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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 | *America's Second Bill of Rights*
- 3 | *Pressing DirecTV to respect workers*
- 4 | *Ind. refinery puts hundreds to work*
- 5 | *With carmakers' renaissance, IBEW jobs*
- 6 | *Verizon layoffs hit members*
AT&T agreement extended
- 7 | *North of 49°*
- 9 | *Circuits*
Transitions
- 10 | *Local Lines*
- 18 | *Joint editorial*
- 19 | *Letters to the Editor*
Who We Are
- 20 | *In Memoriam*



As our calendars begin their countdown to fall, the blistering heat of summer will be matched by its political equivalent as the contest for the U.S. presidency and control of Congress enters its final stage.

The Republican Party holds its convention in Tampa, Fla., on August 27. Democrats will convene in Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 3.

After Labor Day, millions of Americans will begin paying closer attention to how candidates for office would address not just the immediate problems facing the U.S. economy, but the future of our society.

Once again, thousands of IBEW members will proudly contribute to our nation's democracy by participating in grassroots, on-the-job, door-to-door, neighbor-to-neighbor campaigns for candidates who we feel best represent our interests.

Tradition has its place. But this year—before we kick off our campaigning—the IBEW, along with dozens

of other unions and thousands of our allies, will gather in Philadelphia to send a powerful message to both political parties, to our friends and adversaries alike.

There, on Aug. 11, in the city that gave birth to the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the words “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” we will take a stand for restoring our nation's most basic values.

We will call public and media attention to how our politics, society and economy have become skewed beyond recognition—geared almost entirely to the well-being of the top 1 percent while everyone else, especially the people who work, is left behind.

Despite our collective disgust at this situation, Aug. 11 in Philadelphia is not a protest. Nor is it an alternate political convention.

We are gathering to assert the values and the opportunities that Americans have fought for over generations—on foreign battlefields, in our workplaces and in our communities.

Workers and our families already know we have nothing in common with elite Wall Street bankers who have gambled with our nation's economy. Neither are we on the same side with corporate CEOs who have bankrupted companies and outsourced good-paying jobs, or politicians who seek

to destroy our unions and collective bargaining.

True economic recovery in America is not measured by the stock market or the indicators that measure wealth. It is measured by the existence of good jobs and opportunity for all. Austerity for the middle class and prosperity for those at the top will not solve our nation's economic problems, especially when our infrastructure is in such serious disrepair.

We are going to Philadelphia this election year not just to say what we are against, but to proudly state what we are for.

In Philadelphia, the cradle of U.S. democracy, real people will take the podium. They will represent the challenges, the hopes and dreams of millions of workers—employed and unemployed—students, retirees and others.

They won't be complaining or asking for pity. They will join with our brothers and sisters to call for a second bill of rights (*see page 2*) to put America and our political parties back on the track that leads to progress, not further decay and despair.

America's Second Bill of Rights will be taken to both the Democratic and Republican conventions where we will demand that delegates and candidates stand with America's workers.

Join us.

Visit www.WorkersStandForAmerica.com, www.facebook.com/WorkersStandForAmerica, or follow us on Twitter @Workers4America. ■

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MAINSTREAM VALUES, ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL:

Introducing 'America's Second Bill of Rights'



"We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence.

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

For Wall Street and the 1 percent, life in post-recession America means that the good times are back. But Main Street is still haunted with persistent unemployment and eroding financial security.

Workers the nation over are saying "enough." Thousands are expected to gather in Philadelphia Aug. 11 to put forth "America's Second Bill of Rights"—five tenets that embody the widespread need for fiscal fairness in an economy that is leaving everyday working families behind. The bill is fashioned after the 1944 State of the Union address by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, where he called for a Second Bill of Rights to extend economic security to citizens.

Tragically, the fiscal dangers that FDR sought to avoid have, in many ways, come to pass in contemporary America:

Wealth inequality is increasing at a steady pace, especially with regard to income. Business Week reports that in 1980, CEO pay was 42 times that of the average blue-collar wage earner. By 2011, that number had increased to 380 times the average worker's pay—by far the largest gap in the world, reports Paywatch.org.

Health insurance in the U.S. remains out of reach for more than 16 percent of the population—upwards of 49.9 million people, according to the Census Bureau. At the same time, medical expenses are behind more than 60 percent of bankruptcies, CNN reports. And most who file for bankruptcy are middle-class, well-educated homeowners,



The past year has seen a groundswell of activism from everyday Americans concerned that the recovery is benefitting the 1 percent at the expense of the middle class.

Photo credit: Photo used under a Creative Commons License from Flickr user hardtopeel

ers, according to data analyzed in the American Journal of Medicine.

Access to a college education is becoming harder, and those who graduate with a degree can look forward to an average of \$25,000 in debt, reports CNN Money. And for those who can't

find a job or fail to earn enough, default is becoming more common. U.S. News & World Report states

that as of 2009, 8.8 percent of borrowers are defaulting on their loans—up nearly 2 percent from the previous year.

For many struggling in the aftermath of the recession, wages are lower across the board. 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 (See "For More Americans, Low Wages are the New Normal," *The Electrical Worker*, June 2012).

"Everyday Americans are serving notice to political leaders and wealthy elites that the recovery is not reaching working people," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "America's Second Bill of Rights proposal is broad enough to touch the lives of every American. These are mainstream values that every citizen, regardless of political party, should hold dear.

"The middle class is telling both Republicans and



America's Second Bill of Rights

Participants in the Aug. 11 event will have the chance to sign a copy of America's Second Bill of Rights, which will be presented at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., later that month and at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., in September. An online petition will also be circulated.

The Right to Full Employment and a Living Wage: All Americans willing and able to work have the right to safe, gainful employment at a fair and livable wage. We call on the public and private sectors to invest in America's infrastructure and promote industrial development, maintaining job creation as a top policy priority.

The Right to Full Participation in the Electoral Process: Recent initiatives to disenfranchise citizens seek to reduce

the rolls of eligible voters and empower money instead of people. We believe these actions constitute an assault on our nation's democracy and history of heroic struggle against voting restrictions based upon property ownership, religion, race and gender and call for reinforcing our fundamental right to vote.

The Right to a Voice at Work: All workers have the right of freedom of association in the workplace, including the right to collectively bargain with their employer to improve wages, benefits and working conditions.

The Right to a Quality Education: Education is a fundamental bedrock of our democracy, vital to America's competitive position in the world and the principal means by which citizens empower themselves to participate in our nations' economic and political sys-

tems. Quality, affordable education should be universally available from pre-kindergarten to college level, including an expanded use of apprenticeships and specialty skills training to prepare Americans for the workplace.

The Right to a Secure, Healthy Future: Americans have the right to a baseline level of health care, unemployment insurance and retirement security, all of which have been badly eroded by the disruption of the social compact that served the nation well for decades. We call on government and private industry together to confront the issues of declining access to health care especially for children, weakening of unemployment coverage and inadequate pension plans that undermine the ability of working men and women to retire in dignity, even as Social Security and Medicare are under strain and threatened with cutbacks. ■

Democrats that we want an America that works for everyone," Hill continued. "Our members are looking forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with teachers, firefighters, nurses and others in Philadelphia next month to champion real change for working families."

For more information, visit www.WorkersStandForAmerica.com. Subscribe to updates on Twitter from @Workers4America and join the discussion at www.Facebook.com/WorkersStandForAmerica. Periodic updates will also be available at www.IBEW.org. ■



MasTec Workers Call on DirecTV to Stand up for Workers' Rights



In the aftermath of the recession, many feel that working families are being scapegoated by right-wing politicians for the results of reckless Wall Street practices.

Behind FDR's Second Bill of Rights

It's 1944. American and British warplanes have hammered away at the German forces in northern Africa. Following a relentless air campaign that crushed the fascist opposition, Italy has signed an armistice. The remaining Axis forces are diminished, and the smell of victory is in the air for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Allies.

With the fortune of the war changing, the 61-year-old president was beginning to turn his mind to the domestic front. In his third term in office, on Jan. 11, FDR delivered his State of the Union address via radio to millions of listeners across the nation.

Shining a light toward his vision of the postwar era, Roosevelt said, "It is our duty now to begin to lay the plans and determine the strategy for the winning of a lasting peace and the establishment of an American standard of living higher than ever before known."

He told listeners that the country "cannot be content no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people ... is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and insecure."

Dubbed the "Second Bill of Rights" address, the speech would cast ripple effects throughout democracies the world over. Roosevelt laid out his vision for an American society that embraces human potential and ensures the opportunity to build a better quality of life through work, while supporting a strong social safety net.

In his proposed Second Bill of Rights, the president states that every American is entitled to, among other benefits:

- The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;
- The right to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation;
- The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;
- The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident and unemployment; and
- The right to a good education.

Following his address, one of the most popular programs that was adopted in the ensuing years was the G.I. Bill, which helped pave the way for countless returning veterans seeking higher education. But powerful moneyed interests, the lingering allure of rampant free-market fundamentalism and other political factors stymied the advance of many of these proposed rights in the U.S.

After FDR's death in 1945, his proposal took hold in myriad ways outside the borders of the U.S. It became the basis of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted in 1948. Endorsed by Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR's wife and co-architect of the U.N. declaration, the elements laid out in the president's original speech have also found their way into modern constitutions and amendments in 142 countries.

