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Unemployment is waning and many construction workers are back on the job site—but working families nationwide are still feeling the aftershocks of the recession.

Main Street Austerity, Or Shared Prosperity?

Around American kitchen tables, too many working families are still trading anxieties. Never mind that Wall Street and corporate profits have come roaring back—Main Street still grapples daily with an uncertain economic picture and a collective worry when the monthly bills come due.

Some progress has been made. The U.S. auto industry, once on life support, is reclaiming its status as a force in American manufacturing.

Unemployment is at the lowest point since early 2009, shortly after President Obama took office. Banks are increasing lending, and a cautiously improving climate for electrical contractors appears to be on the horizon.

But everyday Americans know that we're still not where we need to be. Far too many brothers and sisters are still on the bench or have seen their plants, which sustained their families and communities, get shut down.

Pitched battles in statehouses over the future of public employees' negotiated benefits grab headlines and shift the blame away from the perpetrators of this economic calamity to its victims, such as firefighters, teachers, nurses and others in the helping professions.

Our roads, bridges and schools continue to crumble, while infrastructure spending—once one of the best bipartisan success stories of government accord—has become a nonstarter amongst politicians who believe that austerity will solve all of our problems. And while some private sector jobs are coming back, are they the kind of jobs that will offer workers a path to the middle class?

In this issue of the Electrical Worker, we analyze the lingering effects of the recession and highlight some recent victories. With elections around the corner, we hope this discussion helps our members make the best choices for their families—choices that uphold the values of fairness and shared prosperity that have made our nation great.

Have suggestions about what we need to do to spur the economy and sustain the middle class? Join the conversation at our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/IBEWFB.

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Main Street Austerity, Or Shared Prosperity?

For More Americans, Low Wages are the New Normal

As recession-weary working families squint for light at the end of the economic tunnel, many indicators show that, for some at the top, the country is back in business. Stock prices are up, Wall Street is on the rebound, and the private sector has been gaining jobs, albeit slowly.

But recent studies reveal a startling new reality in post-recession America. The hemorrhaging of jobs that began in 2007 has been stanching, but largely by new employment that pays poverty level wages.

The National Employment Law Project reports that from 2007 to 2011, low-wage jobs grew by more than 3 percent, while mid-wage jobs rose barely a percentage point. Higher-wage jobs fell by 1.2 percent during that time. In plain terms, that means that many of the laid off teachers, nurses and managers might be finding work in stores or in food service.

“However you look at it, wages for most Americans are just limping along, and it’s become a real sap on the recovery,” NELP Director Christine Owens said in a statement.

And the numbers of low-wage workers are growing. A study released in April by the Center for Economic Policy Research shows that the U.S. now tops the list of developed nations with the highest percentage of low-wage workers. A staggering one in four Americans earn low pay, defined as less than two-thirds of the median wage—or about \$10 an hour.

Low Prices ... And Wages

The majority of these low-wage workers draw their paychecks from the U.S.—and the world’s—largest employer, Walmart. But many of the retail giant’s employees make so little money that they qualify for public assistance.

In economically hard-hit Ohio, for example, more than 16,000 Walmart workers and dependents received monthly Medicaid benefits, and nearly 13,000 were on food stamps, according to data from the state’s Department of Job and Family Services in 2009. The average wage for a Walmart associate is \$8.81 an hour, according to an independent study by market research group IBISWorld.

Two more of America’s top five employers as ranked by Standard and Poors include Target and McDonald’s.

The Changing Low-Wage Work Force

During the primary campaign season, GOP presidential candidates brushed off the need to increase wages, claiming that low-paying jobs exist largely for teenagers

living at home or who are otherwise financially dependent on their parents.

But the largest concentration of folks working in low wage jobs are adults between the ages of 35-64. While teenagers made up the lion’s share of low-wage work in the late 1970s, the ensuing decades—which experienced a strong rollback of workers’ rights and outright attacks on unions—pushed young workers further out of the labor market. Today, teenagers constitute only 12 percent of the low-wage work force, a 54-percent drop over the last 30 years.

Even worse, low-wage workers are significantly better educated. Daily Kos labor blogger Laura Clawson reports that since 1979, “The percentage [of low-

wage workers] who have not graduated from high school has been cut by nearly half ... Those with some college education, but not a four-year degree, shot up from 19.5 percent to 33.3 percent. Nearly one in 10 people earning \$10 or less has a college degree, or more.”

And wages—adjusted for inflation—are actually lower than they were a generation ago, despite the fact that productivity has risen significantly. The rate of wage growth has steadily declined since the official end of the recession in 2009, as workers’ pay has declined nearly 1 percent. For young men, entry-level pay dropped a whopping 8 percent since 2007, a Government Accountability Office survey reports.

Romney Retreats

Despite calls from many economists, presidential candidate Mitt Romney said in March on CNBC that “there’s probably not a need to raise the minimum wage.” Romney had previously expressed interest in possibly raising the federal minimum of \$7.25 by tying it to inflation, but he backtracked after being chided by the right-leaning Club For Growth and the Wall Street Journal editorial page.

The National Employment Law Project’s Owens says this is the wrong prescription for stability. “You can’t rebuild an economy when so many have so little to spend,” she said. “Infrequent and inadequate attention to the wage

floor over the last three decades has seriously eroded the value of the minimum wage. It’s time for Congress and the states to step in, raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation. Higher wages and a more robust wage floor will help spur demand and hiring.”

“These figures should shock the conscience of every working man and woman in this country,” said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. “We need real job creation with fair wages to stop more middle class families from slipping into the ranks of the impoverished—not more tax cuts and giveaways to the 1 percent.” ■

Q&A on the Economy

Trying to get a grasp on what is happening in the economy is no easy task. Reading through the numbers, rhetoric and half-truths to find out how things really are is a challenge. The Electrical Worker crunched some numbers and checked with the experts to help answer some of your questions about how we can get the economy back on track.

Q: The media keeps talking about an economic recovery. What’s the truth?

A: Officially, the economy has been in a recovery since 2009. The unemployment rate has slowly declined in the last two years, with more than 212,000 jobs being created in the first part of 2012.

Q: So if we’re in a recovery, why doesn’t it feel like one?

A: If you’re wondering where this recovery is, you’re not alone. The problem: the economy is growing, but not at a fast enough pace to get America out of the colossal ditch created by the Great Recession. The 2008 crash was bad—real bad. It wiped out more jobs than the last four recessions combined. And today more than 12 million Americans are still out of work—more than 8 percent of the population. Of those, nearly half have been looking for work for six months or more. The economy has stopped the bleeding and started to grow again, but at not nearly the pace needed to cover the enormous 10 million job deficit created by the 2008 economic collapse.

Q: So why do I keep hearing about corporate CEOs and the 1 percent making crazy salaries and big profits?

A: Because it is true. It may be a recession

for us, but for America’s CEOs and the top 1 percent, happy days are here again. Profits are higher now than they were before the crash, with more than 90 percent of all income generated in 2010 going to the top 1 percent of income earners.

Q: Ok, so if corporate America is making big money, why isn’t it hiring?

A: There are three big reasons why job growth has been so weak in comparison with previous recoveries.

– **Outsourcing.** Increased overseas presence by many American multinationals means more jobs in China and India, and fewer in Ohio and Michigan.

– **Low wages.** Wages have been declining for more than 30 years, a trend accelerated by the recession. Smaller paychecks mean less consumer spending, which translates into fewer jobs. The long term trend of swapping decent paying steel and auto jobs with positions at Walmart and Taco Bell has resulted in less money in the community and more reliance on debt just to make it.

– **Government cutbacks.** When private sector hiring freezes up, traditionally the government steps in, pumping money into the economy in hopes of restarting growth. It’s what Franklin Roosevelt did during the New Deal and it was the idea behind the 2009 stimulus package. Critics have attacked the Recovery Act as a big boondoggle, but the majority of economists are in agreement that it stopped the recession from turning into a depression. Even Sen. John McCain’s former economic adviser Mark Zandi says it created or saved 8.5 million jobs. But that money is about to run out. New federally funded infra-

structure projects—vital to getting construction workers back to work—have been put on hold since 2010 thanks to the conservative majority in the House of Representatives, which has blocked nearly every piece of jobs legislation.

Q: So can anything be done?

A: Yes, but it requires major policy changes—on both Capitol Hill and in the statehouse. So far the debate over the last year has largely revolved around slashing budgets and how to deal with the ballooning deficit. The national debt is a looming concern, but the solution isn’t giving up on putting Americans back to work or postponing modernizing our economy for another generation. If you’re unemployed, your top goal isn’t to figure out how to live without a paycheck—it’s to get a new job. You will need to cut back until then, but without a plan to get back to work, you don’t have much of a future. But that is in essence what those who claim that government spending is our main problem are saying. Economist Paul Krugman estimates that slashing enough spending in order to balance the budget would push unemployment up past 15 percent—not to mention putting Social Security and Medicare out of business. That’s not an option. Without economic growth and more jobs, we will never dig ourselves out of the hole we’re in.

Q: So what can Congress and the White House do?

A:—First off, our industrial infrastructure is a mess. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives it a grade of “D,” warning that the electrical grid system is so outmoded that it is in danger of break-

ing down without at least \$670 billion in new investments by 2020. This is while China is investing billions in upgrading its roads, railways and power grid. If you’re a boss, would you rather hire an “A” or “D” student? A serious financial commitment to improving our infrastructure not only creates good jobs in the short run, but makes the U.S. economically competitive over the long run by making it more attractive for companies to stay in the U.S.A.

– **Manufacturing.** When a factory owner inquires about setting up shop in China, government officials roll out the red carpet. In the U.S., award-winning plants shut down without as much as a peep from elected officials. Germany, South Korea and China all make maintaining a strong manufacturing base a political priority, which has translated into more jobs and strong trade surpluses for those countries. We need a comprehensive policy to attract and maintain manufacturing jobs by investing in research and job training as well as beefing up enforcement of trade regulations to prevent nations like China from artificially cheapening their currency and undercutting our exports.

– **Make it easier for workers to organize.** It probably isn’t news to you that we need to fix our labor law system, but what does it have to do with good jobs? A lot. Stronger unions not only mean higher wages and benefits, but help make sure economic growth doesn’t just flow to the 1 percent. More powerful unions also give workers a voice at work, which translates into better benefits during good times and a fairer distribution of pain during the bad times.

Companies 'Re-Shore' in the South. Is This Good?

Since 2001, the U.S. has lost an average of 50,000 manufacturing jobs each month for a total of about 6 million today. Two million of those were shed during the 2008-2009 recession, according to data collected by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.

But some business leaders are pointing to what they see as a burgeoning reversal of fortune: many U.S.-based manufacturers are bringing business back after shifting production overseas. Rising wages and distribution costs in China—coupled with a largely low-wage, nonunion work force in many Southern states—means the price advantage of manufacturing overseas as opposed to



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the U.S. is narrowing.

The Boston Consulting Group polled 106 companies in February to gauge their attitudes about "re-shoring." Cost of labor was one of the top reasons plants are coming back, as 37 percent of companies polled say they will move some production from China. That number climbs to 48 percent of companies in the poll that have more than \$10 billion in revenue. Examples include General Electric, which has moved much of its appliance manufacturing from China and Mexico to Kentucky. Caterpillar, Inc. has also shifted production from Japan to Georgia for some small tractors and excavators.

But wages still hover near the bottom. The Southern wage for a manufacturing job averages \$14 per hour, and starting pay is less, the Washington Post reports. Labor leaders say this will present challenges and opportunities in the effort to revive the industry and bring better wages and benefits to struggling American workers.

"It's a positive thing that manufacturers are deciding to re-invest in American labor," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "But without rising wages, the workers in the new Southern plants won't be able to rightly enjoy the fruits of their labors. We need to work to not just preserve but expand the middle class by helping these workers win good pay and benefits that come with unionization."

Outside of the South—where organized labor has more of a foothold—there are exceptions where companies take the high road in terms of wages and workers' rights. Avionics company Rockwell Collins recently announced that it is shifting production of some aircraft electronics devices from its facility in Mexico to Iowa. That's good news for the nearly 500 IBEW members of Coralville Local 1634 who will pick up some of the new work.

Local 1634 Vice President Chuck Holder said the quality of the union work force convinced the company to move the production line back north. "We have a three-shift operation, and our productivity is simply better," he said. Members will earn as much as \$20 an hour with benefits.

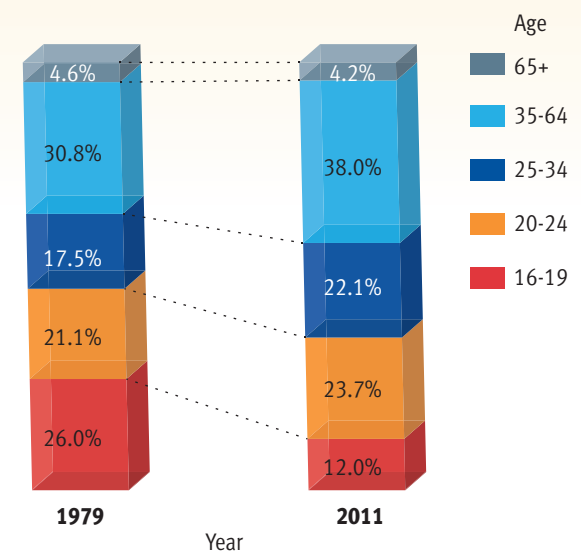
"This is a big deal for us—the membership is really happy," Holder said. "Our facility is 25 years old and we've had three rounds of layoffs in the past three years. Everyone knows how the economy has been, and people had been pretty nervous. It's a big relief to

know there's still work to be done and that it's coming here. This also opens up the possibility of more work down the line and more organizing opportunities. We've worked with the company to make

this a success, and we've proven ourselves as the work force of choice."

Look for more reporting on Local 1634's victory in an upcoming story on www.ibew.org.

Low-Wage Workers by Age Group



While low-wage jobs were largely staffed by teenagers in the late 1970s, such positions are now mostly filled by adults between 35-64 years old.

Source: Center for Economic Policy Research

– We need a raise. It's pretty simple—less money in our pockets means less consumer spending which means weak or nonexistent economic growth. Working families' wages have stagnated, while the inflation-adjusted minimum wage is lower than ever. It's time for a raise in both the federal and state minimum wage.

Q: Sounds good. So why isn't Congress doing anything?

A: Because elections have consequences. When you vote for the candidate whose priority is more tax cuts for the wealthy, union-busting, slashing Medicare and Social Security and obstructionism, that's what you get. This election year, study what each candidate has to say: on infrastructure investment, on manufacturing and on boosting the wages of working Americans. Make it about priorities, not party.

