," says Powell. "I'm 51 years old and have eight or nine years to go. I want to help the [younger workers] correct injustice on the job."

In October, a new manager pulled Powell aside and asked if he would be interested in taking a management position. Powell turned him down.

"I like dealing with the customers one-on-one," says Powell, who expresses hope that an improved relationship between managers and workers will improve customer service, job security and the company's bottom line.

Organizing Spirit Spreads Across Continent

IBEW's Sears campaign is picking up as technicians challenge managers who abuse their authority and mistreat their employees.

In February, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928 signed its first collective bargaining agreement covering Sears service technicians. The template for the agreement was a prior one between Sears and Vancouver, B.C., Local 213.

Local 134 Organizer Abe Rodriguez says the Illinois campaign "blended old and new technologies." Postcards were sent out to prospective members, but the Web site, www.unitedtechsgreatlakes.webs.com was there for younger techs who "live off their laptops and cell phones."

Assisted by Region 3 Lead Organizers Mike Green and Steve Fosness, the volunteer organizing committee, says Rodriguez, "did a fantastic job." Illinois locals contributing to the campaign's success included: Chicago Local 9, Elgin Local 117, Chicago Local 134, Waukegon Local 150, Aurora Local 461 and Lisle Local 701. Also participating was Louisville, Ky., Local 369.

As a symbol of the volunteers' commitment, Rodriguez remembers an organizing meeting that was called during a snowstorm when techs might have preferred to stay home to watch a

big football game between the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers. Fifty technicians showed up.

Rodriguez, who is bilingual, reached out to Hispanic workers, part of a diverse group that included Arabic-speaking Americans, African-Americans and women.

Synergy Helps Engage 21st Century Work Force

Says Radjewski, "The Illinois technicians reflect the 21st century work force. This is a classic example of how several branches of the Brotherhood can work together and create a synergy that wouldn't exist otherwise."

Radjewski and Lou Ervin, the technician who was threatened for attending his daughter's graduation, described the Sears campaign at the Membership Development Conference last month.

During the campaign, the manager whose actions helped instigate the drive visited Carusi at home and then accompanied him on his route, trying to discourage his participation in the campaign. The manager was removed by the company. "I told him I'd been there 17 years and I would outlast him," Carusi says. "And I did."

Hoping for a Decent First Contract

Carusi is looking to improve some benefits in a first contract with Sears. He saw his defined benefit pension plan frozen about 11 years ago. Married with two children, Carusi, 37, pays \$600 a month out-of-pocket for health insurance.

He doesn't know how negotiations will turn out, but he knows IBEW has his back.

"I went to Matt Kenney and told him I wanted to start a union drive covering hundreds of miles and 344 people. He took time away from his family for months [to help us organize]."

"I told him, 'You have little kids, you can step down now,' but Matt Kenney stayed with us," says Carusi. "That's the kind of people that make the IBEW a great union." ■

Sears Repairmen: A Proud History of Service

The customer-based work ethic that is personified by today's repairmen has served Sears well for generations.

An advertisement in a 1962 issue of Life Magazine shows a line of Sears service trucks, emblazoned with the slogan, "We Service What We Sell."

Opposite the trucks, immaculately uniformed appliance repairmen race to take their places behind the steering wheel.

In the consumer-driven postwar economy, the Sears serviceman was the trustworthy guy you called when the washing machine stopped wringing or the refrigerator turned warm. Work was steady and pay and benefits at the company, whose catalogue was known as the "consumer's bible," were sufficient to put repair technicians solidly in the middle class.

That was then. The tables turned on the iconic retailer. Sears, the subject of no less than six books on its history and finances listed on Amazon.com, was purchased by a bankrupt K-Mart in 2004.

The new company, now directed by hedge fund financiers, is struggling and could go under as Walmart, Best Buy and other competitors turn up the heat and seize more retail market share.

For service technicians, says Pierre Powell, a 32-year Sears employee who repairs cooking equipment, the competition means that everything became numbers-driven. "It's hard for the younger guys because they don't get enough training on new products and need to learn them on their own," he says. ■



Pierre Powell, a 32-year Sears employee, says, 'I want to help the younger workers correct injustice on the job.'



GO FURTHER INSIDE THIS MONTH'S COVER STORY: Check out video highlighting Sears techs' organizing victory at www.YouTube.com/TheElectricalWorker.

Online Savvy, Shoe Leather Organizing Win Satellite Workers

Satellite installation technicians in the Northwest won a big victory Sept. 14, voting to join the IBEW after a tough two-year organizing campaign at Star West Satellite—a company infamous for its anti-union management and often brutal working conditions.

Fusing sophisticated 21st century media technologies with tactics as old as the labor movement itself, organizers say the strategy employed at Star West Satellite may provide a blueprint for other unions looking to successfully organize in today's hostile anti-labor climate.

Breaking Point

Star West's satellite technicians install and maintain satellite dishes for Dish Network, bringing CNN, HBO, Nickelodeon and hundreds of other channels to communities across Idaho, Montana and eastern Washington State.

Hispanic workers were in the majority at many of Star West's 12 shops in the tri-state region. One of those Hispanic workers was Mario Diaz, a seven-year employee.

Diaz, who lives just outside Boise, Idaho, said that despite the low pay and minimal benefits, he was happy with his position as a trainer for new employees and planned to make a career at the company. But everything changed after he ended up on the receiving end of management's arbitrary disciplinary policy.

Diaz was installing a satellite two years ago, when the customer asked if he could do some more customized work around the house—a violation of company policy. Diaz politely refused.

"The guy called my supervisor to complain about me," he said. "My boss looked at the situation and told me that I did everything I was supposed to do, but he was still suspending me without pay—all for following company rules."

For Diaz, it was the final straw. "Everyone was afraid of being fired or having their good routes taken away; they didn't want to speak out or do anything," he said. "I was finally at the point where I said, 'If they want to fire me, go ahead, but I wasn't going to take it anymore.'" And he wasn't the only one.

The Low-Road Model

With unemployment running near 10 percent, Star West should be able to command a stable and loyal work force. But the company's model of workplace relations—with its low pay, minimal benefits and draconian work rules—has driven the



Star West Satellite employees—who install satellite dishes for Dish Network—endured long hours, minimal pay and abusive management.

Credit: Photo used under a Creative Commons License from Flickr user Commorane.

employee turnover rate to more than 80 percent in the last two years.

Covering a 200,000-square-mile service area, technicians could be on the road for up to 18 hours at a time, says IBEW organizer Bob Brock. Denied overtime pay, workers were often docked for the drive time from job to job. Many were labeled independent contractors, a designation that put basic protections under state and federal labor law out of reach.

Health and retirement benefits are almost nonexistent. Workers are required to have multiple years of service before the company would contribute to their 401(k) accounts. And for some employees, health insurance bills went unpaid, despite regular premium deductions from their paychecks, leaving them to find out only in the doctor's office or emergency room that the insurance they and their families were counting on was not there.

Diaz pulled out a business card from IBEW organizer Willy Kniffin, who, along with fellow organizer Brock, was heading up an effort to organize the satellite industry in the region. Diaz first met Kniffin through a chance encounter months before while he was fueling up his truck en route to a job.

The next evening Diaz met with the organizers, and within a few days, nearly everyone at the 40-person shop had signed cards.

But the biggest challenge, Kniffin



The Satellite Techs Allied for a New Direction Web site proved to be a key organizing tool at Star West.

told Diaz, still laid ahead. "We realized that even if we successfully organized one location, there were 11 others in the chain and the company could play them against each other to make sure we never got a contract," he said. "The campaign had to be company-wide or it just wouldn't work."

Organizing Challenges

The campaign to organize Star West started in 2006 after employees contacted Billings, Mont., Local 532. The IBEW launched a national effort that year to organize the largely nonunion satellite industry. "Those contacts soon left the company, but it got me thinking about learning from the challenges we'd seen elsewhere," Brock said.

The union made some inroads, particularly at MasTec locations in Georgia and Florida (see "MasTec Satellite Technicians Install IBEW in Georgia," the Electrical Worker, June 2009) but hostile employers and weak labor law enforcement made those victories the exception rather than the rule, says Brock.

"I looked at the record of NLRB victories in the satellite industry going back to its beginning and it didn't give us a lot of hope," he said. "The law wasn't on our side so it forced us to try to get creative about how we wanted to move forward with the campaign."

Unionizing Star West would require a long-term commitment to patiently build ties with workers spread out across tens of thousands of miles—long before an NLRB-election was even a possibility.

So Kniffin and Brock came up with the idea for Satellite Techs Allied for a New Direction, a largely online group that gave nonunion satellite workers the opportunity to connect with the IBEW and each other. But most importantly, it let techs get active in bettering their workplace and building solidarity.

Launched in 2009 with the strong support of Eighth District International Vice President Ted Jensen, the STAND Web site—www.satellitetechs.org—quickly became a hub of discussion for satellite techs across the country.

"The STAND Web site was moderated to keep management spies off," Brock said. "It basically acted as their union hall, serving as a clearinghouse for resources and communication."

While relying on social media, Brock says that much of the inspiration for STAND comes from the early organizing experience of the IBEW.

"You have to remember that the IBEW existed for more than 30 years before collective bargaining was even legal in the eyes of the federal government," he said. "We need to get workers interested in the union connected and involved right away, even if we don't think an election is on the immediate horizon."

Winning the Vote

By the fall of 2010, organizers had enough cards to file for an election—the first company-wide petition ever filed at a multi-state satellite company. But the challenges in campaigning were two-fold: the aforementioned high turnover rate and the huge geographical spread of the service area, which made it difficult to contact employees in person.

After one particularly frustrating day of door-knocking, Kniffin got an idea, remembering the personal digital camcorder he had stored in his trunk.

He and Brock put together a quick video talking about the IBEW and burned it to dozens of DVDs, leaving them on employees' front steps.

Kniffin says that the DVDs gave

employees a more personal connection with the campaign than they could with a flier, leading to increased traffic on the STAND Web site, where workers could watch more videos, including a primer on labor law.

The company tried to keep the union at bay by threatening shutdowns while promising a big wage increase if the workers voted against the IBEW.

"We posted Star West's promises on the Web site, which forced management to put their money where their mouth is," Brock said.

Organizers also were able to settle more than two dozen unfair labor practice charges against the company with the NLRB, including winning more than \$10,000 in back wages for four discharged workers.

"That is when the momentum starting really going in our favor," Brock said. "STAND was able to win positive workplace changes even before the election, getting buy-in from employees. It made clear the importance of real collective bargaining."

Last spring, Diaz was offered a better paying job at an oil field, but he agreed to work with Brock and Kniffin as a temporary organizer until the election. As important as the Web was in building the campaign, they still needed face-to-face organizing to seal the deal.

"Mario was vital because he was a former Star West employee," Kniffin said.

Workers voted by a 78-65 margin to join the union in September.

Back to Basics

The main lesson learned, says Brock, is that unions can't wait for the NLRB to get involved before they start organizing.

"It is about getting back to the basics of organizing," Brock said. "It is how the IBEW organized the utility and telecommunications industry in the early 20th century, winning members and fighting for positive change in the workplace before a contract was even a possibility."

Delegates at the 38th International Convention unanimously passed a resolution calling on the International Office to examine the possibilities of creating an organization of associate members who would have a chance to learn about the IBEW and build ties with it.

"It took us two years to even get to a vote at Star West, but that didn't stop us from signing up supporters and fighting to make improvements in the workplace," Brock said. "You don't need anyone's permission to organize." ■

From Coast to Coast, Canadian Shipbuilding Contracts Mean IBEW Jobs

The shipbuilding industry on Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coasts got a big boost from the federal government Oct. 19 with the announcement of two multi-billion dollar shipbuilding contracts that will create thousands of new maritime and construction jobs in British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

"We're talking almost \$20 million in electrical work alone, which translates into a lot of man-hours."

— Cordell Cole, First District International Representative

"This is huge news for all shipyard workers and its effects will be felt throughout British Columbia," said Vancouver Local 213 Business Manager Mike Flynn. Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd., won an \$8 billion contract to build seven non-combat ships for the Royal Canadian Navy and Coast Guard, which is expected to create more than 4,000 jobs, including hundreds of Local 213 maritime positions.

The Canadian government committed to revamping its largely outdated federal fleet more than a year ago, setting up a task force to develop a long-term strategy to help revitalize the country's shipbuilding industry. Federal planners say they wanted to avoid the traditional boom-and-bust cycle that has plagued the industry in the past by creating a steady supply of shipbuilding work spread out over a number of years. The newest projects are expected to take upwards of two decades to complete.

Getting Vancouver Shipyards ready for the job will require more than \$200 million in infrastructure work, which means good jobs for inside wiremen as well.

"The news is really exciting for our membership," said Local 213 Assistant Business Manager John Pesa. "I'm getting calls from people who want to join the IBEW just to work on this project."

On the East Coast, Halifax's Irving Shipbuilding Inc. won a \$25 billion contract to build 21 combat-ready ships for the navy, bringing thousands of jobs to a province suffering from high unemployment.

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. that Nova Scotians who have left the province and are now in Alberta or other parts of the country can bring their skills home.

Irving Shipbuilding workers are represented by the Canadian Auto Workers, but the building trades—including the IBEW—will do the more

than \$100 million in preparatory infrastructure work.

"We're talking almost \$20 million in electrical work alone, which translates into a lot of man-hours," says First District International Representative Cordell Cole, who services inside locals throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"I think we are looking at the end of outsourcing in the Canadian shipbuilding industry," says Flynn. "By modernizing the Halifax and Vancouver shipyards, the military orders will help boost the civilian shipbuilding industry as well." Local colleges are already beefing up their offerings in the maritime trades to meet the expected demand for highly skilled shipyard workers.

Work is expected to begin on the ships sometime in the next two to four years. ■

Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd., is the recipient of an \$8 billion contract to build seven non-combat ships for the Royal Canadian Navy.



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2011 Founders' Scholarship Winners Take Training, Advocacy to Next Level

Two IBEW members exemplifying the high standards of trade unionism are recipients of this year's Founders' Scholarship awards. Brothers **Jonathon Dehmel** and **Richard Cesta** say they are excited and grateful for the chance to boost their education to benefit their locals and the movement.

The scholarship fund was established in 1966 by International President Gordon Freeman to help IBEW members obtain higher education degrees.

Dehmel serves as the assistant business manager for Tampa, Fla., Local 915. He is pursuing a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Florida—a goal that he says will help in his role coordinating membership development for the local.

"In the trade, you've got a given set of tools to get the job done. In a leadership sense, I want to expand my toolkit," he said. The third-generation IBEW journeyman wireman said his program is like a nonprofit equivalent of an MBA degree, allowing him to study budgeting, strategic planning, performance measures, law and various management techniques.

"Everybody has good ideas about how to grow the union," he said, "but being able to effectively implement those ideas is where the rubber meets the road. Getting the chance to put this schooling to use is what will, I hope, help turn good ideas into reality."

Advancing the movement is priority No. 1, he says, after a tumultuous year that has seen increasing right-wing hostility to the middle class. Dehmel has worked on the Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee and has been active in "Awake the State" political events in Florida, partnering with pro-working family organizations to stop Gov. Rick Scott's opposition to workers' rights.

"'Awake the State' is a good way to be out there for the union movement to support the middle class," he said. "It's reminded people of the benefits of labor and what we can accomplish by working together."



Richard Cesta



Jonathon Dehmel and wife, Jamey

Dehmel and his wife, Jamey—both students and full-time employees—are expecting their first child later this month.

Cesta, a journeyman wireman out of Steubenville, Ohio, Local 246, teaches two nights a week at his area JATC and works full-time for Brown Electric. In addition to heavy workloads and demanding schedules, the father of three is pursuing an online master's degree in work force development and education from the University of Arkansas.

"I want to keep improving what I do, becoming as effective as I can be for myself and for my students," Cesta said. He holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and development from Wheeling Jesuit University and has an instructor diploma from the National Training Institute.

After five years as an apprentice instructor, Cesta continues to complete train-the-trainer courses and has earned numerous industry-related certifications. A project he completed while earning his bachelor's gave Cesta the skills to create a new instrumentation program at the JATC.

"The most rewarding aspect of being an instructor is making a difference in apprentices' lives and in my organization," he said. "I encourage students to stay positive and to be persistent with regards to gaining the knowledge and skills necessary for individual and organizational success. I also urge them to treat setbacks as opportunities by learning something of value in every situation."

"I was thrilled to get this scholarship and appreciate what it will mean for my professional development, my students and my family," he said.

Cesta is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. His father was a member of the United Steelworkers.

As Founders' Scholarship recipients, Cesta and Dehmel have each earned \$200 per semester hour toward their degrees with a maximum amount of \$24,000, not to exceed an eight-year period. ■



North of 49° | Au nord du 49° parallèle

New Training Program Sets Standard for Canadian Solar Industry

An IBEW partnership launched the first ever Canada-wide personnel certification for qualified electricians in solar photovoltaic installation and maintenance during the events preceding the 38th IBEW International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Developed by the National Electrical Trade Council—a partnership between the IBEW First District and the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association—the new program will help standardize solar training curricula across Canada, bringing together the existing patchwork of local training programs into one national course.