"President Roosevelt's clarion call for economic liberty wasn't just timely—it was prescient," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "Looking at the possibility of the demise of the American middle class tells me that now, more than ever, we need economic rights just as much as the right to free speech." ■

Pro-worker activists are calling on DirecTV chief executive Michael White to tell one of its top contractors, MasTec, to play fair with employees and recognize their right to collectively bargain.

More than 120 MasTec workers in three states are still waiting for their first contract, despite National Labor Relations Board-certified majority votes favoring a voice on the job with the IBEW.

In Duluth, Ga., MasTec workers—who install residential satellites for DirecTV—have been without a contract for more than three years, while in Durham, Conn., more than 60 employees face company stonewalling on negotiating a first agreement after voting to join Bridgeport, Conn., Local 488 in April.

Even worse, MasTec has actively punished pro-union workers—who are paid on a piecemeal basis—by outsourcing their jobs to nonunion subcontractors.

More than half of the approximately 60 technicians at MasTec's Duluth facility who originally voted for a voice on the job with the IBEW three years ago have been driven out of the workplace, while in Durham, pro-union employees have had jobs taken away and given to nonunion subcontractors.

"We had guys who went from working 12 hours days, six days a week to being lucky to get one or two job a week. You can't live on a day's work," says Local 488 Organizer Dan McInerney.

International Organizer Steve Smith says the outsourcing is part of a deliberate strategy by the company to drive out the union.

"They're trying to starve us out," he says.

Workers at MasTec's West Palm Beach, Fla., facility are still without a first contract, despite voting for the IBEW back in 2008 and successfully beating off a decertification attempt a year later. The company broke off negotiations a year ago, merging its nonunion Boca Raton facility with its West Palm Beach one and then withdrawing recognition of the unit.

Ft. Lauderdale Local 728 filed numerous unfair labor practice charges against the company, which were consolidated by the National Labor Relations Board. As of this writing, the issue is pending a decision by an administrative law judge.

Despite seeing their pay and work hours slashed, the workers continue to stick by the IBEW, said Fifth District International Representative Brian Thompson.

"It's a travesty the way they are being treated," he says. "They are good workers who just want to be treated

fairly and with respect at work."

An online petition to DirecTV's White tells the CEO: "It's your responsibility to ensure that the company complies with the law and respects its employees' right to organize and collectively bargain."

Durham says MasTec technician pay lagged far behind those of other telecommunications workers performing similar work.

"We are working around electrical wire, going on roofs, working in tight spaces, but our paychecks don't reflect

"It's the CEO's responsibility to ensure that the company complies with the law and respects its employees' right to organize and collectively bargain."

— Letter to DirecTV CEO Michael White

CEO Jose Mas recently made an appearance on the reality show "Undercover Boss," portraying himself as a caring employer, but this isn't the first time MasTec has been accused of violating basic workers' rights. In 2007, the company was ordered to pay \$12.6 million in back wages after failing to pay its workers legally mandated overtime pay.

For MasTec employee Antuan Durham, who has been working at the company's Durham facility for more than a year, employees were "sick and tired of being sick and tired."

the dangerous nature of what we do," he says. "Some of our counterparts at other companies make as much as two times what we do."

Durham also says employees get no sick time.

"We have guys who can barely stand dragging themselves into work because they can't get a day off," he says.

Despite the company intimidation, interest in the IBEW among MasTec workers continues to grow, with an upcoming election at the company's facility in Scranton, Pa. ■



Indiana Local, Travelers Tackle BP Refinery Modernization

No project is without its challenges. But, at a time of agonizingly slow construction starts, it is exceedingly rare for contractors to have to worry about having enough hotel rooms or parking spaces to accommodate a huge influx of building trade workers.

But that is the situation facing BP and several general contractors leading the \$4 billion Whiting Refinery Modernization Project in Indiana, where new machinery will process oil from the tar sands of Western Canada.

Currently 10,000 building trades members are on the job. Three to four hundred more are being hired weekly, with the total expected to peak at 14,000.

"This is a huge challenge," said Ray Kasmark, business manager of Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697. Whiting, on the site of the former Standard Oil of Indiana, is the fourth largest refinery in the country, processing 405,000 barrels a day of crude oil. The modernization project is designed to progress side-by-side the plant's continuing operation. "We have 800 electricians on the job and expect to peak at 1,100."

BP, says Kasmark, has been a steady customer of Local 697 for years in both construction and maintenance. Local 697 members spoke in favor of the project at permitting hearings, countering opposition from environmentalists.

The modernization project, expected to be completed in 2013, consists of five phases and has been in the works for three years.

More than 80 percent of the crude oil traditionally refined at Whiting has

been "sweet" or relatively low in sulfur, from the oil fields of West Texas, Oklahoma and other foreign nations. The modernization project will enable BP to handle a mix of 80 percent "sour," or high-sulfur crude oil, predominantly coming from the oil fields of Canada. The total output of the refinery is expected to increase by 15 percent over the current capacity after modernization.

Employment in Local 697 has grown to 170 percent, with travelers arriving almost weekly. The modernization project is considered a "yellow card" (all union trade) project, covered by the National Maintenance Agreement. The NMA, established in 1971, is a tripartite agreement between owners, contractors and craft unions that ensures on-schedule performance with no workplace disruptions, flexible practices and a dispute-resolution process.

While the modernization was delayed for nearly two years due to engineering gaps and the April 2010 explosion of the company's Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling facility in the Gulf of Mexico, some of the time lost is being recovered through the massive infusion of boots on the ground.

Mark Erickson, a 15-year Local 697 journeyman inside wireman, had been unemployed for five months before he got called by Meade Electric in February 2011 to work on the modernization project.

"One of the greatest things about this job is putting a couple hundred travelers to work," said Erickson, who previously worked on electrical installations in steel mills and commercial projects. "It's great to see our hall be a walk-through for

electricians from as close as Chicago and Detroit, and as far as Arizona and Texas who were starving for work."

Erickson says while the work is similar to any big commercial job, "the scope of this project is unbelievable." Coordinating work with thousands of other workers can be challenging and traffic jams after work resemble those from the steel mills of yesterday.

"The site looks like a giant erector set, with cranes everywhere you turn," says Erickson. For two years, he says, contractors have been bringing in three or four modular units a day for offices and other structures.

BP has leased land from the nearby Arcelor Mittal steel mill for employee parking. Large tents with flooring—some accommodating 900 workers—have been set up to house tool lockers and tables for lunch breaks. Even finding a location for the tents and eating facilities were complicated by regulations that followed the 2005 explosion at BP's refinery in Texas City, Texas. The regulations prohibit workers from eating or sleeping in a potential blast zone.

In advance of the project, IBEW members from Indianapolis Local 1393 relocated transmission lines that would have obstructed a new heavy-haul route to carry mammoth equipment for the modernization project from vessels on Lake Michigan to the work site at the southern tip of the lake. Some Local 1393 members continue to work on transmission and distribution within the plant.

Curt Hillegonds, a 34-year member and first-time steward on one of the five modernization projects, will soon be con-



Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697 members and hundreds of travelers are working on a massive new BP refinery to process crude oil from Canada.

ducting Code of Excellence training for his crews, currently numbering 20 and expected to reach 250. Hillegonds, one of eight stewards on the project, whose crew is working five nine-hour shifts and eight hours on Saturdays, says, "After being in construction for so many years, I'm finding out that I still didn't know all the intricacies of some of our union rules."

BP's vigilance on safety on the modernization project, adds Hillegonds, far exceeds steps taken during his years working as an electrician in the area's steel mills. Kasmark credits stewards Joe Gonzales, Randall Hepp, Dwight Murdoch, Arnell Washington, Tim Weems, Eric Wheeler and Dave Ziegler with helping bolster safety and professionalism on the job.

Tom Keilman, BP's director of government and public affairs, says, "The

important thing is to modernize this plant in a way that is safe for BP employees, the building trades, the contractors and the surrounding community." Past planned maintenance outages at the refinery usually resulted in 1,000 to 2,000 building trades members coming on site. "Logistics and safely bringing in components from all over the world are the biggest challenges," says Keilman.

Says International President Edwin D. Hill, "BP's Whiting Refinery Modernization project offers dramatic proof that organized building trades workers are the best qualified to safely and productively tackle the rebuilding of North America's infrastructure. Just as important is the financial contribution of signatory employers and our members to the survival of local communities." ■

Back from the Brink: Auto Recovery Boosts North American Manufacturing, Good Jobs

For Bay City, Mich., resident Jack Tobias, the General Motors Corp. Powertrain plant is more than just a job. For Tobias, a native of this small blue-collar city on the shore of Lake Huron, GM is a family legacy.

"My grandfather worked for GM, my dad worked for GM, my uncles worked for GM, many of my friends and their dads worked for GM," says the Local 692 business representative. "It's what keeps Bay City going."

For more than a century, GM meant jobs, not just for manufacturing workers, but for hundreds of construction, service industry workers and other Bay City residents.

But what had been seen as almost a birthright for generations of Northern Michigan workers looked increasingly tenuous as three decades of outsourcing and increased foreign competition shrunk Powertrain's payroll from a high of 3,500 in the 1960s down to 300 in the 2000s.

Yet after going through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression—one that nearly tanked the entire domestic auto industry altogether—Bay City auto workers now have something they haven't had in a long time: hope.

"We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the bailout."

—Jack Tobias, Local 692

Since the 2009 federal bailout, GM, once viewed as headed for the scrap heap, has come roaring back, reclaiming its position as the top automaker in the world, bragging rights it lost to Toyota in 2008.

