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EXPOSING ABC'S BIG MONEY, ANTI-WORKER AGENDA

▲ The anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors is gearing up to get its allies into office in 2012—from the White House on down—to push its low-road agenda on the construction industry.

More than 200 leaders of the Associated Builders and Contractors—“one of the leading organizations representing America’s business community and the merit shop construction industry,” as the group describes itself—met in Phoenix last February to welcome leading Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney, who was given a prime speaking spot at their meeting.

“If I become president ... I will curb the practice we have in this country of giving union bosses an unfair advantage in contracting,” he told the aggressively anti-union crowd, bringing them to their feet. “One of the first things I will do—actually on Day One—is to

end the government’s favoritism towards unions in contracting on federal projects and end project labor agreements.” Romney went on to endorse nearly every item in ABC’s legislative platform, from a national right-to-work amendment to the elimination of Davis-Bacon wage laws and workplace safety and environmental regulations.

“The election of Mitt Romney as president is [our] top priority,” said National Chairman Eric Regelin, in a statement announcing that ABC was planning to go all out to defeat President Barack Obama in November.

Energized by the 2010 midterm elections—which saw ABC allies grab more than 600 state and federal legislative seats and 11 governorships—the organization sees the 2012 elections as its chance to radically remake labor policy in the construction

ABC'S LOW-ROAD AGENDA *continued on page 2*

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Exposing ABC's Low-Road Agenda

industry, making its vision of a low-paid and union-free work force a permanent reality across the country. Instead of supporting the high-quality joint apprenticeship training provided by the building trades, ABC would have the government throw its support to its own slipshod training.

"ABC really came alive after the GOP took power in the House and in many state capitals, doubling down on efforts to hold politicians' feet to the fire on banning PLAs and eliminating Davis-Bacon," says Political and Legislative Department International Representative Dan Gardner.

Founded in 1950 by a handful of open-shop contractors in Baltimore, ABC has evolved into one of the most influential groups in the big money, right-wing anti-union network, which includes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Union Facts.

As National Labor College professor Thomas Kriger puts it in his recent study on ABC, the group is an "astro-turf political organization with a well-funded PR and lobbying machine, and a limited capacity for work force development."

While ABC has traditionally kept a lower profile on Capitol Hill than some of its ideological counterparts, the last few years has seen it ramp up its communications and political efforts, launching numerous aggressive multimedia campaigns targeting everything from PLAs to workplace safety regulations. And last September it set up the Free Enterprise Alliance, a political advocacy group com-

mitted to fighting "union bosses and federal bureaucrats."

The alliance hawks a worldview that sees the free enterprise system under constant attack by unions and legislators, describing President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal reforms—which include Social Security and minimum wage laws—as the beginning of the government's assault on "freedom."

And on ABC's "Halt the Assault" Web site, visitors can access sample letters to the editor and opinion pieces to submit to local newspapers attacking "big labor" and workplace regulations.

Local Politics

ABC's increased visibility is not only apparent online, but in numerous state capitals, where its lobbyists have become fixtures at key legislators' offices.

"Every time I was in Indianapolis to meet with elected officials, [state ABC head] J.R. Gaylor was there," says South Bend, Ind., Local 153 Business Manager Michael Compton.

Indiana has been home to some of the most heated labor battles in the last year, with the state legislature passing right-to-work legislation in February. And behind the scenes helping to make it happen was ABC's state affiliate.

"They met with legislators, held fundraisers, got in tight with GOP Gov. Mitch Daniels," says Local 153 Business and Membership Development Director Troy Warner.

ABC's other two goals—weakening the state's version of Davis-Bacon and banning PLAs on publicly funded projects—stalled before the General Assembly adjourned last March, but Warner says he expects both items to return when the legislature reconvenes this summer.

In more heavily Republican states, ABC's influence is even stronger. Last year Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law two association-sponsored bills: one that bans the use of project labor agreements on publicly funded projects and a second that bans signatory contractors from using union contributions to subsidize wages, a common practice that helps contractors submit more competitive bids.

The "Open Access to Work Act" was struck down by a federal judge in January, but that did not stop ABC's allies in the Idaho statehouse from reintroducing similar legislation in March.

The group has also successfully pushed anti-PLA ballot initiatives in numerous jurisdictions across the country, most notably in California. (See "PLAs in the Crosshairs: In Calif., D.C., the Right Pushes ABC's Agenda," the *Electrical Worker*, Sept. 2010)

"It is on the local and state level where ABC flexes most of its muscle," says Political and Legislative Department International Representative Bruce Burton.

ABC often gets its foot in the door by claiming to be "the voice of the construction industry," representing 80 percent of the industry. But in his analysis of the ABC, the NLC's Kriger finds these claims to be grossly exaggerated.

Looking at Bureau of Labor statistics, he writes:

"ABC's entire membership amounts to only 0.03 percent of all U.S. construction businesses. A state-by-state analysis of ABC's density among licensed or registered contractors shows a similar picture: in no state does the percentage of ABC's member-contractors exceed 6 percent of the total number of licensed or registered contractors in any of the states where ABC operates."

As a member of the Oregon legislature and state labor secretary, the IBEW's Gardner says he saw firsthand ABC's effort to artificially inflate its membership numbers as a way to boost its lobbying clout. "They'd go to the secretary of state's office, find registered nonunion businesses and claim them as members."

The Apprenticeship Gap

Even as the organization beefs up its spin machine and lobbying efforts, there is one area where ABC's investments continue to lag far behind that of its union competition: training.

Despite its claims to represent the majority of construction contractors, from 2002 to 2011, ABC training programs enrolled only 22,260 apprentices—compared to more than 420,000 for the building trades.

Even in states with low union density rates, like Texas and Florida, building trades' apprenticeship enrollments far outstrip ABC's.

The building trades also boasts a higher graduation rate, with nearly 10 percent more apprentices graduating from union programs compared to ABC's.

The group's low enrollment correlates to the relatively small resources ABC devotes to training—only \$28 million compared to the building trades' \$750 million.

The reason, according to Kriger, is that ABC's low-wage, low-benefits labor model has meant there is little interest by member contractors in investing in any kind of extensive apprenticeship program. "Open shop contractors, with their focus on lower costs, have typically pursued a short-term, low-cost approach to training," he writes. "They have little incentive to develop long term training programs, especially if workers seek better pay and benefits once they are trained."

And ABC's slipshod training drives down both the quality and speed of its contractors' work.

"With guys coming out of an open-shop operation, the foreman has to keep a close eye on them at all times to make sure the job is done right, adding unnecessary man-hours. With IBEW workers, all you need to do is to give them a blueprint and let them at it," says Compton.

ABC's attempts to legitimize its own craft training program have so far fallen short. In 1995, ABC set up the National Center for Construction Education and Research, providing open-shop contractors with training programs and material.

The problem is that the center—unlike most universities and apprenticeship programs—has no third-party accreditor, meaning it isn't recognized by either the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as a recognized institution of higher learning.

All which leaves students enrolled in ABC's for-profit education programs vulnerable to abuse by unscrupulous forces, like the former students at Decker College in Louisville, Ky. The school shuttered its doors in 2005 after being accused by the FBI and the Department of Education of providing shoddy training and engaging in shady education practices, including grade inflation and providing test answers to students. (See "For Profit Decker College Left Workers Jobless and Broke on Path to Ruin," *IBEW Journal*, January-February 2006.)

Headed by ABC Executive Vice President and former NCCER President Dan Bennet, the for-profit vocational school had deep ABC ties. And despite Decker's students being on the hook for thousands of dollars in debt, a local ABC chapter walked away with more than \$300,000 in profit because of the school's \$22,000 a year tuition.

ABC Exposed

Much of the anti-worker legislation passed in 2011 was directed at public employees, but increased ABC influence over the Republican Party could very well mean that construction workers will see their rights next on the chopping block if the party increases its numbers on Capitol Hill and in legislatures across the country this November.

Workers are already feeling the pinch of ABC's successful pursuit of its agenda.

"Where construction jobs once existed as an entry point to the middle class and as the backbone of local economies, it has been observed that today's construction workers—union and nonunion alike—now tend to work harder, for less money, and under harsher conditions," writes Kriger.

ABC's growing influence also threatens one of the most successful job training programs in the country—union apprenticeships—which observers fear could create a skills shortage in the near future if the open shop movement continues to grow at the expense of the building trades. The Construction Users Round Table admitted as much when it issued a report saying "the open shop sector as a whole has not supported formal craft training and assessment to the extent necessary to affect real, meaningful and lasting change."

Local 153's Compton says the growing number of under-trained workers undermines quality construction in the state, with many big employers choosing to stick with union contractors because they say they can't afford to pay for sub-par work.

He points to Local 153's long-term relationship with the University of Notre Dame, which continues to use union labor for its maintenance and construction needs because of the high skills possessed by IBEW members.

"ABC for too long has misrepresented itself as an advocate for the construction industry," says International President Edwin D. Hill. "The truth is it is a political action operation, whose goal is to drag safety standards, wages, training and benefits back to the 19th century. Every member needs to be an educated voter because it's our jobs and our futures that are at stake if ABC gets its way." ■

What ABC Wants

From city councils to the White House, the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors sees 2012 as its chance to make its agenda the law of the land. ABC's wish list includes:

Eliminate Davis-Bacon/Prevailing Wage Laws: ABC wants to eliminate the federal Davis-Bacon Act, which requires contractors on federal construction projects to pay their workers no less than the prevailing wage rates in the local area. It also looks to weaken and/or eliminate state-level prevailing wage laws.

Roll Back Safety and Other On-the-Job Protections: Under the guise of regulatory reform, ABC has been lobbying Congress to roll back a whole series of workplace protections instituted by the Obama administration, from an Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule designed to help reduce the number of workplace musculoskeletal injuries to a National Labor Relations Board rule requiring employers to inform their employees of their rights under labor law.

Ban Project Labor Agreements: ABC backs federal legislation which would overturn President Obama's 2009 executive order requiring the use of project labor agreements on federal projects. The group also supports PLA bans on the local and state level as well.

Repeal the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act: ABC has denounced the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which provides women with more legal channels through which to pursue equal pay for equal work.

Ban Market Recovery Funds: ABC supports banning signatory contractors from using union contributions to subsidize wages, a common practice that helps contractors submit more competitive bids. ■

NJATC Joins With 3M to Boost Online Training

Along with a set of Klein pliers, a black roll of 3M's Scotch Super 33+ electrical tape is a must have item in any electrician's tool box.

"It's the best out there," says National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee Curriculum Development director Marty Riesberg. "You can't find better quality."

Now the St. Paul-based company and the NJATC are joining forces to help train the next generation of electricians.

3M announced its multi-year strategic collaboration with the NJATC April 10. The company will work closely with the NJATC to develop an online curriculum to expand the committee's already extensive classroom and on-the-job training program, bringing electrical training fully into the 21st century.

"The IBEW, NECA and the NJATC are proud to work with a company like 3M, a leader in quality manufacturing who works closely with our organizations to develop and maintain a skilled work force," says NJATC Executive Director Michael Callanan.

"Collaboratively, we will develop online interactive training material which will help create a domestic work force of the most highly skilled electrical workers in the industry."

3M will also sponsor a scholarship for the continuing education of instructors through the NJATC's National Training Institute and provide training materials and equipment for the more than 300 local JATCs across the country.

Part of the appeal in teaming up with 3M, says Riesberg, is that its electrical tape is still made in the U.S.A.

"3M remains loyal to its employees and the American worker, which is all too rare these days," he says.

Made in Hutchinson, Minn., for more than 60 years, 3M's vinyl electrical tape was developed in 1946 when 3M scientists discovered an advanced plasticizer system that gave the tape the strength, durability and flexibility needed for high quality electrical work.

Lab technicians at the plant continually test their products, subjecting them to extreme pressure, cold and heat to guarantee they will perform in even the roughest elements.

Scotch 33+ will keep its elasticity in temperatures as low as zero degrees Fahrenheit and as high as 221 degrees.

"Even in the worst of the cold, it won't crack and cause a short," says Brian Wright, production team advisor at the Hutchinson plant.

The company will also produce training videos instructing electricians on the proper use of their products.

"When an apprentice asks a journeyman how much tape he should use, the answer usually is 'until you have enough,'" says Steve Anderson, director of line construction curriculum development and training for the NJATC. "But now electricians can get a more precise answer on how to properly use Scotch 33+ tape."

3M is also working with the NJATC to develop Online Jobsite Application examples, which allow apprentices to check their work against online models.

The committee estimates that start-

ing next year approximately 6,000 electricians will have completed the 3M Online Jobsite Application training modules.

"Providing the most state-of-the-art electrical training and making it easily available to the next generation of American workers is absolutely vital to the future growth of our economy," says IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "Teaming up with a company like 3M, which is committed to providing the best quality products and training, is an important step towards moving the electrical industry forward." ■



For more than 60 years, 3M's electrical tape has been the tape of choice among IBEW members.

Building Trades President Mark Ayers Dies

We are saddened to report that Building and Construction Trades, AFL-CIO, President Mark Ayers died April 8 at the age of 63, a sudden blow to the labor community, where he was highly respected for his innovation, generosity and dedication to working families.

"I can't think of anyone who worked harder to build our common movement," says International President Edwin D. Hill. "His steady hand and activist spirit steered the IBEW and the building trades through some of the toughest times we've ever faced. He has left us much too soon, but his legacy will continue to be felt by future generations of working families. But more than that: Mark was my friend, whose kindness was felt by all. I will always be thankful for having the opportunity to work with a brother like that."

A 38-year member of the IBEW, Brother Ayers previously served as director of the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Department, a position he held for nine years.

An Illinois native, he joined Peoria Local 34 in 1973. He worked his way up the ranks, serving as treasurer and business representative before being elected business manager. A veteran, Ayers served as a U.S. Navy aviator for more than four years, including a tour of duty in the Vietnam War.

As business manager, Ayers co-founded the Central Illinois chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association—Local 34 Quality Connections, and served as trustee and chairman of the NECA-IBEW Welfare and Pension Trust Funds.

"Mark was a leader in labor/management relations and earned great respect from electrical contractors and labor leaders alike," says Local 34 Business Manager Mike Everett, who served as assistant business manager under Ayers for 10 years. "He also wanted labor to be recognized as a positive force in the community, helping to get our union involved in charity work, including Habitat for Humanity and other community activities."

Appointed Construction and Maintenance Department Director in 1998, Ayers brought many of President Hill's policies to fruition, including the Code of Excellence, a renewed commitment to high quality work that has been adopted by nearly all of the other building trades unions.

"He pushed the value of the IBEW Code of Excellence, always encouraging members to be up on the latest technology and recognizing the value of professionalism," says Construction and Maintenance Director Jerry Westerholm, who worked closely with Ayers for seven years.