First District Vice President Phil Flemming awarded the first PV certifications to six Vancouver Local 213 members, including Dustin Thomas, who is employed by signatory contractor United Power Ltd.

“The IBEW was in danger of being left behind in the renewable field unless we jumped on something like this,” Thomas said at the Sept. 16 event.

A qualified work force for solar PV installation is critical to capturing work in this emerging market, Flemming said. “A national set of articulated standards and training benchmarks is needed as the industry grows.”

The program was jointly developed with CSA Standards, Canada’s leading developer of national safety and workplace regulations.

“We can all be singing the same song and working from the same text,” says Windsor, Ontario, Local 773 Business Manager Sol Furer. “It also means locals don’t have to waste time trying to put together their own curriculum when solar comes to their area.” Furer also represents the Eighth District on the International Executive Council.

Windsor has been a major center for solar growth in the last couple of years, particularly since green energy legislation made Ontario the leader in Canada’s photovoltaic industry.

“The buzz in Ontario is photovoltaics and we’re right in the middle of it,” Furer says. More than 120 Local 773 members went to work this summer installing solar panels for a new 10-megawatt solar farm.

The local has also been busy installing panels on public buildings, like the Tecumseh Arena and a new Windsor elementary school.

“It’s a huge area of growth for us,” Furer says.

All Red Seal-certified electricians who have completed a recognized photovoltaic training program are eligible to be certified through a CSA Standards’ proctored examination. The Red Seal is the national certification of excellence in a particular craft.

“This work needs to be done by qualified electricians,” said Thomas. “With solar, we’re talking live power, and you don’t want someone doing this work who isn’t fully qualified and experienced.”

The program will be marketed by CSA Standards across Canada to apprenticeship programs, universities and local governments to encourage the growth of a trained solar work force.

“We see this as being the go-to curriculum for all solar trainers across Canada,” Flemming said. ■



First District Vice President Phil Flemming presents PV certification to Vancouver Local 213 member Martin Kugler.

Le Vice-président du Premier District Phil Flemming, à droite, présente à Martin Kugler, membre de la S.L. 213, la certification dans le domaine photovoltaïque.

Un nouveau programme de formation établit la norme dans l'industrie solaire canadienne

Le premier programme national d'accréditation pour les électriciens spécialisés dans l'installation et l'entretien de l'équipement solaire a été lancé par le partenariat formé avec la FIOE, lors d'une cérémonie qui a précédé le 38e Congrès international tenu à Vancouver, en Colombie-Britannique.

Ce nouveau programme développé par le Conseil national des métiers de l'électricité (*National Electrical Trade Council*)—formé du Premier District de la FIOE et de l'Association canadienne des entrepreneurs électriciens—contribuera à standardiser le curriculum d'enseignement dans le domaine de l'énergie solaire à travers le Canada, en réunissant l'ensemble des programmes d'enseignement locaux en un cours national.

Les premières accréditations dans le domaine du photovoltaïque ont été attribuées par le Vice-président du Premier District, Phil Flemming, à six membres de la Section locale 213 à Vancouver, dont au confrère Dustin Thomas, à l'emploi de *United Power Ltd.* entrepreneur signataire.

« Si nous n'avions pas suivi ce mouvement, la FIOE aurait couru le

risque de se laisser distancer dans le domaine de l'énergie renouvelable » a déclaré le confrère Thomas lors de la cérémonie du 16 septembre.

« Une main-d'œuvre qualifiée dans l'installation d'équipements solaires photovoltaïques est une étape cruciale si nous voulons nous approprier les emplois dans ce marché émergent. La croissance de l'industrie exige l'élaboration de normes définies et de critères précis d'évaluation » affirme Phil Flemming.

Le programme a été élaboré conjointement avec l'Association canadienne de normalisation (*Normes CSA—CSA Standards*), la plus importante organisation au pays se concentrant sur l'élaboration de normes et de codes visant à renforcer la sécurité publique et les règlements en milieu de travail.

« Ainsi, nous pourrions tous chanter le même refrain et travailler à partir de la même base. Cela signifie aussi que les Sections locales ne perdront plus de temps à élaborer leur propre programme d'enseignement à l'arrivée de projets dans le domaine de l'énergie solaire dans leur localité » dit

Sol Furer, Gérant d'affaires de la Section locale 773 de Windsor, en Ontario. Le confrère Furer représente également le huitième district au Conseil exécutif international.

La ville de Windsor a été un centre majeur pour le développement et la croissance du solaire au cours des dernières années et en particulier depuis que la loi sur l'énergie verte a fait de l'Ontario un chef de file en matière d'énergie solaire.

« Les systèmes photovoltaïques créent de l'effervescence en Ontario et nous sommes à même de le constater. Plus de 120 membres de la Section locale 773 ont travaillé l'été dernier à l'installation de panneaux solaires pour une nouvelle ferme solaire qui produira 10 mégawatts d'électricité » ajoute le confrère Furer.

Les membres ont également installé des panneaux sur les édifices publics, tels que le *Tecumseh Arena* et une nouvelle école élémentaire à Windsor.

« C'est vraiment un secteur en expansion pour nous » souligne le confrère Furer.

Tous les électriciens qualifiés dé-

tenteurs du « Sceau Rouge » qui ont complété un programme d'enseignement reconnu pour les systèmes photovoltaïques sont admissibles à l'évaluation en fonction de critères définis par Normes CSA en vue d'obtenir une certification dans ce domaine. Le Sceau rouge est le certificat de qualification d'excellence national dans un métier spécifique.

« Ce travail doit absolument être effectué par des électriciens spécialisés dans le domaine de l'énergie solaire puisqu'il s'agit d'électricité vivante et personne n'aimerait que ce travail soit accompli par des travailleurs sans qualification et sans expérience dans le domaine » ajoute le confrère Thomas.

Le programme de *Normes CSA* sera présenté aux formations en apprentissage, aux universités et aux gouvernements locaux afin d'encourager la croissance d'une main-d'œuvre compétente dans le domaine de l'énergie solaire.

« Nous voyons ce programme comme étant « le » curriculum pour tous les centres d'enseignement dans le domaine du solaire au Canada » conclut le confrère Flemming. ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of *The Electrical Worker*, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information in cyberspace.

www.ibew.org

From breaking news to video stories, our updated Web site has information not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on **Facebook** and to follow the IBEW on **Twitter**!

YouTube

Hundreds of service techs at Sears recently won representation with Chicago Local 134, thanks to a novel campaign weaving tried-and-true methods with Internet savvy. Check out video highlighting their efforts at www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker.

HourPower

Today on IBEW Hour Power, we have a special report from the 38th IBEW Convention—with news, interviews about the Brotherhood and much more. Check it out! www.IBEWHourPower.com.



ElectricTV

Electric vehicles are becoming more feasible—thanks to the NECA-IBEW team, which helped Portland State create their very own Electric Avenue. Look for it on electricTV.net.



Transitions

ELECTED Joe P. Smith



Oklahoma City Local 1141 Business Manager Joe P. Smith was elected Sixth District International Executive Council

member in September at the 38th IBEW Convention in Vancouver.

"I'm very proud to serve the IBEW," says Smith, who said he is anxious to help devise and support different ways for the union to compete and gain more work in construction, while maintaining decent working conditions, wages and benefits. For the union as a whole and for the labor movement, Smith says, "We need to show the general population that unions and the IBEW share their values."

Brother Smith, who was initiated into Local 1141 in 1994, previously served as the local's political director and assistant business manager. He currently leads the Oklahoma Association of Electrical Workers and is a trustee of the state Building and Construction Trades. He also serves on the executive board of the state's AFL-CIO.

A U.S. Navy veteran of the first Gulf war, Smith is a third generation Local 1141 journeyman inside wireman. Says Smith, "My father and grandfather were both hard-working, loyal IBEW members."

Smith, who attended Rose State and Garden State Community colleges and was the Democratic Party's nominee for state Senate in 2002, enjoys golf, gardening and reading. He and his wife, Danielle, have three children.

On behalf of the entire membership and staff of the IBEW, the officers wish Brother Smith great success in his new position. ■

ELECTED Solomon Furer



Windsor, Ontario, Local 773 Business Manager Solomon Furer was elected Eighth District International

Council member at the 38th International Convention in September.

A Windsor native, Furer was initiated into Local 773 in 1976. Active in the local, he served as press secretary, recording secretary and president before being elected business manager in 2001.

Furer is director of the National Electrical Trades Council, a partnership between the First District and the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association. A member of Ontario's Electrical Joint Conference Board, which governs labor-management relations in the electrical industry, he is also president of the Essex and Kent Building Trades Council.

Furer recently completed a term as vice president of the Construction Council of Ontario, representing inside locals throughout the province.

As business manager, he has been active in boosting the IBEW's efforts in the solar industry, setting up training in photovoltaics and helping to put hundreds of members to work on solar farms.

"I look forward to the new challenge of being on the IEC," Furer told delegates during his acceptance speech. "I pledge to all IBEW members in Canada and to the entire membership that I will give it my all every day."

The IBEW officers, staff and membership wish Brother Furer much success in his new position. ■

RETIRED Greg Teeple



Ninth District International Representative Gregory Teeple retired effective Oct. 1, bringing to a close a career marked by deep

engagement in political advocacy and contributions to the development of public policy governing labor in Oregon.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, who, as a staff member of Portland Local 125, lobbied for the Oregon State Electrical Workers Association alongside Teeple, says, "Greg took me under his wing and showed me the ropes—and I could not have asked for a better mentor. His combination of smarts, sense of humor, and even temperament were the total package."

Shuler accompanied Teeple on a trade delegation to South Africa in 1996, where they met with President Nelson Mandela. She adds, "Greg never forgot where he came from, and always kept his humility about him. His love for the IBEW and his generous spirit have influenced many, many people, and I am proud to be counted among them."

In 1966, while in high school, Teeple worked as a shop hand and joined Portland Local 49. He entered the Air National Guard a year later. Upon completion of his active duty service, he

joined the local union's journeyman inside wireman apprenticeship program.

"I knew that I would be involved in the union," says Teeple, the son of IBEW International Representative Herman Teeple Jr., who died in 2004, and the grandson of a business representative with the United Food and Commercial Workers. "My father taught me the meaning of commitment to the cause of organized labor," he says.

After transferring his membership into Portland Local 48 in 1968, Brother Teeple helped form the local's COPE committee in the mid-1970s.

As a lobbyist for the state's electrical workers association and building and construction trades, he developed a close friendship with the state's labor commissioner and gained recognition by three successive state governors who appointed him to the state's electrical board, Oregon's accident and industrial fund and the state legislature's labor/management advisory board.

In 1993, Teeple, who studied at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, Portland State University and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Management, visited Germany as part of a delegation to study vocational training.

He says, "I was impressed that 40 percent of German workers were in unions and that unions were commonly accepted." When issues came up on training policy, for instance, representatives of labor, academia and employers sat down and they had to agree before any changes could be implemented. German TV news channels took pains to ensure that the point of view of organized labor was thoroughly presented in covering worker issues. "It was nothing like the 30-second sound bites we hear at home on Fox News," he said.

In 1996 Teeple was asked to move to northern California to join the International staff as administrative assistant to Ninth District Vice President Jack McCann. After two years working in the district office, he asked Vice President Mike Mowrey, McCann's successor, to assign him as a field representative.

Teeple serviced five inside construction locals in the San Francisco Bay area and one manufacturing local. His time as a business manager and his more recent experience on staff, he says, gives him hope but he tempers it with a degree of concern over the union's future.

"When our market share dropped in my own local," he says, "we had to create programs to get most of our work back. That took acceptance from the membership." That happened, he said, because his members were on the financial cliff. "I hope that local unions with low market

share see that it is their job to fix the problem—to fit into the economic system and sell their services," says Teeple.

Teeple looks forward to moving from California back to central Oregon, where he owns a cabin and enjoys fishing on nearby lakes. He also plans to travel. "I was asked where my favorite place is," he says. "My response is: it's anywhere I haven't been."

On behalf of the members and staff of the IBEW, the officers wish Brother Teeple a long, healthy and well-deserved retirement. ■

RETIRED Walter 'Steve' Ray

Ninth District International Representative Walter "Steve" Ray retired effective Oct. 1, after more than four decades of service to the IBEW.

"My goal was always to get our bargaining strength back."

—Walter 'Steve' Ray, Ninth District International Representative

Brother Ray was initiated into Santa Barbara, Calif., Local 413 in 1969. After topping out in June of 1972, he worked as a journeyman wireman for Passmore Electric and other contractors in the area.

"My dad was a wireman, a lineman, a splicer and a welder with Local 413," Ray said. "I knew from him that there's always something new to learn in the trade."

Ray served on the local's JATC committee and then as an organizer beginning in 1988. Four years later, he was elected business manager, where he said his main achievement was to reorganize the local's jurisdiction.

"My goal was always to get our bargaining strength back," said Ray, who cited persistence and steady bottom-up organizing campaigns as antidotes to nonunion contractors' initial resistance.

Brother Ray was appointed International Representative in 1997 by International President J.J. Barry. His first task was to represent the IBEW in the pilot Building Trades Organizing Project in Las Vegas—a cooperative venture among the 15 construction unions to organize the city's market. Within two years, the effort brought about 7,000 tradesmen and women into the union movement at a time when Las Vegas was enjoying one of the largest construction booms in the nation.

Ray went on to service locals in central California, including Fresno Local 100, Castroville Local 234, Bakersfield Local 428 and San Luis Obispo Local 639. During that time, he oversaw organizing initiatives and negotiations while

handling grievances. "I'm proud of the fact that our locals stood out in their efforts to promote good labor/management cooperation," Ray said.

Outside of the IBEW, Brother Ray served on the Santa Barbara Workforce Investment Board, a county-run program that connected area residents with job opportunities. He was a president of the building trades for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties for six years. Ray has been a member of the Elks Lodge 1538 in Santa Maria since 1990.

Brother Ray says he now looks forward to devoting time to home improvement projects, hunting, fishing and four-wheeling. He and his wife, Carol, have four children and three grandchildren. Ray's brother Beau and his nephew Jake are both members of Local 413.

"I feel very fortunate to be a member of a great union, and I appreciated my chance to be able to serve the Brotherhood in many ways," he said.

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Ray a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement. ■

DECEASED Lealand Jackson Jr.



We regret to report that retired Seventh District International Representative Lealand Jackson Jr. died Oct. 17 at the age of 79.

Born in Bracketville, Texas, Jackson served three years in the U.S. Army before being initiated into El Paso Local 583 in 1950.

He would serve as president and business manager before being appointed International Representative for the Seventh District in 1972.

Brother Jackson serviced inside locals throughout the Southwest. He also assisted both inside and professional and industrial locals in setting up organizing programs.

An active member of the Masonic Lodge, Brother Jackson enjoyed hunting and fishing. He retired in 1994.

Jackson is survived by three children, six grandchildren and one great grandson.

His children wrote in an obituary that their father "believed fully that what he did made a difference, which any co-worker or friend would agree."

On behalf of the members of the IBEW, the officers and staff send condolences to Brother Jackson's friends and family. ■

DECEASED Gordon Bray



We regret to report that retired Fourth District International Representative Gordon L. Bray died on Sept. 20.

A Kentucky native, Brother Bray was initiated into Evendale, Ohio, Local 1842, representing workers at AVCO Manufacturing, a defense electronics company, in 1956. Local 1842 was amalgamated with Hamilton, Ohio, Local 648 in 2008.

A Korean War Air Force veteran, Bray served as his local's business manager before being assigned to the Fourth District in 1964. During most of his

career, he serviced manufacturing locals in Kentucky and Ohio.

Retired Fourth District Vice President Paul Witte worked closely with Bray as a fellow representative.

Says Witte, "Gordon lived, loved and worked his whole life for the IBEW." While Bray built a legend winning difficult cases in arbitration, says Witte, "whatever the cause or the issue, you could count on him to give you everything he had."

Bray, who retired in 2004, diligently led and participated in coordinating committees in the 1970s and 1980s representing workers at large, multi-plant employers. "He was determined to have some justice for workers and was often the last guy holding out before a deal was reached," says Witte.

On behalf of the entire membership of the IBEW, the officers and staff send our condolences to Brother Bray's family. ■

Circuits

Outstanding Apprentices Hone Talents at NTI

Dozens of IBEW members who recently scored top honors in their apprenticeships came together this summer for a week of skill building at the National Training Institute.

The newly-minted journeyman wiremen traveled from around the nation to Ann Arbor, Mich., July 31-Aug. 5 to learn and work alongside instructors, local union leaders and other JATC alumni. Outstanding apprentices were chosen to attend based on their JATC test scores, class performance, job reports and proficiency in the field.

"It was a great opportunity to receive instruction alongside my fellow graduates from across the country," said Long Island, N.Y., member Mike Morales. "This was an experience which I know none of us will ever forget."