And it's not just GM. Total profits for all three automakers are up nearly \$6 billion this year, while auto industry employment is up more than 207,600 since June 2009, when both GM and Chrysler filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. It's a recovery that is felt not only in Detroit's boardrooms, but in Midwest communities like Bay City, which haven't experienced good economic news in many years.

After nearly four years without any auto work, Local 692 electricians are back on the job, putting in more than 13,000 man hours at the plant in the last year. "We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the bailout," Tobias says.

"We feel like we're off to a bright start," says Tobias.

Second Chance

In cities throughout the auto belt, things weren't looking so bright in the fall of 2008. The Big Three were on the verge of



total collapse in the wake of Wall Street's financial meltdown. Sales had dropped by more than 30 percent, and both Chrysler and GM—on the verge of bankruptcy—were left for dead.

Forced to go to Congress for a bailout, many elected officials and media figures argued for letting the companies go under, most notably former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who penned a 2008 New York Times op-ed titled "Let Detroit Go Bankrupt."

But letting two of the Big Three close up shop wasn't a risk President Obama and Congress were willing to take. More than 8 million Americans and their families depend on auto manufacturing for their livelihoods, according to the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturing. Nearly 2 million are employed directly by the automakers, while another 6 million work for auto parts suppliers or dealerships.

"We cannot, and must not, and we will not let our auto industry simply vanish," Obama said in his announcement of the auto bailout on March 30, 2009. "This industry is like no other—it's an emblem of the American spirit, a once and future symbol of America's success."

It was a risk, but one that proved to be worth taking. The United States and Canadian governments' 2009 rescue plan, which supplied federal loans in exchange for a structured bankruptcy, helped to revive the domestic auto industry in ways few could have predicted, yielding a big return on taxpayer money and saving millions of jobs.

"The restructuring has paid big dividends for the nation, autoworkers and the domestic auto industry," writes Economic



General Motors Corp. announced that it was investing \$20 million in the Powertrain plant in Bay City, Mich., to produce energy-efficient engines.

Photo Credit: General Motors

Policy Institute researcher Robert Scott.

Not only have the Big Three recovered to pre-recession employment levels, the companies have added an additional 78,000 jobs. And most observers say more hires will be needed to meet increased market demand. This is good news not only for workers in Michigan and Ohio but in Ontario as well, which, as home to Canada's auto industry, is seeing new jobs and investment from Detroit in the wake of the Big Three's revival.

Greening Auto

Part of the auto industry's post-2008 restructuring has shifted focus to devel-

oping more fuel-efficient and hybrid vehicles, a market that it had ignored for most of the 2000s. Detroit's emphasis on sport utility vehicles, which dropped in popularity as the price of oil spiked past \$4 a gallon in 2008, gave Toyota an opening to eat into the Big Three's market share with the introduction of the Prius, the first mass-produced hybrid vehicle.

"By 2006 GM's domestic market share had fallen to less than half of its historic peak," writes Steven Rattner, who served as lead auto advisor for President Obama during the bailout, in his book "Overhaul." "Industry watchers began to speculate whether Toyota might usurp GM as the No. 1 in the U.S.,

once unthinkable in a country where World War II vets had insisted on American-made cars."

The Big Three learned its lesson. In 2009, GM announced plans for the Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid, the engine components of which are produced in Bay City.

"I've had almost no experience with good news," Auto Workers Local 362 chairman Todd McDaniel told the Saginaw News upon hearing the announcement of GM's \$37 million investment in the Powertrain plant to make the energy-efficient engines. "I could get used to this."

Green cars are giving a second chance to another historic facility: Ford's Cleveland Engine Plant No. 1. The company recently announced that the 61-year-old plant, which four years ago was on the verge of shutdown, was adding a third shift to meet the demand for its fuel-efficient V6 engines, including its EcoBoost engines, a move that will keep 250 Ford employees on the job.

"Things keep looking better and better," says 18-year Ford electrician John Sabo. The Cleveland Local 1377 member says that more than 140 electricians work in the plant right now. Sabo, who serves as an electrical trainer, says he credits Ford's recovery in part to its commitment to keeping abreast of technological changes in the market.

"They keep updating their line in order to stay up with a changing market and are making sure every worker is involved in the process," he says.

Sabo rode the downturn by returning to school and is currently finishing his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Toledo, which he plans to put to good use at work as hundreds of workers transition to producing new EcoBoost engines.

"Education is vital, not only professionally but for the entire auto industry," he says. North America can take back its lead in manufacturing, Sabo says, but it requires the kind of joint company-labor commitment to promote ongoing high-tech training that he sees at Ford.

"Everyone here is working together to make a top-notch product," Sabo said. Even in the midst of the downturn, both the company and employees partnered to minimize the pain in order to boost morale. "Some of the older guys took time off, to prevent younger members, many of whom had kids at home, from having to be laid off."

And with the increasing need for more highly specialized training to keep the Big Three at the top of its game, the IBEW has a vital role to play in the industry's future. ■

Verizon Announces More than 600 Layoffs in New England and New Jersey

Verizon's announcement of more than 600 layoffs in New England and New Jersey is a blow to working families and to reliable high-speed Internet service for thousands of consumers, say International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers activists.

"Verizon's executives have pulled in almost \$350 million in the last five years," says East Windsor, N.J., Local 827 Business Manager Bill Huber, who represents approximately 5,000 Verizon employees throughout New Jersey. "For them to be slashing jobs and cutting needed services in these tough economic times is unacceptable."

The company made the announcement May 30. New Jersey will lose 382 wireline technician positions, while the New England area is slated to lose 306. The proposed layoffs could go into effect as early as September.

The cutbacks threaten not only basic upkeep and improvement of the company's wireline service, but future build-out of Verizon FiOS—the only all-fiber optic commercial network in America—putting needed investment in high-speed broadband at risk, says Boston Local 2222 Business Manager Myles Calvey.

"FiOS jobs are wireline jobs and by cutting its existing work force, Verizon is putting big paydays for its top executives above building a world-class telecommunications infrastructure," says Calvey, who represents more than 6,800 Verizon employees in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In June, the company announced further plans to reduce its landline work force, offering buyouts to 1,700 technicians and call-center employees in the District of Columbia and 12 states.

"Complaints from consumers are on the rise," said Huber in testimony before the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Verizon's failure to properly service and maintain its copper landline infrastructure and to live up to its commitment to bring FiOS service to communities across New Jersey prompted official hearings into the complaints.

"IBEW Local 827 is taking the lead in bringing these consumer complaints to the attention of the utility board, and taxpayers are glad someone is looking out for their interests," says Huber. "We stand ready to complete the FiOS fiber optic network that Verizon promised to deliver."

More than 45,000 workers from New England to Virginia struck for nearly two weeks last August to protest the company's draconian cutback demands.

Negotiations between the telecommunications giant and the IBEW and



Verizon Communications Corp. is looking to slash more than 2,000 landline jobs across the country, threatening build-out of high-speed broadband.

CWA on a new contract remain deadlocked, with Verizon putting the same package of givebacks on the table,

including eliminating the company's pension plan, giving management more leeway to outsource jobs and dramati-

cally increasing health care premiums and deductibles.

Speaking at Netroots Nation on June 9 in Providence, R.I., Verizon employee and Cranston Local 2323 member Eddie Blackburn updated the national gathering of progressive activists and bloggers on the current status of bargaining, saying that "frankly, we are no closer to a contract now than we were 10 months ago."

At the same time Verizon is cutting its work force, the company's wireless division continues to lobby for its proposed monopoly with cable companies—a deal which would end competition, raise prices and discontinue the development of a high-speed Internet infrastructure.

In the proposal announced in January, Verizon Wireless said it plans to purchase \$3.6 billion worth of spec-

trum from a consortium of top cable providers including Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Bright House Networks and Cox. If approved by the Federal Communications Commission, the telecommunications giant would begin offering "quad" play—combined video, Internet, voice, and wireless service.

"It will give Big Cable an unfair advantage in the marketplace, which means higher rates and fewer options for consumers, while stranding many communities with a 20th century telecommunications system," says Huber. "If this deal goes through, it's the end of genuine competition."

"Verizon continues to prioritize short-term profits above playing fair with workers and customers," says Calvey, who also represents the Second District on the IBEW's International Executive Council. ■

IBEW Reaches Tentative Agreement with AT&T

While tough times in the telecommunications industry are the reality for thousands of wireline workers, IBEW members at AT&T may be getting a brief reprieve.

Two weeks after negotiations kicked off just outside Chicago, the two parties reached a tentative agreement May 30 to extend the existing contract by 12 months. The contract—which covers 7,000 employees in Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and the Northwest—had been set to expire on June 23.

"I am pleased we were able to reach an agreement on extending the contract during this difficult time," said Ron Kastner, lead negotiator and business manager of Downer's Grove, Ill., Local 21.

"The IBEW is disappointed that the company has proposed major labor concessions in talks with the Communication Workers of America."

— Ron Kastner, lead negotiator and business manager of Downer's Grove, Ill., Local 21

Nearly all contract language will remain in effect, except for some modifications in benefits, which will be offset by signing bonuses and wage increases. The parties agreed that there will be no layoffs through September 14.

Members will vote by July 10 whether or not to ratify the tentative agreement. If it passes, new contract talks will be put on hold until next year. If it fails to ratify, the two parties will be back to the table in July.