Retired Special Assistant to the International President for Membership Development Buddy Satterfield says he remembers not only Ayers' intense dedication to the labor movement, but his friendship, grace and warm personality.

"He was probably the hardest working person I've ever met," he says. "At the same time he was always a lot of fun to be around. I know a lot of people said 'I've just lost my best friend,' when they heard the news of his passing."



Ayers, shown here with President Hill, joined fellow IBEW members and friends for motorcycle rides.

Elected building trades president in 2007, Ayers' commitment to excellence went to making sure the 2 million-member organization remained the No. 1 choice for quality, skilled labor in the construction industry.

As president, he pioneered new labor/management models in the energy industry, including nuclear, oil and natural gas, while serving as the voice for construction workers and their families on Capitol Hill.

Brother Ayers was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. He also served as the labor co-chair for the Helmets to Hardhats Program, on the Board of Trustees for the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee for Multi-Union Plans, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company and the Chairman of the Center for Construction Education.

Deeply disturbed by the decline of the middle class and growing power of greedy special interests, Ayers became a passionate voice for restoring the American dream for working families. In rousing remarks to the 38th International Convention last September, he said to great applause:

"I didn't spend nearly six years of my life during the Vietnam era protecting a country that I loved, to hand it over to a bunch of greedy right-wing bastards. And I know many of you in this room didn't either. I never imagined that my last battle could possibly be fought right here in my homeland, to protect the very values I fought for in faraway lands. But if it has to be that way, then I say let's get it on."

The officers and staff send our deep condolences to his wife Deborah, children, grandchildren and many friends. ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

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HourPower

In our latest edition of News Briefs, we take you to the Missouri Valley JATC on a tour, and discuss the Code of Excellence in Omaha. Check it out on www.IBEWHourPower.com



ElectricTV

For the NECA-IBEW team, safety reigns supreme. Now on ETV, we check in with Rosendin Electric to hear about their most recent award in safety from the Construction Users Round Table.

electricTV.net



North of 49° | Au nord du 49° parallèle

Tories Move to Bury Unions in Red Tape

Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper came to power promising to cut regulations and shrink big government.

But a new bill backed by the Tories promises to substantially expand federal authority in at least one area: the internal workings of Canada's labour movement.

Bill C-377 would force labour unions to publically disclose all their financial transactions to the federal government—everything from office supply purchases to salaries—creating onerous reporting requirements for union leaders and staff.

"It targets one group in our society and singles it out for unfair, burdensome treatment with no apparent reason other than to make mischief, attack unions and drive them out of our communities," said New Democrat MP Robert Chisholm during floor debate on the bill.

In addition to creating piles of extra paperwork for union staff, opponents say the bill would violate the privacy rights of the many individuals and companies that do business with labour organizations.

"Nearly every transaction a union makes will be posted on a government Web site," says First District Political Action/Media Strategist Matt Wayland. "Companies we do business with will be forced to make the details of their contracts available for anyone to see, giving their competitors—who will still be able to keep their paperwork a secret—an edge."

Most galling, says Wayland, is the fact that the legislation won't apply to other dues-paying membership organizations, including C-377's biggest boosters, the open-shop contractor's association Merit Canada and the anti-union Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses.

"That makes it pretty obvious that the Tories are more interested in harassing unions than guaranteeing transparency," he says.

Union financial statements are already publicly available to members, and most provinces have some union reporting requirements as part of their labour codes. The IBEW's policy and practice has always been complete transparency.

"It's in the IBEW's constitution that every member has the right to check our financial records," says Wayland.

The Canadian Building and Construction Trades Department estimates that the government will need to hire hundreds of new employees just to process the paperwork required by the proposed regulations. "This is from a government that has slashed work forces at key agencies like the unemployment office," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming.

While nominally a single-member bill, which means fellow Tories are not required to vote for it, it passed a second reading with unanimous Conservative support in March—a rare feat for a private member's legislation.

"It was introduced by Tory MP Russ Hiebert so Harper and the rest of the party could deny ownership of it," says Wayland. "But it's clear that this has the Conservatives' full support."

The bill has now gone to Parliament's finance committee, where it is expected to be reported back for a full vote this month.

"We can now see the real purposes of this legislation," said MP Chris Charlton. "It is not intended to improve transparency or accountability. It is intended to deliver to the government's corporate friends a cudgel with which to hobble Canadian unions as they seek to

represent their members."

The First District, which is mobilizing its members against C-377, is planning a lobby day for May 15 in Ottawa.

"This bill is about political payback against labour and it shows just how far outside the mainstream the Harper government really is," Flemming said

Go to www.workersbuildcanada.ca for more information on how to get involved and to contact your MP. ■

Les conservateurs cherchent à enterrer les syndicats sous la paperasse administrative

Le Premier ministre conservateur Stephen Harper avait promis, à son arrivée au pouvoir, de réduire la paperasserie et la taille du gouvernement. Mais voilà qu'un nouveau projet de loi ayant reçu l'appui des conservateurs, promet d'élargir considérablement l'autorité fédérale dans au moins un domaine : le fonctionnement interne du mouvement syndical canadien.

En vertu du projet de loi C-377, proposé au mois de décembre dernier par le député conservateur Russ Hiebert, les syndicats seraient obligés de rendre publics tous les renseignements de nature financière—allant des achats de fournitures de bureau aux salaires, créant des obligations de rendre compte coûteuses pour les dirigeants syndicaux et le personnel.

« Ce projet de loi cible un groupe précis dans notre société. Il cherche à lui imposer des obligations injustes et lourdes sans aucune autre raison apparente que de lui causer des ennuis, de s'attaquer aux syndicats et de les chasser de nos collectivités » a dit le député néo-démocrate Robert Chisholm au cours du débat sur le projet de loi.

En plus de créer de la paperasse pour le personnel administratif des syndicats, les opposants pensent que le projet violerait les droits à la protection des renseignements personnels de plusieurs personnes et entreprises qui font affaire avec les organisations ouvrières, allant des entreprises de nettoyage aux entrepreneurs signataires.

« Presque toutes les opérations effectuées par le syndicat seront publiées dans un site web du gouvernement.

Les entreprises avec lesquelles nous faisons affaire seront contraintes de rendre accessibles les détails de leurs contrats à quiconque les voit, donnant ainsi un avantage à leurs concurrents qui pourront garder secrète toute leur paperasserie » ajoute Matt Wayland, stratège en relations médiatiques et action politique pour le Premier District.

« Le plus choquant, c'est que cette mesure législative ne s'appliquera pas à d'autres organisations dont les membres paient des cotisations, notamment l'Association d'entrepreneurs à atelier ouvert *Merit Canada* ainsi que le mouvement anti-syndical - la Fédération canadienne de l'entreprise indépendante - les plus importants supporteurs du projet de loi C-377 » poursuit le confrère Wayland.

« Il devient assez évident que les conservateurs sont plus intéressés à harceler les syndicats qu'à garantir la transparence » ajoute-t-il.

Certains croient que ce projet de loi représente une solution à un problème qui n'existe pas. Les états financiers du syndicat sont déjà accessibles aux membres et le code du travail de la plupart des provinces prévoit une disposition sur l'obligation des syndicats de rendre des comptes. De plus, la FIOE a toujours assuré la transparence totale de ses politiques et de ses pratiques.

« Il est bien stipulé dans la constitution de la FIOE que chaque membre a le droit de vérifier nos états financiers » souligne le confrère Wayland.

Le Bureau canadien du Département des métiers de la construction estime que le gouvernement devra embaucher des centaines de nouveaux employés pour traiter la paperasse exigée

par le projet de règlement. « Cela vient d'un gouvernement qui a sabré ses effectifs dans les principales agences gouvernementales, dont la commission de l'assurance-emploi » dit Phil Flemming, Vice-président du Premier District.

Bien qu'un projet de loi émanant d'un député ne requiert pas que les autres conservateurs votent sur celui-ci, ce projet a passé l'étape de la deuxième lecture au mois de mars, avec l'appui unanime des conservateurs, un rare exploit pour un projet de loi d'initiative parlementaire.

« Le projet de loi a été présenté par Hiebert ce qui permet à Harper et au reste du parti de ne pas s'approprier telle initiative. Mais il est bien évident que ce projet de loi a entièrement l'appui des conservateurs » souligne le confrère Wayland.

Le projet de loi a donc été renvoyé au Comité permanent des finances qui devrait remettre son rapport qui sera soumis au vote de tous les députés de la Chambre, dès le mois de mai.

« Nous voyons maintenant le véritable objectif de cette loi. Elle n'est pas destinée à accroître la transparence et la responsabilisation. Elle vise plutôt à donner une matraque aux amis du gouvernement du secteur de l'entreprise qui leur permettra de faire entrave aux syndicats canadiens dans leurs démarches pour représenter leurs membres » a déclaré la députée Chris Charlton.

Les membres du Premier District sont appelés à se mobiliser contre le projet de loi C-377 et la Fraternité tiendra une journée de lobbying le 15 mai à Ottawa.

Visitez le www.workersbuildcanada.ca pour apporter votre participation en communiquant avec votre député. ■

Transitions

DECEASED Walters Eli



We are sorry to report that retired Ninth District International Representative Walters Kalahiki Eli, 92, died on February 22 in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

A veteran of the National Guard, Brother Eli, a utility worker, was initiated into Honolulu Local 1260 in 1944. He was appointed to the International staff to assist organizing and negotiations in 1950 after serving as business manager. He retired in 1975.

During his long tenure, Eli was a major leader of the labor movement in Hawaii, serving as president of the Honolulu AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, as secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Council and organizing director of the Building and Construction Trades Department.

Honolulu Local 1260 Business Manager Brian Ahakuelo says Eli was a visionary labor leader who helped re-charter Honolulu Local 1357 in 1970 to represent telecommunications workers across all Hawaii islands.

The first IBEW International Representative born in Hawaii, Eli established a reputation for working well with the Operating Engineers and other building trades unions, says Ahakuelo.

On behalf of the members, officers and staff, we send our condolences to Brother Eli's wife, Rosalie, and his children, stepchildren, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren. ■

Circuits

Volunteers Bridge the Gap for South Dakota Outdoor Enthusiasts

Union members from South Dakota recently took America's failing bridge infrastructure into their own hands by volunteering invaluable skilled labor to help the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks rebuild a new hiking trail bridge just south of Hill City on the Mickleson Trail.



South Dakota union members rebuild a hiking trail bridge.

Part of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance's Boots on the Ground program, 22 union members from Rapid City Local 1250 and members from the Sheet Metal Workers, Plumbers and Operating Engineers teamed up for the conservation project, which helped bridge the gap between outdoor enthusiasts and access to public lands.

One of more than 100 converted railroad bridges along the trail, the 100-foot bridge needed significant repairs to the base and handrails. Volunteers worked over a busy four-lane highway during wintery conditions while demolishing portions of the existing bridge and installing new planks and a pre-fab handrail system they developed.

Through teamwork and dedication, they were able to cover more than 50 feet on the first day alone, wrapping up the project by the end of day two.

"The new bridge will greatly improve community access by providing a better surface for hiking and biking," said Local 1250 Business Manager Randy Stainbrook, who helped coordinate the project.

Stainbrook said such community projects are "a great way to get outdoors, and it helps put unions in a good light in the public's eyes."

For more on the work of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, visit www.unionsportsmen.org. ■



IT'S BACK!

It's the determination in a lineman's face when he climbs to vertigo-inducing heights. It's the glint of sunshine reflecting off an icy transmission tower. It's in the images all around you, that you see in your day both on and off the job. And we want you to share them.

The popular competition is back after last year's hiatus when leaders, members and staff were gearing up for the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. So grab your camera and see what develops!

Contest rules are available at www.ibew.org.

PRIZES

- 1 FIRST PLACE**
\$200
- 2 SECOND PLACE**
\$150
- 3 THIRD PLACE**
\$100
- HONORABLE MENTIONS**
\$50

DEADLINE: OCT. 31, 2012

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

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Local Lines

Members Approve Ad Campaign

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—Earlier this year, members overwhelmingly approved an aggressive advertising campaign designed to help regain market share in the region. To fund the program, a \$10 fee will be issued every quarter, to those members who are actively employed, for the next 24 month period.

Subsequently, KSDK-TV News Channel Five in St. Louis began broadcasting commercials featuring IBEW Local 1. These commercials, filmed by members of IBEW Local 4 in St. Louis, will total more than 290 during the year. Fifty of the commercials will promote a one-hour, prime-time Thursday night special on the history of IBEW Local 1. This uninterrupted special, which will have aired on April 19, is certain to receive high viewer ratings.

Additionally, 20 commercials per month will be aired in conjunction with the First Alert Weather segment, the most watched news segment. These 15- and 30-second commercials will be followed by the Local 1 logo being highlighted every 10th day for the entire seven-day forecast.

Thanks to everyone who worked so diligently to provide a mechanism to advertise the qualities and history of the IBEW in St. Louis.

Local 1 mourns the following members' deaths: William Pflingsten, Guy O'Neill, Oscar Crouther, Armin Richmond, James Greubel, Milford Lowry, Leonard Bolhafner, Michael Evola, John Pepper, Edna Tenholder, Bernard Yenzer, Robert Wallace, Frank Marciante, Thomas Bianchi, Delmar Stevenson, Homer Briggs and Frank Mika.

Matt Gober, P.S.

Action to Save a Life

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—Two of our Local 9 brothers were presented with a Local 9 Service Award for their actions in saving a young man from the frigid waters of Lake Michigan. Bros. Sean Doyle and Tracy Centano, both street light repairmen for the City of Chicago, were delayed by equipment problems at the start of their job on Jan. 11. According to Bro. Centano, this delay put them in the right place at the right time. When they arrived at their jobsite, they noticed a young man walking dangerously close to the water's edge. In an instant the young man disappeared. Bros. Doyle and Centano ran to where they last saw the young man, but there was no sight of him. A few moments later the young man surfaced and Bros. Doyle and Centano, along with other members of the crew, were able to pull

him to safety. They gave him their jackets while they waited for Emergency Services to arrive. We commend Bros. Doyle and Centano for their action.

The 46th Annual Old Timer's Dinner was held April 20. Over 1,000 people attended to honor 31 members of Local 9 who retired during 2011. We congratulate these new retirees and thank them for their many years of service to our local.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

City Council Approves Project

L.U. 11 (i,rts&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—We are happy to report that the Los Angeles City Council approved the giant Village at Westfield Topanga project. The 1-million-square-foot expansion is expected to bring \$450 million into the community. Westfield agreed to use signatory contractors to build the project.

The plan is to incorporate a mixed-use development between two existing malls, with shops, restaurants, office and hotel space. We thank our members who volunteered to attend planning hearings and city council meetings to ensure approval. Your work paid off. Construction could start as early as this summer.