The new journeyman wiremen attended a ceremony honoring their achievements on the first day. During the week, they gathered for a class entitled Effective Foremanship Training and took part in courses on welding, instrumentation and other technical skills.

"Everyone appreciated their time and we all got to know each other pretty well," Morales said. "At the end, we traded

pins and exchanged e-mail addresses. It was a very rewarding experience." ■

Connecticut Electrician Hooks World Record Striped Bass

Greg Myerson, a New Haven, Conn., Local 90 journeyman inside wireman, landed an 81.8-pound striped bass on August 4 during a slack tide in Long Island Sound.

It took nearly three months, but Myerson's catch has now been certified by the International Game Fish Association as a world record. The IFGA reports:

"... Myerson's catch created a whirlwind of excitement in early August for striper anglers everywhere, but especially in the northeastern USA." Myerson told the association:

"After a 15 minute fight on my St. Croix rod and Quantum reel, I got the striped bass close enough to the boat for netting. The fish was bigger than I thought. I slipped on eel slime and banged my ribs against the gunwale of the boat. But it didn't matter. The monster fish was mine. At this point it was about 8 p.m. I put the fish into the hold and fished the rest of the tide. As I fished, I repeatedly peered into the hold and asked myself 'Is this striper really

that big?' The following morning, I brought the striped bass to Jack's Shoreline Bait and Tackle to be weighed. The fish measured 54 inches in length and tipped Jack's digital scale at 81.88 pounds. It really was that big."

The IGFA says approval of Myerson's catch "marks the end of Albert McReynolds' 29-year reign as All-Tackle record holder for this prestigious saltwater species."

In addition to now holding the All-Tackle record, Myerson's catch also landed him the new men's 80-pound line class record, which previously stood at 70 pounds. ■



Local 90 member Myerson and his record-breaking striped bass



High achieving apprentices from across the U.S. shared in fellowship and sharpened their trade skills last summer at the National Training Institute in Ann Arbor, Mich.

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Winter Work Scheduled

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope all is well with you and your family as we move into the fast approaching holiday season. As calls continue to come in, the number of out-of-work members has decreased and things are shaping up to be a decent winter. Let's hope Mother Nature provides a mild winter, enabling construction jobs to move forward.

The annual Labor Day parade was a great success. As usual, Local 8 members can be proud of the large turnout, showing support for all of the working class. After the parade, a picnic was held for all Local 8 members and their families. It was a great time for all. Thanks to Jason Szymanski and his volunteers, who helped make both events a huge success.

Local 8's annual perch tournament was held Sept. 10 and everyone had a great time. Lance Geldien and his team took 1st place; Mike Johnson and his team took 2nd; Jim Trendel and his team took 3rd; and Brad Thurman and his team took 4th. Jim Kozlowski took the prize for the biggest perch. Thanks to everyone who helped make the tournament a big success.

As always work safe!

Bryan Emerick, P.S.

Class of 2011 JATC Graduates

L.U. 20 (em,i,mt,spa,t&u), DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX—The North Texas Electrical JATC held its annual completion dinner at the Sheraton Grand Hotel on June 3.

IBEW Local 20 and the North Texas Chapter NECA both give an Outstanding Apprentice Award to a graduating apprentice for an overall outstanding performance. This year both awards were presented to James Irvin.



Local 20, North Texas JATC 2011 graduates attend Apprenticeship Completion Dinner. Front row, from left: Christopher Walker, James Irvin, Jorge Camacho, Christian Barzaga, John Gray, Christopher Henson and Justin Dodson. Back row: Lon Williford, Augustin Montoya, Matthew Montejo, Cody Hughes and Gregory Ramos.

Awards are presented to apprentices for outstanding performance at school and on the job. Taken into consideration are their grades, attendance, attitude and community involvement.

Local 20 Gold Pliers Award recipients: James Moats (1st year), Ronald Pratt Jr. (2nd year), Jason Raburn (3rd year), and John Moncevais (4th year).

NECA Achievement Award recipients: James Moats (1st year), Ronald Pratt Jr. (2nd year), Jason Raburn (3rd year), and John Moncevais (4th year).

The Local 20 Dallas Federal Credit Union Award: Jeffrey Daulton (1st year), Timothy Vernon (2nd year), Jesus Hernandez (3rd year), Corey Jackson (4th year), and Gregory Ramos (5th year).

Fort Worth Local 116 Federal Credit Union Award recipients: James Irvin and Gregory Ramos.

Perfect Attendance Award: Gregory Ramos and Lon Williford.

A.C. McAfee, B.M.

Camaraderie Celebrated

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—At year's end, we are thankful for the many great times enjoyed by our members in 2011—including our golf outing, summer picnics, bowling tournament, softball tournament and shoots. This month we have the Roanoke, Front Royal and D.C. Christmas parties.

Congratulations to the Local 26 softball team, who dominated this year's tournament and brought home the 1st place trophy! Great job!

Several members passed away since our last article: Elijah A. Byrd Sr., Thomas F. Williams Jr., Jack O. Humphrey, Karl P. Grimm, Samuel D. Fletcher, Jimmy O. Mullins, Terry P. Campbell, William J. Wetmore, Francis J. Healy, Robert S. Murray, William J. Lewis, David M. Anderson, Dennis D. Lockwood



Local 26 softball team: front row, from left, Mark Duncan, Cameron Graham, Lindsey Shaner, Joe Masson, George Giggetts, Keith Campbell, Ben Killion-Conrad and Robert Elliott; back row, Chris Greinert, Martin McGraw, Dave Haddad, Chris Fanning, Dave Kirchner, Danny Mixon, Kevin Sutton, Shane Kramer, James Hendricks, Paul Winner and John Collins.

Jr., Harold S. Goldsmith and Alvin P. Shifflett.

Best wishes to new retirees: Leonard J. Collins, Steven M. Custard, Alvin E. Henry, Frederick A. Reckeweg, Michael J. Garrett, Jerry R. Jones, John M. Calomeris, Sherman K. Linwood, Jay K. English, John J. Kirby, Dale C. McCammon, Richard J. Maholtz, James L. Norris Sr., Gerald J. Bartelmes, Charles D. Vest, Dorcy Gilliam, Winston B. Wright, Lennox St. Cyr, Sam A. Beachy Jr., Kenneth W. Soehnlein Sr., Patrick J. Healy, Altha J. Bodkin, Victor R. Hewett, Roy G. Krieg and Larry M. Miller.

Happy holidays to you and your family!

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Wind Turbine Installation

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Local 38 members from Herbst Electric, Lake Erie Electric and Fresch Electric recently helped complete installation of the massive Lincoln Electric wind turbine. The turbine located on Lincoln Electric's property in Euclid, OH, is reportedly the tallest in the state and one of the largest in North America.

The turbine hub sits at 279 feet high, and the tip of the top blade is 444 feet high. It weighs approximately 800,000 pounds and can produce 2.5 megawatts of power at 690 volts DC; it is converted to 4,160 volts AC on the ground and travels through nearly 4,000 feet of duct banks and overhead feeds for use in Lincoln Electric's facility.

Another alternative energy project Local 38 members have been working on is the installation

of a solar array on the roof at our JATC training center. Members installed 193 235-watt solar panels and six converters capable of producing 45 KW of power for our training center. The project will be used as a training tool for our members.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



The Lincoln Electric wind turbine looms more than 40 stories in the air.

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.

Local Updates

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—On Saturday, July 23, Local 42 held a benefit deep-sea chartered fishing trip on the Frances Fleet. The boat departed from Point Judith, RI, at 8 a.m. for a fun-filled day of fishing for all ages. The cost per person was \$85, which included fishing rods, bait and tackle, gratuity for the crew for cleaning and bagging the fish, and lunch.

For each ticket purchased by the members, Local 42 matched the price and made a donation to the Bridgeport Burn Center. The prize fish was caught by Jennifer Sharpe-Coles—a great surprise on her birthday!

On Saturday, Aug. 27, Local 42 held its annual family picnic at the High Meadow Resort. Attendees enjoyed a wide variety of activities and delicious food.

We thank the Retirees Club for conducting the 50/50 raffle and all those who donated.

Local 42 thanks all of the 42 “A” and “BA” members, contractors and travelers for all the help with the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts power restoration in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, Mbr. Services



Local 42 member Jennifer Sharpe-Coles (left), D'Lanie Pelletier and Nate Coles enjoy local's chartered fishing trip.

Member Receives Labor Award

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—On Aug. 5, IBEW Local 46 member Nicole Grant was honored for her activism and devotion to the trade union movement at the Washington State Labor Council's annual convention in SeaTac, WA. Sister Grant received the Elsie Schrader Award for Outstanding Female Labor Leader of the Year because of her successful efforts, on behalf of her union, to pass three bills at the state legislature. Her consistent activism on several humanitarian and worker issues is also part of what gained this well-deserved recognition from the state's labor community. Congratulations, Sister Grant!

Angela Marshall, Rep.



IBEW Local 46 member Nicole Grant (center) receives award presented by Washington State Labor Council Pres. Jeff Johnson and WSLC Sec.-Treas. Lynn Dodson.

Wiremen's Golf Assoc. Tourney

L.U. 58 (em,i,rtb&spa), DETROIT, MI—Local 58 had the pleasure and honor of hosting the 54th Annual Wiremen's Golf Association (WGA) Tournament held Aug. 16-20.

Golf, great weather and brotherhood made this event a smash hit! The tournament was attended by 350 members from 29 local unions. The WGA Tournament is an annual event that moves from city to city in the East and Midwest.

Any members interested in more information about the WGA, please visit the WGA's Web site at www.wiremengolf.org or call the Local 58 office to contact Bro. Art DeCoste, WGA vice president.

David Austin, Pres.

Congratulations to Graduates

L.U. 76 (c,i,rts&st), TACOMA, WA—On Aug. 26, the Southwest Washington JATC held a dinner for the 2011 graduating class. Local 76 welcomes our new inside construction journeymen: Maria Anderson, Jason Becher, Kathryn Bier, Andrew Burkhard, Jakim

Cabrera, Matthew Childress, Andrew Carman, Logan Collins, Allison Foster, Aaron Fritz, Steven Gaidrich, Nicholas Gilman Jr., Konstantin Golaev, Brian Hammon, John Herzog, Kevin Johnson, Jason Joines, Brad Jones, Jonathan Kays, Jason Kenser, Kevyn Kim, Timothy Knuth, Lars Knutson, Yevgeniy Kurkov, Chad Lansford, Darrin Lininger, Aaron Lowers, John McCaffery, Jason McClelland, Matthew Mosebach, Andrzej Planeta, Rusty Powell, Joey Roberts, Nicholas Roberts, Ron Schmitt, Richard Schommer, Derek Sledge, Paul Spinsa,

Nicholas Stopherd, Paul Tanaka, Branden Whipple, Jonathan Whitman and Nick Wiess. Welcome also to our new low-voltage journeymen: Paul Freund III and Sonja McGahuey. We congratulate these new journeymen and wish them long, successful careers.

Mac McClellan, P.S.



Local 76 honors class of 2011 JATC graduates.



Local 90 members attend annual Retirement/25-Year Pin Dinner.

Retirement/25-Year Dinner

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—Winter has arrived and we have some new projects going, but not enough to clear our book.

We had our annual members summer outing in August. There was a good turnout as usual, even with a hurricane coming the next day. At the outing we held a fundraiser for our departed Bro. Steve Poulin's children's education fund; more than \$4,550 was raised for this worthy cause. Thanks go to our members and contractors and vendors for their generosity.

In October our annual Retirement/25 Year Pin Dinner was held. More than 200 members attended to celebrate these milestones. We wish our retirees the very best and thank them for all they have done for this local union and the IBEW. The recent retirees are: Vinny Anyzeski, Bill Bennett, Bill Dickey, Sal Depino, Mike Giorlando, Joel Goldberg, Ron Goode, John Hodge, Craig Leger, Mike Mierzejewski, Craig Newell, Pete Niziolek, Bill Shea, Bob Shumbo, Bill Street and Tom Umphlett Jr.

Congratulations also to 25 year pin recipients: John Berry, Pete Cappola, Gary Card, Joe Fernicola, Kevin Heery, Bill Heimann, Luke Luzietti, Dana McCarthy, Kathy Pyrdol, Jim Rasile, Ed Serrano, Andy Tokarski, Brendan Toth, Kevin Walsh and Joe Zehnder.

Sean Daly, Pres.

A New Union Hall

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—We've moved! Local 96 moved to our new home, at 242 Mill St., Worcester, MA 01602. Thanks to all members for their patience through construction. The building was worth the



IBEW Local 96 moved to its new union hall.

wait and is something we can call our own.

At the annual apprenticeship banquet in May, perfect attendance awards were presented and graduating apprentices were honored. Worcester City Mgr. Michael V. O'Brien spoke, with a positive outlook on development and construction in the city. Congratulations to the graduates: Trevor Clark, David Coll,

Kevin Courtney, Michael Derosier, Jason Graven, Edmond Gutierrez, Robert MacDonald, Brian Mondor, Brandon Pervier, William Robinson Jr., Jorge Rodriguez, Stephen Tangney and Christopher Walsh.

Following the spring tomoado that devastated western and central Massachusetts, Local 96 members assisted with debris clean-up in Sturbridge. Many thanks to volunteers: Bus. Rep. George Carpenter, Adam Chaffee, Nathan Daniel, Stephen Daniel, Derek Gilroy, Jacob Kilgore, Robert Mosher, Justin Nordquist, Benjamin Olen, Nick Pellegrino and Mark Vigeant.

Our 25th Annual Golf Tournament was Sept. 30. Curt Swedburg and his foursome won. It was a great day and funds raised support the kids' Christmas party. Thanks to all who gave support and participated.

We thank David delaGorgendiere for his years of service with the JATC. Best wishes in future endeavors, David.

Happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Visit us online at www.ibewlocal96.org. Like us on Facebook.

Luke E. Carpenter, Treas., P.S.

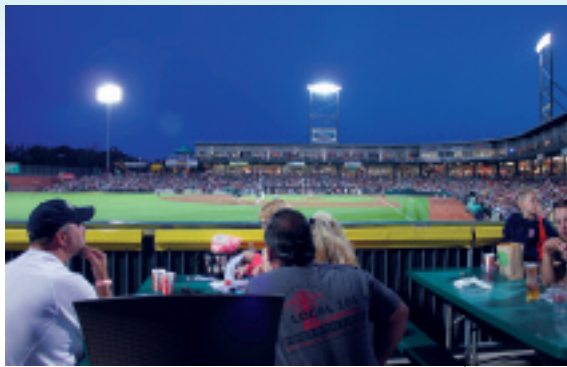
Union Night at the Fisher Cat's Ballgame

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—On Aug. 22, more than 20 unions from across New Hampshire came together in Manchester, NH, with more than 500 members and their families, along with 11 New Hampshire state representatives and two state senators, to watch a Fisher Cat's ballgame in solidarity.

This night was organized as union appreciation night to bring together all New Hampshire union members and their families along with the New Hampshire legislators both Democratic and Republican to say thank-you for all your hard work and support throughout this legislative session and a long, hard-fought battle against HB474, the “right-to-work” (for less) bill.

The hard-working union members of New Hampshire are not out of the woods with all of the attacks on collective bargaining and against their pensions. Gov. John Lynch has vetoed bill HB474 and it now sits in the House of Representatives in the hands of Speaker of the House William O'Brien (R). Rep. O'Brien is now waiting till the next legislation

Local Lines



IBEW Local 104 members and their families watch the New Hampshire Fisher Cat's ballgame against the Trenton Thunder.

session to see if he has enough votes on the floor to overturn the governor's veto and has said publicly that he will wait until the last minute if necessary.

Chris Blair, P.S.

ARRA Projects Underway

L.U. 110 (em,i,rt,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN—We have 25 members working on the Union Depot remodel and more working on our light-rail project in St. Paul. As of press time, 11 miles of light-rail construction will continue to put IBEW members to work for another 18 months. A new Transportation Maintenance Facility will be starting next spring and that project will last 18 months. This is all because of the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding. Many people are saying that stimulus money is not putting anybody to work; that is just a blatant lie. At 25 percent unemployment in our local, we need more federal stimulus funding to get this construction economy out of this depression.

Jamie McNamara, our longtime president, was elected to become our business manager. Jamie has a bold vision for our local to build our members' solidarity in our union and with the labor movement as a whole.

For the fortunate locals that have work, thank you for putting our traveling brothers and sisters to work.

Brian Winkelaar, P.S.



IBEW Local 110 electricians gather at the Union Depot project jobsite.

Jobs & Organizing Drives

L.U. 136 (ees,em,i,rtb&u), BIRMINGHAM, AL—Work has slowed this year with many of the power company's environmental projects (SCRs and scrubbers) being completed. It seems that future power company projects (baghouses) may be delayed until the

outcome of next year's political races are decided.