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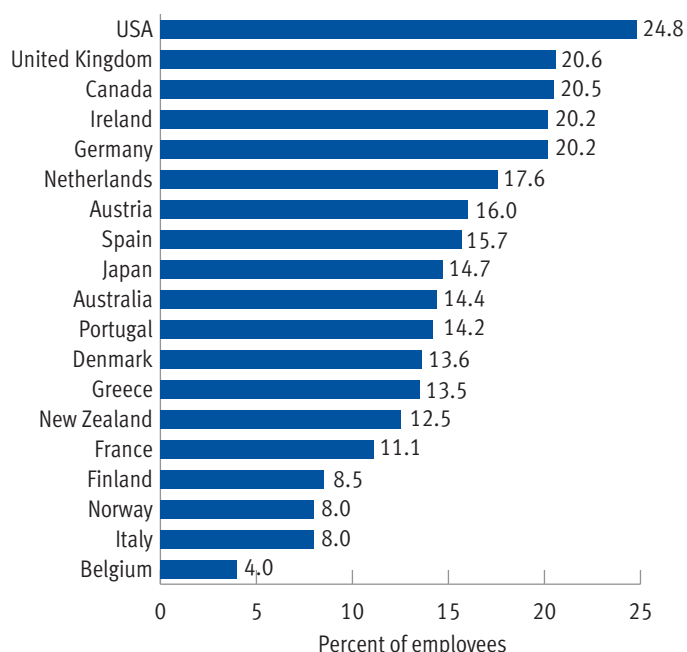
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Share of Employees in Low-Wage Work, 2009 (Most recent year available)



Of all economically developed nations, the U.S. has the greatest percentage of citizens employed in low wage work—earning about \$10 an hour.

Source: Center for Economic Policy Research

What Congress Can Do

Politicians like to talk about job creation—but words are one thing, action is something else. Here are five pieces of federal legislation that would help bring some balance back to the economy and create real-world good jobs. Contact your legislator or candidate for office and ask them where they stand.

Infrastructure Bank: Proposed by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), and Mark Warner, (D-Va.), an independent national infrastructure bank would provide federal loans as startup capital to help encourage private investment in highways, bridges, rail and clean energy, which would translate into tens of thousands of good jobs.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization: The Senate's highway bill, passed March 14, would inject billions into federal highway and rail construction projects to improve our country's surface transportation system, while preserving almost 2 million jobs and creating another 1 million over the next few years.

Fix America's Schools Today Act: Introduced by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), the FAST Act would modernize America's increasingly dilapidated school building stock, creating thousands of construction jobs.

Renew the Production Tax Credit: Renewable energy providers are eligible for a federal tax credit to encourage the industry's growth, but in many industries, time is running out on the production tax credit. For example, the wind power industry currently supports 75,000 construction, utility and manufacturing jobs thanks in large part to the tax incentives provided by the wind production tax credit—which expires at the end of 2012.

Raise the Minimum Wage: Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has introduced legislation that would raise the minimum wage by 35 percent and would index it to rises in cost of living. Not only would it help drag many full-time workers out of poverty, but it would boost consumer spending, encouraging job growth.

Code of Excellence Wins Respect for Workers at N.J. Water Treatment Plant

Soon after New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie announced in his 2010 inaugural address that he was taking on corruption at the top of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, grand jury investigations, arrests, firings and indictments at one of the country's oldest wastewater treatment plants dominated news media coverage statewide.

More than 350 members of Newark Local 1158 who diligently maintain the facility that services 48 municipalities doubled down on their jobs. But, says Business Manager Joe Calabro, "Everyone working at PVSC was tainted by the scandal. All of our members do a great job working on aging equipment, facing sometimes dangerous conditions. We needed to remove the black eye that they don't deserve."

"The Code of Excellence formalizes what IBEW members have already been practicing here at the PVSC."

—Wayne J. Forrest, Executive Director

Calabro, who is also First District International Executive Council member, brainstormed with Local 1158's leaders and decided to propose that bargaining unit members and plant managers jointly develop a Code of Excellence—similar to those IBEW has sponsored and nurtured in the inside construction, telecommunications and utility branches—at Passaic Valley.

Soon, local newspapers were telling a different story about PVSC. Newly-appointed Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest told Wayne Today newspaper, "As partners, the PVSC and the IBEW are committed to working together to ensure that each IBEW member at the PVSC has the opportunity to attain the highest quality of work in the safest possible manner."

The local union brought in Mike D'Amico, Region 1 education coordinator, who met with managers and bargaining unit members. D'Amico showed a video on the IBEW's Code of Excellence in the utility industry and facilitated a discussion on how the facility's work culture could be improved.

D'Amico, who will be returning to train stewards in Code of Excellence standards, says, "We had low, middle and top management in the room. We made correlations between the work IBEW members do as plumbers, painters and electricians at PVSC and the responsibilities of our members in the utility

industry. Hopefully, we opened some doors and bridged some connections."

Tony Valente, who retired three years ago after 15 years in PVSC operations and still works part-time representing members there for Local 1158, says Local 1158 members work under a good contract and have had a generally good relationship with managers. Since discussions began on the Code of Excellence, he says, "The relationship is even better now." He says he was surprised that bargaining unit members he thought would have trouble with developing the Code of Excellence thought it was a good idea.

"We were getting banged around in the news media," says Valente. "But our members bust their butts, taking in more than 200 trucks and treating 300 million gallons of wastewater a day. Most of the equipment is at least 30 years old and members are constantly assigned to breakdowns where they are faced with potential safety hazards, chemicals and ever-present noxious fumes."

In April, Calabro and Forrest hosted a meet-and-greet session with mayors and other governing officials from some of the northern New Jersey municipalities served by the PVSC.

Says Calabro, "Mayors were invited down to see where their money goes. They took a bus tour and were amazed at what our members do." Local 1158 set up a table at Forrest's invitation to intro-



Members of Newark, N.J., Local 1158 supported the establishment of a Code of Excellence to showcase their skills at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's facility, one of the nation's oldest and largest sewage treatment plants.

duce mayors to IBEW's Code of Excellence. Elected leaders were greeted with a large IBEW banner.

Forrest, a former U.S. Army paratrooper, former state deputy attorney general and a former county prosecutor, says, "The Code of Excellence formalizes what IBEW members have already been

practicing here at the PVSC. We have a good group of people who have pride in their work. It's all positive. This agency has been through a difficult time, but a number of bargaining unit members have told me they would rather work in a professional environment where you know what the goals are and can have

personal and job satisfaction."

D'Amico, who has helped implement codes of excellence in several locations, says, "This was one of the best experiences I've had. I think the code is something workers and managers at PVSC will be working with for a long time to come." ■

IBEW Nuclear Plant Workers Win Court Case

You are wrongfully terminated by your employer. You file a grievance and an arbitrator finds in your favor. But you still can't go back to work because your employer won't grant you a security clearance.

Several IBEW members and others who work in nuclear power plants have been living in this quandary. IBEW's general counsel took their cases to court, seeking justice for them and others who could end up on the outside looking in. And the Brotherhood won.

In a March 29 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit upheld the rights of unions to challenge in arbitration decisions by nuclear facility owners denying individuals unescorted access to their plants, which is a condition of employment. When companies deny that access, workers lose their jobs.

Utility Department International Representative Dave Mullen says, "Every organized worker in the nuclear industry benefits from this decision. The ruling marks a step forward for rights on the job and an organizing tool for locals in the nuclear sector."

For many years, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission permitted workers in nuclear plants the right to have denials of access reviewed. In nonunion plants, access denials could be reviewed only by independent internal company personnel. In union plants, disputes over access could be arbitrated.

Then, after a 2009 review of NRC regulations by the Nuclear Energy Institute, nuclear plant owners, including Exelon—the operator of nuclear generating facilities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Illinois—decided that arbitration of access would no longer be available.

Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15—which represents workers at five Exelon plants in

the state—had won grievances appealing wrongful terminations of members. But the members were still denied unescorted access to their plants. They enlisted the support of IBEW's legal department.

The Chicago-area local union, representing 1,600 workers at Exelon, appealed to the district court to uphold the right to arbitrate their cases. The district court upheld Exelon's position, denying the union's right to arbitration.

International President Edwin D. Hill sent a letter to local unions with nuclear jurisdiction urging them not to change their collective bargaining agreement language on access denials based on arguments from companies that "the law has changed."

Hill wrote, "First, this decision is not the law. It is the opinion of one district court. I am hopeful that it will be reversed on appeal, and that other courts will disagree with it."

He was right. The IBEW appealed to the Seventh Circuit, which reversed the district court's decision, holding that the NRC had not departed from its long-standing position that parties to a collective bargaining agreement may agree to submit access denials to arbitration.

In another letter to locals with nuclear jurisdiction, President Hill says the appeals court decision can go even deeper than putting members back on the job.

Hill writes, "I urge you to seize the opportunity now to reach out to unorganized workers inside and outside your respective workplaces. Let them know that true justice on the job can only be achieved by winning the right to bargain as well as the right to arbitrate over access denials, and that union membership will ensure a better future for all working-class people." ■

Combating Elements, N.Y. Members Build East Coast's Largest Solar Farm

While millions of Big Apple residents endured the bitter nor'easters and massive snowfall that snared traffic and knocked out power two winters ago, scores of Long Island, N.Y., Local 25 electricians were laying the groundwork that will finally harness the energy of brighter skies ahead.

Dozens of members finished the last hook-ups on a vast new solar array spanning 200 acres on east Long Island. Nestled within the thick foliage neighboring the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory—a pre-eminent science research facility that studies physics, energy and the environment—Long Island Solar Farm is the largest in the eastern U.S. and dwarfs other installations in the Empire State. Now pumping out 32 megawatts of power, the plant will offer carbon-free energy to more than 4,500 homes year round. Constructed in partnership with the Department of Energy, the farm will also provide scientists with unique research opportunities.

More than 180 journeyman wiremen and apprentices working for signatory contractor Hawkeye LLC installed more than 164,000 photovoltaic panels in an environmentally protected wetland and forest outcropping near Brookhaven's labs. The \$124 million project was a boon to the local's membership, who logged tens of thousands of man-hours.

"It's a delicate area, and we couldn't just go in and level the ground to get the panels uniformly lined up," said Local 25 member Bob Kenney, who worked as general foreman from the job's groundbreaking in fall 2010 until completion last October. "We needed to be very careful and maintain the existing contours of the earth."

To do this, survey crews used computer-aided GPS systems to individually drill posts for each panel. The IBEW team then began the painstaking, meticulous work of installing acres of underground conduit, assembling panels and running thousands of miles of wire to connect the arrays to separate substations before being plugged into Long Island's power grid.

"Overcoming some of the harshest weather conditions last year made this project a real challenge," Kenney said. Fighting nearly two feet of snowfall and digging trenches through 18-inch-thick ice, members also persevered through the fallout after Hurricane Irene, which felled trees and wreaked havoc on the site.

Once weather improved, members stepped up efforts and pulled weeks of overtime to bring the farm online—on time and within budget.



The 164,000-array Long Island Solar Farm will reduce pollutants by 30,000 metric tons each year by displacing other forms of electricity generation.

"We got the wrong winter to do this," Kenney said. "It was a sloppy mess with the rain and snow." To make up for lost time, the crew's typical schedule was to work five 10-hour days per week, then six days toward the end.

But with completion came pride. "For me, it was the best thing I ever did," said Kenney, a 14-year member.

Sealing the Deal

Long Island Solar Farm was built through a partnership between BP Solar, the Long Island Power Authority and the U.S. Department of Energy. Hawkeye LLC was able to secure a successful bid thanks in part to effective marketing from Local 25's leadership.

"When BP was getting ready to announce the details of the project, they came to Long Island to do some promotion," Local 25 Business Manager Kevin Harvey said. "They were selling the plan to local politicians and people in the industry." Harvey connected with BP's project manager and later began an e-mail dialogue to promote the IBEW's skill in spearheading large-scale jobs.

Hawkeye's track record edged out the competition. "When you take on a 32-megawatt project, there aren't a lot of people who can do it," Harvey said. "Our contractor had more than ample manpower and ability to do the job. We've built generating stations and switchyards, so BP felt good about going with us."

At the same time, Harvey and other business managers across the state are working with local officials to try to pass a bill that would give companies building solar arrays a renewable energy tax credit to encourage more clean energy development. Harvey said it would be a win-win for cash-strapped municipalities and companies expanding into solar.

"The state is looking for revenue,

and investors are looking to invest," Harvey said. "To give companies who are promoting green energy more of an incentive would be icing on the cake for their businesses. We've had some productive discussions in the last year, and we're working on it on a regular basis."

Huge Project, Tiny Footprint

Estimates suggest that the green energy generated at Long Island Solar Farm will reduce pollutants by 30,000 metric tons each year by displacing other forms of electricity generation. Brookhaven and the Department of Energy have also committed to preserving nearly 3,000 acres of sensitive forest nearby, improving conditions for rare local species.

While IBEW members were on the job, neighboring wetland areas were left untouched and construction activities were timed to reduce disturbance to birds and wildlife. All this helped contribute to the effort winning the "Best Photovoltaic Project of the Year" from the New York Solar Energy Industries Association by using construction practices that sustain the environment.

From Hardhats to Lab Coats

In addition to providing green power, the solar farm offers a brain-twisting homework project for scientists at Brookhaven who are studying how to pump solar energy from various sources into the grid.

"For the past 100 years or so, electricity has been generated at large centralized power sources, such as dams and power plants, and then delivered to customers through the existing distribution grid of transformers, power lines, etc.," wrote scientist Pat Looney, chair of the Sustainable Energy Technology

department at Brookhaven, in a recent blog post. "With solar energy sources as large as the [new farm] and as small as arrays installed on roofs of homes, electricity from multiple power sources is now being integrated into that same grid, and the impacts of integrating this distributed generation are not well understood." Data culled from the solar farm will help researchers develop methods to address this challenge, he writes.

Another practical piece of research will focus on solar's reliability. Many factors—how bright the sun is shining or whether there is cloud cover, for example—determine how much energy the PV panels generate. As a result, solar-powered generation can be fickle and "[t]hese fluctuations could adversely affect the electric grid," Looney states. "With innovations and upgrades developed as a result of our ... observations, we want to make the grid and the electricity it provides as efficient, secure and resilient as possible."

'The Work Force of Choice'

The success and positive community attention the project has generated spells more jobs for Local 25 members, as more and more solar ventures come their way.

Members will be expanding on the large Brookhaven array by constructing smaller sites nearby strictly for scientists to use for experiments to develop new technologies.

"Local 25 has a good relationship with the Department of Energy, positioning us as the work force of choice for solar in the area," Harvey said. "They know that we're a good fit for this type of construction."

The local—which is working closely with another renewable energy developer, enXco—is also installing another 18-megawatt series of arrays over county parking lots. It's a job that members might not have gotten without Long Island Solar Farm being on Local 25's resumé.

"We're taking unused space and using it to produce green energy," Harvey said.

For Kenney, the general foreman, the Brookhaven project offered a steep learning curve that he says will give him the tools to tackle challenging solar jobs in the future.

"Prior to this I'd done converter stations, commercial buildings, schools and other sites," he said. "When I was gearing up for this big job, I did a ton of reading and research. You always want to do the project right the first time.

"Now that we have this under our belt," he said, "there isn't anything that Local 25 electricians can't handle." ■

IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

www.ibew.org

Our Web site has news and info not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on Facebook and Twitter.

And read The Electrical Worker online!



YouTube

Bigger, more high-tech solar power projects mean new jobs for highly-skilled IBEW members. www.youtube.com/channels?feature=feed-promo

Vimeo

The IBEW is now on Vimeo. Watch, download and share your favorite IBEW videos in crystal clear HD. vimeo.com/ibew



HourPower

The Code of Excellence is our claim that each and every job will be the best it can be. We visit the Prairie State Energy Campus and show how the Code ensures that the IBEW has the best electricians in the world. www.IBEWHourPower.com



ElectricTV

How does the NECA-IBEW team compete in a tough market? By being the best value for your electrical dollar. We visit Boise and show how one contractor is doing it now on ElectricTV.net



Ohio Members Build Field of Dreams for Disabled Youth

The crack of a bat, the blast of a line drive and the roar of the crowd have inspired generations of youngsters to oil up their mitts and hit the baseball diamond.