IBEW leaders initially met with AT&T management May 15 in Hoffman Estates, Ill., to begin negotiations on a new agreement. Despite pulling in \$3.9 billion in net income last year, AT&T had been looking to impose concessions on the wireline work force, primarily in the area of health care benefits. The company maintains that its largely nonunion wireless division is picking up the fiscal slack of the sagging wireline sector, which employs IBEW members who maintain traditional landline technology.

"But that's simply not true," said Kevin Curran, IBEW International Representative in the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Department. "The wireline side has accounted for nearly half of the company's overall revenue. Also, without the service that our members provide to the wireline side, the wireless technology wouldn't work, plain and simple. This knocks down the company's argument that we maintain a so-called dying part of the industry."

Union employees at AT&T and rival company Verizon who work in the companies' wireline divisions have faced strong opposition from management in the past year.



The IBEW and AT&T reached a tentative agreement May 30 to extend the existing contract covering 7,000 workers by 12 months.

Last August, more than 45,000 members of the IBEW and CWA who work at Verizon walked off the job to protest the breakdown of the bargaining process and draconian cuts in their health care benefits while being slammed with higher retirement contributions. The parties resumed talks after members returned from a two-week strike.

When talks between the IBEW and AT&T opened in May, lead negotiator Kastner used his opening statement to express dismay at AT&T's efforts to erode the CWA members' hard-won gains. "The IBEW is disappointed that the company has proposed major labor concessions in talks with the Communication Workers of America," he said.

"However, there will be no harmony in the workplaces of AT&T should the company make those kinds of unreasonable demands—demands that would potentially wipe out 50 years of gains from those who fought those fights before us," Kastner continued. "This is not the future we see or want. This is not the AT&T America sees or wants."

Curran said that as AT&T is making sizeable earnings, "Our membership doesn't expect to take a bunch of diminishment at a time when we're significantly responsible for the company making such outstanding profits. If AT&T was on the verge of bankruptcy, we would have been having some different discussions, but it isn't."

IBEW members covered by the AT&T contract include members of System Council T-3, which is comprised of members from Downer's Grove, Ill., Local 21; Chicago Local 134; East Windsor, N.J., Local 827; San Francisco Local 1269; Philadelphia Local 1944; Boston Local 2222; Springfield, Mass., Local 2324; and Worcester, Mass., Local 2325.

Members perform inside and outside technical services, marketing and sales duties, clerical work and more. ■



Flash Mobs and YouTube: Creative Tactics Win Fair Contract for Manitoba Local

In June, Manitoba Hydro workers overwhelmingly approved one of their strongest contracts in recent memory, winning some long sought after changes, including a comparative wage survey of utility workers throughout Western Canada and an 8 percent wage increase over the life of the four-year contract.

Winnipeg Local 2034 Business Manager Mike Velie credits the local's bargaining success to Local 2034's willingness to expand its collective bargaining tool kit and experiment with new contract campaigning strategies—from flash mobs to YouTube.

"We tried out stuff we've never done before, and it paid off," says Velie, who represents more than 3,000 Manitoba Hydro workers.

Bargaining with the Crown corporation began last September. The local put in a lot of preparation beforehand, surveying the membership and following it up with in-person meetings with stewards—no mean feat in a province the approximate size of the United States' Northeast.

"We wanted to make sure the surveys accurately reflected our members' concerns," Velie says.

One of the top issues, says Velie, was pay. Manitoba Hydro workers' wages lagged behind those of their counterparts in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and they wanted the company to do an official survey of utility pay rates to prove it.

Negotiations soon hit a wall, however. But instead of calling a strike vote, the local decided to get creative.

In February, after watching a news story about a Manitoba Hydro-sponsored flash mob meant to promote physical fitness, the negotiating committee got an idea for one of its own. (A flash mob is a quickly assembled group of people—usually organized through social media channels—who come together for entertainment purposes or to raise awareness about an issue.) Local 2034 got the word out to members in the Winnipeg area to gather in the lobby of the company's main office for an impromptu "flash" rally during their lunch hour to pressure the utility to return to the bargaining table. The local posted photos of the event on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

"It got their attention fast," Velie says. "It worked because the members turned out."

The local also tapped into the power of YouTube—the popular Internet video network—to pressure the utility and clear up misinformation.

Some of the managerial staff had been telling non-IBEW employees they would be required to perform striking IBEW members' jobs, even though provincial labour law made it clear that this was not the case.

"The company couldn't force any of its employees to scab," says Velie. To get the word out, the local posted four videos about it on its YouTube channel and the message quickly spread.

Soon thereafter, the company sent a letter to all its supervisory employees,

informing them that they in fact didn't have to do the work of strikers.

The strength of YouTube, Velie says, is the ability of any video to go viral, giving the local in effect a global megaphone for bargaining.

"It wasn't the greatest publicity for the company to be called out in this way, and it forced them to change their approach," he says.

On April 18, with the help of a government appointed conciliator, the local reached a tentative agreement with

Manitoba Hydro—all without ever calling a strike vote.

Local 2034 also won a commitment from the company to give union leaders access to workers during company time to fully explain the agreement before the ballots were mailed.

"Only 26 percent of our members voted on the last contract, so we wanted to make sure everyone was fully informed and ready to vote," Velie says. Votes were tallied June 4.

"Tough situations require outside-



Winnipeg Local 2034 Business Manager Mike Velie on the local's YouTube channel

the-box thinking and a willingness to engage with the latest technologies and learn from others' successes," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming. ■

Les mobilisations éclairs et YouTube : des tactiques créatives qui ont contribué à la négociation d'une convention collective équitable pour une section locale du Manitoba

En juin dernier, la très grande majorité des employés d'Hydro-Manitoba ont approuvé une de leurs meilleures conventions collectives, de mémoire récente, en obtenant des changements réclamés depuis longtemps, dont une étude comparative des salaires des travailleurs des services publics de l'Ouest du Canada ainsi qu'une augmentation salariale de 8% étalée sur une période de quatre ans.

Le confrère Mike Velie, Gérant d'affaires de la section locale 2034 de Winnipeg, attribue le succès de ces négociations au fait que la section locale ait accepté de diversifier ses outils de négociation collective et d'expérimenter de nouvelles stratégies de négociation, notamment les mobilisations éclairs et YouTube. « Nous avons essayé des trucs qui n'ont jamais été faits auparavant et cela a porté fruit » dit le confrère Velie dont la section locale représente plus de 3,000 travailleurs d'Hydro-Manitoba à travers la province.

Les négociations avec la société d'État ont débuté en septembre. La section locale s'était bien préparée à l'avance en réalisant un sondage auprès de ses membres puis en effectuant un suivi en rencontrant les délégués syndicaux en personne—ce qui est tout un exploit dans une province dont la superficie est comparable à celle du Nord-Est des États-Unis.

« Nous voulions nous assurer que

les sondages reflètent de façon exacte les préoccupations de nos membres » déclare le confrère Velie.

Le salaire était l'une de leurs principales préoccupations. La rémunération salariale des travailleurs d'Hydro-Manitoba était inférieure à celle de leurs homologues en Saskatchewan et en Alberta et ils souhaitaient que la société réalise une étude officielle des taux de salaire dans le domaine du secteur public afin de le démontrer.

Toutefois, les négociations se sont rapidement heurtées à un mur. La section locale a alors décidé de faire preuve de créativité plutôt que de demander un vote de grève.

Une mobilisation éclair est le rassemblement d'un groupe de personnes dans un lieu public, généralement organisée par l'intermédiaire de réseaux sociaux, pour y effectuer des actions convenues d'avance ou afin d'attirer l'attention du grand public sur une question particulière.

Après avoir visionné un reportage, en février dernier, sur la mobilisation éclair organisée par Hydro-Manitoba et visant à favoriser la condition physique, le comité de négociation a eu l'idée d'utiliser eux-mêmes cette méthode!

La section locale 2034 a diffusé un message aux membres de la région de Winnipeg les invitant à un rassemblement éclair improvisé dans le hall d'entrée du bureau principal de la société, durant

l'heure du dîner, afin de mettre la pression sur la société pour qu'elle retourne à la table de négociations. Des photos de l'événement ont été affichées sur les pages Facebook et Twitter de la section locale.

« Le message a très vite suscité l'attention de la société et notre stratégie a bien fonctionné parce que les membres se sont présentés au rassemblement » affirme le confrère Velie.

La section locale a également eu recours au pouvoir de YouTube, le réseau social populaire pour les vidéos en ligne, pour faire pression sur la société et rétablir les faits en rectifiant la mauvaise information.

Certains cadres de la société d'État avaient répété à des employés qui ne sont pas membres de la FIOE, qu'ils seraient tenus d'effectuer le travail des membres de la FIOE en grève, même si les lois du travail montraient clairement que ce n'est pas le cas.

« La société ne pouvait pas obliger ses employés à devenir des briseurs de grève » indique le confrère Velie. Afin de diffuser cette nouvelle, la section locale a affiché quatre vidéos sur sa chaîne YouTube et le message s'est répandu rapidement.

Peu de temps après, la société a envoyé une lettre à tout son personnel d'encadrement les avisant qu'en effet, ils n'avaient pas à effectuer le travail des employés en grève.

La force de YouTube, c'est la capacité

du site de rendre les vidéos virales, en donnant à la section locale, par le fait même, un mégaphone pour la négociation.