In March, Local 11 sent a delegation, including members of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, to participate with a contingent of labor and community groups in retracing the historic 1965 Selma to Montgomery, AL, march. The recent march was supported by the AFL-CIO and focused attention on new attacks on voting rights, workers' rights and education. The five-day march commemorated the 1965 "Bloody Sunday," when 600 marchers were brutally attacked by police as they marched for justice.

With banks putting the squeeze on working families through restrictive lending policies and high fees, it's nice to know Local 11 members have access to a credit union. L.A. Electrical Workers Credit Union has served members since 1953. For information about services available to Local 11 members go to www.laewcu.com.

Work safe, brothers and sisters. Your family needs you.

Bob Oedy, P.S.

ComEd Agreement Ratified

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Midwest Generation unfortunately has announced that, because of multiple factors, it will close the Fisk and Crawford coal-fired power stations located in Chicago, where approximately 120 Local 15 members work.

On Feb. 23, Local 15 Bus. Reps. Dave Sergenti

and Bill Phillips attended a meeting at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission headquarters in Washington D.C. regarding the Fatigue Rule. Members from the industry Fatigue Management Task Force met with the NRC to discuss future rulemaking activities.

Local 15 members in the ComEd Underground overwhelmingly ratified the Underground Reorganization Agreement, which includes: wage increases, clear-cut safe work practices, crew size flexibility, new job titles (some with automatic progression), a clarified promotional series, Transmission UG staffing guidelines, a pay additive, SPOC duties, a four-day workweek pilot, and a four-hour-rest-time clause.

We had 10 members attend the IBEW Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Leadership Conference in Oakland, CA. Over 250 delegates volunteered in the city of Oakland for the EWMC's Day of Community Service Projects. We are proud to announce that Local 15's first EWMC Chapter is underway.

Local 15 said goodbye and good luck to a good friend and tireless union advocate, Senior Asst. Bus. Mgr. Brian Loomis, who retired in March. He worked 37 years for his union brothers and sisters and will be missed.

Doug Vedas, P.S.

Middle-Class Warfare

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—We expect to see more than 20 linemen retire from DTE Energy this summer. DTE claims the company will hire 24 apprentice linemen for the next several years to keep up with the loss. We will be sitting down with DTE at the main table negotiations in late June. Line Clearance is working at full employment. The LCTT work picture is very good for 2012; many contractors are working overtime. On the Construction agreement, we are at full employment also. The 120 mile, 345kv Thumb Loop project is in full swing. We just acquired the maintenance work for three of our newly constructed wind farms and started work on our fourth wind farm this spring.

The Republican establishment in Michigan is out to cripple the middle-class lifestyle by taxing our pensions, gutting our workers' comp law, and pushing "right-to-work" for less down our throats. This November's election is critical to our way of life—vote!

Congratulations to Ray Bruneel on his retirement. Ray worked as a journeyman lineman for 42 years and served Local 17 as

safety officer. Best of luck to you, brother!

Congratulations also go out to Don Broughton, Coyte Osborn, Bob Runstrom, Charlie Parmenter and Dave Cole for also making it to the finish line.

Dean Bradley, P.S.

A Life of Union Service

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—IBEW Local 37 is sad to announce the passing of Doug Wallace on Feb. 6 at Saint John Regional Hospital. Recently retired, Doug was a valued, longtime member of the Local 37 family.

Doug began as a member of IBEW Local 2309 in 1980 working at the Point Lepreau Generating Station as a power plant operator. He served there as shop steward for many years. When that local amalgamated with Local 1733 to form Local 37 in 2000, Doug became chief shop steward at Point Lepreau and served in that position until he retired in September 2011; he was named senior steward in 2009.

Doug sat on the Local 37 Executive Board as a nuclear representative for two terms. He represented Local 37 at two International conventions, in San Francisco (2001) and Cleveland (2006). He was a longtime member of the Training Trust Fund committee and chaired the Finance sub-committee. He also served on: the Local 37 Bylaw Committee, Joint Action Committee for PLGS, PLGS Labour/Management Committee, the Nuclear Negotiating team, and the PLGS Joint Health and Safety Committee. Doug acted with a professionalism and dedication that made us proud to have him represent Local 37 members.

Doug is sorely missed as a colleague, mentor and loyal supporter of union rights. His influence will long be felt. Rest in peace, brother.

Ross Galbraith, B.M.



Local 37 member Doug Wallace (left) carries a placard at a 2009 New Brunswick Public Service superannuation pension rally.

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.

NY State Training Grants

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Late in 2011, the New York State JATC received a \$350,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to purchase equipment and train members on programming and installing new technology energy management systems.

In February 2012, after obtaining and installing our equipment, Training Instructor Rick Cataldo from Albany, NY, Local 236 came to Buffalo for three days to teach a “Train-the-Trainer” course. [See photo, below.] This course included instructors from New York state IBEW Locals 41, 86, 106, 139, 237, 241 and 840. These instructors will be able to train members to properly install and program equipment from Lutron, Wattmiser, and Leviton. This training will be necessary for any installation on jobs that have incorporated the new ASHRAE 90.1-2010 standard for energy management.

As a result of the rapid progression of this program, the NYS JATC was able to procure another \$650,000 NYSEDA grant for the purchase of more equipment! Thanks to Rick for coming to teach and thanks to all instructors who participated in the class so that our members can continue to be educated and trained with the latest technology.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.



Training Instructor Rick Cataldo (left) with IBEW members programming soft switches.

Service to Community

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Work continues to hold steady in our area. In April, Nine Mile II had refuel outage 12. Two months of pre-outage work gave employment to more than 60 journeymen, while we were able to provide employment to more than 140 for the actual outage.



Local 43 Pres. Pat Costello (left), Helen Hudson, labor liaison to the United Way, and Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan present pledge to United Way Syracuse Area Dir. Frank Lazarski.

As previously reported, Local 43 has deep roots in our community. Continuing with that commitment, we recently presented the United Way with a pledge for its 2012 campaign for \$25,000 (see accompanying photo). Smaller pledges and checks were also presented to the United Way in our local's Oswego and Mohawk Valley areas.

On another note, Pres. Pat Costello was recently honored to be grand marshal for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Utica, NY. His years of devoted service for working men and women, along with his deep Irish roots, made Pat a great choice. Congratulations, Bro. Costello!

Jim Corbett, P.S.

Labor Round-Table Event

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Congratulations to IBEW Ninth District Int. Rep. Arthur D. Murray, who retired March 1. Best wishes for a happy retirement!

U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the House minority whip, visited southern California in an effort to rally support for Democrats in this November's election. He asked Local 47 to arrange a Labor Round Table event with union leaders in the Riverside/San Bernardino area. He fielded questions and discussed the upcoming elections.

All IBEW members should make sure they and their families are registered to vote.

Organizing remains a priority. We will soon commence negotiations with ArborMetrics, a line clearance, tree-listing enterprise that Local 47 organized late last year.

A successor agreement was negotiated and ratified by the skilled craft workers the local represents at Angel Stadium, home of the Los Angeles

Angels. The five-year agreement includes wage increases each year and all benefits were preserved.

We are sad to report the passing of member Timothy Dietiker and Marianne Lavin, stepmother of Bus. Mgr. Patrick Lavin. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Work safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.

'Get Your Medical Checkups'

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Pamela Robins, Unit 6 steward, said: “One skipped year can make a difference.” Brothers and sisters, stay on top of your medical checkups and mammograms. Members of Unit 6 had a “Day to Show You Care” by wearing scarfs and the colors pink and black to work showing our support for Sister Robins, who emphasized the importance of breast cancer awareness. You can help support her also in another way. Get your checkups. Sister Robins has shown tremendous strength and



Local 53 members in Unit 6 participate in a “Day to Show You Care.”

courage. And on behalf of our local, we want her to know we love and support her. Our prayers are with you, Pam.

Recent retirements: From New Madrid Power Plant—Frank Sanders, journeyman machinist/mechanic, retired March 1 with 20 years of service; Tommy Sides, journeyman mechanic, retired March 9 with 39 years of service; and Terry Hadder, journeyman welder/mechanic retired April 30 with 34 years of service. Congratulations!

Passing On: Carl Stahl, long time active member, passed away Feb. 2. Carl will be greatly missed.

The annual party for the West Central Co-op group was Feb. 25 at the bowling alley in Higginsville, MO. We had a nice turnout with members and spouses; all enjoyed the evening of good food and fun.

Hope all finds and keeps you well ... Local 53!

Tracy A. Riley, V.P.

Agreements Ratified

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—The local has been very busy the last few months. A two-year agreement was ratified with Osmose, a four-year agreement was ratified with Trees, Inc. and the Intermountain Line Construction agreement was ratified for a three-year term. Two agreements with Frontier Communications, one in Idaho and one in Utah, were also ratified. The Idaho Falls Power agreement should be close to a vote by the time this article is posted. May and June will bring contract negotiations for the Rocky Mountain Power Gas Turbine and Laramie agreements.

The local has also launched a new Web site. The intent is to enhance our communication structure and to provide information in a more efficient manner. The new site will also feature member participation in various surveys, etc.

The work outlook for outside construction remains steady. Work should pick up toward late summer or early fall as projects are currently out for bid. There is a potential for some large transmission projects to break ground in the next year or two.

Scott Long, P.S.

Spring Work Picture

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH—Local 71's newly elected officers are: Pres. Larry Moore, Vice Pres. Todd Kessler, Treas. Kurt Williams, Rec. Sec. H. Nelson Duncan, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Bryan Stage and Executive Board members Kelly Williams, Jonas Plank, Dave Sugerik, Jason Doran and Brian “Chip” Curtis. Congratulations and thanks to all who participated.

Our work in both transmission and distribution has remained strong over the winter months

with station work starting to show signs of life here in early spring. Give us a call—we should be working book II as you read this article.

Congratulations to all our new journeymen for their successful completion of the apprenticeship program. Your hard work, dedication and desire to seek knowledge is appreciated and respected by everyone in our trade.

Bus. Rep. David Gabrovsek recently presented retired Bro. Jack “John” Leslie his 50-year service pin. Bro. Leslie was initiated into Local 411 in 1962.

Our deepest sympathies to families of recently deceased members: James L. Butler, Elmer G. Wine, Mark Reagle, Charles Gosnell, Elliott Marcum and Noel Barney.

Always work safe and attend your union meetings. United we will ... Divided we won't.

Bryan Stage, B.M./F.S.



Local 71 retired Bro. Jack Leslie receives his 50-year pin.

Newly Elected Officers

L.U. 99 (govt&i), PROVIDENCE, RI—Local 99 newly elected officers, installed in June 2011, are as follows: Bus. Mgr. Mike Daly, Pres. James Jackson, Vice Pres. Robert Lowe; Examining Board member Eric Munson; Executive Board members Mike D'Amico, Anthony De Mambro, Robert Furlong, Joe Manzi, Pat Marchetti, William Smith Jr. and Paul Stromberg. Organizer: Joe Walsh Jr. Delegates to International Convention: Mike D'Amico, James Jackson and John Shalvey.

Work remains slow in the area although several jobs are hoped to start soon.

Organizing remains an ongoing battle, with Bro. Joe Walsh Jr. picking up where Bro. John Shalvey left off. Let us hope we can turn more shops and start to recapture much-needed employment opportunities.

S. P. Callaghan, P.S.

Local Lines

Wellness Program & Blood Drive

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—Local 103 held a blood drive at the union hall on Feb. 16 to benefit the American Red Cross. There was overwhelming support for this event, which kicked off Local 103's Wellness Program implemented in January. Kaitlyn Gambino, Wellness coordinator, and the women from our Health and Welfare did an excellent job making this event happen. Kaitlyn was in disbelief with the blood drive's success, which far exceeded the number of Local 103 participants they had hoped would attend. Working members, families of members and members of the Dorchester community came to donate blood. The blood drive is part of a new approach Local 103 is taking toward wellness for its members. Officers said the key to this new system is prevention and getting members to recognize warning signs before bigger problems arise. Representatives were on hand at the event from the Local 103 Employee Assistance Program to make members aware of the mental, physical, and financial assistance opportunities available to them through the union.

Our Local 103 Hockey Team held their annual comedy night at the union hall in Dorchester on Feb. 25. The event presented two headliners, Joe Yannetty, a Boston native, and Patty Ross. In addition, there were three other comedians, P.J. Thibodeau, from Boston, and Mike Baker and Mike Roberts, both Dorchester natives. The more than 400 people who attended the event overwhelmingly agreed that the annual comedy night was a great night for all.

Kevin Molineaux, P.S.



Local 103 blood drive to benefit the American Red Cross.

'The Greatest Electrical Union'

L.U. 105 (catv,i&o), HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA—Lorne Newick, the newly elected business manager, and his team are off to a great start. Bus. Mgr. Newick and assistant Bus. Mgr. Brad Gold have established a Work Rules Committee, which is proving to be very effective. Congratulations to newly elected pension committee trustees Joe Brogley and Dave Berta. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Steve Fox has been busy bringing up to date our local Web page and has done an excellent job; check it out at www.ibew105.com.

On a more poignant note, appreciation goes out to our dedicated union brothers who unselfishly put themselves out there to help the soldiers who tirelessly serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan in Theatre. We all know if it wasn't for a soldier or vet we wouldn't have the freedom of religion, press, speech, assembly, fair trial, vote and a flag to salute.

Phil Brown, P.S.



Local 111 Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Duane J. Lawlor (left) and Eppie Martinez.

Staff Member Appointments

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—In January 2012, two new assistant business managers came aboard the agent staff of Local 111 to strengthen and more evenly distribute the workload. Bro. Duane J. Lawlor has a long history with Local 111. Besides serving as president from 2005 to 2010, as treasurer on the Executive Board, and serving on various committees while employed with Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) as a working foreman in the Gas Emergency Repair Department, he also gained experience and knowledge participating on several negotiating committees. Despite his extensive experience, Lawlor still finds his new job challenging. He represents a wide variety of units and classifications with different departmental rules. This extensive experience will serve Lawlor well as he takes on the challenge of representing a wide variety of units and classifications with different departmental rules. Looking ahead, Lawlor sees a need to "instill and build a sense of cohesiveness" within the membership.

Bro. Eppie Martinez also comes from PSCO with extensive knowledge as a journeyman lineman. With previous service on various committees, as a new agent he is gaining experience in negotiations for several groups and will be on the negotiation committee for the PSCO wage opener. "It's like taking another apprenticeship," Martinez said. "I'm doing everything I can to get as much experience and exposure as possible. I am grateful that I have great teachers here."

Mike Kostecky, P.S.

Ideas for Interactive Meetings

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—Many units are requesting ideas for improving attendance at meetings. During your next meeting, consider addressing three topics: a social event, training, and contract interpretation. Each of these items can generate substantial dialog among attendees and set the stage for interactive meetings.