The GOP Republican candidates have promised that if elected, they will do everything in their power to abolish the regulatory systems in place such as the EPA, OSHA and the National Labor Relations Board. These agencies were established to protect working people and their core beliefs and rights: to work in a clean environment and have clean air and water; to be safe in the workplace and go home to their family intact every night; and to be treated fairly and respectfully in the work-

place, without discrimination and prejudice. If the current EPA regulations are reversed or relaxed, these power company projects will not happen.

Our organizers continue to work on creating more job opportunities for our members, and to spread the word to the unorganized. Special thanks to Int. Lead Organizer Joe Skinner for helping with our P&I (professional and industrial) organizing efforts. We have targeted several manufacturing and electrical co-operatives.

Continued heartfelt thanks to all who supported tornado relief efforts in Alabama and other areas.

Bobby Hamner, P.S.



IBEW Local 136 has helped support tornado relief efforts in Alabama.

2011 A Busy Year

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Among other things this year, Local 160 held its election of officers for a three-year term.

Congratulations to Bro. Tom Koehler for winning another term as business manager/financial secretary. Congratulations also to Pres. Alan P. Radamacher, Vice Pres. Kurt W. Zimmerman, Rec. Sec. Barbara L. Kuck, and Treas. George G. Huber for winning their elections; and congratulations to five executive board members elected.

Local 160 said a fond goodbye to Bro. James A. Anderson. Jim retired June 30 following 44 years with the IBEW and Local 160. Jim was initiated into the IBEW in 1967. Besides his career as a lineman,

Jim also served as business representative for 29 years. We wish Jim a long and happy retirement. As Jim departs for a well-earned retirement, we welcome Bro. Charles Sable as Jim's replacement. We wish Charlie the best of luck as he begins his career as a business representative. Local 160 also extends a special thank-you to Bro. Daniel S. Seawell in his

role as press secretary for Local 160 the past decade. Please work safely, brothers and sisters.

James P. Brereton, P.S.



Local 164 volunteers stand beside 9/11 memorial: from left, Ivan Tarabocchia, Volunteer Committee Chmn. Warren Becker and Mike McCarthy.

Volunteers Serve Community

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—Work remains slow in northeastern New Jersey's three counties that comprise Local 164's territory. The only decent-size jobs in Bergen, Hudson and Essex Counties basically consist of power plants and switchyards and also data centers. Very few buildings are coming out of the ground. Everyone hopes for a better job picture next year.

Despite the tough work picture, the Local 164 Volunteer Committee and hundreds of members do great work for the less fortunate. On April 15, Local 164's Project Grandma Committee hosted New Jersey's Golden Glove Finals in our 8,800 square-foot meeting hall. The "Original Rocky"—New Jersey's own Chuck Wepner, aka the "Bayonne Bleeder"—was our honored guest. The committee raised \$15,000 for Project Grandma to help those who have breast cancer.

Volunteer Chmn. Warren Becker, Ivan Tarabocchia and Mike McCarthy did an outstanding job wiring lights for the New Jersey Bergen County 9/11 Memorial, which was dedicated Sept. 10 at the Police and Fire Academy in Mahwah, NJ. A piece of steel I-beam was mounted on a marble base, with plaques surrounding the base. Firemen and police-

men from Bergen County lost on that fateful day, as well as servicemen who gave their lives fighting in the Middle East, were honored.

Special thanks to Dan Kelly of Multi-Phase Electric for donating the lighting and also to Paul Lowenstein of Bullet Electric for donating the use of a scissor lift.

John DeBouter, Pres.

Reflection on 2011

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—As we begin to close the door on 2011 and I reflect on the past year of work in Local 196, there are a couple of moments that our local union can never forget. Two of our brothers were involved in fatal jobsite accidents this year and that, brothers and sisters, is two too many. One of our municipal linemen, Jeff Kissack, had a fatal electrical contact while working during an outage back in April. Jeff was an experienced lineman with nearly 30 years in the trade, a friend of mine that I worked on the truck with, and he is sorely missed. On Sept. 12 another member, Dan Green, was working on a lighting project when a tractor trailer cut a corner way too sharp and ran over Dan as he knelt to work on some conduit that had just been installed. He was several feet off of the roadway when he was struck by the trailer of the vehicle. We have to constantly be aware of our work zone and all of the associated dangers while watching out for each other at all times. Please, brothers and sisters, a moment of silence and prayer for all of our injured and killed IBEW family members this past year.

Work safe, my friends.

Eric Patrick, B.M.

Officers Elected

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—Congratulations to winners of the 2011 Local 222 election: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. James M. "Mike" Bell, Pres. Bill Hitt, Vice Pres. Dale Smithmier, Rec. Sec. Fred Morgan, Treas. James Westbrook; Executive Board members James Puzon, Gary Robbins, Fred "Buzzy" Whisman and J.J. Zlotowski; and Examining Board members Jeff Carpenter, Willy Dezayas and David Ippolito. Bro. Smithmier and Bro. Bell were also elected as delegates to the International Convention.

Local 222 officers and members wish all our brothers and sisters happy holidays and a prosperous 2012.

Bill Hitt, Pres.



Local 234 Inside graduating class of 2011: from left, B.J. Heading, Phillipe Miccoli, Raymond Sykes II, Gabriel Rodriguez, Moises Zuniga, Abraham Adams, Michael Kulich, Devin Fehn, Bronson Huerta, Peggy Evans, David Mason, Omar Padilla, Josh Murray, Paul Rivera, Sergio Castillo and Jose Recio Jr. (Not pictured, Nicholas Castillo.)

IBEW Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—Our local offers our heartfelt congratulations to all of the successful graduating apprentices of the IBEW. While acknowledging they face a currently distressed economy, we realize their technical, practical skills will be in great demand both over time and with the retirement of their mentors. As an integral part of an industry that has always been advancing to meet ever progressing technological developments, they will continually hone their skills in the field and through classroom training. We swell with pride for their achievements.

Special congratulations to our own 2011 graduating Inside apprenticeship class. Graduation was held June 10 at the union run La Playa in Carmel. Our recent graduates are: Abraham Adams, Nicholas Castillo, Sergio Castillo, Peggy Evans, Devin Fehn, B.J. Heading, Bronson Huerta, Michael Kulich, David Mason, Phillipe Miccoli, Josh Murray, Omar Padilla, Jose Recio Jr., Paul Rivera, Gabriel Rodriguez, Raymond Sykes II and Moises Zuniga. [Photo, pg. 10]

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Fowlds a Super Steward

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—As of this writing in October, work is abundant in the state of Oregon—but unfortunately not in our local. We are waiting on more news regarding the expansion of data centers in central Oregon and it looks as though more work for us will be upcoming, but not immediately. Many thanks to Locals 48 and 112 for keeping our members working until our projects start hiring.

The largest thanks of all goes to Bro. Jeff Fowlds, who did a tremendous job as steward on the Facebook project in Prineville. Bro. Jeff was the driving force of good brotherhood and unionism, as this data center was a model of what union labor can do. This job was a high pressure and tight deadline project and Local 280 shined with top craftsmanship, showing the owners of Facebook that the IBEW gives the best value!

The September picnic at Timber-Linn was a huge success. Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew thanks all who attended and enjoyed the great festivities. The retirees were there to the enjoyment of all, there were children's games, and the weather was perfect.

Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew and his staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.



Local 280 union steward Bro. Jeff Fowlds (left) receives his 20-year IBEW pin from Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew at a Central Oregon Unit meeting.

U.S. Labor Sec. Solis Visits – Supports American Jobs Act

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—More than 800 members voted on Sept. 28 on a NECA proposed contract, which covers the current year through April 2012. The contract passed with 64 per-



U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis joins IBEW Local 292 officers in front of a crumbling bridge structure in Minneapolis. From left: Local 292 Bus. Rep. Jeff Carlson, Vice Pres. Dan Ferguson, Solis, Press Sec. Carl Madsen, Treas. Ric Chantry, Fin. Sec. Pete Lindahl and Bus. Mgr. Rodger Kretman.

cent of the vote. Due to the economy our work outlook remains stagnate, and many of our members are travelling to other locals; we thank those locals for accepting our travelling brothers and sisters.

In September U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis visited Minneapolis to discuss the American Jobs Act's potential to put 7,500 Minnesotans back to work. Secretary Solis called on all union members to support the President's initiative to revitalize the crumbling infrastructure and put our members back to work.

This is the fourth holiday season that Local 292 and Local 110 (St. Paul, MN) have supported the IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park. More than 50 larger-than-life holiday light sculptures and animated displays are set up in St. Paul's beautiful Phalen Park. The drive is more than a half-mile long and is bordered by Lake Phalen and the Phalen Golf Course.

Carl Madsen, P.S.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Local 300 welcomes its newest members to the IBEW—Winooski Police Department employees. We wish you well and look forward to working with you in the future.

I thank all the men and women who gave a helping hand during the clean-up and restoration efforts following hurricane Irene. Vermont was devastated by the hurricane and continues to feel the wrath of Mother Nature. At this writing, we are presently working diligently to repair Vermont's infrastructure prior to the winter.

At press time, the merger/acquisition of Vermont's two largest utility companies, Green Mountain Power (GMP) and Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS), is in full force and underway. The IBEW looks forward to working with the companies in the attempt to create a unified work force on all fronts. Local 300 has intervened in the merger/acquisition at the Public Service Board to ensure promises are kept and members are treated fairly. Show your support at the public meetings.

The Local 300 office staff and officers wish all IBEW members a safe and happy holiday season. Be well, be safe, and be there for others.

Jeffrey C. Wimette, B.M./F.S.



IBEW utility workers in Vermont assess Hurricane Irene damage. Power was lost to more than 70,000 customers.

Big Solar Project for School District

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Brothers and sisters, while the current work situation is bleak we had a ray of sunshine this past summer—reportedly “the largest solar contract awarded by a school district in the entire country.” This according to John Hunter, president of Del Monte Electric, who performed all aspects of covered work on projects for the Mt. Diablo & San Ramon Unified School Districts using a peak of 150 Local 302 journeymen and apprentice level inside wiremen.

In a letter sent to Bus. Mgr. Mike Yarbrough, John wrote the following: “I would like to personally thank you and the many members of IBEW Local 302 who worked on our SunPower solar contracts. ... These projects had exceptionally tight schedules and involved work that many in your local and our company were not entirely familiar with. ... This was only possible because of the very talented and motivated electricians that were dispatched. ... The quality of work was outstanding, and the rates of installation were very impressive. In fact, SunPower told us that they have never seen anyone install the quantity of PV panels per day that were achieved by our crews.”

Paul Doolittle, A.B.M.



Local 304 retiree Robert “Jake” Jacobson (left) receives 60-year pin presented by Retirees Club Pres. Doug Fisher.

Labor Day Parades & Rallies

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—We were proud sponsors of the Labor Day parades held in Topeka and Hoisington. Sept. 5 marked Topeka's tenth parade and rally, with more than 20 unions participating and 3,000 people lining the streets supporting working men and women. More than 50 members and families walked in both parades. The rally at the State Capitol in Topeka brought music, speakers, a cookout and refreshments. Hoisington had a picnic in the park after the parade there, with members and families participating. Contributions by members purchased a picnic table, which was donated to the City Park in Hoisington.

Bro. Robert Jacobson received his 60-year service pin and award at the Retirees Club meeting

in June. “Little Jake,” as he is known, is a proud union member and has many memories of his working days as a journeyman lineman. We also proudly brag on other senior members including: 50-year members Maynard Beck, Douglas Coleman, Leon Green and Jackie LaRue; 55-year members Ernest Bracken and Robert Williams; 60-year members Robert Denton, Derald Hogan and Albert Leslie; and 65-year member Edmond Askren Jr.

United Way Labor Kickoff was Aug. 25 at the hall. Be generous and donate to this good cause.

Paul Lira, B.M.

‘Fix Bayonets & Charge—To the Polls’

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Brothers and sisters, we are in a fight for survival of the American way of life and the middle class as we have known it. Through blood, sweat, tears and taxes, we have been able to provide for our families and better living conditions for many of our neighbors. Currently, our jobs, natural resources and investments are flowing across the oceans while politicians posture themselves with many of the 11,700 registered lobbyists working Capitol Hill. Do you ever wonder whose interests are really represented in the halls of our government? The chief weapon we have to fight power, money and influence is the magic bullet of democracy—your individual vote. Use it and use it wisely; the way of life you save may be your own!

We celebrated our annual Pig Roast on Oct. 1. It's always a winner for our membership and benefits local programs also. Thanks to all who work hard and make this happen from all who enjoyed it.

Santa will visit our local Christmas party Dec. 3, at Todaro's Party Center in the Valley. Mark your calendars!

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Joseph Utlak, Robert Adolph, Dennis Stanec and Dan Bocko. We send our condolences to their families.

Work smart and work safe!

Bob Sallaz, P.S.



Local 350 Bro. Don Hardy (left) receives 60-year service award presented by Bus. Mgr. William Tate.

OSHA 30 Classes

L.U. 350 (i), HANNIBAL, MO—On July 11, newly elected Local 350 officers were sworn in by retired past president Bro. Don Hardy. Don also received his 60-year service pin. Congratulations to Bro. Hardy on his accomplishment.

Local 350 members recently attended OSHA-30 classes. That session was completed in the fall. Hats off to members who attended this class. It takes a special person to continue training on his or her own time.

Work in the area is slow, but we have been able to keep all working on Book I except for a handful of members. We see very little coming up

Local Lines

as for now, but that changes from time to time. We have three lock and dam systems in our area. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is discussing making two of them hydro-powered in the future. The Corp estimates starting sometime in 2016.

Wishing all our IBEW brothers and sisters a prosperous future.

William Tate, B.M.

'A Fight for What Is Right'

L.U. 354 (i,mt,rts&spa), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Work started to pick up late in the year for Local 354 members. We hope to have full employment by spring.

Political action is again the focus with our VOTE Committee. Voice of the Electricians is recruiting members to get involved in upcoming elections. You can make a difference—write, phone or e-mail your representatives in Congress. Voice your concerns about the anti-union, anti-worker laws spreading in this country. American workers are being asked to sacrifice, whether they have a job or not. Many politicians are attacking our right to bargain collectively, to dignity in our retirement years, to health care, and to protections for children, the elderly and less fortunate.

We have many good, hard-working people suffering because of the political posturing. This is unacceptable! Workers must unite and fight for our rights.

In September, the 38th IBEW International Convention was held in Vancouver, Canada. Thank you for sending me to this inspiring convention of great brothers and sisters from across the continent.

We thank those who went before us. And to those who will come after us—we welcome you. Keep up the good work and continue the fight. Get involved in your union, your community and your future. Ask yourself: Are you just a member or are you a brother/sister willing to fight for what is right? Have a happy holiday.

Manya Blackburn, R.S.

Registered & Ready to Vote

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—The IBEW's 38th International Convention was recently held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Delegates attended from locals all across North America. Elected by our membership, Local 364's four convention delegates representing our members were: Bros. Darrin Golden, Charlie Laskonis, Ty Hillman and Dan Schlittler.

Members are treated to an annual Northern Illinois University Huskies football game and pregame tailgate party held by our maintenance electricians who work for the university. We managed to get the majority of the tailgate in before inclement weather set in. Fortunately, the thunderstorm passed and the Husky game against Army took place. The Huskies went on to rout Army in a laughter. Thanks to the NIU IBEW members for being great hosts.

The 2012 primaries are just around the corner and campaigns are heating up. We again will focus our efforts on registering to vote 100 percent of our members. More than 95 percent are currently registered. We are one of the locals with the highest percentage of registered members both in the IBEW and compared to other unions as well. Statistics clearly show that, especially in primary elections, when union people vote union candidates win.

Local 364 wishes all our sisters and brothers a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Charles Laskonis, B.A., Organizer

JATC Graduation Banquet

L.U. 380 (ei,es,i&it), NORRISTOWN, PA—Local 380 JATC held its 2011 graduation banquet at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA. We celebrated the accomplishments of the graduates, who successfully completed their five-year apprenticeship. The new apprentices had signed up for more than just a job—they signed up for a true apprenticeship. [Photo, at bottom.] They would work on the job 40 hours a week learning the craft from highly skilled journeymen; attend school two evenings a week and maintain the required grade average; attend some Saturday classes; and perform community service. It's been quite a ride and they made it with the support of their families, friends and dedicated staff and instructors at the JATC.

Each year the graduating class votes for one of their own classmates to receive the leadership award. This year the Stephen Malinowski Leadership Award went to Tarrell A. Wilks.

Awards for perfect attendance in the fifth year went to: William M. Deacon, Matthew J. Giese, Sean T. Lodge, Andrew T. Reinhart, Christopher J. Rose, and Sheldon K. Sampson. Perfect attendance awards for all five years of apprentice went to Louis J. Matregrano and Scot A. McClintock. Overall achievement awards went to: Sheldon K. Sampson for third place, William M. Deacon for second place; and for first place, the James W. Mayall Award went to Louis J. Matregrano.

Scott R. Sheldon, P.S.