But for many kids with severe disabilities, taking to the field remains an out-of-reach dream.

Kenny Rhodus is helping change that. The Hamilton, Ohio, Local 648 retiree has spent the past six months coordinating a crew of volunteers to build Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Field at Fairfield's Hatton Park in the southwest corner of the state. Named for the famed Cincinnati Reds leftie pitcher, the state-of-the-art facility will offer hundreds of children and teens who use wheelchairs, walkers or other devices a welcoming and safe environment to enjoy America's pastime.

"This is one of the best projects I've ever been involved in," said Rhodus, a retiree with 35 years in the Brotherhood. "When you think about the young people who are going to be using this field—if it doesn't put a lump in your throat and lift your heart, I don't know what will."

It's a massive community effort that has received the support of the building trades, signatory contractors, local businesses, political officials and residents from across Butler County. Since the groundbreaking in November, area newspapers and the local Fox television affiliate have reported on the project's developments.

Nuxhall Field will feature two separate diamonds, stadium-style seating for parents and caregivers and a professional-grade LED video scoreboard and camera system that will display players at bat. Rotating crews of more than two dozen Local 648 members ran conduit, pulled thousands of feet of wire and installed numerous electrical outlets across the park. The volunteers recently set and wired light poles and put the finishing touches on the dugout areas, which include critical electrical accommodations for wheelchairs, oxygen generators and other medical devices for the players. Instead of grass and dirt, the field itself will be a thin layer of supple, colored rubber—smooth enough to allow for easy wheelchair passage.

Rhodus estimates that by the time the field is complete, volunteers will have donated about 3,000 man-hours to the effort. "It's brought out the best of what this Brotherhood has to offer our neighbors and our youth, especially those who need extra support," Rhodus said.

Nuxhall Field has also given many volunteers something they weren't getting during their weekdays—a chance to work with their tools. President Matt Von

Stein, who has been out of work, points to the project as an opportunity to do something constructive and community-driven while he awaits the next job call.

"I'd been laid off for about a year," Von Stein said. "After a while, you really start to feel like you need to be more active, so this project gives me something to do, something to be a part of. It's also great to be doing this with other members. It really gives everyone a good feeling."

About 20 members—including retirees and those awaiting calls—have lent their expertise to the effort, augmenting the daily work of Von Stein, Rhodus, Billy Bowcock and brothers Shawn and Vaughn Tate. These five have been on site nearly every weekday starting at sunrise for the past several months.

Nuxhall Field will be one of the many legacies of Joe Nuxhall, who was the youngest player ever to pitch for the Major Leagues, staring down his first batter at only 15 years old. Nuxhall enjoyed a career with the Reds from 1944 to 1966, pitching more than 1,300 strikeouts. Following his time on the mound, he moved into the radio booth where he became a celebrated broadcaster for the Reds until 2004. He also devoted himself to community improvement efforts in his hometown of Hamilton before passing away in 2007.

"Dad was a very committed, very emotional guy when it came to doing things for others," said his son Kim Nuxhall, who helps steer the Joe Nuxhall Hope Project. The organization was set up to further the ball player's philanthropic efforts by offering a scholarship fund, character education programs for youth, a summer baseball camp and other endeavors.

Kim recalls watching the television show "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" with his father one night about 10 years ago when the newscaster profiled the Miracle League—the national organization that coordinates baseball programs for children and young adults with disabilities. The story was a revelation to the former pitcher. "Watching that broadcast and seeing the excited faces of so many children really brought a tear to Dad's eye," Kim said. "Right then and there, he decided that he wanted to help do something for these kids, many of whom had been told they'd never play baseball because of their disabilities."

The Hope Project spent the next few years fundraising and soliciting donations from agencies, businesses and community members. After securing millions in funding, the group began outlining construction late last year. When it was time to start planning the electrical phase, Nuxhall turned to the IBEW.



Dozens of Hamilton, Ohio, Local 648 electricians—including retirees and members on the bench—are helping build a state-of-the-art baseball facility for young people with disabilities.

"I knew Kenny Rhodus from the days when we would play high school football together," Nuxhall said. Rhodus set up a meeting with Local 648 Business Manager Frank Cloud and other leaders to hear Nuxhall's ideas and discuss how the IBEW could contribute volunteer labor. "When they said,

'We'll take care of everything,' I was floored," Nuxhall said.

Cloud, who also grew up with Kim Nuxhall, said the skill of IBEW electricians could help push the project past the finish line, and he encouraged members to participate at local meetings. "Joe Nuxhall has done so much for so many

people in this area," Cloud said. "And this was a chance to show our community what being union is all about."

Throughout construction, IBEW members have been joined by volunteers from the Pipefitters, Sheet Metal Workers, Ironworkers, Operating Engineers and the Laborers' unions. Nearly all supplies have been donated by NECA signatory contractors and other companies in the area. For the electrical phase, more than \$200,000 worth of free labor and materials were supplied. The crew is now finishing the project ahead of schedule.

IBEW members look forward to attending the field's ribbon cutting ceremony on June 10. "To get to the end of a project like this really allows us to share what the IBEW is and what it means for us and our town," said Local 648 organizer Jeff McGuffey, who helped coordinate donations and volunteer scheduling. "The main thing was that we had the opportunity to help—to take our skills and put them to work for the community. It makes you proud to be a member."

Players from the area will take the field for the opening pitch on July 28.

For more information on the project, visit www.nuxhallmiracleleague.org. ■

Pro-Worker NLRB Rule Held Up by Federal Judge

A new National Labor Relations Board rule that would streamline the union election process and uphold the right of employees to hold a secret vote in a timely manner, was struck down by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg May 15.

The ruling came in a lawsuit against the rule filed by the Chamber of Commerce and the anti-union Coalition for a Democratic Workplace.

The NLRB temporarily has suspended the rule's implementation pending further legal action.

Many pro-worker activists said the change would help level the playing field in the workplace, giving workers a better shot at a fair election.

Under the old rule, it took months—sometimes years—between the time when workers petitioned for a union election and the election itself, allowing management to hold up the process by filing frivolous charges and

bringing in union-busting consultants to sow discord.

But under the new rules, the board:

- Strictly limits pre-election hearings to questions of jurisdiction and representation. Disputes about an individual's eligibility to vote can be resolved after the election takes place.
- Eliminates the mandatory 25-day waiting period between when petitions are certified and when an election is set, shortening the timeframe for a union election to little as 10 days.

"These are small changes, but it has the power to make or break union elections," says IBEW Organizer Cory McCray.

The changes also cut down on excessive paperwork, allowing workers to submit signed petitions online, as well as making workplace elections more transparent, requiring employers to provide workers with an up-to-date voter list in electronic format soon after an election date is set.

The U.S. Senate rejected Republican efforts to overturn the changes April 24.

"All the board has done is to send a clear message to employers: you can't abuse the process to buy yourself more time to intimidate workers," Sen. Tom Harkin told the Associated Press.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) broke with her party to support the regulations, which were announced by the NLRB last summer.

"Our right to vote—both in the community and in the workplace—is sacred and shouldn't be buried in red tape and bureaucratic delay," says International President Edwin D. Hill. "Anti-worker special interests have declared war on the NLRB—just for doing its job of upholding the right of employees to join a union and collectively bargain if they so choose. We will continue to fight to make the new rule the law of the land." ■



North of 49° | Au nord du 49° parallèle

New Program Connects Canada's Veterans with Construction Careers

More than 5,000 Canadian soldiers transition to civilian life every year, including thousands of veterans of the Afghanistan conflict. But for many veterans, coming home too often means worrying about starting a new career.

But a new Canada-wide program is bringing together government, business and labour leaders to recruit military veterans into the construction trades. Modeled on the successful Helmets to Hardhat program in the United States, the Canadian version was launched earlier this year.

"The government of Canada is committed to supporting our veterans," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the program's kickoff in Edmonton, Alberta, January 6. "Helmets to Hardhats will be a natural fit for many military veterans, allowing them to take advantage of a new set of civilian opportunities that build on the set of skills they acquired while in uniform."

Started by the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Helmets to Hardhats works one-on-one with returning service men and women to connect them with apprenticeship training and job opportunities in the construction industry.

And with the demand for skilled workers increasing with the booming energy sector and the federal government's commitment to domestic shipbuilding, there isn't a better time for veterans to get into the trade.

"The Canadian Building Trades are pro-oil sands, -ship building and -pipeline," says Robert Blakely, director of Canadian Affairs for the Building Trades. "These are projects that will create work for returning veterans."

Alberta was an appropriate setting to introduce the program. With a booming oil sands region in the north, the province faces a chronic construction worker shortage.

"Our veterans do so much for us, and from a business standpoint, these are the most skilled workers you can find," says TransCanada Corp. Chief Executive Russ Girling. The company, one of Canada's largest energy companies, is a sponsor of Helmets to Hardhats. "They're skilled, they're disciplined, and we need those workers," he says.

The federal government and the government of Alberta have committed to providing \$150,000 each for the program. Union members say they hope that the program will make elected officials think twice about importing tempo-



rary foreign workers to fill jobs that could be done by Canada's veterans.

"Our troops not only keep our nation safe, but represent an untapped valuable resource our economy needs," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming.

"Helping returning veterans re-enter civilian life should be a national priority. By connecting them with the building trades, it's a win-win for everyone."

More information can be found at www.buildingtrades.ca.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, standing center in red tie, joins with military veterans and members of the Boilermakers union for a group photo at the union's training center in Edmonton, Alberta, after announcing Canada's participation in the Helmets to Hardhats program.

Credit: Richard MacIntosh, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers

Un nouveau programme fournit aux anciens combattants l'accès à une carrière dans l'industrie de la construction

Chaque année, plus de 5,000 soldats canadiens doivent faire la transition de la vie militaire à la vie civile, dont des milliers d'ex-militaires du conflit en Afghanistan. Mais pour plusieurs de ces anciens combattants la rentrée au pays signifie également qu'ils devront entreprendre une nouvelle carrière avec toutes les inquiétudes que cela amène.

Mais cette initiative nationale novatrice réunissant le gouvernement, les firmes privées et les syndicats, vise à recruter d'anciens militaires dans les divers corps de métier du secteur de la construction. Inspirée du programme *Du régiment aux bâtiments (Helmets to Hardhats)* qui a connu beaucoup de succès aux États-Unis, la version canadienne du programme a été lancée plus tôt cette année.

« Le gouvernement du Canada est déterminé à soutenir nos anciens combattants. Le programme *Du régiment aux bâtiments* conviendra tout naturellement

à de nombreux ex-militaires en leur permettant de saisir de nouvelles possibilités dans la vie civile en mettant à profit les compétences qu'ils ont acquises dans les Forces armées » déclarait le Premier ministre Stephen Harper, lors du coup d'envoi du programme à Edmonton, en Alberta, le 6 janvier dernier.

Lancée par le Département des métiers de la construction, FAT-COI, l'initiative *Du régiment aux bâtiments* permet une face à face avec les militaires, hommes et femmes, de retour au pays pour leur procurer des possibilités d'apprentissage, de formation et d'emplois dans l'industrie de la construction.

La demande de main-d'œuvre qualifiée s'est accrue avec le secteur de l'énergie en plein essor et l'engagement du gouvernement fédéral à l'égard de la construction navale; nos ex-militaires ne pouvaient trouver un meilleur moment pour accéder aux métiers de la construction.

« Le bureau canadien du

Département des métiers de la construction est en faveur des sables bitumineux, de la construction navale et des pipelines. Ce sont des projets qui créeront des emplois pour les anciens militaires qui reviennent au pays », affirme Robert Blakely, Directeur des affaires canadiennes pour les Métiers de la construction.

L'Alberta était l'endroit approprié pour présenter le programme. Avec le secteur florissant des sables bitumineux au nord de la province, l'Alberta connaît une pénurie chronique de main-d'œuvre dans le secteur de la construction.

« Nos anciens combattants ont tellement fait pour nous! Du point de vue commercial, ils sont les travailleurs les plus qualifiés que l'on puisse trouver. Ils sont compétents, disciplinés et nous avons besoin de ces travailleurs » indique Russ Girling, Directeur général de l'entreprise TransCanada Corporation, une des plus grandes entreprises du domaine de l'énergie au

Canada et un partenaire important de l'initiative *Du régiment aux bâtiments*.

Le gouvernement fédéral et celui de l'Alberta se sont tous deux engagés à verser \$150,000 dans le programme. Les membres des syndicats espèrent que tous les élus réfléchiront deux fois avant de faire venir des travailleurs étrangers temporaires pour remplir les emplois qui pourraient être occupés par les anciens combattants canadiens.

« En plus d'assurer la sécurité de notre pays, nos militaires constituent une précieuse ressource inexploitée dont notre économie a besoin. Aider les anciens combattants qui reviennent au pays à réintégrer la vie civile devrait être une priorité nationale. En leur fournissant l'accès aux métiers de la construction, tout le monde y gagne » conclut Phil Flemming, Vice-président international du Premier district.

Pour en savoir plus à ce sujet, visitez le site www.buildingtrades.ca

Transitions

DECEASED Harrison Wade Gurley



We are saddened to report that retired Fifth District International Vice President Harrison Wade Gurley died on

April 19. He was 86.

Fifth District International Representative Fielding Gurley, Brother Gurley's son, says, "My father always stressed to me that being IBEW gave one the opportunity every day to make a difference in someone's life." Even as his father's health and memory were failing, his son said he would perk up when they talked union.

The son of a railroad union activist, Harrison Gurley worked as a boiler turbine operator at Georgia Power. He was initiated into Macon, Ga., Local 896 in 1949.

Working eight-hour shifts monitoring gauges at a table with no chairs, Gurley advocated for workers who were forced to sit on the floor. He succeeded in getting stools with no backs and later in securing chairs. Earning respect for

his persistence, Gurley was elected to union office, serving as the local's president before it was amalgamated into Atlanta, Ga., Local 84.

From 1945 to 1946, Gurley served in the U.S. Infantry and was stationed in Japan.

Appointed Fifth District International Representative in 1957, Gurley serviced local unions in all branches of the Brotherhood except broadcasting.

He was elected International Vice President at the 34th International Convention in 1991.

Brother Gurley was a member of the Labor Education and Research Advisory Committee of the University of Alabama and served on the Alabama Governor's Labor-Management Conference Advisory Committee.

A graduate of the AFL-CIO's Southern Staff Training Institute, Brother Gurley studied labor-related subjects at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois.

In retirement, Gurley enjoyed fishing and hunting. He taught Sunday school and served as chairman of the administrative board of the Park Memorial United Church. Fielding Gurley says his father was also noted for sending scathing let-

ters to editor defending organized labor.

The officers, staff and members of the IBEW send our condolences to Brother Gurley's wife, Louise, and his entire family. ■

RETIRED Ronald Burke



International Organizer and former Director of Construction Organizing Ronald Burke retired effective June 1, after a 29-year IBEW career.