Make a motion to host a family-friendly social event this year. Propose possible locations and dates then vote at the following meeting. Get it scheduled!

Discuss your unit's training needs. Some areas have inquired about the local developing foreman training. Others want more information about collective bargaining as well as training for prospective unit leaders and shop stewards. If you have ideas or needs, contact your business representative.

Organize a committee to prioritize the articles and sections of your collective bargaining agreement that provide the most confusion or disagree-

ment. Prioritize these topics then discuss one per unit meeting. By reaching resolution within the unit, you can provide a unified reply when addressing management. This is an excellent way to support your shop steward while displaying solidarity as professionals. Remember, it is not your manager's responsibility to interpret the CBA for you.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL—For more than 10 years, Bro. Jon Pohl has organized our annual Local 145 Blood Drive. With his efforts, plus those who took time out of their Saturday morning to donate, this year's blood drive was a success—over 50 units of blood collected!

2012 is a very busy year for contract negotiations. This year the following CBAs will be negotiated: Inside Wireman, Outside Utility, Residential, Sign and the Low Voltage & Communications (Teledata). Thank you to all those who are, or will be, involved in negotiating for these contracts.

The March regular union meeting is always one of our highest attended meetings of the year. The March meeting is also known as "Pack the Hall Night" and serves as the induction night for new members. We welcome the 11 new inside wireman apprentices, two new teledata apprentices and the two new construction wiremen to our local! The regular union meetings for Local 145 are held the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Come to the meetings and stay involved with your local!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been injured or have lost someone.

Justin M. Giem, P.S.

Walker Recall Election

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Our efforts to recall anti-union Republican Gov. Scott Walker continue. Over 1 million signatures supporting a recall election for Walker were submitted to the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board. We expect the recall to be successful with elections to go forth in June.

On March 10, our big Rebuild/Reclaim Wisconsin rallies were a great success. Please visit our Web site www.ibew159.org to see updated information and pictures.

We should see an improved work outlook this summer. The scrubber project is not projected to have calls until late summer. We still have 180 on book I and over 200 on book II. Some good projects are coming up but we won't know how those will affect our book until summer.

Joel Kapusta, B.A.

100th Anniversary Celebration

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—Attention all members and retirees: Save the date for Oct. 13—it is our local's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Festivities will take place at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal. The hotel was built 100 percent union. Special committees have been formed and help is needed for the event. Please call the hall if you wish to help. Before the event more information will be distributed to members; the best source of information is at union meetings.

Special thanks to retiree Dale Leman for volunteering on providing power and lighting to the Immanuel Health Center, a charitable group that will provide health care to low-income individuals. Thanks to all retirees, members and apprentices who have volunteered their help.

Congratulations to Tom Peasley, who completed a Union Community Activist Network (UCAN) class, held for all McLean County union tradesmen. We all know how important it is to give back to the community and be involved.

At press time, a "Right to Work—Won't Work in Illinois" (RTW-WWII) rally was scheduled for April 19 in Champaign. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, who signed so-called "right-to-work" legislation on Feb. 1, was scheduled as keynote speaker at the Champaign County Republican dinner. Union workers from across our state planned to turn out to let all politicians know that RTW will not be tolerated by our hard-working families in Illinois.

Remember to get involved and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.



Local 197 member volunteers provide Immanuel Health Center with power and lightning: from left, Dale Leman, Mike Osterburg, Nathan Feit, Mitch Karr, Cody Batty, Jacob Goar, Josh Linton, Ahmad Manns, Troy Prescott, Josh Scaggs, Mike Russell, Aaron Liming, Alan McKimmy and Jim Suppan. Bernie Eszienski snapped the photo.

Important Election Year

L.U. 223 (em,govt&i), BROCKTON, MA—As this is an important election year for the country, we need to work as hard as possible to ensure that friends of labor and the middle class are elected in November.

This year in Massachusetts we have an opportunity to take back "the people's seat" from incumbent Republican Sen. Scott Brown, who has been no friend of the middle class and organized labor. Also, there is a return of a Kennedy to the political scene. Joe Kennedy III is running for U.S. Congress as a candidate for the seat held by retiring Rep. Barney Frank. Rep. Frank will be missed and we thank him for all his support through the years and wish him well in the future.

With springtime upon us, solar projects are under way; Brayton Point Power station continues to employ members on their projects. The gaming bill, which was signed into law last year, is allowing the Mashpee Wampanoags to move forward with their resort casino project. The sooner the better, for it will create much needed jobs for the southeastern Massachusetts area. Let us hope that the past few years are truly history and we begin this year and years to come with plenty of work opportunities.

Doug Nelson, B.A.

Safety Makes the Case

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—"They pay us well to do safe and sound work" has become my mantra. This was said to me by a local journeyman as I offered my admiration of his Intermediate Metal Conduit (IMC) run. His words have carried with me as I approach my third year of apprenticeship. From theory to practice, safety is our focus.

What the political powers in charge are failing to see is that the IBEW ensures a safe project—not only in theory but in practice. Just like the journeyman's words, we understand the relationship between the value of our skills and the associated costs to our customers. Our commitment begins with a comprehensive five-year apprenticeship and continues throughout our careers with ongoing training and application. It's deeper than just a handshake and a promise of quality. For us, safety is built into everything we do from day one. Utilizing IBEW labor is a down-right guaranteed pledge to safety.

Brothers and sisters, safety is always the bigger picture. Would you want your teeth worked on by someone of questionable credentials? Have a surgical operation be performed by someone other than the most qualified for the job? Why should your electrical project be any different! And it's from the standpoint of safety that we can make the case for our continued employment and success.

Tony Palermo, P.S.

Looking Forward

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—With the winter (or lack thereof) behind us, the membership hopes for clearer skies and an improved jobs forecast. At press time we were getting ready for the St. Patrick's Day parades, which always provide a much needed lift in spirits for our New Jersey and Pennsylvania members while providing momentum to leave the winter doldrums behind. Of course an empty bench would boost everybody's morale and with the help of multiple solar projects under way or ready to start, coupled with several more traditional construction projects, the immediate future looks brighter than many would have predicted in the not-too-distant past. With members now able to track their progress on the out-of-work list via the local's Web site, the added transparency has taken some of the uncertainty out of the "back to work" process.

Even with both political and economic headwinds to overcome, we all realize the need to push forward and continue to fight for the way of life that the ones before us created and that we must preserve. With major elections coming fast upon us, we must not only hold gains but aggressively expand our agenda of family, jobs and quality of life.

Brian Jacoppa, P.S.

Career Expo for Students

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—The week of Feb. 27, the Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program in conjunction with the Southern Illinois Builders Association hosted a Construction Industry Career Expo at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL. [See photo, top left.] The slogan for this expo: "Organized Labor, Management and Education Working Together."

The career expo was attended by high school and college students seeking opportunities in the construction field. Our apprenticeship programs



Students take in a JATC exhibit at a Construction Industry Career Expo.

need to continue to search for the best and the brightest talent. Expos such as SICAP's support educational development and allow our industry to grow.

At this writing, Ameren negotiations were scheduled to begin in April. This will impact a large percentage of our membership. With our members' help in the passage of Illinois Senate Bill 1652, providing more funds for the utility, we are optimistic for a positive outcome.

We welcome the latest addition to our staff, Bro. Chris Hankins. Chris' role will be in Membership Development. Chris has been an active member as an instructor, as trustee on various trusts, and as the electrical inspector for the Village of Pontoon Beach.

We need to ask ourselves from time to time: What are we doing to strengthen our local union?

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

Miami Members Speak Out

L.U. 349 (em,es,i,mps,rtb,rts,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—On Feb. 15, the anti-worker governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, came to Naples, FL, for a \$500 per-person luncheon fundraiser to help fight the effort to recall him. The hard-working, middle-class citizens of Collier County came out in full force on Wednesday at noon to show Walker that they don't want him or his Koch brothers' ideology in Florida.

So, Florida Southwest Chapter AFL-CIO had its own fundraiser. For \$5 you received a bologna sandwich, a bottle of water and your picture taken with a costume rat, which symbolized Gov. Scott Walker. All the proceeds went back to Wisconsin to help get Gov. Walker out of office. Nearly 270 citizens participated in the protest. Twenty-eight of our IBEW Local 349 West Coast Division members took time off from work to tell Gov. Scott Walker to get out of Florida!

This is an election year. With November 2012 elections coming soon, we need all members to be registered to vote. We need all members to get out



IBEW Miami Local 349 West Coast Division members protest Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's luncheon/fundraiser held in Florida.



IBEW Local 359 teams participate in a Union Sportsmen's Alliance sporting clays shoot.

and vote for union-friendly, union-backed candidates. We can't afford to lose.

Remember to attend your union meetings. It is very important for you to be there.

Frank Albury, P.S./Exec. Brd.



Top bowlers Logan Daley (left) and Local 357 Bro. Scott Hughes (right) with Brotherhood Welfare Committee member Richard Work.

'Bowling for Brotherhood'

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Local 357's Brotherhood Welfare committee hosted its first Bowling For Brotherhood tournament Saturday, Feb. 25. The event took place at Gold Coast Hotel & Casino and was a great success!

Seventy-five bowlers participated in an afternoon of fun and competition. There were raffles for gift cards, movie tickets and other prizes. Bro. Scott Hughes had the high game of the day with a score of 255. Logan Daley won the 12-and-under age group with a high score of 193. And Bro. Nick Taintingier won the mystery game.

Look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 2nd Annual Bowling For Brotherhood!

Aaron L. Jones, P.S.

USA Sporting Clays Shoot

L.U. 359 (u), MIAMI, FL—In January the local sponsored two teams to participate in the Union Sportsmen's Alliance sporting clays shoot at Fort Lauderdale's Markham Park. Participants were: Bernie Bischoff, Clinton Cash, Steve Flynn, Jean Foracappa, Frank Lewis, Jose Martinez, Mike Ochoa, and Justin Stockton. These shoots are fun

for all. Funds raised help preserve the hunting environment for families who enjoy the shooting sports and benefit conservation projects.

We congratulate the 28 recent nuclear journeyman graduates. A dinner was held for those who graduated in the three journeyman fields of Nuclear Mechanic, Nuclear Instrumentation and Nuclear Electrician.

Always keep safety in your thoughts when out on assignment; check your clearances and work safely.

We encourage all members to get involved in the local's Political Action Fund (COPE), to start contributing and be informed in the political arena. So when it is time to vote, you and your families can cast your votes for candidates who will work to benefit your wallet and prolong the survival of working families. Those on the ultra-conservative side do not have our interests at heart; they are gunning to destroy working families by trying to eliminate the benefits of working families. Get involved when the leadership asks: work the phone banks and help with door-to-door neighborhood canvassing. Elections are coming up soon.

See you at the hall the first Tuesday of each month.

Steve Flynn, F.S./P.S.

PLAs Secure Work

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—"Plenty of work at 363. ..." I am glad that got your attention. The job situation could be much better, and we have much work to do. First, I want to thank Bus. Mgr. Samuel Fratto and his agents for the hours spent securing project labor agreements. Members, if you are called about PLA meetings, please attend—future jobs depend on it.

Numerous town meetings are held to see if the community supports future projects. Get out there and be heard now. We need those jobs. If a few of these projects are approved, we will have the much-needed work we are looking for. Having the same 10 guys at the meetings doesn't carry the weight we need.

Brothers and sisters, we don't work with a punch clock where all our responsibilities end at 3:30 p.m. There are union meetings to attend with discussions about your job, your benefits, your future. Come and have some input, don't just talk on the jobsite about your future. There are the union outings, golf, clambakes, dinner dances—come join a committee. The key word in all of this is "future." Come be a part of yours.

Kevin Keeley, P.S.

Local Lines



Local 375 Pres. Dave Reichard (left) and Bus. Mgr. Brett Helfrich (right) present membership service awards to: Raymond Stoudt (second from left), Joseph Zeller, Robert Parks and Joseph Birchak.

Membership Service Awards

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—We recently held a retirees breakfast at which membership service awards were presented by Bus. Mgr. Brett Helfrich. Members receiving 50-year awards were Joseph F. Birchak and, posthumously, Robert P. Breiner. Members receiving 55-year awards were Robert N. Parks and Raymond C. Stoudt. John C. Gaumer received a 65-year award. And Joseph Zeller received an award for 70 years of service to the local.

We also acknowledge members who received their union watches for 35 years of service: past president Karl J. Geiger, Andrew Bednar Jr., Joseph A. Duld, Timothy J. Figura, Robert C. Hennessy Jr., Donald R. Keim II, George Hertzke, Jeremiah G. Burnhauser, Gene A. Coken, Donald E. Didra, Andrew J. Kubik, Donald R. Miller and Barrie Moyer.

Congratulations and thank you to all for your years of service to our local!

Dave Reichard, Pres./A.B.M.

'The Brotherhood Gives Back'

L.U. 387 (em,lctt&u), PHOENIX, AZ—The 2012 United Way Community Service Fund campaign has closed successfully. IBEW Local 387 members donated \$604,829—with 385 members donating at the leadership level of \$1,000 or more. We are proud of our role in our communities.

The Brotherhood Gives Back Committee continues to be active. The committee held a motorcycle ride for charity on March 31, from the hall to Prescott, on to Rock Springs then concluding at Connelly's Pub (I-17 & Carefree Hwy.). Proceeds were donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

We settled our contract with the Arizona Water Company. The contract includes a 1.3 percent wage increase.

Arizona seems to be the next state to jump on the radical bandwagon to take away bargaining privileges from public sector workers. At this writing, there are no less than four bills pending in the state legislature to remove rights. We need to support our fellow workers and defeat these bills. Remember, if opponents of workers are successful there, they'll be after our rights next. We need to be involved in politics in order to survive.

The summer heat is upon us; please be safe out there.

Edward A. Ford, P.S.

100 Year Anniversary

L.U. 405 (em,i,rtb&spa), CEDAR RAPIDS, IA—On Dec. 3 last year, Local 405 celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Many good friends and dignitaries came to help us celebrate. We were honored to have U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, U.S. Reps. Bruce Braley and Dave Loebsak, and Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill as our speakers. Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett started the evening with a heartfelt thank-you to the local for its volunteerism and participation in community affairs. It was a great evening that honored the local's founders, retirees and active membership for their continued involvement and dedication to community service, training and professionalism. Attendees enjoyed a video presentation highlighting our first 100 years in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City corridor. Thank you to Chad Champion for making the video. Congratulations to every member, past and present, for making the first 100 years possible. As we begin our next 100 years, we must never forget those who came before us and made this all possible, and we must make sure that those who follow know the history of their union.

The political season is in full swing in Iowa and as expected, with a Republican governor and an out-of-control majority in the House, a large number of anti-labor bills have been introduced. There seems to be no limit to how far these guys will go in their attempts to weaken and destroy organized labor.

Bill Hanes, B.M.