Apprenticeship Programs

L.U. 412 (u), KANSAS CITY, MO—On Aug. 27, 2011, Locals 412, 1464 and 1613 had their 14th Annual IBEW Picnic. This picnic is for members current and



IBEW Local 494 members greet American Legion representatives. From left: Local 494 members Wade Ubbelohde and Skip Theobald; Richard Wachter; Local 494 Executive Board member Michael Zimmermann; Local 494 Bus. Rep. John Jacobs; Larry Ter Maat, John Schmid and Wayne Richter.

retired and their families. This day is filled with activities for the children, good food and fun with friends.

In other news:

2010/2011 KCP&L Apprentice Program—September 2011 started a new Mechanical Apprentice Program with the following enrolled: Jeremy Blanchard, Tyler Allen, Aaron Carr, Nick Wooster, Todd Smith, Jeff Myers and Daniel Lindsay.

At present we have two other Apprenticeship Programs ongoing. They are as follows:

Electrical—Kavin Jones, Patrick Lampkin, Casey Lathrop and David Howard.

Welders—Shawn Brownsberger, Robert Bybee, Michael Elpers, Geoffrey Johnson and Mark Heckadon.

On the safety front: Iatan Generating Station's Fuel Yard went 10 years accident free as of Aug. 21, 2011!

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.

American Legion Project

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—American Legion Post #149 of Sheboygan Falls, WI, critically needed electrical upgrades and decided to

approach Mike Zimmermann, an IBEW Local 494 Executive Board member, for possible financial assistance from our local. Mike agreed to take their request to the Executive Board, under the condition that the work would be performed by an electrical contractor that hires IBEW members. With that agreed to, Mike brought the matter before the Executive Board, which received their recommendation pending final approval from the Local 494 membership. At the May general membership union meeting, the membership approved \$2,000 to be donated to American Legion Post #149.

Next, the Legion had to make a decision on which contractor to use. Ultimately it was decided to have Specht Electric as the electrical contractor. IBEW members Wade Ubbelohde and Skip Theobald completed the needed upgrades.

Relationships build the foundation of trust—and that trust established between Mike Zimmermann, American Legion Post #149, Specht Electric and our general membership, in giving back to our community, made this project entirely possible. Get involved and stay involved with your community, Brothers and Sisters.

John Jacobs, B.R.

Hopeful for 2012

L.U. 498 (c,catv,em,i&spa), TRAVERSE CITY, MI—At this writing the work outlook in our area remains challenging. We are hopeful for 2012 to be a better construction year in our jurisdiction.

The annual Local 498 picnic was held at Timber Ridge Campground this summer and everyone had a great time. Thanks go out to all those who helped prepare food, organize the event and do the cleanup, and to all who donated.

We wish a merry Christmas and happy New Year to all our members traveling around the country and overseas.

On a sad note, our local recently lost retired member Bernard Flickinger. Our condolences go out to his family.

Timothy R. Babcock, P.S.



Attendees from Locals 412, 1464 and 1613 gather for Annual IBEW Picnic.



Local 380 JATC class of 2011 graduates: front row, from left, Jason Law, Michael Brett, Sean Lodge, Josh Yates, Tarrell Wilks, Jason Rigg, William Deacon, Louis Matregrano; back row, Thomas Lepera, Matthew Giese, Andrew Reinhart, Christopher Rose, Scot McClintock, Sheldon Sampson and Anthony Catagnus.



Local 498 members and their families visit after a great meal at the annual summer picnic.

Annual Events a Success

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Local 530 held our annual summer picnic on July 24. This event saw members and their families enjoy the local water park, including waterslides and bumper boats.

Huron Oaks Golf and Country Club was the location for Local 530's annual golf tournament on Aug. 5. We filled the course and had a great day. It was good to see many of our retirees participate and trade stories with old workmates as well as meet younger members.

As usual Sarnia's Labour Day parade was a huge success. Despite rainy weather many members and their children walked the parade route. Everyone was welcomed afterward with lunch, a beverage tent, live music, and activities for the kids.

Thanks to Local 530's Recreation Club for all their hard work putting together these three events.

As of this writing our members, with the help of neighboring locals, are wrapping up two new 20-megawatt solar farms. Green energy creates jobs and we wish to thank all involved.

Local 530 thanks Regina Local 2038 for continuing to employ our members.

Al Byers, P.S.

Habitat for Humanity Projects

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Twenty-five members of Local 558 teamed up with the Marion County, AL, Habitat for Humanity to construct four homes in Hackleburg, AL, a town that was demolished by the April tornadoes that swept across Alabama. The new homes were built for families whose homes were destroyed by the tornadoes. Union members, who volunteered their time and efforts, completely wired the houses in two weekends.

What a great way for a local union to become involved in the community while helping people who really need help. Every member who participated came away with a feeling of satisfaction of having helped with the project, and the families were grateful for all the electrical work on their homes.

Marion County Habitat for Humanity Pres. David Cooper and Project Mgr. Fred Bryant stated: "We could never have done this without the help of IBEW Local 558."

IBEW members participating were: Michael W. Donaldson, Randy Gargis, John Hart, Ricky Keel, Charles Lamon, Kenneth Lindsey, Scotty Little, Mark Massey, Ralph Mayes, Dennis Mayo, Tyler Morrow, Tim Pesto, Jason Phillips, Tony Quillen, Neal Quinn, Matthew Schults, Scotty Seal, Mac Sloan, Bradley Strait, Ricky Tice, Bob Walker, Ronald Weaver, Mike Wilbanks, Gabe Wood and Ricky Young.

Mac Sloan, Mbr. Dev.



IBEW Local 558 volunteers wired four new Habitat for Humanity homes for families hard hit by tornado destruction.

30-Hour OSHA Class

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—We send a special thank-you to the 13 union members who attended the 30-hour OSHA class at the JATC. Along with the 30 hours of OSHA training, the class received four hours of Arc Flash Hazard training.

Five delegates represented our local at the IBEW 38th International Convention. More than 2,000 delegates represented 714 local unions at the convention from all of the United States and Canada. Numerous resolutions were passed and a few grievances were settled. Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill was nominated by a Local 3 member. Pres. Hill was unanimously elected to a five-year term.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

Newly Organized Contractor

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—Welcome to AJM Electric as a new union contractor signed with IBEW Local 654. AJM is a small contractor that has completed several small- to medium-sized prevailing rate jobs in the area over the last couple of years and performs a wide range of work, both commercial and municipal. We look forward to helping build AJM's continued success as a new partner with the IBEW and Local 654.

At a time when union membership in general has become such a political topic, it is more important than ever that we portray ourselves in a positive light. Donating our time to charity or in the community provides a connection between the public and organized labor, especially the IBEW.

Recently, some of our members installed electrical circuits on a memorial for fallen police and firefighters in Rose Tree Park in Media, PA. I thank Bros. Sean McGillen, Bob Hochstuhl Jr., Craig Grant and Reed Dormond for their volunteer efforts.

All Local 654 officers wish you and your family a joyous holiday and a happy New Year.

Jim Russell, Pres.



Local 654 members perform volunteer work at the Memorial for Fallen Police and Firefighters. From left: Sean McGillen, Bob Hochstuhl Jr., Craig Grant and Reed Dormond.

Kudos to New Journeymen

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—Congratulations to the new journeyman inside wiremen: Dalton Bays, Zac Coffing, Anthony Finley, Dustin Milligan, Bob Neault, Sean Spears and Billy Walters.

Elections were held in June and our newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Carl Neutzling, Pres. Mike Huffman, Vice Pres. Dan Lloyd, Treas. Gary Baumberger, Rec. Sec. Lynda Wenzel; and Executive Board members Andy Biglin, Jesse Kanz, Trent Knackstedt, Rocke Rice, Todd Simmermacher, Paul Smith and Denny Spangler.

Great job, Linda Wenzel! She was named IBEW professional & industrial lead organizer for Ohio and parts of Kentucky.

Thank you to the volunteers who gave their time to help in both the annual city of Mansfield Labor Day Parade and the Marion Popcorn Festival.

One of our local contractors, Spring Electric, recently purchased a formerly nonunion shop located in Mount Vernon.

We are sad to report the loss of members Salo Boar, Richard Hoover, Donald "Pete" Tate, John Uzunoff, and former member and contractor Steve Alfire. We send our prayers and condolences to their families.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

Labor Day Picnic & Parade

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb, rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The Annual Labor Day Picnic hosted by the Egyptian Building & Construction Trades and held at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds was the largest turnout yet with more than 6,000 people in attendance.

Egyptian Building Trades Pres. Dennis Peterson reported that \$40,000 was donated for the purchase of the children's wristbands, which allow the kids to ride all the rides at the fairgrounds for free.

We currently have several open agreements. Progress is slow in negotiations with Ameren Newton Generating. Our members understand what is at stake and we are proud of the solidarity they have shown.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Service Awards Presented

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—Local 704 held local union elections June 16.

Congratulations to: Bus. Mgr. Tom Townsend, Pres. Dave Wilson, Vice Pres. Mark Kaufman, Treas. Don Rausch, Rec. Sec. Jim Vormezelee; Executive Board

Members Ron Heitzman, Tom Schwab, Gary Rolwes, Sean Leppert, Andy Genthe, Pete Hird and Dean Markus; and Examining Board Members Cory Kleinans, Matt Kunau and Corey Petersen. Thanks to everyone who ran and everyone who voted.

Local 704 thanks retiring former business manager Dan Hammel for his 25 years of dedicated service and extends best

wishes for a happy retirement!

Local 704 congratulates Robert C. Wirzbach Sr. for receiving his 65-year service pin, and Fred Gallart for receiving his 60-year service pin. Robert Wirzbach was presented his pin at this year's Labor Day parade. He received congratulations from those in attendance, including his sons Tom Wirzbach and Bob Wirzbach Jr.; newly elected Bus. Mgr. Tom Townsend; and retiring former business manager Dan Hammel.

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Ron Heitzman, P.S.



From left are: Local 704 Bus. Mgr. Tom Townsend, retired former business manager Dan Hammel, Tom Wirzbach, 65-year pin recipient Robert Wirzbach Sr. and Bob Wirzbach Jr.

Holiday Greetings

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—Happy holidays, brothers and sisters.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. The work picture continues to be slow for our area, but we are hopeful that after the first of the year job calls will pick up.

In Houston and surrounding counties, this year we had one of the driest summers on record. At press time, most of the area has been under water restrictions for months. Some of our members have lost everything, including their homes, to wildfires. It was the first summer we have had to deal with wildfires so close to home. Thanks to the Texas AFL-CIO for its wildfire disaster relief program.

I had the honor and privilege to represent our local as a delegate at the 38th International Convention held in Canada. Thanks to our brothers and sisters in Canada for their hospitality and for hosting such a great event.

Congratulations to our new second-year apprentices, who recently made membership at our September union meeting.

At this writing, everyone is looking forward to the local union's Children's Christmas Party and the Adults' Christmas Party scheduled for Dec. 10.

Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

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



Knoxville JATC Class of 2011

Knoxville, TN, Local 760 Training Dir. A.J. "Junny" Pearson (center, seated) congratulates the Class of 2011 Knoxville JATC apprentice graduates.

Local Lines

Retirees

Apprentices Graduate

L.U. 776 (i, o, rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—Over the summer, work was steady and has now leveled out after the fall shutdowns.

Also over the summer, we had four apprentices graduate and become journeyman wiremen: Jason Dixon, Dominique Gray, Joseph Michael and Stencil White. We congratulate them on that huge accomplishment.

We had a great Local 776 Family Picnic over the Labor Day weekend. Thank you to all who came and participated.

Chuck Moore, B.M.

Kudos to Officers, Graduates

L.U. 910 (ees, i&t), WATERTOWN, NY—Newly elected officers sworn in at the July regular meeting are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Dennis Affinati, Pres. Elizabeth Cassada, Vice Pres. Daniel Reff, Rec. Sec. Brian Fikes, Treas. John O'Driscoll; Executive Board members Michael Rhubarb, Keith Sixberry, Steven Young; Examining Board members Robert Erwin, James Rehley, William Writsel, Patrick Travis and Jeffrey Yousey. Delegates to the International Convention: John O'Driscoll and Dennis Affinati.

Congratulations to the apprentice graduating class of 2011: Matt Bilow, James Deon, Steve Derouin, Jeff Hargrave, Donald LaBarge, Cory McNamara, Ian Mott, Joe Nemeth, Mark Pomerville, Joe Wagar and Curtis Wood.

The five-year apprenticeship took a lot of hard work, dedication and sacrifice by the new journeyman wiremen and also by their families. If you see any of the graduates on your jobsite, congratulate them on a job well-done!

A thank-you goes to all the instructors: Kevin Norsworthy, Rob Wray, Scott Dubuque, Kevin Poor, Pete Shuler, Gary Rabideau, Jim Rehley, Charlie Forgette, Ben O'Brien, Jeff LaJoy and Paul Wenzel—and also to substitute instructors Alan Smith, Jim Hutchison, Brian Fikes and Bryan Frank.

Seven teams participated in the 4th Annual Brotherhood Bowling Tournament. Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon of bowling while raising money for our local's Brotherhood Fund. Many thanks go to tournament organizers and all who participated.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Contract Negotiations

L.U. 1466 (u), COLUMBUS, OH—On Saturday, Sept. 24, Local 1466 held our Annual Fall Picnic at the union hall. It was great to see so many new faces as well as our longtime members and their families in attendance. This is always a good chance for our brothers and sisters who don't work in the same location to get to know each other.

In other news, at press time System Council is finishing up negotiations with AEP over our Master Contract. After that a negotiating committee of Local 1466 members will begin negotiating our Local Agreement with the company. Any members with good ideas for our Local Agreement are encouraged to attend monthly union meetings and make your voices heard.

Finally, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Jimi Jette, P.S.

Holiday Program Underway

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Approximately 120 Local 1 retirees enjoyed a great luncheon gathering Sept. 21. The beautiful buffet was appreciated by all. The Local 1 auxiliary marketed their handicrafts for the benefit of the Relief Committee. It was enjoyable to see friends and reminisce over a nice meal.

As the holidays approach, an effort is underway to make the Christmas season a little brighter for local members suffering hard times due to unemployment. Two of our sisters organized a program whereby members and retirees can anonymously "adopt a family" to make the family's Christmas happier. This effort was publicized via the Internet and is receiving a remarkable response. Hats off to Heather Kehoe and Roxanne DiMariano. All retirees are urged to help by contacting them by e-mail at roxanna.dimariano@ibewlocal1.org or by phone at (314) 467-8165.

The retirees wish all Local 1 officers much success in future efforts to carry on the traditions and spirit of our union.

All Local 1 retirees who have an e-mail address are invited to share it with the secretary at: dappelbaum@centurytel.net for future communications.

The final meeting for 2011 was Nov. 16. Meetings for 2012 are: March 21, May 16, July 18, Sept. 19 (luncheon), and Nov. 21. Meetings start at 10 a.m. with a light lunch and beverages served.

Don Appelbaum, P.S.



Local 1 retirees gather with friends at buffet luncheon.

Woodloch Pines Trip

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—Our North Jersey Chapter got together again July 5-8 at Woodloch Pines in Hawley, PA. The event was arranged by our Jimmy Piscitelli, who always does a great job. We know it's not easy trying to please 44 people. The weather was beautiful. We enjoyed boating and games and some won



Local 3, North New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club members at Woodloch Pines in July 2011.

medals, which were worn proudly for the shuffleboard tournaments, poker, etc. Workout much needed—the food delicious. The shows were great and the staff made you feel welcomed. On Thursday they had their summer barbecue. All too soon it was time for Friday departure, but we were looking forward to our picnic Aug. 10 at the Platz Brauhaus.

For all who could not join us, you were missed. Maybe next time. We all enjoyed the events, but we still think of our brothers and sisters in our industry who are out of work. We are one—and we hope things turn around soon and that fellow members will be back working.

Thanks to Abe Fichtenbaum for his usual great picture. He always manages to fit us all in the photo.

Anthony LaBate, P.S.

Labor Day Parade & Fall Events

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, SUFFOLK CHAPTER—Our chapter took great pride walking side by side with our parent union, IBEW Local 3, at the Annual N.Y.C. Labor Day Parade to show that labor will not be silent in these very hard times. Our Chm. Jack Foley thanked the members on the bus trip back home for their participation.

Our chapter has been very active planning our activities. In September we had our golf outing. Thank you to Hank Schmidt and his committee. Our end-of-summer barbecue was a great success, and all had a good time. It was a great opportunity to see old friends. Thanks to Ed Scalice and his committee for their hard work.

At our October meeting the membership helped kick off our Annual Food Drive for October, November and December. All food is donated to L. I. Cares, which distributes to all food pantries. No child or family should ever go hungry.

Bro. Fred Faas reported on our Annual Holiday Party scheduled for Dec. 15. Fred always does a good job with the party.

We had our Annual Columbus Day Luncheon, which ran into dinner. We had a great time and a large turnout. We thank Marie and Fred Faas for organizing the luncheon.

Harvey Goldman, P.S.



Attendees enjoy a Local 3, Westchester/Putnam Chapter, Retirees Club luncheon at Ciao Restaurant. From left, counterclockwise: Dick Mills, Dominic Malandro, Mike Helwig, Dominic Pironti, and their wives.