Brother Burke was initiated into Billings, Mont., Local 532 in 1983. After working in construction for a few years without a union, he says that being in the IBEW was an experience he never had before. "Just the way everyone was treated with respect, the commitment to safety and the way every one saw their job as a career, not just a paycheck," he says.

Even before turning out, he was active in the local. During his apprenticeship, he helped organize a journeyman appreciation night, and was an active volunteer for picket duty.

The 1980s saw declining market share and aggressive new tactics from nonunion contractors, which pushed the IBEW to make a new commitment to organizing. Burke was appointed Local 532's organizer to help carry out the IBEW's COMET program, meant to regain market share in the construction industry.

"It was a whole new world," Burke says. "It was something we hadn't done as a union in many decades."

He worked under Director of Construction Organizing Jim Rudicil in 1996 to coordinate IBEW organizing west of the Mississippi River.

During that time he served as the IBEW's lead for the Building Trades Organizing Project, a multi-craft organizing campaign in Las Vegas that grew union market share in the city by 35 percent.

In 1997, he was appointed to the organizing department at the International Office by International President J.J. Barry. Two years later he was appointed director of Construction Organizing.

He was responsible for helping to develop a market share survey and database for inside locals and put together the first-ever national IBEW organizing conference.

Brother Burke says one of his proudest achievements was helping to expose the abuse of immigrant workers by the USA-IT program in 2002, a private

company that used loopholes in immigration law to exploit low-paid electricians from Eastern Europe and South America. "We worked with the State Department to put an end to a program that was in effect a modern-day version of indentured servitude," he says.

In 2003, Burke returned to Montana as an International Organizer, helping out on campaigns from Arizona to Texas. "There aren't many locals I haven't visited," he says.

Brother Burke says he looks forward to spending more time with his family and enjoying some golfing and fishing.

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

RETIRED Jim Dahlberg



Sixth District International Representative James Dahlberg retired effective May 1 after more than 40 years of service to the IBEW.

Brother Dahlberg was initiated into Superior, Wis., Local 276 in 1970, where he worked at Superior Water, Light & Power inside the plant and as a lineman. His unit was amalgamated into Duluth, Minn., Local 31 six years later.

"My father was a firefighter who was very involved in his union," Dahlberg said. "So when I went to work at the utility, I quickly got involved in my local."

Brother Dahlberg served on Local 31's health and welfare committee, the negotiating committee and the executive board before being elected business manager in 1990. He said that one of his goals was to continue the successes of his predecessor, Jim DeArmond.

"I had a desire to continue building relationships with employers based on mutual respect," Dahlberg said. The majority of Local 31's membership in those years worked at Minnesota Power and its subsidiaries. With 18 separate contracts in effect for employees, Dahlberg was instrumental in negotiating wage increases, improving pension plans and increasing the membership by organizing municipal employees. He also coordinated the successful organizing campaign of a rural electric cooperative.

IBEW International President J.J. Barry appointed Dahlberg as International Representative in 1997, where he went on to service all utility locals in Wisconsin and northern

Michigan. Coordinating efforts for 11 locals, he also worked with members in manufacturing and at a paper mill. One of his key assignments was to steer education and training programs for new business managers, as well as develop and administer arbitration trainings and the Sixth District's Organizers' Boot Camp.

When Wis. Gov. Scott Walker opened his salvo on working families last year, Dahlberg was active in massive demonstrations and worked with locals to coordinate their participation. "I think we're at the most critical point for labor that I've seen in more than 40 years with the IBEW," he said. "The ultra-conservatives have come out from behind the bushes—but I've been amazed at the response from union members in the state and across the nation."

Dahlberg took courses at the University of Wisconsin to strengthen his union leadership. A member of the IBEW's Minnesota State Labor Council and the Lake Superior Area Labor/Management Association, he also served on the board of directors for the Labor World newspaper.

Brother Dahlberg plans to take more motorcycle trips with his wife, Darcy. He also looks forward to spending more time with his sons, Ryan and Joel, and his step-daughters, Kasey and Kristen.

"I've had a unique opportunity to serve the membership," Dahlberg said. "I got the chance to fight the good fight and see some successes in my time. We are desperately in need of an infusion of younger activists, so it's gratifying to now turn the torch over to others."

On behalf of the entire union membership, the officers and staff wish Brother Dahlberg a healthy, enjoyable and well-deserved retirement. ■

RETIRED Greg Gore



Fourth District International Representative Gregory Gore retired effective May 1, after 40 years of service to the IBEW.

Brother Gore was initiated into Parkersburg, W.Va., Local 968 in 1972 after attending West Virginia University for two years. Within two years of becoming a journeyman wireman in 1975, Gore ran for local union office, first serving on the examining board from 1977 to 1980 and then as recording secretary from 1980 to 1985.

Appointed assistant business manager, he was elected business manager in 1986, serving until President J.J.

Organizing Wire

Maine FairPoint Workers Get Organized

More than 60 telecommunications workers in Maine are enjoying competitive wages and benefits, along with a voice on the job, thanks to the IBEW.

FairPoint Communications Inc. employees throughout the state overwhelmingly approved their first contract with the company April 5, after a three-and-half-year campaign to join Augusta Local 2327.

"It was a long haul, but in today's anti-union climate, a victory like this is worth celebrating," says Business Manager Peter McLaughlin.

The workers first contacted the IBEW after Verizon successfully sold off its northern New England landlines in 2008 to the North Carolina-based telecommunications company. The former Verizon workers maintained their IBEW contract, which helped sell their nonunion co-workers—employed at existing FairPoint facilities in Maine previous to the sale—on the benefits of collective bargaining.

"They saw what the Verizon workers had, and wanted the same," McLaughlin says. "It was a wake-up call for them on what collective bargaining could do for their workplace."

Employees' top concern was lack of any kind of wage schedule or seniority system. "You had guys who had been there a couple years doing the exact same job as guys with 20 years on the job making more money," he says. "It didn't make sense."

The organizing effort started in the spring of 2008. Organizers quickly signed up the majority of workers, winning an election a couple months later, but the company succeeded in dragging out bargaining on a first contract for as long as it could.

"In our ratification meetings I had to commend them on keeping it together for as long as they did, considering the numerous obstacles and red tape they faced," says McLaughlin. ■

Circuits

Barry appointed him International Representative in 1995.

During his 17 years as an International Representative, he served local unions in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, helping dozens of construction locals with negotiations, grievances, labor law and policy, and conducting steward, leadership and Code of Excellence trainings for IBEW officers and members.

As business manager, he was active on a number of local and regional labor committees and boards, serving as president of the Parkersburg/ Marietta Building Trades Council, president of the West Virginia State Electrical Workers and trustee of Local 968's health and welfare fund. He also served on the Grievance and Appeals Committee at IBEW's 100th convention in 1991 in St. Louis.

Gore counts as one of the most rewarding experiences of his career serving on the Council of Industrial Relations. "It was educational and enlightening—the Council heard cases from all over the U.S. and learned how different locals handled different situations."

He is currently serving as the labor representative on the Board of Directors of the Camden Clark Medical Center and is on the West Virginia AFL-CIO Advisory Board. He also plans to be active in his local Democratic Party: "I want to continue supporting and working to elect candidates who support working men and women."

An avid hunter and firearms enthusiast, Gore hopes to start fishing again, something he said he hasn't done for many years. He and his wife, Judy, also look forward to traveling and "enjoying a slower pace of life."

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

Mark Your Calendar: 2012 IBEW International Women's Conference, Aug. 27–30

A popular bumper sticker affixed to many cars reads "A Woman's Place is in the House ... and Senate." But despite efforts to gain parity with their fellow male legislators, only 90 of the 535 members of Congress are women.

IBEW Human Services Department Director Carolyn Williams is trying to change that.

"If we have women that are like us in office—starting with a school board, city council, wherever we can run—we start getting our issues out there and building up the middle class," says Williams.

Williams will join nearly 300 of her fellow IBEW sisters August 27-30 at the Sixth IBEW International Women's Conference in Washington, D.C., where items on the agenda include how to get more women involved in the political process, combatting voter suppression and empowering women to become leaders.

Past participants say the conference offers a unique opportunity to build solidarity with fellow women in the trades.

"It is very energizing and positive to see so many woman tradespeople," says Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 258 member Michelle Laurie, who attended the conference in 2010. "I've been a journeyman since the '80s, and I've never seen so many female journeymen all together. It's just so empowering. It was also great to see so many young working women there. They are the future of the IBEW."

"This is a great opportunity to talk about what's at stake in the upcoming elections and how to get the vote out," says IBEW International Representative Juanita Luiz.

Adds Williams, "The conference agenda is designed to benefit all who attend, regardless of branch or job classification."

Local unions may register delegates for the conference online through "Local Connections" at <http://secure.ibew.org>. Conference registration is \$75. For questions or additional information, call the Human Services Departments at (202) 728-6204 or HumanServices@ibew.org. ■

Be Part of TV in the Making Apply for Brotherhood Outdoors

You work hard to keep this country running. You're passionate about the outdoors and passing on our hunting and fishing heritage to the next generation. That's why the producers of Brotherhood Outdoors, a union-dedicated TV series of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, want you.

We're not looking for expert hunters and anglers; we're seeking everyday workers for extraordinary hunting and fishing adventures across North America. Upcoming trips include Colorado elk, Illinois Asian Carp (bowfishing), California hog, Michigan salmon, Texas exotics/whitetail, and Vancouver Island black bear.

To apply, download an application from www.brotherhoodoutdoors.tv or e-mail katec@unionsportsmen.org with your name/phone/email/union/local and explain why one of the trips listed above would be the fulfillment of a dream or describe your own hunting/fishing dream trip. ■



Brotherhood Outdoors Season 3 winner Scott Callaghan, IBEW Local 26, right, with cameraman.



Delegates share at the 2010 IBEW International Women's Conference.

2011 Summary Annual Report for Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Pension Benefit Fund

This is a summary of the annual report for the INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS' PENSION BENEFIT FUND, (Employer Identification No. 53-0088380, Plan No. 001) for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic Financial Statement

Benefits under the plan are provided by a trust (benefits are provided in whole from trust funds). Plan expenses were \$135,445,768. These expenses included \$11,443,044 in administrative expenses and \$124,002,724 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 440,062 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$1,761,825,307 as of June 30, 2011 compared to \$1,508,775,682 as of July 1, 2010. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$253,049,625. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. The plan had total income of \$388,495,393, including employee contributions of \$55,582,508, gains of \$73,317,482 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of \$257,405,996, gains from foreign currency translations of \$2,131,634 and other income of \$57,773.

Your Rights to Additional Information

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

1. An accountant's report;
2. Assets held for investment;
3. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets;
4. Insurance information including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers; and
5. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

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

Salvatore J. Chilia,
International Secretary-Treasurer
900 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
45-3912185 (Employer Identification Number)
(202) 728-6200

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. These portions of the report are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
900 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210. ■

Correction

Last month's story, "Exposing ABC's Big Money, Anti-Worker Agenda," quoted from National Labor College Professor Thomas Kriger's paper, which said that Associated Builders and Contractors represents 0.03 percent of all U.S. construction business. That number should be 3 percent. But as Kriger points out, if you remove all the obviously nonconstruction related businesses that ABC claims are construction contractors from the organization's total membership, the number in reality is closer to 1 percent. ■

Local Lines

Work Picture Improves

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Hello, brothers and sisters. Work in our area has continued to improve and has even provided employment to some travelling brothers and sisters. Please welcome those who are here helping us man our work. You never know when the tables will turn and our members will be helping out another local.

There are several bigger projects that provided work for our members this past spring. Fermi and Davis Bessie had refuel outages. The reformer project at BP, the FGD project at Monroe Coal Burner (Monroe Power Plant), and the Jeep plant also provided some jobs. Let's hope this trend continues for some time to come.

On March 31 we held our annual dinner dance. The event was well-attended and all had a good time. Local 8 handed out membership pins to several retired members. A 70-year membership pin was presented to Larry Ulrich. It's nice to see our retired members staying active and involved with our union functions. A special thank-you goes to Jason Szymanski and the entertainment committee for a job well done.

As always work safe.

Bryan Emerick, P.S.

A Showing of Brotherhood

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—IBEW Local 12 represents the Inside branch, the Outside branch and Sign Erectors. Recently an event took place in our jurisdiction that I wish to share with all IBEW members.

A Local 12 journeyman lineman has been dealt a tough hand, diagnosed with a terminal illness. This brother definitely touches the lives of those around him. He is a hard worker, proud to be an IBEW member, and respected by those who have worked with him. A group of fellow linemen, operators and groundmen decided to put together a collection for the brother. Word of this collection spread all the way to a sizable job being performed under an Inside agreement. That project employs many Inside journeyman wiremen, including members of other IBEW locals. IBEW members on the project helped take up a collection as well. The brother also had worked for an area utility company represented by Local 667 and word spread there as well.

It was beautiful to watch IBEW members come together for a fellow member. This brother truly cares about the IBEW and still recruits potential members to this day. The Outside branch, the Inside branch, the Utility, all came together for a fellow member.

The collection was presented to the brother at our union office by those who coordinated the effort. Outside members, Inside members, Local 12 members, and traveling members were present. It really touched the brother to see how members cared. I know the whole thing truly touched me.

Dean R. Grinstead, B.M.

Career of IBEW Service

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—On March 16, the local hosted an open house to honor William A. Diehl upon his retirement. Billy Diehl has demonstrated his selfless devotion to the IBEW and Local 16 for more than 45 years. While actively working with his tools, he served as a committed volunteer, steward, contract negotiator, 30-year Executive Board member, JATC instructor, convention delegate, and unsurpassed mentor to countless people working in the electrical industry. Billy also served as business agent. He was the founder of Local 16's pension plan and serves as a trustee on that board to this day. Thanks to him, hundreds of members will be able to enjoy their golden years with dignity. His legacy is an inspiration to every sister and brother in the trade.

The fourth annual Easter Egg Hunt was a resounding success, with more than 150 attending. Over 3,000 stuffed eggs placed on the union hall lawns became hidden treasures to be discovered, to the delight of children and grandchildren of the membership. The Easter Bunny was there greeting everyone on a beautiful spring day. Thanks to the Entertainment Committee for a great time.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

'Rebuilding Together' in Omaha

L.U. 22 (i,rts&spa), OMAHA, NE—For the past 15 years, Local 22 members have been volunteering their skills in the Omaha community with a group called Rebuilding Together. Rebuilding Together is an organization that helps low-income and elderly families with upkeep on their homes.

It is truly a community effort. A representative from Local 22 visits the houses to look for hazards and to see if any additional lights or electrical plugs are needed. After a list is made, approximately 30 volunteers, ranging from service-truck drivers to first-year apprentices, give up their Saturdays and work on 15 to 20 houses of people in need. Supplies and tools are donated by area parts houses and signatory contractors.

We extend a special thanks to Bro. Mike

Stopak for coordinating Local 22's part of this community effort. Mike has given many hours of community service and we appreciate his hard work. It is a great way for the local to give back to the community, especially during these lean times.

Work in our area, like the rest of the nation, has been slow. We are waiting on a few jobs to be let. An Air Force base, a hospital and a couple of hotels are on the horizon. If these jobs go right, it could mean that many of our unemployed members will be returning to work.

Chris Bayer, P.S.