2011 JATC Graduates

L.U. 429 (em,i,lctt,o,ptc,rtb&u), NASHVILLE, TN—Congratulations to our 2011 apprentice graduates. As IBEW members, you are the best educated so make us proud.

Thanks to Elbert Carter for 20 years of service as our JATC coordinator. Enjoy your retirement, Bro. Carter. Good luck to our new JATC Coordinator Robert M. "Bobby" Emery Jr., former business manager.

Our work picture is good with the Hemlock Semiconductor project, Convention Center project, Omni Hotel project and General Motors plant in Spring Hill, TN.

Thanks to Tenth District Int. Vice Pres. Robert P. Klein and staff for their part in helping to arrange for Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill's attendance at the Tennessee Valley Authority/Building Trades Conference and for facilitating Pres. Hill's visit to our



Local 429 JATC 2011 apprentice graduates: standing, David KoKai (left), Travis McNabb, Justin Stutts, Ryan Barker, T. Daniel Holley and Shawn Ciesliga; front row, kneeling, Rufus Williams III and Kipp Cavalier. Not pictured: graduates Christopher McQuillen and Geoffrey Iverson.

new Nashville Convention Center. The IBEW members and Conti Electric thank Pres. Hill for his visit.

Thanks to our Brotherhood Committee for their support and service in helping our membership. We appreciate their efforts on: a successful Easter Egg Hunt with cookout, our local's Christmas float in the Nashville Christmas parade, and fundraisers to assist those in need. Brothers and sisters, please participate and get involved in some type of local union function and you will be amazed how much difference it will make in your life and that of others.

Gerald A. Grant, B.M./F.S.



Training Dir. David Lawhorn staffs IBEW Local 441 exhibit at a high school career day.

Getting the Word Out

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA—At its annual Career Day for high school students, Edison High School in Huntington Beach welcomed Local 441 Training Dir. Dave Lawhorn and Business Development Rep. Rick Hecht, who visited to spark students' interest in the IBEW and our apprenticeship program. Student interest was high, thanks to several displays showing various electrical applications.

In the city of Costa Mesa* the Associated Builders and Contractors has been active spreading its anti-PLA/anti-union message. ABC representatives have been spotted at city council meetings in support of Costa Mesa's decision to become a charter city that does not pay prevailing wage. The city would like to outsource hundreds of city jobs currently covered by union agreements. The Los Angeles/Orange County Building & Construction Trades affiliates, including Local 441, have been at the council meetings as well, strongly opposing the council's position. To hear the public and ABC's comments, visit http://costamesa.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=1858.

*Costa Mesa is home to the city worker who

recently jumped to his death off of the City Hall building after receiving his pink slip. His job had recently been outsourced.

Rich Vasquez, B.R.

Update from Pocatello

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—As we progressed through the winter months, the work picture was shrinking and the books loading up.

The Areva/Eagle Rock project was postponed. French energy company Areva suspended the plant project as a result of the falling euro and the financial crisis in Europe. However, preconstruction and engineering still continue, so we still have optimism concerning the project.

Chobani yogurt is building a new plant in the Western Counties; this project will employ a large number of our members. Some other substantial projects are coming up with market recovery available and hopefully we can put more of our members to work.

Local 449 Bus. Mgr. Rodney James has been busy with negotiations, settling contracts with some of our utilities, InteGrow Malt, and the Western Counties. Upcoming are nego-

tiations on the Eastern side, Motor Repair, Residential, Sun Valley and VDV agreements.

At press time, our awesome Local 449 Auxiliary is planning a garage sale, which will take place soon and will give members an opportunity to be rid of unwanted items. Proceeds will be donated to the Idaho Food Bank.

Congratulations on retirement to Bro. James Facer.

The local extends condolences to the families of deceased Bros. David Miles and Jay Beasley.

Kirk Edge, Mbr. Dev. Rep.

'4x4 Club Event' a Success

L.U. 477 (i&rts), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—Greetings, brothers and sisters, from IBEW Local 477's first 4x4 Club off-road event in the Calico Mountains of the southern California desert (see photo). The Calico Mountains are also home to Calico ghost town, once a thriving mining town in the late 1800s. Our one-day event was full of fun, dirt and history.

This is the first of many clubs our local will be having—a fishing club, sports club, car club and even a gold-hunting club, to mention a few. I do



Local 477's first 4x4 Club event in the Calico Mountains.

believe that clubs like these are not only a good way to get to know each other, but also a good way to promote brotherhood and solidarity. It is also a great way to get the family outdoors and remind them of this great country we live in. That's all for now and you will be hearing from us soon.

Kenny Felts, Pres.

'Projects on the Horizon'

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—Some work has slowly been trickling in for our members, and all of our apprentices are now working. The last two years were the worst this local has ever seen with several apprentices out of work and our inside book at 100 or more. So all apprentices working is a trend we hope will continue with our journeymen. With good projects on the horizon we hope to see our "100" book clear.

We just started escrow on a building that will be our first-owned Redwood Empire Training Facility. We all look forward to having a state-of-art facility to train the best of the best.

Campaign season is upon us. To all brothers and sisters, it is of utmost importance to get involved with your local union and help to get our labor-friendly candidates elected. Get active—our jobs depend on it now more than ever.

We at Local 551 "remove our hardhats" for the passing of Bro. Kurt Mathia. He was a great brother. We extend condolences to Bro. Mathia's family.

Denise D. Soza, P.S./B.R.

Work Picture Picks Up

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC—The work in our jurisdiction has picked up a little bit. As of this writing, the Highway 540 loop around Raleigh is progressing. The local has one of our new contractors working on the lighting on the loop and all involved are doing a fine job.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, a joint venture of painters, glaziers and electricians participated in a first-aid/CPR class for our union contractors. We are professional craftsmen, so we should be certified in skills that prepare us to help other workers in the event of accidents and emergencies in the construction field.

Local 553 also has members working on various projects at the Fort Bragg Army base to help provide our troops with up-to-date facilities.

As the work has picked up in the jurisdiction, the local has had funds come into the local. So, we decided to remodel and make some improvements at the local. The business manager and the organizer are directing the remodel of a few rooms and our electrical upgrade. So, the local can now lease out a few rooms to other area trade unions.

We members need to continue to strive for excellence in order to meet the challenges of a fast-paced industry and changing times.

David A. Ingram, P.S.

Members Receiving Training

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—At this writing, our Inside Wireman Book 1 is the lowest I've seen in my 39 years in the local. We are blessed with a number of projects and happy that we will be able to help put some of our travelling members to work. We have also put more than 20 apprentices to work from our sister locals where work has been slow.

We are preparing our members for these busy



Local 595 staff, officers and stewards graduate from the Code of Excellence training conducted by I.O. Rep. Tracy L. Prezeau.

times by holding educational trainings taught by I.O. Rep. Tracy L. Prezeau. Tracy recently held a two-night stewards class and a one-evening Code of Excellence training at our hall in Dublin; the classes were very well-received. We will continue utilizing the I.O. Education Department as a resource to enhance our local training.

We are going into negotiations in our San Joaquin/Calaveras jurisdiction, and in Alameda County we have a wage allocation that will be discussed at upcoming general membership meetings.

In February, we had a well-attended Benefits Fair at our hall. Our pension and health and welfare trustees and professionals updated members on the status of our Health and Welfare and Pension plans. On hand was George Dijeu, who will receive his 75-year pin in December. George came looking for some of the brothers he worked with, and "By George!" he found a few who remembered him! It was a great Benefits Fair!

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.

Retiree Service Awards

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—As of this writing there is not much activity other than a few calls here and there, mainly for Eunice. In March several retiree pins were presented at a unit meeting in Farmington (see photo). These retirees have served a combined total of 570 years. Congratulations to all retirees who received pins.

Some of you may have received a Visa card with the word "Benny" at the top. If you received the card, it means you still have a balance from the HRA Fund; it can be used to pay your co-payments, dental expenses, vision services and eyeglasses, and balances owed for prescriptions, but only up to the balance that is left in your account. If you didn't receive a card, it just means you have used all of the \$1,200 that was allocated to you from the Health Reimbursement Arrangement Fund that was given to you in 2008 and 2009. Any questions should be directed to the benefit fund at 1 (800) 527-0320.

Adam Wysong was recently added to the staff to take care of the Outside Line division. Welcome



Local 611 presents retiree service awards. From left, standing, Bus. Mgr. Chris Frentzel and retirees Weldon Hambrick, Jimmy Tucker, Joel Fogelman, Owen Thomas, Kenny Vaughn, Prentiss Putman, Lee Truitt, Chester Ahlgrim; seated, Jerry Billings, Elmer Beebe and Troy Amburn.

aboard, Adam.

The local extends condolences to the families of recently deceased members Donald O. Sparks, Jerry G. Kelley, Angelo A. Villareal, Larry G. Matthews and George E. Hughes.

Remember to attend union meetings, held the third Saturday of each month.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

Union Brothers Remembered

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my friend Bro. Lawrence Boudreau on Feb. 7. He was 64. Larry was a big community volunteer, first responder, fireman and deputy fire chief. He will be missed by many.

Retired member Bro. Robert Slaunwhite, 84, passed away on Feb. 20 at Camp Hill Home for Veterans. Bob was the last known member to have worked with a charter member of Local 625. A 60-plus year member, he will be missed by the countless brothers he worked alongside.

Our condolences to the families of Bros. Boudreau and Slaunwhite.

In our previous article, it was missed that Bro. Larry Coolen retired in September 2011. Larry was a founder of Bond & Coolen Electrical Contractors, one of our largest employers. Bro. Herb Watters also retired last November, and Bro. Blaise MacNeil retired in January 2012. Good Luck to all in your golden years.

Hopefully by print time the independent MPs' Bill C-377 will be stopped. If not we will need to rattle the chains of our members of Parliament to wake up and see the bill for what it really is. It is a desperate attempt to hinder union organizing efforts by strapping down unions with a burden of reporting reams of information to the public—information that is already available to our members and private information that should be kept in confidence with our individual members. If you haven't already, contact your MP today or go to www.workersbuildcanada.ca and register your name in opposition to this bill.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

Labor Leader Award

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—Local 639 Bus. Mgr. Mark Simonin was recognized as Labor Leader of the Year by the San Luis Obispo County Democratic Party at its first "Dinner with the Stars" event on Feb. 24 featuring California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Simonin was recognized because he has worked to strengthen the ties between labor and the SLOCDP, supporting Democratic candidates by hosting meet-and-greets and encouraging financial support. He has a firm understanding that working families and Democrats must work hand-in-hand to make this a better country for all working people.

Bus. Mgr. Simonin was presented the award by California Secretary of Resources John Laird and California Assembly member Bill Monning, who is running for the California Senate.

John Ponzetti, P.S.



IBEW Local 639 Bus. Mgr. Mark Simonin (center) receives award presented by California Sec. of Resources John Laird (left) and California Assembly member Bill Monning.

Work Safe

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR—This year the local has had two separate, very serious jobsite accidents. One resulted in a fatality and the other resulted in an amputation. These accidents have gone beyond the workers involved. These accidents have affected everyone—family, friends and co-workers. We all need to pay extra attention to safety at work and in our everyday lives. The consequences are too great if we do not. Check your egos at the door! Look out for your co-workers! Do not cut corners or be lazy! Doing things the safest possible way sometimes takes that extra step. Make sure you utilize the proper tools for the job. Leave the off-the-job problems off the job. Focus on the job at hand at all times. Your life or that of someone else may depend on it.

On Saturday, June 30, we will have the annual Local 659 Union Picnic. This year the event will be hosted by the Roseburg Unit at River Forks Park in Roseburg, OR. This is a family event with a lot of games, food and fun for everyone. This year will mark the retirement of Bus. Mgr. Ron Jones. Please come out and share some stories and wish Ron well in his retirement.

Tom Legg, Pres.

Local Lines

Work Picture Update

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—Securing work in our area is still a battle. Challenges from the nonunion, from fearful school boards, uninformed city councils, and politicians who are anti-labor make landing every job a major struggle. We need to stay active in our communities supporting politicians and board members who are friendly to our cause.

While this battle can be frustrating, there are times when I am out recruiting at local schools and find myself offering up stories of brotherhood to the students—stories that remind me how great our organization is. For instance, after a recent fire at a Local 673 retiree's home, members quickly responded with financial support to help a widowed member. She was overwhelmed by the support from many younger members she hardly knew. This is a great organization to be a part of.

Some signs indicate that things may be improving. More jobs are showing up on the Dodge Reports and our contractors go after every one. While we anxiously await word on a major school job, we are slowly putting a few members out to work at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant for various projects.

The nuclear plant and our JATC have worked hand-in-hand to get our members certified at a variety of skills. Recently, a class was held to certify our members in rigging, allowing us to perform our work with no jurisdictional issues. One job we completed at our last outage was moving an 8-ton booster-pump motor—event and error free. Hats off to our members.

Jim Braunlich, P.S.

'Stand United & Vote'

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Brothers and sisters in the Columbus area are seeing a fair amount of work at this time. The casino and "racino" jobs have staffed up, and continue to represent the fine quality of workmanship expected in Buckeye County.

As of this writing, we are gearing up for positive outcomes from primary elections on "Super Tuesday" for all candidates who support working families. If you're not a registered voter, please register and exercise your right to vote. Politics affect paychecks; corporate CEOs may have deep pockets, but they only get one vote. Let's stand united and save the middle class. Volunteer at your local union when the call comes.

Eric M. Evans, V.P./P.S.

Register & Vote!

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN—The labor movement in Indiana was ignored by the majority party controlling state government in February. The House and Senate passed a so-called "right-to-work" bill that was signed by Gov. Mitch Daniels, totally ignoring thousands of union members who gathered inside and outside the Capitol building to protest its passage.

The majority party senators and representatives refused to consider the voice of labor, showing the citizens of Indiana that those who consider themselves "true royalty" do not have to listen to anyone, much less working men and women.

As the enormous mass of union members stood in protest for hours and days and weeks preceding the final vote, I wondered just how many of these thousands of citizens are even registered to vote, let alone actually voted in the last election. If you assume



Local 915 volunteers at February work party.

a good percentage were married and had some adult children and brothers and sisters and other extended family, I wonder how it is that so many anti-labor legislators get elected in the first place.

The other side has more money; we have more people, but it only matters if those people register and vote. Register and vote! Take back the Indiana House, Senate and the governor's office.

David A. Soderquist, P.S.

Verizon Announces Layoff ...

L.U. 827 (catv&t), EAST WINDSOR, NJ—When negotiations started in June 2011, Verizon never hinted at the bargaining table of its need to downsize. Verizon Connected Solutions Inc. is a subsidiary of Verizon, which has been in the bargaining unit of Local 827 since 1995. Over the years this bargaining unit grew as high as 1,100 members. As of Jan. 1, 2012, we had 356 members. They work on the copper plant, installing and repairing customer facilities. On Feb. 2, 2012, Verizon announced the need to lay off 336 employees who report to Boonton, Plainfield, Ewing, Freehold and Egg Harbor. Some of these employees have more than 15 years. All because of a bottom line. The off-date was April 3, 2012. Verizon kept only 20 employees.