Generosity & Fall Activities

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER—At our June meeting, in lieu of our regular 50/50 raffle, the amount collected at the door was augmented by the chapter, to allow for a \$500 donation to be made to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. Thanks to all for their generous donations.

Pension Dir. Thomas Gallagher has requested we start planning ahead for the 2012 elections and make sure everyone in our chapter is a registered voter.

September started our fall meetings, with updates on union affairs and issues that affect our members. In September, a luncheon was held with 54 members and guests in attendance. Getting together with friends for lunch is always an enjoyable time.

Although the weather was threatening, our annual Fall Golf Outing, which included lunch, was held Oct. 13. Prizes were awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, closest to the line, and best score.

Our various committees have been hard at work, scheduling events:

A Nov. 3 chapter outing to the Westchester Dinner Theater for dinner and a show was scheduled at press time.

Our annual December Christmas/Hanukkah Luncheon was still in the planning stages as of this writing.

Robert J. Cuneo, P.S.

70-year Service Pin Awarded

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 22, OMAHA, NE—It has been a while since the Local 22 Retirees Club has had an entry in The Electrical Worker. We will try to be more consistent in the future. At our "Years of Service Luncheon" in May, we had 22 brothers receiving pins for 50 or more years of service. A 70-year pin went to Bro. Phil Monaco. Seventy years! That is a real accomplishment.

Pres. Lou Masters wishes to remind all retired members that they are welcome to attend the monthly meeting/luncheon on the second Wednesday of every month.

At our meetings we have an occasional guest speaker, discussions on insurance, health of members, politics, and a lot of reminiscing. Lunch is prepared by a volunteer retired member, and over the years we have had a variety of very delicious meals.

As of this writing, Local 22 has lost 13 members this year. Let their names not be forgotten: Joseph Slezak, John Grasso, Delbert Hawkins, Milo



Attending Local 26 Retirees Club's crab feast are: foreground, recent retiree Donald Simmel (left) and wife Danette Simmel, joined by recent retiree Ed Higgins (back, right) and wife Jessie Higgins.

Karasek, James Burkett, Stewart Kahn, Kenneth Sowers, Syl Orsi, Mike Flanigan, F.R. Suntken, Robert Grebl, Don Goodman and Randal Cody.

Chris Bayer, P.S.

Thanks to Volunteers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC—2011 was like other years—we lost trusted friends and made new friends, but this year we also lost our treasurer, Terry Campbell. James Handley was appointed as our new treasurer. Thank you, Jim, for stepping up to keep us going.

Each year our RMC offers a raffle to help support our Medical Equipment Fund. This year, we held the raffle in November and in our October newsletter thanked the many volunteers who helped: two pages of names! Without volunteers our club could not continue. Whether you are retired or still working, please consider lending a helping hand. What a wonderful way to start 2012.

The RMC held its annual Crab Feast in October and enjoyed the great weather, good crabs and

wonderful camaraderie (see photo, at left). In September some cruised on the largest passenger ship in the world! Imagine ice skating, zip line riding, surfing and so much more, without even counting Jamaica, Mexico or the island of Labadee.

Our next cruise will be in May 2012. We'll visit Norway, France, Ireland, England and Scotland! By the time you read this we may have sold out, but if you have an interest contact Bro. Rick Warner ASAP at (240) 472-0438. A trip with union brothers and sisters is one you will never forget!

Susan Flashman, P.S.

News from the Great Lakes

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 38, CLEVELAND, OH—Greetings from the Great Lakes region. Looking out my window I see it's raining yet again. Wish we could ship some of it to Texas where it's really needed. I'm just thankful it's not snow!

Our retirees had a great summer! We enjoyed our annual summer picnic, chicken dinner, and clambake, plus several other get-togethers. There are many retirees now and our monthly meetings are very full.

Thank God there have been some large jobs starting up. We're hoping that will get some of our young men and women back to work.

Having kept my report short, I thought I'd share a little poem to make you all smile:

Looking Good—

*My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty, the cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely, and so does my lawn.
I think I might put my glasses back on.*

God bless you all, our departed members, and families. God bless America and God bless our troops.

Arthur Lesjak, P.S.

'Thanks to All Supporters'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club held a 50/50 raffle at the Local 42 picnic held Aug. 27. The retirees wish to thank all Local 42 members and all of the office staff for all their support and donations toward the raffle. It wouldn't have been so successful without all of you. Some of the donations will go toward helping other community organizations.

Just a reminder: The Retiree's Club invites anyone who is a retired member of Local 42 to come and join them. The club meets several times a year at the Local 42 hall located at 379 Wetherell St., Manchester, CT. The retirees get together and talk about old times, share funny stories and enjoy each other's company along with coffee and yummy donuts. If you would like to get out of the house for a couple of hours, come and join them; the club would love to have you. If you are interested and would like more information, give us a call at (860) 646-7297.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

'Satisfied Travelers'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—The week following the Labor Day parade saw our retirees, their wives and guests embark on a spectacular trip to our nation's capital, Washington, D. C. It was a week packed with interesting sightseeing, camaraderie and some unforeseen excitement.

En route, a truly memorial stop was made at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. At the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, we saw on display more than 200 aircraft from around the world, including the Space Shuttle Enterprise and a French Concorde jet.

With a tour guide while in D. C., we visited the FDR Memorial, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and made a sobering trip to Arlington National Cemetery. We also visited the White House and the vast Smithsonian complex.

The unplanned excitement was the result of Bro. Lee Durham having a heart attack. He was shuttled over to the hospital and had surgery the following day. Lee was brought home several days later doing much better.

On the way home, we stopped by Baltimore for a guided tour and time spent at the Inner Harbor area. The return trip home, with our two motor coaches, was filled with the silence of satisfied travelers.

Frank A. Maisano, P.S.

Active & Enjoyable Year

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 86, ROCHESTER, NY—It's been a busy and enjoyable year for retirees. Our annual golf tournament was held June 25 and enjoyed by many retirees under the direction of retiree Kevin Welling and his entire staff of retirees.

On June 30 our annual picnic given to us by the membership was well-attended by as many as 150 attendees.

On July 27, we had our own summer outing at Henrietta Town Park with 70 people in attendance. In August many of us attended the W.G.A. tournament hosted by Detroit Local 58. On a beautiful Sept. 10, our annual clambake saw an attendance of more than 100 of us. At this writing, we were looking forward to our annual October Halloween party.

I think that's enough for now and in closing I wish everyone happy holidays.

Donald L. Peters, P.S.

Annual Retirement Dinner

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT—On Tuesday, Oct. 11, Local 90 held its annual retirement dinner at the Groton Motor Inn to honor the latest group of Local 90 retirees. Honored were: Vincent Anyzeski, William Bennett, William Dickey, Salvatore DePino, Michael Giorlando, Joel Greenberg, Ronald Goode, John Hodge, Craig Leger, Michael Mierzejewski, Craig Newell, Peter Niziolek, Robert Phillips, William B. Shea, Robert Shumbo, William Street Jr. and Thomas Umphlett Jr. Congratulations to all, and we invite you to join our retirees club.

Our club will hold its annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 6 at Fantasia in North Haven. This is always a great time with good food and good friends.

I wish all IBEW members and their families a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

Richard Launder, P.S.

Retirees Pitch In for Picnic

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 110, ST. PAUL, MN—Local 110 retirees cooked and served sweet corn, ice cream, popcorn, shredded pork, hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages at the annual IBEW Local 110 family picnic held July 16. More than 750 union members and their families attended. Our picnic continues to get larger every year. It is great to see so many of our brothers and sisters gather together. We also had rides and events for the kids including dunk tanks, rock climbing, face painting, cash tornado, pony rides and many other fun things.

We thank Bro. Joe Kelly, who does a tremendous job of organizing and setting up the picnic for our local.

Jon "Jack" Buchal, Asst. P.S.

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IBEW Local 110 retirees gather to cook for the annual Local 110 family picnic.

These items and more are now available at your IBEW Online Store.

Retirees



Local 136 retirees attend a meeting.

New Orleans Retirees Report

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—Our Labor Day picnic was canceled on Monday, Sept. 5, due to weather from a tropical storm. It was rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, and the picnic was a huge success.

On Sept. 29, we had our quarterly meeting and celebrated Bro. Ralph Ehrensing's 95th birthday. Bro. Ehrensing has 65 years in our club.

We wish to recognize Bro. Chad Lauga on his campaign for state representative. For several weeks everyone came together for hand billing. At this writing, a runoff election was scheduled for Nov. 19; results were not yet available at press time. We congratulate Bro. Lauga on a job well-done.

Bro. Harry "Buddy" Carver celebrated his 80th birthday on Sept. 6. Bro. Carver has recuperated and is doing well. We thank Bro. Carver for all he has done for the club; job well-done.

With deep regrets we lost the following brothers: Daniel Gisevius, William E. Nauck Sr. and John S. Tyler. May their souls rest in peace.

Happy holidays to everyone.

Until our next meeting, God bless America.

George Clesi, Pres.

Christmas Party Dec. 14

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—Our Retirees Club's September \$1 luncheon was a deliciously great success! On Nov. 9 we met at the Apprentice School for a tour and raffles of ten \$20 turkeys.

At press time, scheduled events included: a show outing in November to see a Drury Lane play, "The Sound of Music"; and a Christmas party on Dec. 14 at noon at The American Heritage Center. Check the Local 134 Web site for additional upcoming events and for monthly retirees' news. On Oct. 29, at the Local 134 Benefit we had representatives manning a retirees table.

In two years our Retiree's Club will celebrate a special 25th anniversary for our club. Planning this gala are our Vice Pres. Rich Sipple and past president Bob Mersch.

At each monthly meeting we have informative guest speakers on topics pertaining to senior issues. Come to the meetings, and remember: There are no strangers at Local 134, only friends you haven't yet met!

We welcome all Local 134 Retirees. Noon to 1 p.m. is "Greet & Meet" time at the Retirees Club meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. The regular meeting continues until 2:30 p.m. at the union hall, 600 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

'Join Our Retirees'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 136, BIRMINGHAM, AL—Local 136 retired members meet the first Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. for coffee, donuts and fellowship, and to "rebuild old powerhouses"; then the group heads out for lunch at the local diner. Come and join our retirees at their next meeting.

Bobby Hamner, P.S.

Active & Involved

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—On July 6, Retirees Club members and spouses gathered at Fernbank Park for a catered picnic meal, cold drinks and reminiscing. This has been an annual club event for many years. All retired 212 Sparkies are welcome to join this friendly group that meets at 11 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at the union hall on Fishwick Drive. We have a meeting, catered meal, and bull session afterward.

Our annual Christmas party is scheduled for Dec 6 at The Meadows in Addison from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Kathy at the hall for additional information.

Most members are in decent health; however, some are having problems. Remember them in your prayers.

Unions and union membership are under attack from our political enemies. We need to be active in protecting everything we have gained over the years. Our opposition is intense, well-funded, and ruthless and we need to be involved with our voices, time and finances. We can no longer sit back and assume someone else will defend our interest. Get involved before it's too late.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

Schedule for Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 223, BROCKTON, MA—Our quarterly meeting was held Sept. 7. After the reading of officers' reports, a moment of silence was held for our deceased members: Ernie Barboza, Eddie Cayton Sr., Henry Curran, Sheila Duggan, Everett Minichelli, Tom Moriarty and Ken Spanks. Following the business meeting, members enjoyed a luncheon and yard sale. Our schedule for 2011-2012 meetings is as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at 11:30 a.m.—Our Christmas party will be held at the Fireside Restaurant in Middleboro. Members are requested to bring wrapped exchange gifts (\$10 value). We will again be collecting new socks and underwear for the needy children (infants through teens) served by Gifts to Give.

Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.—The meeting will be held at the Union Hall.

Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.—Election of officers.

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.—The meeting will be held at the Union Hall.

At all meetings there will be coffee and donuts, the 50/50 raffle, reports, collection of dues, a speaker and a luncheon. Please RSVP the week before the meeting so we will be able to provide adequate refreshments.

Burt Bouldry, Pres.



Among Local 257 retirees who received service pins are: 60-year member William Lang (left) and Richard Owens, 45-year member.

Service Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Retirees Club met for their monthly luncheon meeting on Oct. 25 at Moose Brothers BBQ in Jefferson City. Local 257 had its annual picnic in Jefferson City on Aug. 20 and as always the food and activities were great.

A few retirees were recognized with service pins during the picnic. Pin recipients were: for 70 years of service—John Sullivan; 60 years—William Lang; 50 years—Gary Fischer and Chris Binggeli; and 45 years—Richard Owens.

To all of the retirees who helped with the Labor Day parade, a big thank-you.

Also in September we lost one of our members, Richard Branstetter, and we want the family to know we are thinking of them.

Our next luncheon will be our Christmas luncheon, to be held Dec. 13 at the local union hall.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

Greetings from Boise Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID—The October luncheon was held in Meridian at The Great Wall of China. There were 35 in attendance, including a few guests. It was a beautiful fall day with lots of sunshine and no rain. After several cold, rainy weeks, it was great to see the sunshine.

Those not going South are preparing for winter months ahead. We still have a few members struggling with health issues; overall, the majority of the club members enjoy good health.

Congratulations to the Wolff family on the birth of their granddaughter/great granddaughter, and also to the Barr family on the arrival of a new grandson/great grandson.

The Retirees Club thanks Local 291 for their banner, displayed in the picture below.

Let us all continue to pray for our country and everyone who is struggling in this economy. Defend and protect our rights to be union members always!

Our luncheons are held the second Thursday of each month. Please contact any club member for time and location.

Joe Sirani, Pres.

'Planning For the New Year'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 306, AKRON, OH—Our golfers enjoyed a warm, wet season in 2011 and are already planning for the New Year. Our "Snowbirds" have flown the coop, while the remainder have installed new spark plugs and fuel filters on our snow blowers!

We hope 2012 brings renewed economic and political conditions to benefit our brothers, sisters and nation. Buying American can help our situation. Find a shirt, shoes, groceries etc. made, grown, packed or assembled in the USA. We might take a



The Local 291 Retirees Club welcomes all to join the club.

few lessons from our Canadian brothers and sisters.

Our political and economic situation is a mess! Fueled by greed and choked up with cash from lobbyists, electorate control of elected officials has been temporarily lost. Do not despair—we are, after all, a very young country in the scheme of the world. My prayer, for our nation and our industry, is that we will grow and learn from these current situations for the betterment of all. The burdens of war, strife, famine and flood have always been carried on the backs of workers and always will be.

We mourn the loss of retired Bros. Joe Utlak, Bob Adolph, Denny Stanec and Bob Trettel, and Bro. Jim Norris.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Local 306 press secretary these past years and I pledge to assist my successor in any way requested.

Stay well and keep smiling!

Bob Sallaz, P.S.

Edmonton & Calgary Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 424, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—The Unit 1 Edmonton & Unit 2 Calgary Retirees have been busy. The Edmonton crew was responsible for the count of the mail-in ballots for delegates to the September International Convention in Vancouver, Canada. Nine delegates were elected from a field of 20.

The Retirees did the 24th annual Pancake Breakfasts in Edmonton and Calgary. Unit 2 started things off at the July 8 opening of the 10-day Calgary Stampede & Exhibition under sunny skies. “Lead Chef” Dave Handley (along with “Sous Chefs” Ron Davis, Paul Stanicky, Darcy Duthie and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Larry Gatner on the grills) served a full breakfast and a lunch that included Bro. Handley’s own smoked, spice-rubbed roast beef on a bun.

The Unit 1 breakfast at the July 22 opening of Edmonton’s 10-day Exhibition did not get its usual big attendance because of rain. However, with the recently completed renovations on our building, we seated everyone in our large meeting hall. The lunch was well attended. Since the breakfast is now a fundraiser for future Retirees’ activities, the Unit 1 Retirees set a \$3 charge for each meal (seconds free!) and raised \$545. Thanks to “Grilling Chefs” Dick Owen, John Palframan, Bob Wright, Dennis Unguran, Ken Doucette and Chmn. Bob Hunter, as well as the rest of the Edmonton Retirees and several wives, for a great job.

All Local 424 retirees are invited to attend the Edmonton or Calgary meetings. See www.ibew424.net for dates and times.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

Apprentice Awards Presented

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Sorry I was a little premature in my last article by naming the newly elected officers, but as most of you know by now, there was a second election due to a few discrepancies. The second election was overseen by an IBEW representative with the re-election of Chris Frentzel as business manager, Carl Condit as president and Ron Chandler as recording secretary. Antonio Cruz was elected as vice president and Lloyd Beebe as treasurer.

The annual appreciation banquet for graduating apprentices was in October. The Outstanding Apprentice Award went to Bobby Getts Jr. Retirees Club Pres. Tracy Hall presented first-year apprentice

Gene Clarkie the C.S. Mitchell Award. Graduating apprentice Sean Wilson was recognized as receiving the Mitchell Award in 2008; Sean is the grandson of the late Bro. Everett “Dutch” Robertson. Sadly, “Dutch” passed away Oct. 1.