Local 24 Celebrates 50 Years

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—A half-century milestone was reached this year for IBEW Local 24 members. The event was celebrated on Saturday, March 24, at the Baltimore Ravens Stadium with over 700 members and guests attending. Entertainment included an opening ceremony performance by the Baltimore City Pipe Band and Color Guard. The night continued with local band Junkyard Saints playing live music for dancing, and all enjoyed dinner and drinks. Guests included active members, families and guests, retirees and former IBEW Local 28 members.

Featured speakers included Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia and Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Kenneth W. Cooper. Also speaking were U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, with appearances by Harford County Executive David Craig and Howard County Executive Ken Ulman. They were joined by state and local officials from

across the state of Maryland.

The pride of union membership was apparent throughout the evening as various visiting guests from neighboring NFL cities were recognized as producing similar stadiums built by the IBEW. A DVD commemorating the occasion and a book of Local 24 history were among the evening's gifts for participants.

Thank you to all who helped make it possible for Local 24 to hold this event and all who helped make it a success.

Roger M. Lash Jr., B.M.

Negotiations & Activities

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—As of this writing, negotiations are in full swing with NECA and Cherry Lane for the Inside and Residential Wireman Agreement. When you receive this article, the parties will either have reached an agreement or submitted any unresolved issues to CIR.

In addition to negotiations, other local activities have included the following:

The Minority Coalition held its Annual Black History Month Celebration. We attended the IBEW Construction and Building Trades Conference in April.

Also, the Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing is scheduled for June 4, and we are getting ready for the picnics. The Virginia picnic will be held June 16 in Manassas and the Maryland picnic will be Aug. 4 in Edgewater. We hope to see you there for great food, dancing and fun!

Two members passed away since our last article: Edward S. Cierniak and Edward N. Wells.

Best wishes to new retirees: Michael E. Cox,



From left: IBEW Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Dir. of Professional & Industrial Organizing Gina Cooper, Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Kenneth W. Cooper, Local 24 Bus. Mgr. Roger Lash and Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill.

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	(mar) Marine	(ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical	(s) Shopmen	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(cr) Cranemen	(i) Inside			(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.

Michael J. Glumac III, Michael J. McDermott, Michael B. Roach, Dennis J. Sharpe, Thomas W. McDermott, William E. Guilford, Stephen J. Hellmuth Jr., Thomas G. Higgins and James R. Roberts.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

2012 Looks Promising

L.U. 34 (em,i,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—As with many locals around the country, there has been very little movement on our books. The Telecom and Residential have been holding their own; the Inside has been slow.

Proposals for new development are: a Super Target; Costco Wholesale; Fondulac District Library, a two-story building; Morton Community Bank's Fondulac Banking Center, a three-story building; Holiday Inn & Suites, a 137-room, six-story building; and a strip mall with surrounding buildings. This will be approximately 635,000 total man-hours and approximately \$87 million to \$98 million in construction.

Build the Block is a \$100 million project, which will include the Peoria Riverfront Museum and The Caterpillar Experience, a museum and visitor's center showcasing Caterpillar past, present and future.

Another project in the works is an extensive renovation and expansion of the Hotel Pere Marquette (an 84-year-old, 284-room hotel) into a luxury, four-star hotel. Additionally planned is a 10-story, 116-room Marriott courtyard hotel to be built next to the Pere. There will be a new parking deck and a skywalk to the Civic Center. The total approximate value of this project is \$93 million.

Meredith Booker, Pres.

Newly Appointed Officers

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—The retirement of former business manager Gil Steele Jr. created a chain reaction of vacancies in other positions, which were filled by newly appointed officers (photo, below).

Newly appointed officers sworn into office in March are: Bus. Mgr. Dennis Meaney, Vice Pres. Marty Seeholzer, Executive Board member Jamie Davis and Examining Board member John Schaffer. Additionally, former vice president Mike Muzic was appointed to a business representative position. Congratulations to all the new officers.

Work should continue to improve as job opportunities open up on our bigger projects this summer—such as the new 1-million-square-foot Eaton Building, the 20-story Ernst & Young Building and the new Medical Mart and Convention Center.



Local 38 Pres. Walter O'Malley (right) and outgoing business manager Gil Steele Jr. (left) congratulate newly appointed officers. New officers, beginning second from left, are: Examining Board member John Schaffer, Executive Board member Jamie Davis, Bus. Mgr. Dennis Meaney and Vice Pres. Marty Seeholzer.

The demand for downtown apartment space has created a long waiting list of people who want to move downtown; developers have taken note of this and are proposing several new apartment projects. Next to start this summer will be the conversion of the Hanna Annex Building into 105 apartment units. Plans for the East Ohio Gas Building involve a similar project, and Phase II of the East Bank Flats project will include a new apartment building along with several restaurants and a music venue.

The Local 38 Fishing Tournament will be held Saturday, June 23.

Dennis Meaney, B.M./F.S.

Apprentice Graduation

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lc&to), HARTFORD, CT—Local 42 held its annual Dinner Dance & Apprentice Graduation on April 21 at the Marriott Hartford Downtown. We congratulate all the graduates on becoming Local 42 journeyman linemen: Brian Andrychowski, Todd Barker, Jason Boucher, John Chiarella, Luke Cormier, Michael Duval, Joshua Edwards, James Evans, Scott Fontaine, Gleb Frolov, Thomas Heath, Michael Hollis, Joshua Hume, Richard Hume, Anthony Marciano, Daniel Maselli, Patrick McCabe, Matthew Mockler, Christopher Morello, Steven Morris, John Pettway, Robert Post, Jose Ramos, Matthew Sawin, David Thomas and Michael Winoski.

We also congratulate all members who are receiving their pins for years of service. John Shane is a 50-year pin recipient, and Charles Sharpe a 55-year pin recipient.

Save the dates for upcoming 2012 union functions. The fishing trip will be July 21; the family picnic will be Aug. 4; and the dinner cruise, Sept. 22.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.

Benevolence Fund & Food Bank

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—In these tough times, some members have been without work for months or years. They're trying to seek employment wherever it's available. Between gas, food, rent and utilities sometimes a member's struggle is as simple as keeping a roof overhead and protecting loved ones from being in the cold.

In 2009, Local 46 members created a Benevolence Fund to help members who are out of work or have faced hardship. By 2012, we have been able to help over 250 members by providing much-needed funds to help with household expenses, bills and insurance premiums. The distribution of money from this fund is carefully overseen by mem-

bers through our Benevolence Fund committee.

We also keep a food bank where cash donations, including donations made from the Benevolence Fund, have helped supply basic necessities. In the last two years the food bank has received various donations totaling over \$74,000.

The \$3,000-plus monthly food bank donations directly assist our members and their families. In the month of February this year, 112 members and dependents visited our food bank.

To our members, thank you for lending a helping hand—this is truly what solidarity is all about.

Angela Marshall, Rep.

Great Opportunity for IBEW Members

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—In 2010, Intel announced that it would spend an additional \$6 billion to \$8 billion over the next several years to bring next-generation manufacturing technology to several existing factories across the U.S. and to build a new research and development chip manufacturing facility in Oregon.

And as of March this year, IBEW Local 48 has well over 1,000 IBEW members on the campus. This has been a blessing for other locals in the Northwest as well. We thank our sister locals and their members for assisting us to provide the manpower needed. It is with the greatest sincerity that I say I hope their time here is a positive experience. It is an opportunity for our local members to show not only our skills, but the work ethic, ingenuity and pride that truly illustrate why Local 48 is a premier IBEW local.

Bus. Mgr. Clif Davis says, "Travelers from across the nation are welcome. This is a great opportunity to bring your tools and get some work."

For Oregon electrical license requirement information, visit www.ibew48.com/license.

Robert Blair, P.S.

Meetings & Events Updates

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—General membership meetings: first Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m.

Retirees Association: luncheon last Thursday of each month from September through May, 11:30 a.m. Information: Rudy Nollenberger at (720) 220-0762.

Renewable Energy Committee: second Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., at the hall. Information: Mary Broderick at (303) 944-2231.

Summer Picnic: Aug. 18, at Elks Lodge #2227. Fellowship, food, refreshments and prizes. Information: Morgan Buchanan, morganb@ibew68.com.

Christmas Party: Dec. 8, 5660 Logan St., Denver. Made in USA toys for the children, games, food and entertainment. Information: Morgan Buchanan, morgan@ibew68.com.

Stewards/Good-Of-The-Union: third Wednesdays, 5 p.m., great food and program. Information: Jim Keating, jimk@ibew68.com.

In the accompanying photo, notice the wind turbine located at the union hall and the LED lights powered by batteries kept charged by the solar panels above. The large array of PV panels provides shade for windows while generating 10 MW of electricity. Another array up on the flat portion of the roof also generates 10 MW. To see what these two arrays do, visit Web site: <http://view2.fatspaniel.net/GoldenSolarEng/ibewlocal/HostedAdminView.html>.

We extend deepest sympathy to families of our



Wind turbine and solar panels at Denver Local 68 union hall.

recently deceased brothers: Matthew E. Still, Ralph H. Arnold, Earl A. Troutner, Glenn Tanner, Larry LeRoy, James F. Reales, Kenneth L. Ray, Raymond Cuthill, Edward D. Quintero, Edward E. Chappell, Benjamin G. McDuffee, Don I. Gaumont, John R. Torp, Melvin L. Sisler Jr., George E. Long, Robert D. Dufour, Robert E. Taylor and Gary W. Meineke.

Ed Knox, Pres.

Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line Project

L.U. 94 (lc&t,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ—Local 94 is proud to sponsor the Family Fun Racing Team from Florence, NJ. Bro. Andy Wilcox will compete in the Pro category driving the S-10, and his 10-year-old daughter Katie drives the Jr. Dragster and will compete in the Jr. Pro Class at Atco Raceway. The team raises money to support the Sunshine Foundation. The foundation helps to answer the dreams of seriously ill and abused children.

Some positive news for the Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line Project: The National Park Service agrees with Public Service Electric & Gas Co. (PSE&G) and PPL Electric Utilities Corp. on the route. The utilities' chosen route has already been approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. The Susquehanna-Roseland power line is being built to maintain the reliability of the electric grid in the Northeast. The independent regional power grid operator, PJM Interconnection, ordered the new line to prevent violations of national standards for the operation of the nation's electric power grid. This project will create up to 800 jobs for IBEW members.

Please visit the Local 94 Web site: www.ibew94.org. Register your e-mail address and receive special news and updates about meetings, social events and local scholarships.

Carla Wolfe, P.S.



Young Katie Wilcox, daughter of Local 94 member Andy Wilcox.

Local Lines

'Congratulations From All'



Second District Int. Rep. Tiler F. Eaton, former Local 104 business manager.

L.U. 104 (lctt,o&u), BOSTON, MA—All the members of Local 104 would like to congratulate Tiler F. Eaton, our former business manager, on his appointment by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill as an International Representative on the Second District staff. Tiler has been a member of Local 104

for the past 25 years and comes from a long line of Local 104 members. The following family members of Tiler have served as Local 104 journeyman linemen: Franklin Eaton (father), Peter Eaton (uncle), Grover "Zeke" Eaton (uncle), Tabor Eaton (brother), Norm Simano (step brother), and Dan Place (brother-in-law).

Tiler stepped down as business manager on April 1. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Gary Stacy was appointed by the Local 104 Executive Board to fill the unexpired term as business manager.

We all wish Tiler the best on his endeavors and on all the new challenges he will face. We thank him for all he has done for us.

Chris Blair, P.S.

'IBEW Day on the Hill'

L.U. 110 (em,i,rts,spa&u), ST. PAUL, MN—The state legislature has been actively attacking workers' pay and rights since the session began in January. So-called "right-to-work" bills and attacks on our prevailing wages continue to crop up almost daily. I thank the members who have attended actions and

our annual "IBEW Day on the Hill." Over 180 IBEW members came to our Day on the Hill event and over 1,600 union members packed the Minnesota State Capitol to rally against "right to work." In November, we will remember who attacked us and who supported us!

We are continuing our planning for our local's 100 year anniversary this summer. Our celebration will be July 28.

I also wish to thank our former business manager Mike Redlund, who retired last year. Mike spent many of his 41 years in the IBEW as an activist in our union, served on several committees, and was local president and business manager for many years. He remains active with our local board of trustees.

Brian Winkelaar, P.S.



St. Paul, MN, Local 110 members join 1,600 strong for an "IBEW Day on the Hill" rally.

Anniversary Celebration Plans

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We congratulate Bro. John Warner on his appointment as the new Local 146 treasurer. Bro. Warner replaces Sister Donna Edwards, who tendered her resignation in December. Best wishes to both. We also congratulate the 20 inside apprentice graduates who are successfully

completing their apprenticeship training with the Local 146 Midstate Electrical Training Center.

Plans are continuing for the Local 146 100th year anniversary celebration. A committee of journeymen, apprentices and officers have begun meeting and the tentative date of the event is Sept. 8, to be held at the Mt. Zion Convention Center.

As previously reported, we have for several months waited for some good news about Tenaska's Taylorville Energy Center project and passage of proposed legislation. This is a huge project that would employ thousands of workers in our jurisdiction. As of this writing, legislation on the Energy Center project is still in the Illinois General Assembly awaiting committee assignment. This bill is receiving strong opposition from competing utilities and large manufacturers. For an immediate update it is possible to follow the bill at Web site www.ilga.gov; enter SB678 in the search box.

Everyone have a safe and prosperous summer.

Rich Underwood, R.S.

'Fighting for Our Lives'

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Anyone who has followed what has happened in this country since Pres. Obama was elected has to be dismayed at the current state of affairs. The gridlock in D.C. has reached epidemic levels. And while there is plenty of blame to go around, at the crux of the matter is the GOP obstructionism. They have done everything in their power to block all legislation that might be favorable to working people in this country and to portray Pres. Obama in a bad light. One only needs to look to our neighboring states of Wisconsin and Indiana and what their governors and legislators have done to working people and their collective bargaining rights. Indiana became the Rust Belt's first Right to Work for Less state earlier this year. Nearly all public workers in Wisconsin had most of their collective bargaining rights stripped from them during the spring of 2011. But in Ohio there was a huge victory for labor when Ohio Senate Bill 5 was struck down by angry Ohio voters in a landslide vote last November.

Workers in this country are beaten down and tired; trying to juggle each month with what bills to pay and how to provide for their families. When over 46 million Americans are now depending on food stamps to make ends meet there is no way that the American worker—employed or unemployed—can pull the country's economy forward.

This is why we must not only vote in November but also vote for representatives who are friends of labor and the working people in this country.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Awards for Volunteer Service

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Local 158 recently finished up an outage at Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant. We had over 150 local as well as travelling brothers and sisters on the project.

At this writing, we are still waiting to find out about some area projects. We are lucky to have members working on the renovation of the Lambeau Field, which is the home stadium of the NFL's Green Bay Packers, as well as on the new Veterans Administration clinic in Green Bay. We have been fortunate to have work the last few years because of major projects at our two nuclear plants, but those are mostly finished, except outages.

Our local has received quite a bit of recogni-

tion so far this year for our volunteer efforts.

In March, we received the Ralph A. Jirkowicz Award presented by the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Community Services Committee. We also received the Victor Crambeau Award from the Greater Green Bay Labor Council Community Services Committee.

Additionally, we were nominated by Cerebral Palsy of Green Bay for the Green Bay Packers Large Group Award category of the Wisconsin Public Service Volunteer Awards. We were invited to the April 24 awards ceremony and received recognition for our contribution.