Last year Verizon profits were \$12 billion and Verizon paid zero in taxes. The company spent more than \$34 million in lobbying. A practice that corporate America lives on. Lining the pockets of legislators and destroying the middle class. At this writing, negotiations continue with Verizon. The company has become the poster child of corporate greed. The company continues with concessionary bargaining, putting demands on the table that diminish our health benefits and working conditions and lower our standard of living. Our fight continues.

Bill Huber, B.M./Pres./F.S.

Work Party Volunteers

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our annual Local 915 work party in February was well-attended by our local members donating their time on a Saturday to do a few chores around our grounds. We completed our tasks this year in record time thanks to all the hard work of these members. Bro. Bruce did a great job on the grill afterward. It is always a good day when you can fellowship with each other and enjoy the day together. Thanks to all who helped make this year's work party a success.

This being an election year, I would like to reaffirm to everyone the importance of being registered to vote. If you or any members of your family

are not registered to vote, contact the union hall to get the appropriate contact information for the supervisor of elections in your area, or go to our Web site home page www.ibew915.org and look under the links section. Our legislators have toughened the guidelines under which one can register, shortened the days for early voting and even made it harder to get an absentee ballot. So make sure you start early so when the time comes you can be sure your vote will count.

Theresa King, P.S.

'Changes Abound'

L.U. 949 (em,t&u), BURNSVILLE, MN—Changes abound at Local 949 in Burnsville, MN. The union hall had much-needed remodeling done in 2011.

Changes in the Executive Board also put new officers in place. Phil Ottens replaces recently retired R. Scott Darsie as president; and Kelly Duggan replaces treasurer Joe Rother, who resigned for health reasons. Mark Fischer is vice president and Anna Brush is secretary. Joining board members at-large Jeff Wiseman, Bill Gordon and Rick Martin are Jon Sitzman and Kelly Ruddle.

Sadly, Local 949 says goodbye to Ray Turner, retired business representative who passed away in December 2011.

Cy Grover, P.S.



Local 965 Bus. Mgr. Tony Bartels (left) presents 60-year award to Bro. Ray Hansen.

Welcome to New Members

L.U. 965 (em,govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—On Feb. 29, the newly organized workers at the Stoneman Plant in Cassville, WI, ratified a first agreement. We send a big welcome out to our 24 new members.

Join us in congratulating Bro. Ray Hansen, who recently received his 60-Year Service Award.

Recent incidents involving our members have painfully highlighted the importance of safety in the industries where we work. Looking out for our co-workers as well as ourselves is critical in everything we do. As Bus. Mgr. Tony Bartels wrote earlier this year: "We have seen the establishment of many rules and regulations that protect workers that are enforced through OSHA. With all of that said and with all of the safety related tools and equipment, there is still one line-related fatality every nine days in the United States. ... The time is now for each of us to take the time to make sure the work is done safely. This is the key to our survival."

Kurt Roberts, P.S.

Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—Local 1049's Community Affairs Committee helps to better the lives of many of our fellow Long Islanders. Through the contribution of time, services and in some cases, money, Community Affairs helps those in need. The committee works with numerous charitable organizations and events such as the Postal Workers Food Drive, St. Baldrick's Foundation, Long Beach Polar Bear Plunge and Local 1049's Annual Car Show and Chili Contest. These events raise money and resources for our neighbors in need. The committee also supports our members who assist community volunteer organizations. Our members volunteer as coaches, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, firemen and EMTs. Our members are proud to serve in communities where they live and work.

My grandfather used to say, "Many hands make light work." The Community Affairs Committee needs more hands to make their workload lighter. If you can donate some time to help, please contact co-chairmen William Roulette or Kevin Quinn at the union hall.

At the January general meeting, Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) chief operating officer Mike Hervey reminded our utility members that the transition to PSE&G is a two-year process. We will keep members informed as decisions are made.

On behalf of Bus. Mgr. Donald J. Daley Jr., I strongly encourage members to attend the general meetings the third Tuesday of every month.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

'Forging New Union Bonds'

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Let's face it: Unions are not connecting to our communities as much as we did in the old days—when thousands marched in Labor Day parades and attended union picnics. But now Local 1245 is borrowing a page from organized labor's glory days and forging new bonds among our members and with our communities.

Members at NV Energy began raising cash in 2009 for the Evelyn Mount Food Program in Nevada, starting a tradition that has continued. Sacramento area members organized a bowling tournament to benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Members at Turlock Irrigation District and PG&E staffed a booth at the Pacific Coast Safety Fest, publicizing the local's new First Responder Training Program, which trains police and firefighters about safety issues in responding to emergencies involving electricity or natural gas.



60-Year Service Award

Bogalusa, LA, Local 1077 retired Bro. James Elbert Parker (third from left) receives his 60-year service award. From left: Local 1077 Bus. Mgr. Scott Brumfield; Fifth District Int. Rep. Michael W. Pace, former Local 1077 business manager; Bro. Parker; Local 1077 journeyman wireman James Craig Parker, son of the recipient; Local 995 Bro. Robert Torrence; and retired Local 1077 Bros. George Williams and Kenneth Crawley.

Recent union-sponsored events create opportunities for union members to connect in sporting events. These include Local 1245's Nor-Cal Sporting Clays Shoot, a Bowling Tournament hosted by our units at Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts, the Gold Cup Soccer Tournament and Family Picnic hosted by our local's line clearance tree trimmers, and the 25th Annual Local 1245 Perry Zimmerman Golf Tournament. Our local also sponsors journeymen and apprentices to attend the annual Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City.

We're seeing a lot of enthusiasm for these events.

In other news, PG&E apprentice lineman Jason Tucker was nominated for the IBEW Lifesaving Award for aiding an elderly woman who fell in the middle of a busy thoroughfare. Bro. Tucker stopped his truck, called in for help, comforted the woman and directed traffic safely around her until help arrived.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.



Local 1245 apprentice lineman Jason Tucker was nominated for the IBEW Lifesaving Award.

New Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Congratulations to John Libby and John Reynolds on their upgrades from apprentice to journeyman wireman. Likewise, we welcome journeyman wireman Dallas Parmenter to our membership.

We were pleased to host the first quarter 2012 AMPS meeting of all Maine IBEW locals on Jan. 18.

Welcome to new signatory contractors Matrix Services and Michels Power. We look forward to long working relationships with both.

The future of working men and women in Maine is again in jeopardy during the 125th legislative session. Bills that would further erode the frag-

ile safety net include attempts to weaken workers' compensation, unemployment benefits and trade licensing regulation as well as introduction of public sector "right to work." Thanks to the Maine AFL-CIO for the tremendous coordination effort in scheduling the Feb. 9 Labor Lobby Day and district meetings throughout the state. Also thanks to the Eastern Maine Labor Council and the non-profit organization Food and Medicine for sponsoring the March 3 legislative breakfast; and thanks to Central Maine Labor Council for spon-

soring the March 22 legislative breakfast. These events were all well-attended by IBEW members as well as other affiliates. We urge all to stay involved. The future of our children is at stake.

Timothy G. Bickford, P.S.



Work has begun at the new substation in Leeds, Maine, employing Local 1253 members with signatory contractor Michels Power.

Local Recognizes Retirees

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 wishes to recognize recent retirees. The following members retired from Delmarva Power in 2011.

Bro. John Rayne retired as a journeyman lineman with 27 years of service. Bro. Ronald Atkins retired as a meter reader with 30 years of service. Bro. William Waller retired as a lead lineman with 28 years of service. Bro. Curt Hudson retired as a lead lineman with 28 years of service; Curt also serviced on the Local 1307 E-Board for several terms. Bro. Paul Harmon retired as a senior substation technician with 38 years of service. Sister Mildred Fisher retired as an engineering fieldman with 38 years of service. Bro. Robert Beckett retired as a trouble serviceman with 40 years of service. Bro. Greg Hitch retired as a senior draftsman with 37 years of service. Bro. Randy Jones retired as a lead lineman with 34 years of service. Bro. Ronald Gray retired as a trouble serviceman with 40 years of service.

Due to a change in the Delmarva Power Human Resources Dept., I am unable to get the information needed to be able to recap the careers of these retirees, as I have done in the past.

Save jobs, limit imports.

Edward D. Sparks, P.S.

Work Picture Improving

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN—As of this early spring writing, IBEW Local 1393 members recently participated in the "We Are Indiana" rally at the Indiana statehouse, joining thousands of union sisters and brothers protesting anti-union legislation in the 2012 Indiana General Assembly.

Mark Norton, a longtime member from Local 1393, is running as a candidate for the office of Indiana District 64 state representative to help fight anti-worker legislation like the "right-to-work" for less bill that went into effect March 14.

The local recently won a representation election for employees at Shambaugh & Son. We are focusing on more organizing in our trade.

The work picture on the books is improving daily with all members working who are qualified for the skill requested. We expect the work to increase as the year goes on and next year to be even better.

Robert C. Fox, P.S.

Spring in St. Louis

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1439 is preparing for upcoming contract negotiations with Ameren MO.

A solidarity rally and other events are being planned. We have set dates for our two charity golf tournaments; plans are also underway for Lineman Rodeos in DuQuoin and Bonner Springs; and who could forget Labor Day. All events are expected to be bigger than last year, and to help with all these events, we are initiating various committees to make sure things go off without a hitch.

The Tom Kraus Memorial Golf Tournament is June 9 with a 1 p.m. tee off. The

Local 1439 South Guy "Boomer" Barton Charity Golf Tournament is Aug. 18 with a 1 p.m. tee off.

Winter was mild in our area with only a few of our lineman crews helping out with storm restoration in other states.

In November 2011, our largest employer, Ameren MO, announced a voluntary separation package. Sixty-six of our members elected to accept the incentive and retired before January 2012. This



Local 1439 member Nick Bauer receives IBEW Lifesaving Award.

puts an even greater level of stress on an already understaffed workforce.

Congratulations to member Nick Bauer, who received our union's highest honor, the IBEW Lifesaving Award.

Mike Walter, B.M.

A Tribute to Service

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—The local's office manager/administrative assistant, Mrs. Margo Milliken, recently celebrated her fifth year of employment. Hers is the voice that members hear when they contact the office. Margo's predecessor, Mrs. Sharon Chrisman, had been with us for almost 30 years when she suddenly passed away.

The Local 1501 office is a busy place, with multiple bargaining units; Jackson & Tull and Qinetiq at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD; Amtote contracts in both Canada and the United States (being in the gaming industry and having jurisdiction in the United States, Mexico and Canada) with a union administered Rx and Vision Plan. With the loss of Sharon, we suddenly realized how many tasks she performed. We also realized there are not many office managers with experience in running union offices seeking employment. But fate intervened when news of Sharon's passing reached the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions. Margo, who had worked with the Laborers for 26 years, was interviewed and hired as Sharon's replacement. She achieved a smooth transition, performing all duties well.

I join with Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie in acknowledging the contribution the office manager makes to local union operations. For her part, Margo says she enjoys working with our officers and members.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie (left), Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Local 1501 Office Mgr./Adm. Asst. Margo Milliken and former Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell K. Lee.

Prestigious Safety Award

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently recognized the IBEW Local 1547 employees of Bechtel National Inc.'s Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Project, at Fort Greely in Alaska, for excellence in the employee safety and health program.

The work site was designated a "star," the highest honor in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs. More than 90 Local 1547 members worked for Bechtel on this project, including journeyman wiremen, communication workers and apprentices. The project began in 2002 and began

Local Lines



IBEW Local 1547 members at Bechtel National Inc. Kneeling (l to r), Joe Lavorgna, Reece Burke, Andy Mirales, Alan Wilde; standing, Robert Alford, Michael Kendall, Joe Campbell, Kathleen McCreary, Roger Tiech, Steve Patrick, Tim Wallis, Konstantin Misyuk, Thomas Vice, Richard Huddell, Michael Sullivan, Tom Buotte, Tell Burger and Patrick McMurrough.

winding down in January 2011. The project encompassed nearly 66,000 man-hours and the installation of more than 180,000 linear feet of conduit.

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Much News to Report

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—As previously reported, Bus. Mgr. Kenneth Ward continues to meet with Department of Energy representatives and political officials on upcoming missions for Savannah River Site. The business manager wants to make sure there are jobs available for IBEW members even after we are done with our current projects. So far, everything looks very promising.

By the time this article is printed, the new training facility should be completed. There will be many opportunities to further the local's education and I encourage the membership to take advantage of this new facility.

Thanks to all the traveling sisters and brothers who are currently working in our jurisdiction on various projects. We are glad that we are finally getting to repay other locals for their help putting our members to work in the past.

The work outlook appears good. As most people know by now, the Vogtle Project was officially issued a work permit to go vertical with the two new reactors. This is a massive project and is closely watched as these are the first nuclear reactors built in the United States in approximately 30 years. The success of this project will be very important to future construction of other nuclear plants.

Until next time, God bless.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Register for Training

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam recently to Brad Anthony, Quentin Dunn and Scott Searcey. The board reports all passed. Welcome, brothers.

The JATC reminds all members to get registered for Passport Training for Kentucky Utilities, ARSC training for Alcan, and six-hour continuing education for renewing your Kentucky State Electrical License. Call the hall for more information.

Service pins were awarded at our

January monthly meeting to eligible members with 20 to 60 years of service. We also recognized the following, who retired in 2011: Coy Atwood, Bill O'Bryan and James Kamuf. Congratulations to all.

Pres. Scott Coleman appointed Bro. Jeremy Anderson as our representative to the Owensboro Council of Labor to replace retired member Richard Thompson. Congratulations, Bro. Anderson. We thank Bro. Thompson for the many years he served on the council.

Bus. Mgr. Larry Boswell reports contract negotiations are set to begin in May for the Big Rivers Electric "BA" members. Good luck to the negotiating committee.

Membership Development Coordinator Mike VanWinkle reports he is still talking with several nonunion contractors in the jurisdiction in hopes of signing them on. Good luck, Mike.

Tim Blandford, R.S./P.S.

Tribute to a Brother

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—Pictured in the accompanying photo at a recent Local 1739 retirees breakfast are: members Bill Carson, Ray Moreau, Randy Jamieson, Dave Desroche, John Hawkins, Art O'Hara, Dave Carruthers and Bob Newburn.

On a sad note we regret to report that Bro. Jim Townes has passed. Jim was a longtime member of our local. Jim's family includes several generations of IBEW members. Our sincere condolences go out to the entire Townes family.

Local 1739 wishes all the locals a great summer.

Frank Kastle, P.S.