« Cette publicité n'a pas été la meilleure qu'a reçue la société et se faire rappeler à l'ordre ainsi, l'a obligée à changer son approche » ajoute-t-il.

Le 18 avril dernier, avec l'aide d'un médiateur nommé par le gouvernement, la section locale a conclu une entente de principe avec Hydro-Manitoba, sans jamais avoir demandé la tenue d'un vote de grève.

La section locale 2034 a également obtenu un engagement de la société d'État à l'effet que les dirigeants syndicaux seraient autorisés à rencontrer les employés pendant les heures de travail afin de leur expliquer l'entente en détail avant que les bulletins de vote ne soient expédiés.

« Seulement 26% de nos membres avaient participé au vote sur la dernière convention collective; il était donc important de nous assurer que tout le monde soit pleinement informé et prêt à voter sur la convention collective actuelle » dit le confrère Velie. Les votes ont été comptabilisés le 4 juin dernier.

« Les situations difficiles exigent que nous sortions des sentiers battus, que nous nous intéressions aux plus récentes technologies et que nous apprenions des réussites des autres » conclut Phil Flemming, vice-président du Premier District. ■

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

Under the harshest of conditions, IBEW electricians in Afghanistan are making life safer and easier for U.S. and allied troops. www.youtube.com/user/TheElectricalWorker

Vimeo

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



HourPower

Tracy Bero, IBEW Hour Power's 2011 Apprentice of the Year, came to the IBEW later in life but has taken to it like a fish to water. Come and meet him in our latest feature story on IBEW Hour Power! 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, Idaho, and show how one contractor is doing it now on electricTV.net.



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. This year's event will be the 15th contest since its kickoff in 1997.

So grab your camera and see what develops. Because excellence in the trade yields more than just a job well done—it can be a work of art.

DEADLINE: OCT. 31, 2012

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

PRIZES

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

Name _____

Address _____

City and 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.

Circuits

NLC Degree Track Key to Success for IBEW member

At a time when many Ivy League grads have duct taped the words “hire me” on their mortar boards, it’s clear that the looming debt students frequently acquire has many degree seekers feeling skittish.

That’s why Las Vegas Local 357 member Alex Garcia decided to boost his brain power and earning potential with a degree from the National Labor College. Garcia is on track to soon graduate with a bachelor’s degree in business administration—all for a fraction of the cost of a high-priced university.

Garcia said one of the selling points for him was the fact that he could transfer past college credits and NJATC apprentice program credentials toward his degree.

“It was the best thing I could do,” he said. “I would tell other union members who are undecided about finishing their degree to get off the sidelines and get started.”

The father of two had been one of many in the Silver State enduring unemployment. Garcia said that finishing his degree had been a goal for some time, and the school’s flexible online schedule made it easier to balance academic and family responsibilities. Financial benefits from a Union Plus scholarship provided additional support.

“The Union Plus scholarship helped a lot, especially because I’ve been out of work,” Garcia said. “It allowed me to buy books and pay for my tuition. I was glad that I didn’t have to take out more loans.”

For more information on degree

programs, visit www.NLC.edu. To learn more about scholarship opportunities, go to www.UnionPlus.org. ■

Michigan Apprentices Lend a Hand to Local Nonprofits

For many young people with disabilities, horse riding is a proven therapy that can teach valuable life skills and offer soothing calmness. Now, one facility that specializes in such treatments is getting a big boost from Michigan IBEW members.

The Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center in Lansing could not afford to update its 30-year-old facilities and equipment. So last spring, Lansing Local 665 apprentices volunteered their skills to modernize the center, which teaches riding skills to students who need physical and cognitive supports.

Three apprentices installed and wired two automatic horse watering systems at the riding center, including watering boxes that automatically refill and heaters to keep the water flowing even in frigid temperatures. No longer will the center’s volunteers have to struggle to haul a heavy hose out of the greenhouse or deal with frozen water lines.

Lansing Electrical JATC Training Director Lawrence Hidalgo Jr. said this was an appealing project for his apprentices. “Our apprenticeship program is known for doing community work,” he said. “As soon as I received the call, I knew my students would want to help out.”

The riding facility is part of the Marvin E. Beekman Center, a program



Lansing Local 665 apprentices helped install an automatic horse watering system at a therapeutic riding center.

that provides assistance to those with special needs so they can achieve their full potential. Therapeutic riding offers students companionship, responsibility, confidence, leadership and vocational and educational skills, says the center’s staff.

The riding program began in 1979 with a small group of weekly volunteers during the warmer months. Today, Beekman Therapeutic provides year-round

services to 30-40 students per week with the help of nearly 50 volunteers.

Even after receiving a grant for renovations, the center was limited by a lean budget. That’s when Beekman Program Manager Janet Gross was referred to Hidalgo, who immediately recognized the unique opportunity for his apprentices to combine on-the-job experience with local community outreach.

Hidalgo and his apprentices

received high marks from the center staff. “They really did a top-notch job and everyone was great to work with,” Gross said. “We couldn’t have asked for anything better.”

Hidalgo and Gross also coordinated to have four apprentices wire lights and electrical outlets at a pool barn on the Beekman site that houses equipment for the local Special Olympics. Anne Goudie, director of Special Olympics for Ingham and Eaton counties, said the upgrades help with security because staff often returns from the games after dark to

drop off equipment.

“We were grateful to get so much help on these projects,” added Gross. “When they turned on those automatic watering systems and gave them life, it was a golden moment for us.”

To see the riding center’s newly renovated facility, visit the Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center Facebook page at www.facebook.com/btrc2901. ■

Transitions

RETIRED Mary Harrigan



Sixth District International Representative Mary Harrigan retired effective June 1.

Initiated into St. Paul, Minn., Local 2047 in 1972, Sister Harrigan worked as an inspector at a Unisys manufacturing plant focused on Defense Department contracts. After serving on the safety committee and editing the local’s newsletter, Harrigan was appointed chief steward in the 2,000-worker plant.

“I credit the IBEW with helping to complete my education,” says Harrigan, who received the union’s Founders’ Scholarship to help pay for a B.A. degree in labor studies from the University of Minnesota. “It was a great and generous deal for me and I always encourage others to apply like I did.”

In 1989, Harrigan was appointed to the Sixth District staff and began servicing locals representing manufacturing,

broadcasting and railroad workers.

Looking back on her activities—from organizing campaigns to shop steward training to bargaining contracts—Harrigan says, “I’ve met so many amazing, devoted people in the membership and leadership of the Sixth District and the IBEW. This has been way more than just a job.” The progressive leadership of her district, says Harrigan, is evident in its sponsorship of yearly women’s conferences, the sole district in the IBEW to hold such a meeting. “The Sixth District staff is the best group of brothers anywhere,” she says.

“This is a super exciting time to be part of the labor movement,” says Harrigan, whose father was an activist in the postal workers union and the Democratic Farmer Labor Party. At the beginning of her union career, she says, members would come to meetings and ask questions about their own jobs and contracts. Today, members are concerned about a much broader scope of issues.

“It’s no longer just the economics of the workplace,” says Harrigan, who was an activist in the 1960s. “It’s about social justice,” linking the labor movement to struggles for full inclu-

sion for all Americans, opposing discrimination based upon race, gender and sexual orientation.

Sister Harrigan, who traveled to Wisconsin last year to oppose Gov. Scott Walker’s attacks on unions asks, “How often did we used to hear people outside of the labor movement talk about collective bargaining?” Now, she says,

“I’ve met so many amazing, devoted people in the membership and leadership of the Sixth District and the IBEW. This has been way more than just a job.”

— Mary Harrigan

“There is an awakening of consciousness and a reaching out to youth.”

“I hope to see my family and friends a lot more [in retirement] and travel,” says Harrigan, who has already been to Europe, China, the Philippines and Argentina and hopes to go back to some of those countries and add new ones to her itinerary. ■



Las Vegas Local 357 member Alex Garcia—pictured here with his family—is earning his degree in business administration from the National Labor College.

Local Lines

Members Hold Public Office

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st,ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—In early April, volunteers from Fire Fighters Local 2665 in St. Louis conducted a training session called “Fire Ops 101.” The course was designed to give elected officials the opportunity to see what exactly firemen do on an everyday basis and the training that is required to perform the job. The course consisted of hands-on residential fires, commercial fires, CPR, vehicle extrication and EMS transport.

Bros. Lou Cunningham and Matt Gober were invited by Fire Fighters Local 2665 to attend the daylong session, and they were thrown “right into the fire.” Lou serves as Fire Board director in the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District, while Matt serves as Fire Board director in the O’Fallon Fire Protection District. Both members were impressed with the professionalism and training that was evident during the daylong affair at the Firefighters Training Center in St. Peters, MO.

Local 1 has a history of members holding public office and ensuring projects in the districts are done favorable to labor. Thanks to Fire Fighters



Local 2665 for an informative, eye-opening day! Please be advised of the following members’ deaths: Robert Killian, Richard Dickhaner, Avon Lewis, Roy Denny, Frank Byer, Robert Foerstel, Ronald Claridge, Mark Newman, Patrick Dougherty, Hermann Mohrmann, Leo Rufkahr, Larry Weston and Robert Wallace.

Matt Gober, P.S.

IBEW Local 1 journeyman wiremen Matt Gober (left) and Lou Cunningham spent the day in a crash course in firefighting.