I am truly proud of all our members and families who volunteer in the name of Local 158 to make our local's geographical area a great place to live.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Annual 160 Steward Training

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Thomas Koehler and his representatives put on our annual steward training, attended by more than 50 stewards.

This year's training was especially interesting and well-timed because of potential legislation at the Minnesota State House concerning so-called "right to work." We all know the many down sides to RTW. In order to properly convey to other people just what organized labor's perspective on this issue is takes some practice and patience. We were fortunate to have Elianne Farhat, a representative from Minnesota AFL/CIO, speak to the stewards. She gave us good information and talking points to take with us that we can use to try to impress on our friends and neighbors just how destructive RTW would be for the state of Minnesota. As stewards, we look forward to sharing this important information with other union brothers and sisters.

Don't be fooled with the slick signage "right to work." Understand this: "right to work" is unsafe, unfair and unnecessary legislation and it is a bad deal for Minnesota.

James P. Brereton, P.S.

N.J. Golden Gloves Benefit

L.U. 164 (c,em,i,o&t), JERSEY CITY, NJ—As of this writing, work remains slow in our area. However, many promising projects are becoming closer to fruition and everyone remains optimistic for the future.

Local 164's main charity, Project Grandma, hosted the New Jersey Golden Gloves boxing semifinals at the union hall on March 30. Boxers from across New Jersey participated in 20 bouts, with winners advancing to the finals. Proceeds from this event benefitted "Project Grandma" and the John Theuer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Retired Local 164 Organizer John Nordyk founded Project Grandma in 1998 with the goal of helping women, too many of whom were succumbing to breast cancer, reach the golden age of becoming a grandma. Many types of fundraisers have been held through the years. This was the second Golden Gloves boxing event, and it was a major success.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this year's event a success. Special thanks to Project Grandma Chairman Theresa Rolaf, Special Coordinator Cassie Wordelman and to the Boxing Executive Committee of Paul Dunleavy, Tom Ewaska, Keith Misciagna and John DeBouter.

On a sad note, Local 164 has lost many mem-

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Pocket watch, gold-tone case with chain, custom embossed dial with IBEW logo and date.



\$46.00

Tan Breeze Hat

Mesh/Brushed leather hat with IBEW logo patch. Offers 94% UV protection & 100% sunblock protection.

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



Local 164 hosts Golden Gloves charity event. From left: Local 164 boxing committee members Paul Dunleavy and Keith Misciagna; world champions Iran Barkley, Bobby Cysz, Mark Medal; and Local 164 boxing committee member John DeBouter.

bers recently, many way too young. Kevin O'Sullivan, 46, passed away suddenly on March 2. Our deepest condolences go out to the O'Sullivan family and to all the families of our departed brothers.

John M. DeBouter, Pres.

Contractors Organized

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our Membership Development representative, Greg Doss, has been very busy communicating with the nonunion in our area for the past 18 months and has recently organized several new contractors. Nice work, Greg!

Work safe and attend your monthly meetings for the sake of the Brotherhood.

Eric Patrick, B.M.

Work Picture Gains Momentum

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—Greetings from Local 222 and the state of Florida. Our work picture in 2012 is off to a much better start than the last couple of years and it appears to be gaining momentum as we near the halfway point of the year.

All of our members are doing a great job of completing projects safely and on time (and in some cases ahead of schedule).

At our February meeting, Local 222 and Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell had the privilege of presenting Bro. William Friedman his 40-year service pin. Bro. Friedman has worked as lineman, foreman and general foreman over the years and everyone I know has enjoyed working with Bill, including myself. We all look forward to many more years of the same.

Please continue to look out for one another and attend your union meetings wherever you are working.

William "Bill" Hitt, Pres.



Local 222 Bus. Mgr. Mike Bell (right) presents service award to Bill Friedman for 40 years of loyal IBEW membership.

Activities & Events

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—Moving from winter through spring and into summer always brings changes to our local. In February we sponsored a Health and Retirement Fair for members and their families with healthy food, raffle prizes, and an excellent turnout and sponsorship. It was a well-organized and successful event.

Our JATC provides journeyman upgrade classes for those looking to both improve their skills and receive credits toward the mandated 32 hours of continuing education for State Certification. We have graduated over 40 journeymen from the California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program.

Additionally, this is the time of year when graduating high school students in our local area submit essays regarding unionism for an opportunity to earn a \$500 scholarship. There were a record number of submissions this year. One winner is chosen from each of the three counties within our local jurisdiction.

Finally, area high schools have been sponsoring career days for their students, and our members have generously volunteered their time to represent the IBEW and convey the many benefits of being an IBEW electrician.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.



Local 280 Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew (second from left) accepts "Ovation Award" from Festivals of Oregon Pres. Steve Clark (second from right). At far left is Local 280 Dispatcher Tom Baumann and, at far right, Organizer Bill Kisselburgh.

Local takes 'Ovation Award'

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Our local was recently awarded the "Ovation Award" from Festivals of Oregon for the hard work that IBEW members have done for the community! Bus. Mgr. Tim Frew proudly accepted the award on behalf of the brothers and sisters who have donated their time and public service funds. Since 2004, our local has donated over \$483,000 and thousands of volunteer man-hours for charities such as Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs, Doernbecher Children's Hospital, March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy and many others.

We also say thank-you to Albany Parks and Recreation, which nominated us with this quote: "Their great desire to impact the lives of residents and help to build community pride and improve their city has been demonstrated in their partnership. ..." Bus. Mgr. Frew and his staff thank all of you for your tireless devotion to make a better world for all!

At this writing our staff is capturing work for the membership. Central Oregon is becoming a data-center magnet because of the excellent union craftsmanship demonstrated at Facebook. Apple is breaking ground on its large complex and an even larger data center is planned as well, all built with IBEW wiremen. Have a great summer!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.

Minnesota Members Rally

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Construction has started on our office remodel, and we look forward to completion later this summer. Our entire staff is working in half the space we normally have, and soon we will move into the new space while the other half is finished.

As of this writing the funding for the Viking Stadium is being discussed at the Minnesota state legislature. Over 800 inside wiremen are on our out-of-work book, and a new stadium would put a lot of our traveling members back to work in our home local. Thank you again to those locals that are providing work for our traveling members.

Minnesota is the next target of the nationally based so-called "right-to-work" initiative. IBEW Local 292 stands with all the other building trades against this legislation. [Photo, at bottom.] We encourage our members to continue to learn about this unnecessary, unsafe and unfair attack on working Minnesotans.

In Minnesota we have prevailing-wage laws on jobs that receive state funds, and our legislature has proposed to reduce both the wage calculation

method and overtime. As of this writing the bill has been passed out of committee and will be heard at both the Senate and House floors. IBEW Local 292 members can get the latest information by sending an updated e-mail address to: office@ibew292.org.

Carl Madsen, P.S./B.R.

Tribute to a Brother

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—On March 21, Bruce Lamb, journeyman lineman for Vermont Electric Cooperative in Johnson, VT, was performing routine maintenance

prior to an unexpected incident that claimed his life. The exact cause of Bruce's death is under investigation.

Bruce started his membership in the IBEW in



Local 300 journeyman lineman Bruce Lamb.

1979 as an apprentice lineman at VEC. Over the years, Bruce was promoted to group leader, the senior leadership position in the Johnson line department. Bruce established himself as chief steward for all 100 IBEW members

at VEC. He was a strong advocate for the members, as well as the company. His leadership was the driving force at VEC for many years. Bruce's presence and force will be dearly missed.

Due to Bruce's sudden loss, Local 300 has created the "Bruce Lamb Memorial Fund" in honor of his memory and his family. All donations to the fund will be given to Bruce's family. Bruce continues to survive through the hearts, minds and souls of his family members—his wife, Malo; son, Justin; daughters, Jessica and Torri.

Cards or letters of sympathy may be sent to the Local 300 business office and they will be forwarded to Bruce's family. The parting of Bruce's presence in this life will be a time for gathering. We must never forget the power that runs through the veins of our livelihood. Be safe, be proud and live strong.

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

Welcome to New Apprentices

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—We proudly present our first-year apprenticeship class, recently indentured into our local union. [See photo, pg. 14.] Apprentices have always been the "sharp edge of the blade" in any craft. To anyone who has grown complacent with our craft or wonders where craftsmanship fits in the broader scheme of things—visit an apprenticeship class! Notice the bright eyes and smiles of the apprentices as they eagerly learn the way of our trade. That is the future you are seeing. Apprentices will gather from our experience and lead the way for all of us. Welcome to all! (By the way, we have always been the smartest and the best-looking. As you can plainly see, that tradition is in good hands!)

In other news, we are pleased to report that our local, thanks to the efforts of Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Doolittle, has successfully brought old adversaries together to craft a large, labor-friendly development project in our jurisdiction. Environmentalists, community action groups, transportation specialists and a host of labor unions learned how to utilize their tal-



On March 6 members from the IBEW Sixth District, including Local 292 members, gather after a rally at the Minnesota State Capitol, fighting against "right-to-work" proposals.

Local Lines



Martinez, CA, Local 302 welcomes the first-year apprenticeship class.

ents for the common good rather than stand in the way of needed development. More about that in the next issue!

Bob Lilley, P.S.



Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. construction site, where IBEW Local 306 members and fellow trade unionists are working.

Reinvestment in Akron

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—The economy across the country is slowly improving and hopefully will continue for the long term.

Locally we are pleased that both Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (photo, above) and Bridgestone/Firestone Americas decided to reinvest in their hometown of Akron—"The Rubber Capital of The World." The Bridgestone/Firestone project is nearly complete. Construction on the new Goodyear World Headquarters is progressing well, on time and on budget, thanks to the hard work of our fellow brothers and sisters and other union trades on the project.

On March 31 we held our annual Easter egg hunt at Uniontown Community Park. As always it was a big hit with both young and old. Thanks to our social committee, who always makes sure everyone has a great time, rain or shine.

Our local JATC made available a wide variety of continuing-education classes throughout the past year and will be scheduling many more for this fall. These classes are very informative and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of these learning opportunities. Remember, a smart electrician is a safe electrician.

We are sad to report the loss of retired brothers Aldo Tersigni Sr. and Charles Bindel. We send our condolences to their families.

Thomas Wright, Exec. Board Chmn./P.S.

100th Anniversary

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—Local 332 is turning 100 and will celebrate on Aug. 25. We expect

over 2,000 attendees as we honor our history, a full century from the date our local was founded. We reflect with pride and respect on the struggles and successes of our brothers and sisters who made our organization what it is today.

Former Local 250 was a line local chartered in Santa Clara County in April 1902. A decade later a group of construction electricians wanted to start an inside local, and Local 332 was chartered in San Jose on Aug. 25, 1912, splitting from Local 250. In June 1933, Local 250 amalgamated with Local 332 to reunify the union electrical industry in Santa Clara County.

Our first Member-to-Member Action was an encouraging success. Members signed up for over 130 separate commitments to volunteer and get involved. We already have the next two dates set for this program, and it is growing fast.

The 2012 political campaign season is in full swing. With help from the Stewards Committee and the Member-to-Member volunteers, we expect great participation to stem the anti-union tide of politicians and legislation.

Our annual picnic will be held in July. Attendance has varied from 1,200 to 1,500 members and family in recent years. We expect that the fair work picture and our centennial celebration will boost attendance this year.

David Bini, Organizer

Calif. Gov. Brown Speaks at CSAEW Spring Meeting

L.U. 340 (i,rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—On Friday, March 30, the California State Association of Electrical Workers (CSAEW) held its spring meeting at the beautiful union Citizen Hotel in downtown Sacramento. California Gov. Jerry Brown was keynote speaker at the reception and gave an inspiring and rousing speech on the importance of the upcoming election in November. Working families' issues are on the line and it is important that members and their families take the time to know the candidates, know the issues and above all, vote!

This extremely approachable and unpretentious governor then stayed at the event for at least an hour after his speech, to not only enjoy the appetizers at the hospitality bar (provided by IBEW Locals 1245 and 340), but to talk one-on-one with attendees. Our local officers, staff and rank-and-file members found him very easy to converse with and felt he truly understands our concerns.



California Gov. Jerry Brown (third from left) with Local 340 officers at CSAEW meeting. From left: Local 340 Pres. Tom Meredith, Bus. Mgr. A.C. Steelman, Gov. Brown, Bus. Dev. Rep. D'Elman Clark, Examining Board member Jason Prasad and Executive Board member Brian Bailey.

Work in our jurisdiction is still slow at this writing. Thanks to those locals that do have the work right now and who are employing our members. Hopefully, Sacramento Local 340 will be one of those locals soon!

I am sorry to report the passing of: retired member David Gilchrist, former member Tom Jones and active member John McDonald.

A.C. Steelman, B.M.

Retirees Attend Union Meeting

L.U. 350 (i), HANNIBAL, MO—IBEW Local 350 was delighted to have retirees attend the April 9 union meeting. At this meeting we presented service awards. Ansel Sanderson received his 60-year pin and Jim Mudd received his 50-year pin. It was nice to see all these brothers who helped build Local 350. Gene Gray was to have received his 60-year pin and Charles Kramer and William Oltman were to have received their 65-year pins, but they could not attend the meeting.

The work picture is slow and, at the time of this writing, does not seem to be picking up any time soon.

To all members, active and retired: Remember to get out and vote this November and support the people who support union tradesmen.

William Tate, B.M./F.S.



Local 350 retirees Russell Tobin (left), Bill Tate, Ansel Sanderson and Jim Mudd.

'Plug & Play' Concert a Success

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt, rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Thanks to Sister Theresa Fernbaugh and all the Local 364 musicians who made our second annual "Plug and Play" concert an overwhelming success! Our local's musically talented members get together and put on quite a concert for our membership, all while raising money for out-of-work brothers and sisters. Thanks also to participating musicians: Bros. Jeff Lemmons, Rob Bradley, Tom



Musicians perform at the Local 364 "Plug and Play" concert. From left: Local 364 members Dan Resenbeck and Rob Bradley, Carpenters Bus. Agent Brad Long, Local 364 members Mike Stock and Ira Haugen. Not pictured: Local 364 musicians Jeff Lemmons, Matt Like, Patrick Barrett, Tom Gowan and Ron Anderson Jr.

Gowan, Ira Haugen, Mike Stock, Matt Like, Pat Barrett, Dan Resenbeck and Ron Anderson Jr.

In primary races for federal and state offices, our endorsed candidates fared well. The most important of these races was that of Cheri Bustos, who handily won the Democratic primary for the Illinois 17th U.S. Congressional District race. Cheri is the most union-minded and progressive and will be the most formidable to take on her anti-union, tea-party counterpart, who is an incumbent.

Another pleasant primary election development was the unexpected defeat of a longtime union foe, Republican U.S. Rep. Don Manzullo. Manzullo has been referred to rather unaffectionately as Don "Man-zero" for his 0 percent labor voting record in the U.S. Congress. It will be good to see him pack up his belongings and get out of Washington, D.C., to no longer do working families harm.

Charles H. Laskonis, B.A./Organizer

Annual 'Fisheree' & Fundraiser

L.U. 388 (em,i,rts&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—IBEW Local 388 held its Annual Fisheree, an ice fishing competition, on Feb. 11, and we had a tremendous turnout even with the severe cold and wind.

[Photo, pg. 15.]