Members attend a Local 1739 retirees breakfast.

Retirees

March Meeting Update

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO—Local 1 retirees enter 2012 with high hopes of a good year of employment and an improving economy.

Our first 2012 meeting was held March 21, a beautiful spring day. Members enjoyed an informative meeting and lunch afterward.

The usual order of business was followed, with a communication from Joplin Local 95 thanking our members for their generosity and help in tornado recovery efforts.

It was announced that transportation would be provided for all who wished to attend a March 27 labor rally at the Missouri state Capitol in Jefferson City. Thanks to all who participated in the rally.

These are dark days for unionism in our state, with the legislature dominated by conservative representatives. At this writing, threats of so called "right-to-work" (for less) and attacks on prevailing wage loom.

A presentation was made by Project Veteran Aid. The speaker was David Seitzer, from the National Organization of Veterans Advocates.

Local Pres. Tom George reported on the still-dismal work situation. At least some larger jobs are anticipated.

We encourage all retirees to attend our meetings and renew friendships with your old work buddies. Much is to be gained from these get-togethers.

Upcoming 2012 meetings are: May 16, July 18, Sept. 19 (luncheon) and Nov. 21.

Don Appelbaum, P.S.

'Exciting 2012 Itinerary'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NASSAU CHAPTER—At our September 2011 meeting, a banner was dedicated to the memory of Local 3 members who died on 9/11. They were: Thomas

Ashton, James M. Cartier, Joseph DiPilato, Salvatore A. Fiumefreddo, Harvey R. Hermer, Ralph M. Licciardi, Michael W. Lowe, Charles P. Lucania, Lester V. Marino, Jose Martinez, Joseph M. Romagnola, Anthony Segarra, Jeffery J. Shaw, Steven R. Strauss, Glenn J. Travers Sr. and Kenneth W. White. They are gone but will not be forgotten. Piper Richard Doherty, a member of the Local 3 Sword of Light Pipe Band, performed to mark the occasion.

After many years of service as press secretary, Eugene McGrath has turned over the position to Bob Cooper. Thank you, Eugene, for a job well-done.



Piper Richard Doherty, Local 3 Sword of Light Pipe Band.

Congratulations to Joe Franco, who celebrated his 95th birthday.

The club has an exciting itinerary for 2012—looks like a lot of fun ahead for the coming months.

Bob Cooper, P.S.

Barbecue at Delray Beach

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER—Our chapter held its annual Christmas/Hanukah/New Year's party at Benvenuto's in Boynton Beach on Jan. 13. The food, excellent one-man band and dancing were fun! All the brothers and sisters had a great time. Thanks to Sandy Rosenhough and her helpers who made the arrangements.

A barbecue was held in Delray Beach South Civic Center on March 12. Many Local 3 retirees and our past business manager Tom Van Arsdale attended.

Our meetings include informative talks by invitees. Currently we are having lively discussions about employment and various union benefits.

The chapter meets the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Delray Beach South Civic Center from October to May. Many of our members are "snow birds" and we welcome all Local 3 retirees to our affairs and meetings.

Dick Dickman, P.S.



Local 3, North Florida Chapter, Retirees Club holiday party at Benvenuto's.

Honoring a 101-Year-Old Retiree

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER/PUTMAN CHAPTER—On Jan. 17, four Westchester/Putman Chapter Local 3 retirees visited William "Bill" Krell at his Osborn Home residence in Rye, NY. For 76 years, Bill has been an IBEW member; his initiation was July 1935.

Born Nov. 22, 1910, Bill celebrated his 101st birthday in 2011. When asked what contributed to his longevity, Bill replied: "Love my work, always on the go, active in many organizations, eating right, no smoking, exercising and mostly my daughter who looks after me." Heredity is also in Bill's favor; he has a brother age 102 and a cousin 103 years old.

Bill is shown in the accompanying photo (on pg. 15) holding a "Gold Member's Club Certificate Of Special Recognition," for members at least 80 years of age. The award was given to him on Jan. 5, because he was unable to receive it at our Christmas/Hanukah luncheon.

John Rich, P.S.
Bob Cuneo, P.S.



Local 3, Westchester/Putman Chapter Retirees, from left, standing, John Rich, Bob Cuneo, John Sarich, John Hansen; seated at center, Bill Krell.

Upcoming Summer Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 11, LOS ANGELES, CA—Congratulations to our Club Pres. Marty Cohen and his bride, Nancy. The couple were married in November. We wish them the best of luck in their new life together.

The Local 11 Retirees Club meets the second Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m., at the Electrical Training Institute in the city of Commerce. All Local 11 retired members are invited to join our club. Please attend an upcoming meeting.

Best wishes to our friend Richard Dulac. We hope he will make a quick recovery and come back soon.

We are busy finalizing plans for our upcoming Summer Luncheon to be held Wednesday, June 13. Club Vice Pres. Harvey “Butch” Bachand and his wife, Sharon, will cater the event.

We mourn the passing of longtime member and friend Benjamin R. Laufer. Ben was initiated into Local 11 in 1956 and worked for many years doing control work at the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank. He will be missed by all.

Bob Oedy, P.S.



Local 11 Retirees Club Pres. Marty Cohen and wife Nancy.

‘Join the Retirees’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 42, HARTFORD, CT—The Retirees Club invites anyone who’s a retired member of Local 42 to come and join them. The club meets several times a year at Local 42’s hall. The retirees get together and talk about old times; they share funny stories, enjoy each other’s company and have coffee and donuts. The retirees wish to thank all the ladies in the office for all their help and warm smiles. If you like to get out for a couple of enjoyable hours, come and join the retirees. The club would love to have you. If interested, call us at (860) 646-7297.

Local 42 wishes to recognize John Shane for his 50 years of IBEW service and Charles Sharpe for 55 years of IBEW service

Save the dates for upcoming union functions.

This year the fishing trip is July 21, and the family picnic is Aug. 4.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

Annual Spring Pin Party

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 58, DETROIT, MI—“Greetings and salutations, and how are we today?” Or so the quote from one of my favorite “old-timers” used to go as his hello greeting. I’ll give you the name of the better looking brother here quoted in the next article. Michigan weather has been anything but typical recently and some brothers have hit the links already.

At this April writing, our annual Spring Pin Party was fast approaching. It is my understanding that Martin Streby and Robert Travis are receiving 70-year service pins! At this writing 18 members are eligible to receive 50-year pins. Our 55-year service pin recipients total 37. Fifty members are receiving 60-year pins. Thirty-four members are receiving 65-year pins. Congratulations to all pin recipients. You all have earned it.

We welcome Al Erickson and John Amrhein as new members of the Retirees Association Board of Directors. To any member who wishes to become a board member: the meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month in the Bill Rushford Room at the union hall, 10 a.m. If the ladies wish to become a board member, the same applies.

If you wish to go on our Boston field trip, contact Rick Koerber through the union hall for booking information. Seats fill up fast, so book as early as possible. Take care and may God bless.

Frank A. Maisano, P.S.

Celebrating 30-Year Charter

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX—There is excitement in the air. In June, the Local 60 Retirees Club charter will be 30 years young. Club members elected to have a special celebration at the May meeting/luncheon to honor their history before the summer break. Bro. John Weber and his wife, Dorothy, will be present at the May meeting. Bro. Weber was initiated into Local 60 in December 1940, making him the most senior retiree. Sharing memories and shaking hands will be in abundance. It was once said by Sue Carney, American Postal Workers Union director of human relations, that: “The union is not a free-for-all service organization—it is a family.” To all retirees of Local 60, put on your party hats and please join us.

Congratulations to Manual Velasquez, Joe Bulness and Val Roessling on their recent retirement from Local 60. You are most welcome to join in on all the good food, good company and good fun at Retirees Club meeting/luncheons held the second Thursday of each month. The club meets at 12 noon, at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Bldg., 3630 Belgium Lane. Hope to see you there.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

Day Trip to Museum

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 81, SCRANTON, PA—The Local 81 Retirees Club took a day trip to Nazareth, PA, to visit the C. F. Martin Guitar Company Museum. As the group toured the museum, they saw various displays of guitars once owned by famous people, including Gene Autry, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash



Local 99 Retirees Club’s 2011 Service Pin Ceremony.

and Elvis Presley. Their tour guide was Christopher Martin, the great grandson of C. F. Martin.

The retirees then toured the guitar factory, where they saw from start to finish every phase of making a guitar.

Gino Arcurie, P.S.

After the luncheon ended the sunshine committee met to discuss our annual trip to visit our housebound brothers. It’s always nice to stop by and brighten someone’s day.

We are saddened by the loss of two of our retired brothers: Joseph Maguire and Albert LeBlanc. May they rest in peace.

Raymond Germershausen, P.S.



Local 81 retirees visit museum. Front row, from left, Tom Lavelle, Marty Zelsnack, Bernard Keisling Howard Owens and Bob Janes. Back row: Joe Simrell, Paul Lowe, Joe Nealon and Forest Janes.

Annual Luncheon for Retirees

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 110, ST. PAUL, MN—Local 110 hosted the annual luncheon for the retirees at the Prom Center on Oct. 6, 2011, in Oakdale. Some 367 retirees, spouses and guests attended this great event.

A 60-year pin was awarded to Robert “Pete” Deeg. Awarded 55-year pins were: Patrick Arntzen,

Robert Kobler, Stephen Reuter and Wayne Rolph. Awarded 50-year pins: Phillip Becklin, Russ Clymer, Leo Grzeskowiak, Manuel Rivera, John Thoenke and Roger Wackerfuss. Congratulations to our brothers.

Bus. Mgr. Jamie McNamara addressed the group and thanked the retirees for their dedicated service to our industry, the IBEW and the local union.

The Local 110 Retirees Club is a very active group with monthly meetings at which Pres. John Heuer presides. The retirees help out at our annual picnic, Christmas party for kids and anything they are asked to do.

Thank you to Local 110 for supporting the retirees. And to April Lyons, thank you for the great job you did in planning the annual luncheon, the service pins and all the help you provided to the retirees.

Jack Buchal, P.S.



IBEW Local 110 congratulates service pin recipients. From left, front row: Manuel Rivera, Robert “Pete” Deeg, John Thoenke, Stephen Reuter, Robert Kobler. Back row: Russ Clymer, Phillip Becklin, Leo Grzeskowiak, Roger Wackerfuss, Wayne Rolph, Patrick Arntzen, Bus. Mgr. Jamie McNamara and Retirees Club Pres. John Heuer.

Retirees

Candidates at March Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 124, KANSAS CITY, MO—We had more than 50 attendees at our March luncheon. The brotherhood and the food were great. Jim Kice and Bill Noel, two of our 90-plus-year-olds, attended. Thanks, fellows, for the shared memories, the good “ole” times. Bus. Mgr. Terry Akins updated us on local projects and needs that we can address for the good of the union. Retirees Club Pres. Dale Allen introduced Teresa Hensley, Cass County, MO, prosecuting attorney, who is running for the U.S. House of Representatives, 4th Congressional District. Teresa, from a union family, had a wake-up call for all of us: “We must take the 1 percent to task. We cannot wait for another election year!” Also present was Patty Johnson, a union-raised lady, who is running for the Missouri State House of Representatives, 56th District.

We remember the following deceased members: Strady Anastos, William E. Brown Sr., Donald C. Comstock, Phillip A. Gravina, Thomas R. Horrell, Elizabeth J. King, Ralph T. Pemberton, Paul R. Roseworn and Derral W. Weber.

Congratulations to recent retired members: Tommy R. Cantwell, Steve D. Dickinson, Glen D. Garrett, Gerald D. Gambrell, Raymond E. Hurst, Jerry S. Kimes, James W. Lacy, John M. Lindley, Kevin M. McConnell, Dennis McKinney, Everett McNutt, Tom Maupin, George E. Morasch, Tavish Twiford and Mark Womelduff.

Ken Starr, P.S.

May 3 Crawfish Boil

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 130, NEW ORLEANS, LA—On March 22 we had our quarterly meeting, held in the Alexander Room. Despite the horrible rain, 50 people attended. Everyone enjoyed the food, drinks and one another’s good company.

We awarded Robert A. Marsh and Robert A. Rodriguez a watch for 60 years of service. Congratulations, brothers.

Please mark your calendars: We have our crawfish boil on May 3. Hope everyone is able to attend.

At this writing, we were looking forward to our bus trip to Hollywood Casino, which was scheduled for April 5.

We mourn the loss of: Joseph F. Borel, Ronald R. Clark Sr., Donald Cousin, Edmund E. Federer Sr., Carol E. Hartley, Joaquin O. Sanchez and John D. Williams.

Until our next meeting, God bless America.

George Clesi, Pres.



Local 130 Retirees Club Pres. George Clesi (center) presents watches to 60-year members Robert Marsh and Robert Rodriguez.

Retirees Seminar/Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL—On March 14 we had elections for Retirees Club officers. Richard Sipple was elected club president. Jim Fliris presided as election judge. Local 134 former president Gary Niederkorn administered the oath of office to newly elected Retirees Club officers.



Local 134 Retirees Club Pres. Rich Sipple (left), Local 134 former president Gary Niederkorn and Retirees Club former president Mario Coletta.

The second retirees seminar for “C” (Communication) members of Local 134 was held at the union hall on March 10. A scrumptious catered luncheon was served to all members and guests. Congratulations to all retiring Communication members.

Coming events for June include a celebration to honor all our club’s retired members who have reached their 50-, 55- and 60-year anniversaries. Also, a neighborhood tour is scheduled of Lincoln Park, Old Town, Wrigleyville, Lakeview and Uptown and a stop at the Elks Memorial Building in Lincoln Park on June 5, with lunch at Orso’s Restaurant in Old Town. Check for details in our monthly newsletter.

In September, we will have our annual golf outing.

We welcome all Local 134 retirees. Noon to 1 p.m. is “greet and meet” time at the Retirees Club meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. The regular meeting continues until 2:30 p.m., at the union hall, 600 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago.

Louis Rodriguez, P.S.

‘Lifetime Members’

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH—New club policy honors members of 20 years or more as Lifetime Members by waiving annual dues.

Congratulations to: Harry Schoettlekotte, Chuck Louis, Walt Lewis, Jack Keller, Frank Bader, Henry Abel, Adron Rice, Bill Seay, Bud Brown, Fred Holthaus, Milt Binder and Jack Rothert. We lost Lifetime member Frank Hochstuhl on Dec. 10 last year. Our deepest sympathy to his family. He will be missed.

Show appreciation to the men and women who serve in our military and protect our national and international interest. Do something meaningful. Ask the waitress for the check of a uniformed military person and buy them lunch. It feels good and doesn’t cost much to anonymously say, “Thanks for your sacrifice.”