Our condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Bro. James “Jamie” S. Howard, and retired Bros. William L. Shortz, Elvis H. Bennett, Charles J. McDermott, Ivon J. Curtis, Everett L. “Dutch” Robertson and Maurice W. Ford. Sister Diane Dressel, journeyman wireman, passed away Oct. 2. Sister Diane worked for me as a second-year apprentice in 1980 before she moved to California, where she worked since 1981.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season.

Tracy Hall, Pres.



Local 666 retired Bro. Carlyle H. Kefauver (right) receives 70-year service award presented by Bus. Mgr. James Underwood.

Annual Awards Ceremony

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 666, RICHMOND, VA—The 44th Annual Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Richmond Electricians JATC and IBEW Local 666 was held at the Wyndham Virginia Crossing Resort on Sept. 30. Bus. Mgr. Jim Underwood presented service pins to recipients in attendance. Special recognition went to Bro. Carlyle H. Kefauver on receiving his 70-year service pin.

Brothers with 65 years of service: Irvin H. Davis Sr., James J. Grissom, Edward J. Jeffries, Frank S. Moore. Receiving 60-year service pins were: James R. Hill and Clyde E. Mallory. Bro. C. Henry Bowman received his 55-year pin. Brothers with 50 years of service: James M. Boyd, Clarence S. Coxon III, Joseph M. Robinson, James M. Turner and M. Edward Young. Bus. Mgr. Underwood presented 40-year pins to 22 members and 25-year pins to 29 members.

Congratulations to the 38 RJATC graduates for 2010 and 2011. Outstanding Apprentice of the Year Award recipients were: Vernon L. Hodge Jr., Robert J. Humphries and William C. Leskowsyjk III. Perfect Attendance Award recipients were: Robert Abel, James Belcher III, Byron Booker, Jeremiah Brandon, Walter Goree, Nicholas Harrison, Kassem Hassouna, Robert Humphries, Joseph Junod, Eric Lowery, Robert Martin, Phillip Nelson, Anthony Ortiz, Jason Overby, David Small and Chad Vosvick.

Mary Ann Bernier, Sec.



IBEW Local 804 retired journeymen gather at a Habitat for Humanity build site. Volunteers pictured are, from left: Harry Holloway, Doug Richards, Don Schiedel, Ron Ditner, Richard Baechler, Bob Kaufman, Bob Hutchinson, John Reiter and Ron Mederak.

Report from Kitchener Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 804, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA—Chartered in 2003, the Retirees Club has grown from a small gathering to more than 75 enthusiastic members, who not only socialize at monthly meetings and special events, but also perform extensive community service through Local 804 events.

This was a busy year on the social and entertainment calendar. We attended a Blue Jays ball game in Toronto in April, and a wonderful production of “My Fair Lady” at the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake.

Our counterparts in the Toronto Local 353 Retirees Club graciously invite us to their annual Christmas dinner/dance. We also were honored to join them in their 30th anniversary celebration. The Hamilton Local 105 Retirees Club invited us to their 29th annual dinner/dance celebration. Special thanks to our hosts from both clubs.

A group of volunteers earned recognition for Local 804 by completing yet more Habitat for Humanity homes in Kitchener. Another group of retirees also has been working on similar projects in Owen Sound and elsewhere in the Kitchener area.

This was an election year for Local 804 officers, and with a ballot required for delegates to the International Convention, there were many candidates for the various positions. The return ballot (by mail) was very professionally—and I must add, patiently—sorted, accounted for, and finally counted by a very competent group of mainly volunteers from the Retirees Club.

We hosted retired members from Hamilton Local 105, Toronto Local 353 and Ottawa Local 586 at our big annual Oktoberfest celebration.

Until next time, good health to all.

Ken Woods, P.S.

Tribute to a Union Brother

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 915, TAMPA, FL—Attendance at our meetings has been very good. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 12 noon. Lunch is provided. We invite all IBEW retirees living in west central Florida to join us.

Last June, retired brother N.F. West passed away. Bro. West was the epitome of a good union member. He served on the executive board for many years. Also he was on the apprenticeship committee. His service and hard work served this local well.

Bro. West ran a lot of jobs in our jurisdiction. He always ran a good union job, both looking out for the contractor and treating his workmen well. I personally feel fortunate to have worked with him.

Dennis Field, P.S.

‘Outstanding Turnout’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1205, GAINESVILLE, FL—Our retirees met Aug. 19 to enjoy boiled peanuts (southern caviar) along with excellent barbecue with all the trimmings, lots of visiting, and war stories that were met with great approval.

The retirees had another opportunity to get together along with the rest of the local’s membership during the annual Labor Day picnic held at Blue Springs Park near High Springs, FL. The turnout was outstanding and the menu included more barbecue. It was great to see members we had not seen for quite some time. As a retiree, I think back to the good times and wish all locals had Book 1 clear. Buy American and this can happen!

Wayne Sparkman, P.S.



Local 1205 retirees: from left, front row, Edna and Buck Hill, Tommy Paulling, Vicki Brabham, Ben Brabham, Barbara Nicholson, Quincey Sparkman, Clayton Graves, Martha Weaver, James Brown; second row, Ruby Paulling, Fred Studdard, Raleigh Veal, John Nicholson, Wayne Sparkman, Dub Fowler, Nyla Fowler, Wesley Weaver; third row, Fannie and Vernon Bernard, Wayne Hinson, Malta Blackburn, Scotty Lowe, F.N. Thomas, David Davis; back row, John Burch, Lanny Mathis and Dan Bracewell. Bus. Mgr. Matt Meadows snapped the photo.



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**A Winning Formula**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

The bold choice of Sears service technicians and Star West satellite installers to organize—the cover story in this month's *Electrical Worker*—refutes the all-too-common narrative that service workers in the private sector are doomed to forever live and work under the dictates of their employers on an inevitably uneven playing field.

In both campaigns, workers met the challenges of coming together as cohesive units despite miles of separation and widely varying ages and cultures. Organizers could have walked away from these difficulties. Instead, they tenaciously tapped their creativity and adjusted their approaches. The Star West campaign took two years of hard work; Sears took months of intensive internal efforts. Web technology and the smart use of social media helped overcome divisions, but organizers also mixed those tools with traditional grassroots methods.

With the largest portion of our members in construction and utilities, IBEW members far too often look at service jobs as being inherently undesirable because of low pay and inferior working conditions.

As we welcome our brothers and sisters from Sears, Star West and other service sector jobs, we need to change our own perspectives and attitudes.

There are no bad jobs, only jobs where workers lack a voice and the power to improve their lives. Moreover, as our reporting reveals, the Sears and Star West workers take as much pride in the services that they provide to their customers as do the members of other IBEW branches. In fact, one of their main motives in organizing was to overcome company policies that undermine their effectiveness.

So the question is: Will all local unions—no matter what jurisdiction and branches they represent—win more organizing campaigns, or will we stand by and leave the job to others?

I hope these two exciting campaigns give us the answer. They demonstrate the powerful benefits of teamwork. I want to thank all of the local union leaders and activists who exemplified the spirit of a forward-looking, progressive union by participating in the Sears and Star West campaigns.

Organizing is never easy. Local unions have a lot on their plates. But a strong union concedes nothing to employers who abuse workers and try to keep us from realizing what we have in common. ■

Lessons from Ohio

I've never been prouder to be a Buckeye than I was on Nov. 8 as I watched the election results pour in from my home state. Ohio voters rejected Senate Bill 5—the sweeping legislation that stripped collective bargaining rights from teachers, firefighters and all public employees—by a nearly 2-to-1 margin. After taking it on the chin from extremist politicians and big money special interests, working people stood up and said enough is enough.

What we saw in Ohio was a genuine populist uprising—working families, union and nonunion, coming together to end the scapegoating of our dedicated public servants in the name of an extreme ideological agenda. And it sent a firm message to any candidate looking to follow in Gov. John Kasich's footsteps: Think again.

In 2010, the Tea Party grabbed the banner of grassroots change, exploiting the wave of economic anxiety to help anti-worker politicians like Kasich, Wisconsin's Scott Walker and Florida's Rick Scott squeak by their Democratic opponents.

Promising action on jobs, Walker, Scott and other Tea Party-backed politicians instead spent most of 2011 scoring points with inside-the-beltway corporate interests and right-wing activists. Despite claiming the mantle of the people, Kasich and Walker's brand of faux-populism targeted teachers, not Wall Street; garbage men, not K Street lobbyists; and unions, not big banks, for the economic mess we're in.

The attack on fundamental collective bargaining rights has nothing to do with budgets or taxes—it is pure politics, trying to silence the voice of working families.

But in Ohio, downtown Manhattan and across the nation, working people are changing the narrative, forging a genuine, pro-worker, pro-middle class populism that has forced Washington and the media to take notice. The Occupy Wall Street movement has already focused national attention on the needs of the 99 percent—struggling middle class Americans who are increasingly frustrated by an economic system that is stacked against them. Activists in Ohio turned that energy into change at the ballot box, laying the foundations for a broad movement for economic change that can transform this country for the better.

As we head into the 2012 election and beyond, let's use the energy from Ohio to continue to keep the Wall Street shills on their toes and stay focused on rebuilding the American dream of opportunity and shared prosperity for all.

To quote Kasich himself on election night: "The people have spoken." ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
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.

Send letters to:

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

Or send by e-mail to: media@ibew.org

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Letters to the Editor

A Good Deed in Tuscon

My husband, James Timlin, was recruited as an inside apprentice by Tuscon Local 570 to work the Agua Caliente solar project early this year. He is very proud of his status as a unionized worker and is looking forward to turning out. A few months ago, a brother told him that over the weekend his daughter, her husband, and their two children were involved in a car accident. The brother's six-year-old grandson was killed and his daughter was badly injured. This hit home with my husband because we also have two children, one of them a six-year-old boy, and the day before we had replaced two tires on our car that were in danger of blowing out—which is what caused the fatal accident.

The next night my husband went around the site man to man and collected donations from his union brothers to help the family. When their boss, Federico, heard what he had done, he pulled out a checkbook and wrote a check on behalf of Conti construction to match the donations on the spot. My husband and the entire Agua Caliente crew were able to present the man with nearly \$5,000 to help his family in their time of need, enough to cover the cost of the little boy's funeral.

*Jessie Bryer-Timlin, wife of Local 570 member James Timlin
Tuscon, Ariz.*

A Bad Deal?

I am happy that I am 55 and 31 years in, I can retire. I feel sorry for my union brothers and sisters. Six hundred and sixty members out of work at the hall. Why do we not have work? We are in the insurance business. Why are we in the insurance business? You could say that we have good insurance, but that would mean that we are getting a good deal. But we are not getting a good deal, because we are paying \$600 dollars a month. This is what we are charging the companies to hire us. This is why we do not have work.

I think insurance is important. I do not think we should get rid of it. I think we should buy it on the open market. We work for the insurance company. They say that you didn't work enough to have insurance, but how do I pay for it when there is no work? We need to tell them to lower the cost or you are FIRED.

Get us out of the insurance business and get back to work. Anything we could do to lower the cost will help get more jobs, and not cut our wages. I feel that union electricians will go away if we don't fix this.

*Gary Ogden, Local 481 member
Indianapolis, Ind.*

Prescription for Recovery?

Joe the retired electrician is alive and still kicking. I am retired with a 403(b) and a conventional IRA, which have both taken a bashing with the down market and the bank problem.

I would like to propose three suggestions within the realm of the bailouts:

1. Extend the mandatory age of withdrawal for the 403(b) and the 401(k) and the conventional IRAs beyond 70½ without a penalty. This would help us get out of the window of the downturn so that we won't have to take such big losses in our retirement plans.
2. For an economic stimulus, allow people, in general, to withdraw from their 401(k), 403(b) and their contributory IRA without taxes and penalties so that then they would be closer to their original money and they possibly could pay down their debt or make necessary purchases.
3. Allow retirees to transfer or withdraw money from their 401(k), 403(b) or contributory IRA without taxes or a penalty.

There is \$473 billion of could-be stimulus money in a 401(k) and 403(b) waiting to be used to pull this country out of this hole. IMMEDIATE ACTION = NECESSARY. WE NEED HELP! HELP! HELP! Help poor old Joe and yourself; write your Congress people. The pen is mightier than the sword.

*Ray Zunino, Local 302 retiree
Martinez, Calif.*

Who We Are

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

Retiree's Niche is Helping Wounded Veterans

Leroy Shull, a 40-year journeyman wireman who retired on disability in 2003, expected to do a whole lot more fishing since he had put away his tools. But never could the Kansas City, Mo., Local 124 member have imagined that sharing his passion for the rod and reel would help save the lives of veterans, some young enough to be his sons.

"Leroy's a very patriotic person with a huge compassion for people serving our country," says his wife, Barb Shull. She wasn't surprised when her husband volunteered to help with Fishing for Freedom, an annual local bass tournament that links supportive anglers with veterans, most of whom have been wounded in action. The tournament is also opened to other veterans who have served multiple deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Two years ago, at the first tournament Shull attended on Truman Reservoir in Warsaw, 100 miles southeast of Kansas City, 33 wounded veterans showed up. They were provided with meals, hotel accommodations and fishing equipment, but—most of all—comradeship. Paired the night before the tournament with a 28-year-old veteran, Shull felt his retirement being transformed as he connected with the young warrior's story.

Shull says, "I found my niche in life. This is my heart. My own kids are grown. Now, these soldiers are my kids."

Today, Shull works full-time as a planning committee member of Fishing for Freedom, raising funds, seeking out sponsors to donate lodging, food, trophies, fishing equipment and pitching the effort to dozens of groups, including many union locals. The 2010 tournament grew to 91 veterans. More than 140 wounded veterans were expected to participate in this year's tournament on Columbus Day weekend. However, just before the event, a prospective participant who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, took his own life. Thirty vets stayed home in mourning. "Hopefully," says Shull, this year's event helped to save another vet's life.

"Tournaments start off with tanks full of gas and smiles on their [veterans'] faces," says Shull. "When we come back in to weigh the fish and give out trophies, they are still smiling. The volunteers get as much out of this as the soldiers. It's the greatest thing in the world."

Matt Marvets, Shull's 2009 fishing partner, an Army infantryman wounded in



Retired Kansas City electrician Leroy Shull, right, has formed a deep friendship with Matt Marvets, a wounded Iraq war veteran he met at a tournament sponsored by Fishing for Freedom.

Iraq, first heard about Fishing for Freedom at Fort Riley, Kan. Marvets, who suffers from PTSD, was once an avid fisherman and hunter. Now, he spends most of his time indoors. "I've been through thick and thin and have a hard time talking to people," he says.

But, talking to Shull the night before their first tournament, Marvets found a friend and a father figure. "I think he's one of the best men in the world," says Marvets, who joined Shull for his third tournament this year and speaks with him about once a week by phone.

A veteran's letter to a volunteer posted on the Fishing for Freedom Web site says, "Did you know the whole time I was with [Shull] in that boat and at the barbeque I did not have to take any of my anxiety medication? Hanging out with you put me at ease and I have learned to take that ease and use it for everyday life."

Retired U.S. Army Maj. Larry Stoafer, a member of the Leavenworth Bass Club, founded the Kansas tournament after following the success of a similar contest organized by some friends in Texas. He met Shull in 2009. Stoafer says, "Leroy's kind of a big, gruff guy on the exterior. But he has unbelievable passion. When he believes in something, he's all in. He's like a pit bull when he's assigned a task. He latches on. He knocks on doors and talks to a ton of people."

Barb Shull, who also serves on the planning committee, says that Leroy had no previous experience speaking before groups outside of his crews on the job. "He speaks from his heart," she says. "It just comes very natural, somewhat of a gift."

Local 124 Business Manager Terral Akins remembers Shull first approaching the local for support. "We committed

money the first year, but the amount wasn't large," says Akins, president of the local Building and Construction Trades Council.

The success of the tournament turned heads. Local 124 and the IBEW-National Electrical Contractors Association Labor Management Cooperation Committee's marketing effort, Power Partners, decided to step up its support. And Akins invited Shull to do a presentation to building trades leaders.

"The support was huge this year," says Akins. Shull's work has been featured on a local TV segment called "Pay it Forward" and in the newsletter of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance.

Akins says Shull carries his union values into his work, helping Stoafer and the planning committee keep the effort focused on veterans, not the public relations agenda of some would-be corporate sponsors.

"We're really proud of Leroy," says Akins. "Here's a guy who postponed his own back surgery to plan this year's tournament."

Currently recovering from spinal cord surgery, Shull says his participation is driven, in part, by hearing about returning veterans tortured by wars' demons who turn to alcohol, drugs and suicide.

"We sometimes forget that these men and women protect our precious freedom. We need to show appreciation for their sacrifices," says Shull.