Jason Kay, the Fisheree chairman, was again instrumental in putting this great event together this year, so a big thank-you goes out to Jason for his efforts. We also thank all the members who helped with the setup and the members who brought so much delicious food.

A lot of great prizes were donated and a large sum of money was raised for the Sick & Needy Fund. What a great way to share in some brotherhood and show support for our brothers and sisters who are in need. It



IBEW Local 388 members and guests enjoy the Annual Fisherie.

makes me extremely proud to be an IBEW member.

On a political note, please take the time to educate yourself on the issues affecting organized labor, and please help support the candidates who are sympathetic to the working men and women of this country.

Guy LePage, P.S.

Solar PV Project

L.U. 440 (i,rts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—In December 2011, Rosendin Electric secured a private 6½ megawatt solar photovoltaic project. Thanks to a good, mixed crew of journeyman wiremen, indentured apprentices, construction electricians and construction wiremen, the job was able to be completed by the deadline. [Photo, below.]

At the peak there were approximately 35 journeyman wiremen, 15 apprentices, three CEs and 12 CWs. Some of the CEs have taken our Ninth District exam and plan to come into our two-year accelerated apprenticeship. Most all of the CWs have already applied, or are in the process of applying, for our apprenticeship. In the meanwhile they are taking CW classes. Local 440 looks forward to our contractors picking up more of this private work. The CEs/CWs look forward to making it into the apprenticeship or passing the Ninth District exam and becoming eligible to be inside journeyman wiremen so they are able to work on prevailing wage projects as well. Together we will take back the private work in our area and strengthen our local by educating our new brothers and sisters. Good job on this one, crew!

Bernie Balland, Organizer

Collective Bargaining Agreements

L.U. 520 (i&spa), AUSTIN, TX—At this writing, our season of negotiations has just about concluded after 30 months. It has been a long and arduous process. All of our signatory contractors have signed new collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) except two who have opted to remain in arbitration and



IBEW Local 440's Rosendin Electric crew gathers at solar voltaic project job site.

are waiting for their respective arbitrated decisions, as of press time.

NECA has withdrawn its appeal and has signed a new CBA. Of the five remaining independent contractors, two withdrew their arbitrations and agreed to have NECA represent them while the other three will remain as independent contractors. The CBAs went into effect March 19, 2012. With each of these, except for one, the CIR clause was included as the path of resolution to negotiations and grievances. Local 520 thanks all of our brothers and sisters who supported us while in this process.

Lane Price, Pres./P.S.

Thanks to Fellow Locals

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—With the work picture having been slow during the winter and, as of this writing, nothing coming our way in the near future, Local 530 would like to thank the following locals for helping to keep our members employed: Local 529, Saskatoon; Local 2038, Regina; Local 1687, Sudbury; and Local 1739, Barrie.

Al Byers, P.S.

Habitat for Humanity Volunteers

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—We are thankful that work in our jurisdiction is looking good and we have several Book 2 members working an outage at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant at press time.

Local 558 is proud to report the signing of a new contractor, Capstone Maintenance Technologies. We are glad to have CMT on board and will give them all the support needed to be a success in our area.

Local 558 extends a special thank-you to all the members who volunteered to help with the Habitat for Humanity houses in the Huntsville area. Volunteers included: Wayne Hargrave, Kelly Alexander, Blake Matthews, Zac Brown, Matt Schultz, Andy Letson, Lakin Newton, John Hart, Steve Davis, Randy Wells, Randy Milam, Mike Thompson, Zack McKelvey, Mac Sloan, Tony Quillen, Noah Vickers, Carl Hargrove Mark Wright, Tom Frey and Daris Pugh.

The nonprofit organization built four houses in the Huntsville area, and Local 558 volunteers completed the first stage in one weekend. It is nice to see members donating their time to help out less-fortunate families in the community. Thanks again to all and God bless.

Mac Sloan, Mbr. Dev.

Upgrade Complete!

L.U. 596 (i,o&u), CLARKSBURG, WV—The new JATC training facility at Clarksburg Local 596 has been completed! The new structure was completed last fall and is currently home to our apprenticeship program and journeyman-upgrade programs. The facility features five classrooms, a conference room and a fully equipped shop, for training in conduit installations, welding, power centers, motor controls and other labs.

Solar panels have been installed for hands-on training in keeping with the "Green Energy Initiatives." The installation training puts our members squarely in the forefront of the solar energy market for north central West Virginia.

With the dedicated leadership of former business managers Darwin Snyder and Mark Fetty, and current Bus. Mgr. Shane Ferguson, The Clarksburg JATC Electrical Apprenticeship Training Facility is now a reality. Many thanks go to the North Central Building and Trades, local contractors and local members who volunteered their time on this project; thanks as well to the many local and traveling brothers and sisters whose work hours helped fund this project. This project was built 100 percent union using local tradesmen.

Joseph N. Yeager, P.S.



Local 596 JATC training facility includes solar panels installed for hands-on training.

Tribute to a Labor Leader

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—In November last year, we lost retired former business manager Bro. Harry Brown. He passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Bro. Brown became an inside journeyman wireman apprentice after graduating high school. In 1967, the second year of his apprenticeship, he entered the U.S. Army and served his country doing a tour in Vietnam. After an honorable discharge in 1970, Harry returned to the apprenticeship program.

A 40-year member, Harry served on the Executive Board, was elected vice president, and then elected business manager in 1992. He led Local 606 as business man-



The late Harry Brown, former Local 606 business manager.

ager for 18 years until his retirement in 2010.

Among Harry's achievements were serving: on the Central Florida Electrical JATC; as president of the Florida Electrical Workers Association for eight years; as president of the

Central Florida Building Trades for 11 years; as Central Florida AFL-CIO president for four years; as Executive Board member of the Florida AFL-CIO and the Florida Building and Construction Trades Council; as chairman of the Craft Maintenance Council for Walt Disney maintenance employees; and as a member of the National Fire Protection Association for 13 years, where he helped establish fire-protection codes for the entire country.

Harry Brown will forever be missed, as a friend, a union brother, a father and a true labor leader.

Janet D. Skipper, P.S.

'Welcome to the Future'

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—As expected, the battlegrounds have moved north and governments at both the federal and provincial levels have set their targets on workers. While not as drastic as the assault on our American sisters and brothers, the actions outlined in recently released budgets present a real and imminent threat to the collective rights earned through the struggles and sacrifices of many generations. If we are to continue enjoying the quality of life we have come to expect, we must inspire leaders of both today and tomorrow, energize our members and encourage them to engage in collective action that will challenge the unjust political will adopted by so many of our elected officials.

With this in mind, our local has joined forces with the First District to introduce the Next Gen initiative to those who will be entrusted to carry on the quest for social justice. The program was launched in Ottawa, where an enthusiastic group of rookies and veterans embraced the opportunity to share their ideas on how the IBEW can continue to make a difference—for our members, for their families, for their future—in the workplace and in communities everywhere. Next step: bring Next Gen to all regions in our jurisdiction—the power in each of us comes from the power in all of us!

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.



Leading the Way: Local 636 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Barry Brown (left) joins Robin Blair, Chairperson Mike Hall and Int. Rep. Kate Walsh at the launch of the Next Gen program at Hydro Ottawa.

Local Lines

Improved Work Picture

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—Since spring began, there has been an improvement in the work picture in our jurisdiction, providing some needed relief for members.

Work on the new meeting hall is progressing, and we expect completion in the early summer!

At the time of this writing there is a video, on the International's home page, of the new Busch Gardens roller coaster project our members wired. To view the video, go to <http://ibew.org/Media/Busch%20Gardens%20Coaster-Youtube.mov>.

From the home page of the local, www.ibewlocal666.com, you can access our Facebook page. Anyone can access the information; you do not have to have a Facebook page. We are making regular updates of information and events, so check it out to stay informed!

Congratulations to Ronald E. Vest, who retired in March.

Charles Skelly, P.S.

Honored for Years of Service

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—After our December meeting last year, we had our Christmas party. Among attendees were Bus. Mgr. Carl Neutzling and three former business managers—Fourth District Int. Vice Pres. Kenneth Cooper, Joe Marzetti and Harold Ebersole.

Before our party, we celebrated years of service. Electricians honored during the ceremony for their longtime service were as follows: for 20 years of service—Dan Ferguson; for 25 years—Kenneth Cooper, Dane Hart, Scott Pasheilich; 30 years—Michael Lewis, Carl Neutzling; 35 years—Mark Debolt, Elvin Hood, Jack Pifher; 40 years—Richard Germann; 45 years—John Kline, Russ McDonald, Steve Robinson, Kermit Rowland; 50 years—Richard Carter, Clarence Fulton Jr., Richard Leibolt, Frank Mastandrea; 55 years—Eugene Goodson, Richard Hoover, David Yetzer; 60 years—Donald Guthrie, Doyle Neel; and for 65 years—John Uzunoff.

CenturyLink members honored during the ceremony were: for 30 years of service—Ed Freiheit, Ray Miller; for 35 years—Kevin Kithcart, Robbin Smith; and for 40 years—Anthony Ashley.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

Politically Active Membership

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lc,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Our Local 702 members took an active role politically this primary election by walking



IBEW Local 702 members walk in support of labor-friendly candidate Illinois Sen. Gary Forby, who is running for re-election.

door-to-door every Saturday in February and March to support labor-friendly candidates. We thank all the members who participated for their time and effort, and we know we can count on them in the fall.

April was a busy month for Local 702. On April 4, we had our Annual Retiree Luncheon.

On April 19 a big rally was held in Champaign to protest so-called "right-to-work" proposals in Illinois. We loaded buses to attend the rally and show visiting Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels that he and his anti-worker agenda are not welcome in Illinois.

April 21 was our Annual IBEW 702 Lineman Championship Rodeo, which reportedly is the only indoor lineman rodeo event. Those involved worked to make this year's event even better than the last.

We currently have 20 on our Inside Book 1, and 523 on our Inside Book 2. Work this year looks to be slow.

Marsha Steele, P.S.

Centennial Celebration

L.U. 716 (em,i,lc,rt,spa), HOUSTON, TX—Our Centennial Celebration was a great success and everyone who attended had a great time. Thanks to all the congressmen, state senators, judges and Houston Mayor Annise Parker for attending and presenting us with proclamations, plaques, speeches, etc. We especially appreciated IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia for taking time from their busy schedule to speak at our celebration and visit with our members.

In Houston our contractors are now requiring Code of Excellence training, and a current State of Texas Journeyman License, as one of their requirements for taking a job call. If you have not yet taken the Code of Excellence class, please call Terry Neal, director of membership training, at (713) 649-2739. If you need information for your state license, you may access it at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Web site www.tdlr.state.tx.us. Also, the Delta project located in the Woodlands will require you to have the OSHA 10 certificate. For more information, go to Web site www.oshaeducationcenter.com.

In June at the retirees meeting we will honor members who have 50 or more years of service with the local. Roy Noack will receive his 75-year pin this year; a special congratulation to him and his family. Congratulations to all of our retirees.

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

'Thanks, Steve'

L.U. 756 (es&i), DAYTONA BEACH, FL—A great union tradesman and labor leader is hanging up his tools

and title. After 44 years of IBEW service, Bus. Mgr. Stephen R. Williams is retiring.

Steve's career includes: a JATC apprenticeship graduation in 1972, traveling on the road for a number of years, shop work for local signatory contractors, working at Kennedy Space Center and, most importantly, in local union service. He served on Local 756's Executive Board and Apprenticeship Committee, as local organizer/assistant business manager (under Don Morgan), and was elected five consecutive times as business manager, beginning in 1998. He made his signature mark as a skilled tradesmen's labor leader in the late 1980s/early '90s when (under the guidance of mentor Mike Lucas), all electrical contractors were put on notice that it was not against the law to be a represented worker. Through legal use of the NLRA, Steve made sure that if electrical construction was being performed in Daytona (union or nonunion), there would be some standards, and Local 756 set those standards. I was a young journeyman, ("Tony Turnout" as Steve would say), and it was an exciting time to be a part of a movement that you just knew was right. Steve, a man of small stature, is a giant when it comes to representing workers, and all in the industry respect him.

On June 27, 2012, at 4 p.m. (he is demanding his 1 hour pick-up time), Steve Williams will walk out the door of Local 756. On behalf of the local officers and staff, the membership (past, present, retired, deceased), and the many electricians both union and nonunion that you have served, thank you, Steve, for a job well done.

Daniel Hunt, P.S.



Local 760 Bros. Scott Whaley (foreman), Jack Badon (steward) and Gary Mykenson on solar installation project at Knoxville, TN, Convention Center.

Convention Center Solar Project

L.U. 760 (i,lc,rt,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Good relations with city and county officials have Local 760 at work. Local 760 members have been installing solar panels on the Knoxville Convention Center in downtown Knoxville. [Photo, above.] White Electric, from North Carolina, was awarded the project in the shadows of the 1982 World's Fair Sunsphere.

George Bove, B.M.

Flag of Honor

L.U. 776 (i,o,rt&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—The American flag pictured was given to Local 776 by the U.S. Air Force after being flown in a combat mission over Afghanistan.

The request was initially sparked by Local 776 journeyman wireman Mark Myslivy while working overseas. This flag was present and accounted for in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on board a B-1B bomber loaded with eight GBU-31 2,000-pound JDAMs and 12 GBU-38 500-pound JDAMs.

After 11-hour sortie duration, the flag began its long pilgrimage back to U.S. soil and to Local 776. It was accompanied by a certificate signed by the Air Force captain and chief master sergeant in charge of the bombing mission saying it was flown with them "In Honor of the Members of IBEW Local 776 in Charleston, SC."

Thank you to all of our brothers and sisters who have served, are currently serving, or are supporting family members serving in the U.S. armed forces.

Chuck Moore, B.M.



American flag presented to IBEW Local 776 by the U.S. Air Force.

'Solidarity & Brotherhood'

L.U. 824 (t), TAMPA, FL—As we move forward into 2012, it has become more apparent that solidarity and brotherhood will be as important as it's ever been with the continual onslaught against workers' rights in our state and other states across the country.

That solidarity and brotherhood was definitely on display at our general meeting on Friday night, Feb. 3. We at Local 824 were honored to have as our guest IBEW Fifth District Int. Vice Pres. Joe S. Davis. We were also treated to a chicken-and-ribs dinner prior to our general meeting. The feast was prepared by our very own award-winning cook Bobby Bellott.

Vice Pres. Davis was kind enough to address our membership. The officers, staff and members wish to thank Vice Pres. Davis for spending the evening with us. Everyone enjoyed an evening of brotherhood, solidarity and good cooking.

Keith LaPlant, P.S.



Fifth District Int. Vice Pres. Joe S. Davis (left) with Local 824 members Bobby Bellott and Aaron Myslinski.

'Community Spirit'

L.U. 910 (ees,i&t), WATERTOWN, NY—Our local presented service pins to eligible members. Eighty-five members received pins for their many years of service. Congratulations to all!

The 6th Annual Melanoma Walk in memory of Greg Maur was held May 6 in Watertown's Thompson Park. The Greg S. Maur Memorial Scholarship is open for Local 910 members who plan to attend Jefferson Community College.

The Local 910 Brotherhood Bowling Tournament was held March 17 in Watertown; winners will be reported next time.