Our annual club picnic for members and guests will be held July 11, at Fernbank Park on the river, beginning at 11 a.m. Bring a door prize and join the fun. On Aug. 11, the annual Local 212 summer picnic will be held at Stricker’s Grove. This is always a fun time for our families with games, rides, drinks and food.

Our local is well on the way toward a new office and meeting hall in Sharonville. Hopefully, everything will fall into place for this to happen.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

2011 Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 236, ALBANY, NY—The Local 236 retirees held their annual luncheon Oct. 25 last year at The Italian American Community Center. Many of our retired members and several widows of retirees made this a very well-attended event. Some



Local 291 Retirees Club’s March luncheon: “Where is spring?”

of the current and former officers of the locals graced us with their presence. Bro. Mike Ray did a great job in scheduling this affair. Bro. Ken Hinckley also took many pictures of the event, as he has in the past. We thank all who attended and helped out. This is the 37th year for our luncheon.

Jim Porter, P.S.



From left: former Int. Vice Pres. Donald Funk, past business manager of former Local 166; Roy Van Amburgh, past business manager of former Local 724; and current Local 236 Bus. Mgr. Donald Rahm.

Traveling Museum Exhibition

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Retirees Club met for their monthly luncheon/meeting Tuesday, March 27, at the Knights of Columbus in Westphalia, MO.

During Feb. 11 to March 10, a traveling exhibition was held at the National Churchill Museum in Fulton, MO, through a first-time partnership among the National Churchill Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Missouri Humanities Council, and Callaway County.

The exhibition showed the changes that work and workplaces went through between the mid-19th and late 20th centuries. We were one of only six sites in Missouri to host this exhibition. Some of our members contributed vintage tools for the exhibit and helped with tours. [See photo, above right.]

Delores Melloway, P.S.

Luncheon Meetings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID—The March meeting was held in Nampa at the Golden Corral



Attending a Local 611 unit meeting are: standing, Bus. Mgr. Chris Frentzel (left), retirees Weldon Hambrick, Jimmy Tucker, Joel Fogelman, Owen Thomas, Kenny Vaughn, Prentiss Putman, Lee Truitt, C. Ahlgrim; front row, retirees Jerry Billings, Elmer Beebe and Troy Amburn.



Local 257 Retirees Club member Willis Fischer (left) and Pres. Jerry Rehagen stand beside an IBEW exhibit at the National Churchill Museum.

with 30 in attendance. [See photo, top right.] Local 291 Bus. Mgr. Aaron White brought good news about upcoming work projects in our jurisdiction. Although the weather was strange around here, we still had a good showing for the club. It seems that winter and spring switched places.

Membership update: With sorrow we report the recent loss of three more Retirees Club members: Bill Stith and his wife, Roberta Stith, and Dale Hancock. Their service with IBEW was 63 years for Bill Stith, and 54 years for Dale Hancock; a combined total of more than 100 years of service. Wow! They will be greatly missed.

Bill and Mary Shaw are proud great grandparents of a baby girl, Dakota.

Prayers are being answered as the job market is picking up. 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. Everyone is welcome!

Joe Sirani, Pres.

Anniversary Preparations

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Remember to vote when it’s time. Exercise your right to vote for a candidate who supports working families of America. Believe it or not, two years ago only 50 percent of our members were registered to vote.



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**The War on Common Sense**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

We're going to close some of the unproductive tax loopholes that allow millionaires to pay nothing while bus drivers pay 10 percent of their salary." Who said it? If you guessed President Obama or Nancy Pelosi, you're wrong. It was Ronald Reagan, speaking in support of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, a comprehensive bipartisan bill that simplified the tax code and shut down many of the shelters that allowed the richest Americans to get out of paying their fair share.

Even a tax-cutter like Reagan knew that it's wrong for an electrician or a teacher to pay more of their salary in taxes than a chief executive of a Fortune 500 company.

But despite the Republicans' continued rhetorical fealty to the former president's legacy, the Gipper would be on the outs with today's party leadership.

Last month, every single member of the Senate GOP caucus, with the lone exception of Maine Sen. Susan Collins, blocked tax reform legislation known as the "Buffett rule" from even coming to a vote. Named after billionaire investor Warren Buffett, who has noted that he pays a lower tax rate than his secretary, the bill would require that those making \$1 million or more pay at least a 30 percent tax rate—still far below what the rich paid during the relatively prosperous Clinton years.

That's right. Tax rates on the top income earners are at historic lows, but the idea that the prosperous class—who are doing better now than before the 2008 financial meltdown—could kick in a little bit more to plug the deficit and invest in infrastructure and education is verboten among the GOP. Presumptive presidential nominee Mitt Romney says that rates on the top 1 percent should be even lower!

This is from a party whose dream budget includes slashing Social Security and dismantling Medicare as we know it, a party that has put everything from work force training and highway funding to educational programs like Head Start on the chopping block, a party that from 2000 to 2007 blew a \$237 billion surplus left over from the Clinton administration on wasteful tax breaks for the rich—giveaways that have cost the federal government more than \$1 trillion.

Even purportedly "moderate" GOP elected officials like Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown showed themselves more interested in appeasing Grover Norquist and his gang of anti-tax zealots than fixing the debt and creating jobs.

Admittedly, the Buffett rule is a drop in the bucket—estimated to bring in only \$47 billion. But if the GOP can't even handle that, how can we expect them to work across the aisle on the bigger issues confronting our economy?

We've learned the hard way that tax cuts for those least in need don't create jobs, reduce the deficit or encourage economic growth. The GOP's near-fanatical faith in lessening the tax burden on the top 1 percent at the expense of everyone else has made it clear it isn't serious about any of those goals—a lesson I hope every IBEW member will take to the ballot box next November. ■

Who Is Behind Our Laws?

Over the past few months it has been revealed that a single organization known as ALEC has been the driving force behind hundreds of bills introduced in statehouses across the country that undermine working families. This is not some zany conspiracy theory. This is real and it is ugly.

In the wake of the tragic Florida death of unarmed African-American 17-year-old Trayvon Martin on Feb. 26, the cloak of secrecy surrounding the American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative Washington-based legislative group, has been pulled back. George Zimmerman, the man charged with second degree murder for shooting Martin, initially used a law called "Stand Your Ground" as a defense. "Stand Your Ground" is one of many current laws that feature language nearly identical to sample language written by ALEC.

Now there is a spotlight on ALEC, showing that it has engaged in under-the-radar campaigns for decades to weaken voting rights, dismantle workers' rights and help corporations undermine workplace standards.

The group counts as members more than 300 corporations, which pay up to \$25,000 annually to be part of the organization. Most of the bills ALEC prepares and delivers to state lawmakers can be traced directly to its members' corporate interests.

This is putting even more power in the hands of the few and the wealthy, whose bottom lines are fueling many of these new laws.

When we elect leaders, we want them to fight for us and take our concerns and needs into consideration. When these lawmakers take their oaths of office, they promise to represent us. But ALEC is turning our democratic system on its head, allowing special interests to pay to play in our state governments under the guise of promoting "free markets, limited government, and federalism throughout the states," according to ALEC's Web site.

Now that ALEC has been exposed, more than a dozen major companies have cut ties with the organization, including Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Kraft Foods and Blue Cross Blue Shield. This is a victory for the 99 percent of Americans who need a responsible and responsive government in their corner.

We cannot allow companies to continue to hide behind shadowy groups like ALEC. We need to demand more transparency from our elected officials and the truth about who is really writing our laws. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer



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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Reflections on the Closure of Tenn.'s Philips Plant

[Editor's Note: On March 29, Philips, a multinational corporation, shut down its lighting fixture manufacturing plant in Sparta, Tenn. As Philips shifts production to a newly constructed plant in Mexico, members of Local 2143—who had won awards for productivity and quality in one of the last manufacturing plants to remain in the region—are now looking for work. The IBEW joined the community and the plant's local managers in rallies, letter-writing efforts and a social media campaign that reached all the way to the corporation's headquarters in the Netherlands attempting to convince Philips to either reverse the shutdown decision or allow a group of managers and workers to purchase the plant. Tragically, none of these efforts were successful.]



The now empty Philips light fixture plant in Sparta, Tenn.

To all,

Yesterday was a very sad experience for me. I spent the day in Sparta with the last remaining members of Local 2143 at the Philips Lighting plant. I must say it was a very strange atmosphere, as the last of our members loaded up their personal belongings before clocking out for the last time.

I could only compare the last day for me as attending a funeral of a close friend. While I was at a loss for words, the 15 remaining members seemed almost relieved it was over. A process to cease operations that started over 16 months ago now seems like a distant memory to all of us.

I have spent the past 12 months attending meetings looking around the room at the faces of hard working people. It was tough to see them being told how to apply for assistance, knowing all the while they wanted to continue contributing to the community, not ask for help.

The plant started in 1963 as Thomas Industries, changing to Genlyte-Thomas and three years ago to Philips. When Philips bought the plant, we were all excited. We thought it was a perfect marriage, a top builder of lamps and bulbs acquiring a top builder of fixtures.

Local 2143 always worked with management on new and innovative ways to compete in a global economy. Shortly after I was assigned to Local 2143, the management team proposed automated lines to the union, something that was not allowed by the contract.

After much debate, the members saw this as an opportunity to continue to be cost competitive. It was a tough choice, but they stepped up to the challenge and changed with the times.

For the next six years, our members worked closely with management to form one of the best labor/management relationships I have ever seen. They continued on with it after Philips bought the plant, winning "Best Plant" awards for safety, reliability, attendance and quality. They also went on to be named one of the "Top Ten Manufacturing Plants in North America" by Industry Week magazine. All the while, Philips was planning their demise.

It is ironic the closing was announced three weeks after they won all the company's top awards. In my 10 years servicing the local, we never had a grievance go past the third step, let alone a strike. It is very unfortunate that Philips decided to reward a top plant with closure. That being said, when I hear talking heads complain about unions pushing jobs outside the United States, I know these people have never been to Sparta, Tennessee.

The last order of business by the local union was to sponsor two \$500 scholarships to the county high school for studies in the electrical trade. I thought this was amazing knowing they were locking the gate yesterday with no idea where their lives would lead today. Our members are truly "salt of the earth" people, always giving their best because that is all they know.

The members asked me to personally thank each and every one of you for all the time and effort directed toward them through this ordeal. While we knew it was a long shot to get Philips to reconsider, Local 2143 wanted to take a stand. Along with Local 2143, I appreciate all the help and assistance from everyone. While we were not able to change the outcome, I know we made a difference in our members' lives.

Brent E. Hall

Tenth District International Representative, Nashville, Tenn.

Who We Are

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

N.H. Shipyard Leader: 'We Were Armed with Truth'

Paul O'Connor, a second-generation tradesman at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire who helped lead the successful campaign to prevent the yard from being shut down in 2005, says he was motivated by the empowering metaphor of New England's revolutionary colonists taking on the British Empire.

"We were armed with the truth," says O'Connor, head of the Metal Trades at the 5,000-employee facility, the oldest continuously operated naval yard in the nation. "We were able to project that truth to anyone we talked to. It was in our eyes, our voices and our hearts."

Seven years later, the yard—located on a group of islands at the southern boundary of Maine where the Piscataqua River leads to the Atlantic Ocean—is hiring up to 150 members of the metal trades every year.

Many of the new hires know that organized labor led the efforts to oppose the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Committee's recommendation to close the storied yard, which produced 70 submarines during World War II. They are signing union cards as soon as they can.

But reverberations of the struggle against the closing—that mobilized 63 full buses of determined citizens, sporting yellow "Save Our Shipyard" T-shirts, to travel to Boston and protest before BRAC—has gone well beyond the shipyard gates. O'Connor, a father of six, has become an influential voice in New Hampshire politics and in policy debates within the Department of Defense.

"I did what I did because it would be too painful not to speak up when something is wrong," says O'Connor of the campaign that reached across Maine and New Hampshire.

Building a foundation of relationships one nail and one board at a time, O'Connor, the former business manager of Local 2071—an electrician who built his own home for his family—is a kind of labor movement carpenter, connecting leaders with their constituents.

As presidential candidates troop to New Hampshire every four years seeking votes from workers at one of the largest employers in New England and an endorsement from the Metal Trades, O'Connor has even helped shape the politics of a nation.

"I don't approach politicians like some union leaders and immediately ask for something," says O'Connor. "I try



Paul O'Connor helped lead a community-based struggle to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from closing. He says, 'I did what I did because it would be too painful not to speak up when something is wrong.'

to get on with them personally."

That can mean some flashy showmanship, like when he realized he was wearing a shirt commemorating the USS Albuquerque, a submarine worked on at Portsmouth, while he was introducing New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson during the 2008 Democratic presidential primary. He took the shirt off on the podium and handed it to the presidential candidate.

In 2004, with rumors about the yard's future swirling, O'Connor partnered with John Joyal, a former first vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees local at Portsmouth, to lead a campaign of lobbying and resistance. "Paul is thoughtful and intelligent and understands the pulse of the yard and the work ethic of the people he represents. I have his back," says Joyal.

The Seacoast Shipyard Association, comprising community and union leaders, documented the yard's annual economic impact—pumping \$560 million into New Hampshire and southern Maine. Pride in Metal Trades members' skills and in the unique relationship they had built with the yard's management drove O'Connor and Joyal's activism.

O'Connor, whose children often accompanied him to rallies and meetings, says a vivid 1963 childhood memory symbolized the responsibility of the Portsmouth workers for the ships they once produced and now repair.

He was nine years old, watching TV with his father, a Portsmouth pipefitter, when it was reported that the USS Thresher, a submarine that his father had worked on, was lost at sea. "I didn't grasp the magnitude of the event, but the silence from my father was deafen-

ing," says O'Connor, who recently addressed some of the yard's apprentices and evoked the incident to remind them that the quality of their work can mean life or death to those who staff the submarines that today are repaired and overhauled in Portsmouth.

"I told Paul the morning of the closure commission's vote that, if the shutdown was reversed, our lives would change," says Joyal. With congressional elections coming soon after the decision, the endorsements of the two leaders would carry an extra premium.

Today, O'Connor is co-chairman of the Department of Defense Design Team to replace the National Security Personnel System and a member of the New Hampshire steering committee to re-elect President Obama.

The passion and pride that fueled O'Connor's opposition to Portsmouth's shutdown is now directed at reversing the gains of the tea party in New Hampshire.

"We used to have a respected legislature," says O'Connor. Now, he says, Republican legislators are introducing bills to carry concealed weapons in legislative chambers while cutting school funding, health programs, eliminating lunch breaks for workers on the job and vilifying federal and state workers. "This is not what our members wanted," he says.

As O'Connor's co-workers retire, more than 90 percent of the newly hired electricians are joining Local 2071. But O'Connor thinks that's only a start at maintaining the workplace's legacy.

"We can't just defend what we have," he says. "When our members are engaged, that creates excitement in the union and it snowballs," says O'Connor. ■