Leroy Shull said he would appreciate speaking to other members about launching or participating in fishing tournaments to help wounded veterans. He can be reached by e-mail at onfish2@yahoo.com. Visit Fishing for Freedom at <http://fishingforfreedom.us/> ■

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in October 2011

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Bowen, J. E.	8/16/11	38	Carlin, J. P.	5/25/11	102	Podejko, T. B.	6/23/06	223	Sparks, K. W.	8/30/11	481	Bowen, K.	8/24/11	773	Hergott, K. A.	3/14/11
1	Lachance, D. E.	12/20/09	38	Griffin, J. F.	1/21/09	102	Previti, J. L.	12/17/08	230	Walsh, D. E.	5/27/11	483	Carlton, R. E.	7/30/11	861	Coulter, L. J.	9/19/11
1	Landherr, R. G.	9/11/11	38	LoPresti, S. M.	8/5/11	103	Cavanaugh, B.	8/17/11	233	Blaskovich, C. T.	9/12/11	483	Tweed, B. L.	8/6/11	861	Plaisance, J. B.	9/17/11
1	Shell, J. H.	9/12/11	41	Burgio, J. J.	10/3/11	103	Fox, A. M.	4/25/09	236	Seiter, J. J.	8/19/11	483	Veitenhans, C. K.	9/1/11	861	Stout, H. B.	9/3/11
1	Sivley, A. M.	9/8/11	41	Reedy, T. J.	8/31/11	105	Lomax, D. E.	7/17/11	266	Clasby, R. J.	11/10/08	488	Sullivan, B. J.	4/25/11	861	Weldon, L. D.	7/11/11
2	Waterman, D. L.	9/19/11	43	Cannavale, R. M.	9/2/11	105	Phillips, J. S.	7/9/11	270	Hurst, R.	4/9/11	490	Brennan, J. F.	9/1/11	876	Moore, D. L.	8/31/11
3	Abt, M. F.	9/27/11	43	Hanley, R. J.	9/10/11	105	Robertson, W. A.	3/12/11	271	Cevela, F. F.	8/27/11	494	Goff, K. A.	9/16/11	889	Valencia, E. P.	8/15/08
3	Adams, A. F.	9/1/11	43	Phillips, R. L.	8/13/11	110	Nimis, T. E.	12/20/08	271	Hoffman, D. F.	12/31/07	494	Gregorski, J. R.	7/28/11	890	Read, P. H.	9/20/11
3	Betner, P. J.	8/22/11	46	Bergene, A. S.	9/16/11	112	Gilman, D. A.	9/16/11	275	Kaplanowski, A. J.	4/5/09	494	Lundy, W. L.	9/14/11	894	Weaver, E. C.	3/17/09
3	Boccone, P.	12/22/08	46	Casavant, N. D.	6/15/11	112	Parks, J. F.	8/17/11	278	Zuch, M. E.	9/14/11	495	McKenzie, R. G.	8/14/11	903	Deen, J. R.	9/5/11
3	Bodor, S. A.	8/26/11	46	Hoflin, R. J.	5/12/08	115	McIntosh, F. M.	9/21/11	288	Delamore, J. E.	1/25/09	499	McNamara, W. L.	8/1/11	903	Frierson, H. J.	8/28/11
3	Bona, J.	9/10/11	46	Maryott, D. E.	9/12/11	115	Peters, L. J.	1/6/09	294	Myklebust, D. R.	9/22/11	499	White, F.	8/1/11	903	Leonard, J. W.	9/11/11
3	Burshtein, J.	9/10/11	46	Turner, T. H.	9/2/11	120	Wetzel, M. R.	5/1/11	294	Pieper, K. A.	8/26/11	502	McCarthy, C. G.	8/15/11	948	Hurrell, D. E.	8/19/11
3	Carranza, R. A.	2/26/09	47	Van Noy, J. R.	6/17/11	121	Church, C. C.	6/4/11	295	Hammons, W. B.	8/28/11	505	Brownlee, H. C.	4/3/09	952	Blair, D. J.	9/14/11
3	Hampson, J. H.	9/20/11	48	Ford, N. A.	5/12/11	125	Anderson, C. C.	9/19/11	302	Hernandez, M. A.	8/25/11	508	Crews, M. C.	8/1/11	952	Walton, L. S.	8/13/11
3	Labarca, A. P.	9/22/11	48	Halliday, W. W.	8/20/11	125	Groves, J. M.	4/7/09	305	Meyer, L. K.	6/21/11	508	Shuman, J. W.	8/1/11	968	Williams, D. E.	8/20/11
3	Lipschutz, K. J.	9/17/11	48	Young, M.	7/24/11	125	MacKinnon, J. D.	8/25/11	306	Stanec, D. M.	9/3/11	527	Ford, R. R.	8/22/11	993	Forester, F.	8/16/11
3	Lucas, T. J.	6/8/11	51	Kost, F. R.	5/11/11	125	Riggen, J. A.	9/13/11	313	Cicchini, W. R.	8/23/11	529	Haverstock, L. K.	8/27/11	995	Bossley, R. L.	7/20/11
3	Rooney, B. F.	8/31/11	51	Rader, J. F.	8/30/11	125	Torkelson, R. L.	2/1/09	313	McCaughan, M. P.	8/28/11	531	Hasse, G. W.	9/23/11	1002	Lester, L. M.	1/29/09
3	Smith, P. M.	2/10/09	51	Sullivan, K. J.	9/4/11	130	Theriot, D. A.	6/24/11	317	Harris, B.	7/9/10	531	Sheeler, G. L.	9/2/11	1070	Desjardins, P. L.	9/2/11
5	Burley, R. E.	9/19/11	53	Glover, W. S.	6/19/11	131	Kramer, C. E.	8/22/11	317	Seamonds, M. E.	8/17/11	540	Kibler, K. C.	4/17/11	1151	McCann, E. L.	9/14/11
5	Fisher, P. E.	9/14/11	58	Brock, H. G.	9/29/11	134	Barrins, P. J.	3/24/09	329	Munds, T. R.	8/3/11	540	Paisley, C. E.	6/9/11	1186	Hegland, O. T.	8/27/11
5	Frank, R. F.	9/13/11	58	Brown, L. E.	5/5/09	134	Bong, J. H.	8/3/11	332	Murray, R. C.	8/14/11	551	Keesling, F. J.	8/31/11	1186	Molnar, K.	4/6/09
5	O'Donnell, D. S.	3/19/09	58	Brubaker, E. E.	9/2/11	134	Carpenter, W. C.	9/26/11	340	Carlson, R. D.	9/14/11	553	Evans, R. C.	8/21/11	1186	Oki, H. S.	10/28/08
5	Stroup, R. C.	3/13/09	58	Brunan, J. D.	9/13/11	134	Connolly, K. H.	2/17/09	347	Hume, D. E.	8/7/11	553	Weatherford, J. M.	1/14/09	1212	Edewaard, O. H.	8/4/11
6	Aubert, A.	9/1/11	58	Downes, J. T.	5/24/11	134	Dobson, R. J.	7/21/11	347	Reeck, F. A.	9/2/11	558	Cox, J. C.	8/22/11	1245	Thormann, D. W.	5/11/11
6	Banks, W. L.	8/23/11	58	Ellsworth, E. E.	9/28/11	134	Franz, H.	9/4/11	349	Brako, G. A.	7/24/11	558	Nix, J. P.	9/6/11	1249	Mansfield, P. H.	8/30/11
6	Wong, M. G.	9/9/11	58	Eversole, R. K.	9/21/11	134	Gurrera, N. C.	8/17/11	349	Bryan, T. J.	5/21/11	558	Wynne, D. G.	2/8/08	1393	Yoho, W. N.	7/19/11
8	Schmidt, R. M.	8/20/11	58	Hunter, T.	9/17/11	134	Hayes, H. J.	8/27/11	349	Edwards, A. C.	8/19/11	569	Balms, E. W.	8/31/11	1405	Schanowski, A. G.	6/10/11
9	Buckle, C. E.	8/18/11	58	Ignash, D. M.	8/6/11	134	Hirsh, H.	9/6/11	349	Hudgins, J. A.	2/16/09	569	Bospflug, W. R.	9/18/11	1426	Jacobs, W. C.	8/1/11
9	Murphy, E. M.	6/18/11	58	Kemp, F.	9/3/11	134	Lacny, L. A.	9/5/11	349	Perrier, G. J.	8/26/11	569	James, J. H.	9/17/11	1426	Tessin, J. G.	8/29/11
9	O'Shea, P.	8/3/11	58	Kranich, R. F.	9/3/11	134	Letschka, S.	9/2/11	349	Skeen, C. R.	7/17/11	569	Struss, E.	9/9/11	1516	Bledsoe, L. W.	9/6/11
11	Alatorre, L. R.	8/28/11	58	Little, R. A.	8/29/11	134	Loffredo, F.	8/23/11	353	Baker, H. G.	9/1/11	569	Yacko, A. J.	8/19/11	1547	Wineck, W. D.	9/27/11
11	Bowers, S. L.	9/14/11	58	Moyer, M. C.	9/12/08	134	McAllister, C. G.	7/21/09	353	Chaulk, B.	9/25/11	584	Buhl, D. M.	9/17/11	1579	Webb, J. W.	8/29/11
11	Dodson, C. H.	3/12/10	58	Sakmar, E. P.	8/28/11	134	Mitchell, S. B.	8/29/11	353	Frizzell, D. G.	9/22/11	584	Secrist, M. N.	8/19/11	2033	Thomason, C. L.	3/11/09
11	Garay, H. W.	8/16/11	58	Touchton, N. E.	8/20/11	134	Montalbano, G. J.	9/3/11	353	Morgan, B. L.	8/21/11	586	Liddiard, A. J.	3/5/11	2085	Kowaski, S. P.	9/18/11
11	Goldfarb, J.	9/15/11	58	Waggener, W. H.	5/9/11	134	Myslo, J. J.	9/2/11	353	Nordio, G.	9/4/11	595	Swanson, A. P.	6/18/11	2113	Cutlip, D. C.	1/13/11
11	Kennedy, J. E.	6/30/11	60	Lyssy, L. L.	8/24/11	134	Nielsen, R. J.	8/31/11	357	Crowder, C. W.	3/16/09	601	Bland, W. D.	9/9/11	2150	Seering, W. R.	9/3/11
11	McBeath, A. M.	7/22/11	66	Richardson, J. L.	9/10/11	134	Perell, J. A.	8/15/11	357	Frame, D. A.	9/8/11	601	Burnett, L. W.	5/9/11	I.O. (134)	Skelton, R. A.	9/16/11
11	Rasmussen, N. L.	10/22/08	66	Vandever, H. L.	8/11/11	134	Peterson, R. H.	8/4/11	357	Garrett, M. L.	9/7/11	601	Hallowell, B. P.	10/2/11	I.O. (852)	Gorski, D. E.	5/31/11
11	Rhodes, W.	7/30/11	68	Komives, S.	1/22/09	134	Plucinski, E. L.	8/31/11	357	Thomason, R. M.	9/1/11	606	Jones, E. L.	9/20/11	I.O. (2159)	George, C. J.	8/24/11
11	Rutherford, J. J.	8/30/11	69	Venso, H. J.	7/12/11	134	Prosser, E. F.	7/24/11	357	Tussing, D. R.	7/9/11	606	Slomkowski, R. M.	8/28/11	Pens. (353)	Pogson, D. K.	7/6/10
11	Tamanaha, R.	3/16/09	69	Wilson, H. H.	9/10/11	134	Quasny, E. H.	7/24/11	363	Rogan, J. R.	9/4/11	611	Curtis, I. J.	8/6/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Aki, C. P.	7/13/11
16	Veck, R.	8/17/11	70	Eubank, J. A.	9/28/11	134	Rios, E.	4/4/09	369	Blevins, L. E.	8/7/11	613	Harper, W. J.	1/16/09	Pens. (I.O.)	Anderson, P. J.	9/24/11
17	Byerly, C. L.	5/22/11	70	Kling, J. E.	8/26/11	134	Schaeffer, R. J.	10/2/11	369	Fischer, R. L.	6/25/11	613	Howard, B. J.	8/3/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Benac, D. A.	9/27/11
17	Farr, J. E.	8/3/11	70	Miller, F. C.	8/24/11	134	Stott, P. E.	9/14/11	369	Gibson, B. K.	8/15/11	613	Smith, H. L.	9/8/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Durst, D. G.	9/13/11
18	Alvarez, R. J.	8/25/11	70	Miller, S. D.	9/18/11	134	Whiteside, G. J.	6/5/07	369	Hunt, G. W.	7/18/09	613	Whatley, A. N.	8/30/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Ferrell, S. L.	9/16/11
20	Barnes, R. R.	9/15/11	71	Kinsel, W. E.	9/1/11	136	Adair, J. L.	8/26/11	369	Owens, G. H.	7/27/11	617	Hills, E. H.	12/8/08	Pens. (I.O.)	Foss, F. H.	7/6/11
20	Tunnell, J. L.	9/10/11	73	Huntley, S. A.	9/30/11	141	Conrad, A. J.	7/3/11	369	Silliman, S. M.	9/27/11	648	Brown, J. A.	9/22/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Fox, W. H.	8/19/11
22	Flanigan, M.	9/8/11	73	Pippenger, A. T.	9/16/11	145	Fink, D. G.	6/23/11	387	Peck, W. O.	8/13/11	661	Sides, C. L.	2/2/09	Pens. (I.O.)	Gadek, E. J.	8/30/11
22	Orsi, S. S.	8/7/11	76	Smith, J. R.	9/5/11	150	Eberhardt, G. R.	9/16/11	396	Anderson, J. H.	9/2/11	666	Dagrosa, T. A.	10/2/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Irrer, D. R.	9/15/11
23	Howell, E. B.	9/6/11	77	Gansauge, D. O.	9/11/11	158	Sitkowitz, R. J.	7/31/11	413	Patchin, B. R.	8/27/11	666	Graham, D. E.	9/26/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Jacobsen, E. C.	8/31/11
24	Rutledge, C.	9/11/11	77	Slebodnick, G. R.	7/2/11	159	Colby, C. L.	4/12/09	413	Pritchard, P.	9/5/11	668	Brummet, J. D.	9/19/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Keith, E. G.	4/5/11
25	Donahue, J. L.	8/30/11	84	Harrison, F. R.	8/5/09	159	MacLean, G. R.	9/26/11	413	Stout, F. A.	8/30/11	683	Sheets, R. C.	7/21/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Lucas, W. H.	9/21/11
25	Finger, J.	2/22/09	86	Allen, R. K.	7/3/11	160	Kleidon, B. L.	8/12/11	424	Huang, H.	9/4/11	697	Carter, P. S.	9/16/11	Pens. (I.O.)	May, B. G.	6/24/11
25	Mc Coy, L. D.	5/8/11	86	Dailey, A. F.	4/13/09	163	Jones, J. W.	2/1/11	424	Searle, K. P.	8/4/11	697	Schneider, J. H.	9/10/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Mazurowski, D. M.	10/12/08
26	Campbell, T. P.	8/9/11	86	Klocek, R. H.	8/17/11	164	Brant, R. E.	9/17/11	426	Ayers, M. S.	5/27/11	701	Harbin, I.	8/11/11	Pens. (I.O.)	McAlexander, B.	9/3/11
26	Fletcher, S. D.	8/5/11	86	Trevett, R. J.	9/27/11	176	Pigors, D. W.	9/16/11	428	Carlton, A. V.	9/7/11	702	Flanigan, R. J.	9/30/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Meyer, W. H.	8/26/11
26	Goldsmith, H. S.	9/7/11	90	Harvey, J.	9/22/11	177	Hyatt, S. W.	5/12/11	430	Hartman, R. H.	9/16/11	702	Silveria, V. K.	9/5/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Nahirny, W.	8/22/11
26	Moreland, E. G.	8/9/11	90	Sauerbrunn, F. H.	8/10/11	177	James, G. P.	5/9/09	441	Iantorno, A. J.	8/8/11	702	Smith, R. A.	8/5/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Orr, O. J.	11/17/10
26	Osivats, T.	2/2/09	97	Hillegus, G. E.	7/16/07	180	Worley, J. A.	6/8/11	449	Newton, G. L.	9/27/11	716	Gonzales, T.	8/30/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Paris, J. L.	9/14/11
29	Lucot, R. J.	9/5/11	98	Lynch, D. J.	9/30/11	191	Wolk, D. A.	8/4/11	459	Beck, W. B.	2/16/09	716	Martin, R. L.	9/9/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Pugh, L. A.	3/6/11
34	Carson, D. G.	9/18/11	99	Normandin, W. P.	8/29/11	194	Burroughs, F. W.	8/26/11	459	Matson, C. H.	2/11/09	716	Richardson, F.	9/22/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Rowlison, M. L.	8/20/11
34	Corirossi, J. J.	9/17/11	99	Preble, D. A.	12/30/10	194	Cooper, H. M.	8/19/11	464	Wiersteiner, C. H.	8/18/11	728	Hamilton, M. L.	8/30/11	Pens. (I.O.)	Rucker, R. D.	6/18/11
34	Hasty, R. L.	9/25/11	100	Gardner, R. G.	9/20/11	213	Lamb, S. G.	5/17/11	465	Comer, W. C.							