We Are One’ Rallies

L.U. 9 (catv,govt,lctt,o&u), CHICAGO, IL—On April 17, Local 9 members joined with other union brothers and sisters from the state of Illinois to rally against Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. Gov. Walker was hosted by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. He is trying to persuade Illinois businesses to relocate to his neighboring state—taking good jobs away from Illinois residents.

Thousands of union members turned out to tell Gov. Walker he is not welcome in Illinois.

Bus. Mgr. Robert Pierson recently honored our longstanding members at the 50-year service pin dinner. Congratulations to these members who have reached 50 or more years of service: 50 years of service—Michael Doll, Ronald Gibertini, Henry Jordan; 55 years—Donald Birmingham, William Bryers, James Cloud, John Kane, William Madigan, William McNulty, William Nelson, John Olson, Edwin Paulson, Lloyd Schneiderman, William Spencer, Roy Steigerwald, Bert Viverito; 60 years—Frank Adamczyk, James Durkin, Edward Hastings, Fabio Mercado, William Roelle, Robert Thurber; and 65 years—William Hennessey, James Kiley. We appreciate your dedication to the IBEW.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events. The annual Local 9 Golf Outing will be Saturday, Aug. 11, at Glen Eagles Country Club. Join us on Saturday, Sept. 8, for the annual Local 9 Family Picnic. Check our Web site www.ibew9.org for complete details for both events.

Mary Beth Kaczmarek, P.S.

Local Update

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—On April 28, many members participated in Workers Memorial Day events across the state. Retired Local 15 member Ron Welte was master of ceremonies at Rockford.

A Commercial Clerical Stewards Meeting was held in March. Talks continue on the Call Center consolidation, with members providing input on various issues.

Business reps and members participated in the We Are One Rally in Springfield, protesting Wisconsin Gov. Walker’s visit to Illinois.

In April, our representatives attended the IBEW Safety Caucus in Wisconsin; members gained valuable information to help our people continue working safely.

At this writing, we were also close to holding a vote on a new Nuclear Outage Agreement. Business reps went to each nuclear station in May to explain the package and take questions.

On the fossil side, Midwest Generation announced that Fisk and Crawford are scheduled to close in September 2012. Meetings are being held to discuss a possible severance/retirement package and the reduction in force process.

Pres./Bus. Mgr. Dean Apple selected the 2012 Local 15 Scholarship Committee: Christine Watkins, Roberta Hibler, Mike Keating, William Genz and Nery Fajardo. They will select winners of the 10 \$500 Scholarships. They also will award a special scholarship donated by the family of Dylan Van Cura in memory of Dylan, a Local 15 member who died in 2011 in a car accident.

Doug Vedas, P.S.

Work Picture Promising

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI—It was recently announced that DTE Energy is the biggest capital investor in the state of Michigan. This news is part of the reason the work picture in 2012 looks very promising for Local 17. We are currently working on numerous distribution, transmission, substation and renewable energy projects. Our Line Clearance Tree Trimmer group is also scheduled to trim out 4,300 line miles this year. In the last two years, 22 companies have signed letters of assent, and our membership has grown by 700 members. There are 144 apprentice tree trimmers working on the property, bringing the number of line



Sixth District Int. Vice Pres. Lonnie R. Stephenson (in red shirt) and Asst. Bus. Mgrs. Joseph Notaro (front row, left) and John Burkard (front row, third from left) with Local 9 members at the We Are One Illinois Rally.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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\$10.00

Golf Towel

High quality golf towel with IBEW logo and sturdy clip. Measures 15 1/2" x 24".



\$1.75

Golf Tees

2 3/4" black wooden tee with white IBEW initials (25 tees per pack).



\$9.50

Divot Tool

Combination divot tool, money clip, and ball marker with IBEW logo.

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

Trade Classifications

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

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

clearance tree trimmers to just over 700. The work picture for our Commercial Agreements is also steady at this time.

Our Tree Jamboree and Local 17 picnic are scheduled for Aug. 11. Our 18th annual Linemen's Rodeo is scheduled for Aug. 4; for details please see our Web site at www.ibewlocal17.org. Contract negotiations with DTE Energy started the last week of June and will continue through August.

We congratulate the following members on their retirements: Dave May, Chuck Parmenter, Mike Scheible and Bob Runstrom. A special recognition goes to newly retired member Tom Machi, who has helped and supported this local for more than 30 years. Thanks, Tom.

Dean Bradley, P.S.

'Full Slate of Activities'

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Let the summer begin! With a full slate of activities planned again this year, we are excited to hopefully see some new families get together and take part in the camaraderie of the Brotherhood.

It is never too soon to discuss this year's presidential election. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney stated to an ABC audience that if elected president, "On day one, I will end the government's favoritism towards unions in contracting on federal projects and end project labor agreements and I will fight to repeal the Davis Bacon Act." I think we know whose side Mr. Romney is on.

We also have other important upcoming elections this year and will be looking for volunteers for the phone bank and to knock on doors. Please take a part in your union—that's when it works best.

Gregory R. Inglut, A.B.M.

Anniversary/Tribute Dinner

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Work continues to hold steady in our area. Our Book I is clear of all who want to be working, as well as putting out a number of Book II brothers and sisters.

On April 13 we celebrated our 115th anniversary in the IBEW with a Tribute Dinner that also honored recently retired Third District Int. Rep. and past Local 43 business manager Jeremiah "Jerry" F. Comer. Over 400 people attended, including Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Third District Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel. Both Pres. Hill and Vice Pres. Siegel spoke as part of the program to toast/roast Jerry Comer on his retirement. It was an honor to have both of them be a part of our celebration. Hats off to the dinner chairmen (Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan, Pres. Pat Costello, Peter Dulcich, Al Marzullo and Pat Harrington) along with the dinner committee (David Brandhorst, Paul Kloc, Tim Lazore,

Chuck Palmisano and Jason Spagnola), who made this a very special night for all who attended.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

Annual Stewards Conference

L.U. 47 (lctt,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy July Fourth. Celebrate, and thank a veteran on the most American of holidays.

We had our Annual Stewards' Conference on May 5 in Temecula. More than 250 stewards, staff and officers attended. Among the guest speakers were: Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia, Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey, Eighth District Int. Vice Pres. Ted C. Jensen, IEC Chmn. Robert W. Pierson, Construction and Maintenance Dept. Dir. Jerry Westerholm, Int. Rep. Charles Randall, retired Int. Rep. Art Murray, and Daniel E. "Rudy" Reutigger from Notre Dame.

Three separate Outside Line Construction agreements were ratified in May. Agreements with Western Line Constructors NECA, Henkels & McCoy and Asplundh were ratified by over 85 percent on average. The agreements run three years with 2.25 percent, 2.75 percent, and 3 percent wage increases and an additional \$.75 to NEAP through May 31, 2015.

Our Annual Desert Days event was held in March at Stoddard Wells, CA. Every year a Local 47 mini-city springs up in the desert as motor homes, trailers and tents packed with IBEW families and friends get together for off-road fun on dirt bikes and ATVs.

Local 47 mourns the loss of Bros. Larry Scott and Mike Perez. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Work safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.



Local 47 Bus. Mgr. and IEC member Pat Lavin (left) and Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia at the Local 47 Annual Stewards Conference.



Attending Local 43 dinner celebration, from left: retired Int. Rep. Jeremiah "Jerry" Comer, Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Bus. Mgr. Don Morgan, Int. Vice Pres. Donald C. Siegel, and retired former business manager and Int. Rep. Dan Bova.



Local 53 Vice Pres. Tracy Riley (left), Pres. Steve White, retired former business manager and IEC member Lyle Keith Query, and Bus. Mgr. Robert Stuart.

Great Things to Celebrate

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—Local 53 awarded retiree service pins at a recent luncheon.

Congratulations to Lyle Keith Query, former longtime Local 53 business manager and past IEC member, who received his 55-year service pin (see photo). In Keith's 55 years, he has accomplished great things for Local 53 and the Brotherhood. You are truly appreciated, Brother Query, for all your hard work and dedication.

Also receiving retiree pins at the luncheon: for 70 years of service—Kenneth Young; for 65 years' service—Vergil Endicott, Charles Jones, Eldon Judd, Clarence Sledd, Jimmie Weber, Raymond Widener; 60 years—Blane Bollinger, Bill Harber, Jean Hickman, John Mooneyham, David Switzer; 55 years—Jerome Servart, Melvin Simmons, Richard Williams; 50 years—Earl Dymond and Carl Wilson.

Retirement: from New Madrid Power Plant—Greg Goff, journeyman machinist/mechanic, May 1, 2012, after 18 years of service.

Labor Day Celebration: Our annual Labor Day parade is coming up soon. Welcome to locals from all over to come join in. Plan on attending; there will be good food, family fun, games and recognizing organized labor at its best. More details, dates and times will be provided at the general meeting; or please call (816) 421-5464.

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

Tracy A. Riley, V.P.

Work Picture Update

L.U. 71 (lctt,o&rtb), COLUMBUS, OH—Distribution and URD work has slowed on American Electric Power (AEP) property due to the Public Utilities Commission revoking the rate increases that they just approved last year. The new amended rates that were submitted should be ruled on by July.



Cincinnati Unit Chmn. Jack Reincke (left) presents check to Local 71 Bro. Bruce Brinson.

Transmission and station work has remained steady with more work in the pipeline, and we continue to fight the uphill battle to win back our commercial work and protect our jurisdiction.