Dressed for safety and proudly wearing their union colors, apprentice wiremen Brian Trickey and Brian Gedbaw took the plunge at the annual Polar Bear Dip in Alexandra Bay. Whatever they lacked in diving form, they more than made up for in heart and community spirit. Thank you, brothers, for your efforts and for representing your union! The Polar Dip is held each year as a fundraiser for River Hospital in Alexandra Bay.

A contract vote was held at the April 3 regional meeting and reports will be in the next article.

Roger LaPlatney, P.S.

Two-Day Training Session

L.U. 956 (mo), ESPANOLA, ONTARIO, CANADA—IBEW Local 956 hosted a two-day training session in February for up and coming union activists. [Photo, below.] The training was a combined stewards and union leadership course put on by First District Int. Rep. Thomas M. Reid and I.O. Int. Rep. Jim Watson, an Education Dept. trainer. The course was made possible to this small local by the First District Office and Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming. Thank you very much. The attendees all complemented the trainers on their professionalism, course knowledge and delivery and look forward to more union education courses in the future.

Doug Kaattari, Pres./B.M.

Award for Dedication

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Sister Elvida Acosta has been a union member of OPEIU Local 319 for 43 years and an honorary member of IBEW Local 1116 for 25 years. Sister Acosta has been the rock of the Local 1116 office for 40 years and a large part of our success today, having worked with seven business managers. She has held many officer positions

within her own local, and her accomplishments are many, with both locals and within the community.

Sister Acosta is passionate in getting younger members involved and supporting union-made, made-in-USA products, so her nomination for the "Mother Jones Award for Excellence in Leadership" during a dinner ceremony at the 2nd Annual Celebration of International Women's Day was well-deserved.

Also attending the Women's Day celebration were Local 1116 union sisters Pat Lopez, Sandra Gallego, Tammy Owaski, Susan Trumbull, Naomi Zazueta, Jessica Reyes and Aracely Coronado. These members are active with various committees or as stewards for our local. Kudos also to Sister Danell Carter, who was unable to attend but is a strong influence for our union sisters.

R. Cavaletto, P.S.

New AEP Members Welcomed

L.U. 1466 (u) COLUMBUS, OH—Local 1466 welcomes the American Electric Power DDC (Distribution Dispatch Center) employees who recently joined our ranks. This group's efforts to gain representation in the workplace have been held up for the last few years awaiting the outcome of an NLRB decision regarding their status as supervisory employees. We are pleased to report that the board has rendered a decision in favor of the workers having a true voice on the job, and has recognized their victory at the ballot box. Welcome aboard, brothers and sisters!

We hope to see everyone at our monthly union meetings and at the Annual Membership Picnic coming up in the fall!

Jimi Jette, P.S.

Work Comes North

L.U. 1634 (em), CORALVILLE, IA—By continuing to show their commitment to high quality work and dependability, members of our local have seen some work come to our facility from one in Mexico. By mid-summer the last of the automated equipment will be moved from Mexicali to our facility in Coralville and we will be doing work that was once done there. Not only did the work come here from Mexico, but members of our local will be doing the work rather than at a nonunion site. Congratulations to the members of Local 1634 for proving, once again, that the IBEW is the right choice. [Editor's note: see article on page 3.]

Dan Barr, B.M.



Int. Reps. Thomas M. Reid (right) and Jim Watson (third from left) with Local 956 training session attendees. From left: Dan Massicotte, Jason Behm, Watson, Landon Duplessis, Allan Weeks, Paul Caputo, Jason McGaughey, Adam Twigg, Devin Ross, Ryan Piche and Reid.



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!

PRIZES

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

DEADLINE: OCT. 31, 2012

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City & state _____

Zip code _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Local union number _____

IBEW card number _____

Photo description _____

PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

1. The contest is open to active or retired IBEW members only. The person submitting the photo must be the person who took the photograph. Members may enter more than one photo.
2. International Officers and staff are not eligible.
3. Photos can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or prints. The preferred print size is 8x10.
4. All submissions become the property of the IBEW Media Department.
5. Photo entries must have an IBEW theme of some sort, with IBEW members at work, engaged in a union-related activity or subjects conveying images of the electrical industry or the union.
6. If members are featured in the photo, they should be identified. If large groups are pictured, the name of the group or the purpose of the gathering (e.g. a safety committee, a linemen's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in IBEW publications or the Web site are not eligible for submission.
8. All entries must include a completed contest entry form. Please note that photo entries may be submitted through the IBEW Web site at www.ibew.org.
9. Please fill out the contest entry form and affix it to each photo you submit for the contest and mail it to the **IBEW Photo Contest, 900 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001**.
10. Fifteen finalists will be selected and posted on www.ibew.org for final judging by the public. The winners will be featured in the January 2013 issue of the Electrical Worker.



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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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

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FROM THE OFFICERS**Writing the Book on Wealth Inequality**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

Remember the movie *Wall Street* and Gordon Gekko, the guy who said, "Greed is good"? After eight years in jail for insider trading and securities fraud, Gekko, played again by Oscar winner Michael Douglas, was portrayed as a different, more unselfish man in the sequel "Money Never Sleeps."

We all need some good fiction, especially in today's frightening times. But, here in the real world, no jail sentences have been meted out to the true Gekkos—the bankers and others who crashed the U.S. economy.

A new book, "Unintended Consequences: Why Everything You've Been Told about the Economy is Wrong" by Edward Conard says that income inequality is actually a good thing.

Conard, a former Bain Capital business associate, friend and leading campaign contributor to Mitt Romney, the Republican frontrunner for president, says society would lose out if the superrich had to pay more taxes

because investment by the billionaires is the way average people get access to low-cost, high-quality items—from cheaper food to iPads and major technological tools like Google.

We have no quarrel with the notion that investment by wealthy people can benefit workers and lead to important technological improvements, although we would like to see more investment in rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, as International Secretary-Treasurer Chilia writes below.

But Conard, who retired at age 51 with hundreds of millions of dollars in the bank, doesn't want to discuss the fact that too many wealthy investors have gone offshore to increase their profits, eroding the tax base that supports our communities and the workers who are left unemployed.

The coming election is truly about big ideas. And, however, you cut it, Edward Conard's and Mitt Romney's ideas are out of the mainstream of U.S. history. Republican and Democratic presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Dwight Eisenhower to John F. Kennedy have all recognized that if prosperity is not shared, if wealth is monopolized at the top, our economy will suffer. Greed is not good. ■

Taking the High Road on Infrastructure

J.P. Morgan Chase is in the news again. The CEO of the legendary house of finance—whose precursor once helped establish General Electric and the U.S. steel industry—has apologized for the investment bank's risky bets that lost his firm \$2 billion.

Some Wall Street firms continue to play fast and loose with complicated deals that only they fully understand, leaving our economy in jeopardy.

But, recent news from Chicago should give a measure of hope that the dire problems faced by working families—addressed in this issue of *The Electrical Worker*—can begin to be solved by progressive public-private partnerships.

The Chicago Infrastructure Trust is the first of its kind in the nation. Mayor Rahm Emanuel reached out to private sources and convinced them to invest \$7 billion in helping to rebuild the city's infrastructure.

The trust is expected to create more than 30,000 jobs and ensure that the public's safety is addressed with upgrades to the city's parks, streets, railways, airports, public schools and water systems.

Unlike other local development projects where municipalities are taking the low road on wages and benefits, Chicago is committed to using union building trades on the infrastructure projects. The IBEW and the Chicago Federation of Labor will be on the ground floor in planning projects.

Retrofit Chicago, the first effort sponsored by the trust, will focus on retrofitting lighting for energy savings in public buildings. As energy costs are reduced, investors will be paid back on a project-by-project basis.

We may be a long way from the big banks once again making massive investments in our nation's domestic industrial sector.

But I hope the Chicago Infrastructure Trust marks a healthy start at convincing some big lending institutions to invest in the public interest, not just lining their own pockets. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

The Cost of Fracking?

Regarding your article on the natural gas boom (April 2012 Electrical Worker), while it is so good to see workers getting back to work, we cannot allow the gas companies to wreak havoc on our environment and our health. In your article you claim that natural gas is cleaner and produces less carbon emissions than coal and oil. According to a Cornell study, the leakage of methane from shale gas production escapes into the atmosphere at a rate, over the lifetime of a well, that is greater than those of conventional gas. This unused methane has a higher carbon footprint, thereby actually causing more greenhouse gas.

Also, regions with drilling rigs have high levels of smog, as well as other airborne pollutants, including known carcinogens. I must also mention that it has been concluded that the latest surge in earthquakes in Ohio has been due to the injection wells where this toxic “frackwater” is being dispersed. Call me crazy, but if the hydrofracking industry needs to be exempt from the clean water and safe air acts, then maybe we should be looking in another direction to boost our economy. I suggest we aggressively invest in renewable energy sources that would result in a sustainable energy future for the country.

Chris Knoeppel
Local 3, New York

The World According to the GOP?

The Republicans have been looking backward and attacking organized labor and good jobs in America since the late 1800s, even falsely slurring labor as “communists” and “traitors.” Currently the entire 2012 GOP campaign strategy is based on telling America how great things were “backwards” in U.S. history. The GOP says it was great before Social Security, unemployment insurance and Medicare existed, before labor had rights, before Roe v. Wade, before women had rights, before the Jim Crow poll tax was outlawed, before civil rights, before government regulation or oversight of businessmen 1 percenters. Nevermind, now the GOP wants to “look forward.”

They look forward to making American labor work like Communist labor, forward to a future where U.S. labor can be dragged out of bed, given a bowl of rice and put back to work making the company and the commissars money. They look backward to attack labor and good U.S. jobs, unless they want to look forward and attack labor and good U.S. jobs. It really doesn't matter which way the GOP looks, because whenever and wherever they look, they think that American labor is communist and bad but Chinese communist labor is good if Apple or Walmart make a huge profit. Their party has zero percent integrity and works 100 percent of the time to back the richest 1 percent. In a 2012 election battle between the China Communist corporate GOP and 99 percent of working Americans, it is hard to see how the Democrats lose.

Mike McCampbell
Local 5 member, Pittsburgh

Union in the U.S.A.

As I drive down the N.J. Turnpike on my way back to college after the weekend home, I pass numerous construction projects. It gets me thinking about the union construction workers toiling on this extensive project to expand this major highway in my home state. And how I ALWAYS see American flags hanging from the construction equipment on union jobs like this one. Patriotism is not something they put on for holidays or special events. Patriotism is something they live daily, on the job laboring to build, and rebuild, our country. It gives me much pride to know that my Dad is one of these tradespeople—a 25-year member of IBEW Local 400 in Wall, N.J. And as patriotic as the brother next to him.

Thank you union tradespeople in New Jersey for reminding me of my love for this country of which I am proud. And thanks, Dad, for the union work you have done all these years, which has given me the opportunity to be making this drive to college.

Laura Marie Blackburn
Daughter of Local 400 member Laurence Blackburn, Asbury Park, N.J.

Who We Are

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

Nashville Organizer Keeps the Faith

Even as he spends two days a week witnessing anti-union tirades and bills hitting the floor of the Republican-dominated Tennessee state legislature, James Shaw keeps his faith in organized labor's future. Shaw, a Nashville Local 429 assistant business manager and organizer, summons up the spirit of his mother and his mentors in the trade.

“I always look to my mom when facing difficult situations,” says Shaw, who entered his electrical apprenticeship in the 1970s after finishing college and spending a short time as a high school teacher.

“My mother was a licensed practical nurse. I saw how hard it was for her to go to school at night for her nursing degree and work during the day,” he says.

One of only a few African-Americans in the local, Shaw recalls complaining to the local's first black journeyman, Joe Haley, about racial bias on the job. Haley, who was initiated into the local in 1968, told Shaw, “You should put on my shoes and go through what I went through.”

Three decades later, Shaw, who is nearing retirement, feels a kinship with Haley's approach. He now advises young apprentices and construction wiremen to stay focused on their goals and not risk their jobs reacting to others.

“Things are better for me than they were for Joe [Haley], and things are better for young members than they were for me, but we still have progress to make with some members who carry a lot of diehard negativity.”

As a symbol of multiracial progress, Shaw's growing interest in the bond between the civil rights and labor movements was nurtured soon after he entered the local by a German-born white journeyman, Conrad Huetter.

While they worked together on a job, Huetter asked Shaw to tell him what he knew about A. Philip Randolph, the legendary leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Shaw drew a blank. So Huetter asked him to come back the next day with some information about Randolph. Shaw did one better. He immersed himself in black labor history.

“Conrad was one of the best union men I could ever meet,” says Shaw, who recalls a dressing-down Huetter delivered about Shaw and some fellow



Nashville Local 429 Assistant Business Manager James Shaw says, in response to right-wing attempts to undermine unions, “I’m optimistic, but I’m scared to death for organized labor.”

apprentices “holding meetings at the back of the union hall” during monthly meetings instead of coming up front and participating.

“I had entered the electrical trade with one goal, to make a better living,” says Shaw. Two friends had entered the building trades after college. “They had money left over at the end of the month. I was teaching and I had none.”

But, after paying heed to Huetter's advice, Shaw observed that “there were avenues to make my tenure better by doing more than just paying dues.”

Shaw, who had been active in his church and coached his children's sports teams, dug into local union affairs. Former Business Manager Robert Emery Sr. convinced him to volunteer for committees and, later, to run for vice president and executive board member. Shaw served on the executive board for 12 consecutive years.

“It's been a good run, with its ups and downs, but that's how life is,” says Shaw. He had worked as a dispatcher and saw his local's market share drop from 35 percent to 10 percent in 2008 when eight signatory contractors who had been in an internal dispute with their national association walked away from the 1,300-member local, taking 400 members with them.

Today, Local 429 members are looking at 10 years of work on schools, a new convention center and hotel, and projects at nearby Nissan and Saturn automobile manufacturing facilities.

Despite the good work picture, Shaw and fellow organizer Quentin

Tanner are still working—with some success—to win back lost members and expand into markets where the local has been weak, using new tools like alternate classifications.

“If you work in the organizing department,” some members “view you as working to the detriment of journeymen,” says Shaw, who patiently asks those who criticize the new classifications for alternatives that would help build the Brotherhood. He remembers Emery's advice that “as long as we're just bringing in brand new apprentices to do the work we have always done, our market share is not moving up.”

“I call guys like James Shaw cornerstones of their union halls,” says Tenth District International

Representative Brent Hall, who says Shaw's professionalism and integrity are keys to successful organizing.

Meeting other activists from across the country as a member of AFL-CIO constituency organizations, the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Shaw has become more aware of how organized labor is being targeted by groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council. He has participated in voter registration drives and education campaigns on important issues.

Tennessee is mirroring what is happening in statehouses across the country, since the Republicans' success in 2010, says Shaw. One bill would consider construction work seasonal and exempt workers in the trades from drawing unemployment benefits if they work less than 32 weeks in a year. Shaw bristles at the irony of legislators who want to expand gun carrying rights, but support measures to restrict the rights to picket on private property.

“I'm optimistic, but I'm scared to death for organized labor,” says Shaw, who said he hopes public sector workers, especially teachers—many of whom voted out of frustration against Democrats in 2010—will organize to boot some of the state's right-wing legislators in 2012.

Currently working under the leadership of Business Manager Gerald Grant, Shaw believes Grant's leadership will open doors to more progress. “We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go,” he says. ■