Cincinnati Unit Chmn. Jack Reincke presented a check to Bro. Bruce Brinson, on behalf of the membership, for victims of the tornado outbreak in southern Ohio (see photo at bottom, right). Thanks to Bro. Brinson for his efforts in volunteering to help those in need.

I would like to ask everyone to please keep our longtime secretary, Mrs. Phyllis Price, in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. Phyllis started working for the membership in the late 1960s under then B.A. Buck Wooddell. Good luck, Phyllis! And remember—no one fights alone!

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

Local Purchases New Building

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—IBEW Local 77 recently purchased a new building in the Seattle area located at 19415 International Blvd., Seatac, WA. At their recent Unit Conference, members of the Building Committee provided a Powerpoint presentation of the layout of the new building (photo below).

The new building will serve the membership needs of Local 77 for the next 50 years.

Pat Darling, P.S.



Front row, Local 77 Bus. Mgr. Don Guillot (left), Pres. Rick Johnson, Executive Board member Steve Easton and Rec. Sec. David Wheeler; back row, Executive Board member Gary Lawson, Building Committee members John Cone, Ben Little, Mark Johnston and Randy Coleman.

Transmission Infrastructure

L.U. 83 (u), BINGHAMTON, NY—Work continues in Albany to fight the proposed Champlain-Hudson power line that would bring power directly from Canada to New York City. This line would be devastating to the power plants and IBEW workers. We need to rebuild the New York transmission infrastructure and get the power generated in New York to New York City. On May 15, New York state Sen. George Maziarz introduced legislation to stop such practices as the proposed Champlain-Hudson power line from happening. His bipartisan-sponsored bill will additionally result in the right outcome for upgrades to the current New York state transmission systems and create jobs here.

If you are not registered to vote, please do so as soon as possible. Call the Local 83 office for help. Election season is upon us and we will need to help those who have helped us!

Don Tuttel, P.S.

Local Lines

Hospital Construction Projects

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA—Local 103's Annual Sports Night was held Saturday, March 17, at UMass Boston. The journeyman vs. apprentice basketball game was close, however, the apprentices defeated the journeymen by two points; final score 75 to 73. It was a different story on the ice as the journeyman hockey team defeated the apprentices 16-5. The MVPs of the basketball and hockey games were Mike Paulson and Bob Rosata, respectively. In the pee-wees-squirts-mites hockey game played by Local 103 members' children, the green team won over the white team with a final score of 18-11.

On Saturday morning, April 28, members from Local 103 took part in Boston Shines. This is a city-wide project happening throughout Boston's neighborhoods to help pitch in with spring cleanup. Our members focused their efforts in the Dorchester neighborhoods.

The Lowell General Hospital and UMass Lowell's new Emerging Technologies Center are two large jobs won by Local 103 signatory contractors Sullivan & McLaughlin Co. and Broadway Electrical Co. These are just two of the many hospital construction jobs that have been awarded to our contractors. Hospital owners are seeing the results of the premium health care provided to our members in the quality of our craftsmanship and productivity.

Kevin Molineaux, P.S.

'To Define a Canadian'

L.U. 105 (catv,i&o), HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA—We thank our fellow IBEW brothers at several Ontario locals for the work in their area, particularly: Barrie Local 1739 (Bus. Mgr. Tom Leduc); Sudbury Local 1687 (Bus. Mgr. Bruce McNamara); Ottawa Local 586 (Bus. Mgr. James Barry); and St. Catharines Local 303 (Bus. Mgr. Peter Wall).

Congratulations to our hockey team for its good strong effort in Kingston. Kudos to manager Ron Lewis and coach Rick Mowit for all their hard work and dedication to our team.

Local 105 Bus. Mgr. Lorne Newick set up a photovoltaic solar installation course, which will be running continually. It is important for us to continue to train ourselves in these fields in order to continue the fight against the nonunion.

To our U.S. brothers and sisters who are not familiar with Canada and your fellow members up North, I offer the following. First, check out the music of Stompin' Tom Connors, a true Canadian and artist. On a more serious note, here are the words of the Canadian Pledge of Allegiance: "I am a Canadian, a free Canadian; free to speak without fear; free to worship God in my own way; free to stand for what I think right; free to oppose what I believe wrong; and free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and for all mankind."

Phil Brown, P.S.

'A Friend to Labor'

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO—I must take this opportunity to sincerely thank Ms. Mary Gibson, who has been our newsletter editor for 31 years as well as author of the Local 111 Journey History Books, for her dedication, participation and unwavering support to Local Union 111.

Mary has taken on many hats over the years,

but she will always be regarded as a friend to labor and our causes. Her accomplishments for this local are vast; she has won several awards and recognition from her peers for her work. She is the one person who I can say has captured every important and challenging moment for this union. Her graciousness to our members, retirees, officers and staff cannot go unnoticed. Her experience and skill in interviewing many individuals over the years provided the membership with an insight into the trials and tribulations of the local.

Mary will be deeply missed, but we also sincerely wish her well as she ventures into retirement. Thank you, Mary Gibson, for all you have done for this local.

Mike Kostecky, P.S.



Local 111 Pres. Mike Kostecky (left), Mary Gibson and Bus. Mgr. Mike Byrd.

Dedicated Service

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—For the past 16 years, Doug Shaffer has served as the treasurer of our local's Executive Board. With more than 22 years of service, the Portland General Electric employee has accepted a new position, which has required him to resign from the Executive Board.

Doug's commitment to our local has been felt by more than IBEW members. His leadership and support of the Oregon Burn Center has been instrumental in the local's successful fundraising efforts for many years. He has worked tirelessly to educate our membership on the value that the facility provides, not only for our members when unfortunate events happen, but for the Pacific Northwest, in general. Burn prevention education and the construction of the Healing Garden both have been marked by Doug's commitment to the center.

On behalf of the membership, staff and fellow Executive Board members, thank you, Doug, for the support, commitment and vision that you have provided to our great union. Best of luck, Doug!

Marcy Putman, P.S.



Doug Shaffer, former Local 125 Executive Board member.

Project Development Pending

L.U. 159 (i), MADISON, WI—Greetings, sisters and brothers. At this writing, we are in the final stretch of our recall efforts, with the recall election scheduled for June 5. By the time you read this, we will



Local 193 members attend April labor rally against Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels' visit to Champaign, IL. Former business manager Mike Patsche (front, left side) is interviewed by Channel 3 of Champaign.

know the results; at press time, things are looking very uncertain. Hopefully, all the hard work over the past year and a half will bring us victories in the gubernatorial and state Senate seats. The outcome of these elections will not only impact the citizens of Wisconsin but our entire country.

[Editor's Note: Although Gov. Scott Walker, aided by a flood of secret corporate cash, retained his seat in the June 5 recall election, Wisconsin working families continue to show steady resolve in their courageous stand for hard-working people. At press time, it appears that working families won back the state Senate with former state Sen. John Lehman's victory over the Walker-ally incumbent. If that win holds, it will reclaim the Democratic majority in the state Senate.]

On the work front, we will see a much improved work picture. But with 180 on Book I and over 200 on Book II, we will have to see how these projects develop and eventually man up. At least we should see Book I numbers go down significantly.

Have a safe summer and remember to vote in November!

Joel Kapusta, B.A.

Strong Showing at Rally

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—As of this writing, contract negotiations with City Water Light and Power have not been good. At press time, the contract is being voted upon again after not passing. Nelson Tree Trimming Service signed a one-year contract. The work scene for the Inside has 94 on Journeyman Wireman Book 1.

Local 193 made strong showings at the April 19 "Anti-Scott Walker Rally" in Springfield along with thousands of other union members. Gov. Mitch Daniels was in Champaign County, to speak to GOP

board members. Local 193 members and thousands of others let "Rat to Work" Daniels know where he was. Every organization in Sangamon County, along with Local 193, is embracing "Changing the Face of Tomorrow," a program to increase diversity in all apprenticeship programs.

Mark Ayers, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades, passed away April 8. Ayers was a former IBEW Local 34 business manager and previously served as director of the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Department. We mourn Mark's passing and will miss a true "Labor Man!"

Chris Godefroid and Tom Rachford passed away recently. Tom was the oldest member of Local 193 at age 101. We miss all of our deceased brothers and cherish their memory.

Projects of big box stores, St. John's and Memorial Hospitals are on the horizon. Four apprentices were hired at Dallman Power House. Ten inside apprentices may be taken. Never forget to vote for your union contract and government officials; the dividends are huge!

Don Hudson, P.S.

Members Active & Involved

L.U. 197 (em&i), BLOOMINGTON, IL—We topped out another fine group of apprentices. Congratulations to Ryan Black, Trace Brim, Daryl Erschen, James Evans, Cory Gerdes, Dax Hedden, Jeremy Johnson, Cory Leake, Jonathon Leman, Matt Mulford, Jason Petri, Brian Schrof, Rod Taylor, Brock Werner and Mike Wyatt. Mike Wyatt earned the highest GPA for the year, and over the course of five years James Evans earned the highest GPA. We look forward to working with you all.

Thanks to all who have attended the labor rallies in Springfield and Champaign. Some politicians



Local 197 members attend rally to oppose so-called "right-to-work." From left: Clint Johnson, Tim Kubiak, Matt Strupp, Alan McKimmy, Tom Peasley, Jim Suppan, Troy Prescott, Jacob Goar, Steve Rousey, Mike Raikes, Mike Russell, Aaron Liming and Josh Scaggs. Not pictured: Clint Miller, Zeke Paire and Eric Riddle.

are conducting an onslaught against working people and trying to bust the unions, affecting the way we make a living.

We cannot compete with the massive funds corporate America pumps into elections. What we do have are loud voices and active members fighting for our rights. Now is the time for our members to unite and get active promoting union friendly candidates. Show up at rallies, call legislators and knock on doors. Otherwise, we could find ourselves in a so-called "right-to-work" state and our collective bargaining rights stripped.

On April 28 we had a Workers Memorial Day Ceremony at White Oak Park. Despite rain and cold, several members attended: John Moss, Don Armstrong, Tom Peasley, Steve Rousey, Lance Reece, Jacob Goar and Matt Strupp.

Remember to stay involved.

Mike Raikes, P.S.

Apprenticeship Training Success

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA—Every university, tech school and trade school touts the merits of its training as the best. As training goes, folks want the most bang for their hard-earned (or borrowed) buck. This is where we have the advantage! Sadly, however, some seem to think of apprenticeships as antiquated methods from a bygone area.

A solid system, in place for millennia, apprenticeship training has been overshadowed by marketing strategy, guidance counselors and even parents. Somehow the idea of success has been interwoven with promissory notes to Sally Mae. But this is not the truth!

IBEW electrical apprentices are proof that union apprenticeship training programs are excellent and provide a great track to make a decent living. In most cases great training and OJT (on-the-job training) hours are available in the electrical field as well as other trades—for free!

Locally, we have taken training by the horns. Led by third-year NJATC Instructor Shane Schaale, construction has been completed on four craft-certification booths that will be used to evaluate apprentices as they demonstrate the skills necessary to become journeymen. Journeymen will also be able to use the booths to refresh their skills.

Kudos to volunteers who helped make our training facility a reality: Bruce Brown, Travis Brown, Jack Green, Ron Hilbert, Joel Kauffman, Chris LaCroix, Evan Meyers, Eric Plank, Jim Ross, Zach Roth, Shane Schaale, Mike Shoell, Chace Stewart, Ian Tipping and Darin Wolf. Thank you for your commitment to training and to your local!

Anthony Palermo, P.S.



Local 229 training booth.

'Signing Our Work with Pride'

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ—Burlington Township Fire Department (Fire District No.1) found out the real benefits of building union. When the firemen of Burlington Township hired MJF Electrical Contractors of Trevese, PA, they had no idea just how far Local 269 members go to support our friends in the community.

After electrical construction was completed at the new facility under a project labor agreement, Bus. Mgr. Stephen Aldrich and former business manager Dennis Doyle decided that a great way to add Local 269's signature to this project would be to donate the labor and material as well as purchase the sign itself for the new firehouse.

This project was a team effort by our brothers who invested their time and talents to completing the project. Operating Engineer Bruce Chambers, IUOE Local 542, provided the garage for the team of electricians to build, weld and wire the sign. MJF Electric owner and Bro. Michael J. Fuchs installed underground conduits; Powers Electric Co. owner and Bro. Rick Arnold provided electrical materials. Electrical contractor and Bro. David Cray of Ed Cray Electric Co. augured the holes and poured the concrete foundation and anchor bolts. SM Electric Co. provided the crane to lift the sign into place.

The sign itself was manufactured by Fair Play, an IBEW manufacturing company.

See accompanying photo of members who performed the electric work as well as construction and installation of the sign. Great job, gentlemen. Your message to our community is clear: "Local 269 signs their jobs with pride."

D. Brian Proctor, P.S.

Local Update

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rts&spa), DES MOINES, IA—There's good news and bad news. Which do you want to hear first? So here's the good news—organizing efforts in the wind generation industry seem to be bearing fruit. Workers at Trinity Structural Towers in Newton, IA, ratified their first labor agreement with the company. A lot of hard work went into this by both parties to the agreement. This is evidence that labor relations can work for the benefit of all. Congratulations to all on your successful outcome.

An organizing effort has begun at TPI, a wind-blade manufacturer, in Newton. Initial interest looks hopeful. Translux in Des Moines is looking at hiring for a new product, a four-foot LED fixture.

The bad news is that contracts awarded for continued construction of wind-generation facilities in the state of Iowa have been going nonunion. This is a very disappointing development to Local 347.

There is some evidence of construction spending in central Iowa, but there is much room for expansion. As of this writing, a solar photovoltaic class is being offered to journeymen.

Have a safe and fun Independence Day.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

Miami Town Hall Meeting

L.U. 349 (em,es,i,mps,rtb,rts,spa&u), MIAMI, FL—Local 349 was the location for the first in a multi-city series of town-hall style meetings launched by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Int. Sec.-Treas. Sam Chilia.

More than 500 IBEW members from 14 south Florida IBEW locals participated in the Miami meet-



South Florida members attend IBEW Town Hall meeting held at Miami Local 349.

ing in March. Int. Pres. Hill, Int. Sec.-Treas. Chilia and IBEW Political/Legislative Affairs Dept. Dir. Brian Baker spoke about the future of the IBEW and the labor movement, revitalizing the membership and the upcoming 2012 elections. Int. Pres. Hill praised the success of IBEW's Florida Initiative and answered questions from the members. Lunch was served after the Town Hall meeting by Local 349 Pres. David Karcher and the Entertainment Committee.

This election year, your job may depend on how you vote. Mitt Romney said at a meeting of the Associated Builders and Contractors: "If I become president of the United States, I will curb the practice we have in this country of giving union bosses an unfair advantage in contracting. One of the first things I will do—actually on day one—is I will end the government's favoritism toward unions in contracting on federal projects and end project labor agreements. I also will make sure that workers in America have the right to secret ballot and I will fight for right-to-work laws. I will fight to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act." We don't need him as president.

Attend your union meetings. Make your union strong. Get registered and vote for labor-friendly candidates.

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

Union Members Honored

L.U. 351 (c,cs,i,it,lctt,mt,o,se,spa&t), FOLSOM, NJ—At our April general meeting we honored all of our members who have retired during 2011. They each received IBEW watches engraved with their names. We wish them the very best in their retirement and hope they remain active in the local and participate in all our events and functions.

On Saturday, April 21, we held a cocktail reception and a dinner dance at Bally's hotel and



At April meeting are, standing, from left, Local 351 Pres. Bill Hosey, Dirk Rannels, Brian Molloy, Nash Lowry, Mark Miller, Mike Walsh, Jim Debeer, Neil Anderson, Jim Gray, Bus. Mgr. Ed Gant; sitting, Nick Krentz, Bob Rowson, Kathy D'Aonzo, Rich Durboaw, Tony Vazquez and Bill Comfort. The empty chair is in tribute to deceased Bro. Bob Menna and other retired members who have passed.

casino in Atlantic City. IBEW service pins were distributed to members who had 20- plus years of service. It was a great evening and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. I urge all our members to take advantage of the many events within our local. They are always good times and are always well attended.

Daniel Cosner, P.S.

Kudos to JATC Graduates

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—Summer is here, brothers

and sisters, and the Las Vegas sun is pounding down. Let us all remember to drink plenty of water, protect our skin, and make sure our co-workers are doing the same. We must watch over our brothers and sisters and be aware of the signs of dehydration, sun and heat stroke.

We wish to recognize and thank our local EWMC for creating and coordinating the Easter "Eggstravaganza" held at the hall on Saturday, April 7. As the local's first event of this kind, it provided the opportunity for members to bring their families for games, an Easter egg hunt, a visit with the Easter bunny, and a movie with hamburgers, hotdogs and popcorn.

We also congratulate this year's graduates. We thank our JATC and appreciate the many hours of instruction and education provided for our members. Local 357 is honored to have graduated the class of 2012 on May 16, with 131 journeyman wiremen and 10 installer technician graduates. We look forward to working alongside you all and recognize your commitment to being a highly skilled union worker.

Aaron L. Jones, P.S.

Career Day a Great Success

L.U. 363 (catv,em,govt,i,t,u&ws), NEW CITY, NY—Career Day at Rockland Community College was once again a great success. Co-chairman Craig Jacobs, Local 363 JATC director, has for the 13th year helped direct the Annual Hudson Valley Construction Career Day into a great event for all. Along with the IBEW, the Pipe & Steamfitters, Bricklayers, Teamsters, Painters and Operating Engineers set up displays, demos and hands-on booths that provide a great day for about 900 high school students from five counties.

Local Lines

The students are bused in, given a hard hat and a brown bag lunch, walked through all the booths and given insight into a possible union-trade future. What's also great is we get a large turnout and support of many politicians on a county and a state level. Also thanks to Local 363's instructors and volunteer apprentices for their help in set-up and breakdown.

Kevin Keeley, P.S.

Big Solar Park Project

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA—While the work picture remains very slow, a long-awaited solar project has started in our jurisdiction. The Nesquehoning Solar Park Project is owned and developed by Consolidated Edison Company of New York and has been in the planning stages for four years. Parkside Site & Utility Company Corp. of Rhode Island is the electrical contractor on this project and has reached its peak manpower projection with 75 Local 375 journeymen and apprentices manning the project.

This 10-megawatt AC (11.5 megawatt DC) facility on 134 acres with an approximate cost of \$63 million will reportedly be the largest solar array in Pennsylvania. It will have over 40,000 solar panels when completed sometime in early fall. We are certainly grateful for the work opportunities this project has provided for our membership. Hopefully the projected Phase 2 becomes a reality and our members can extend their employment into this next phase.

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

IBEW Lifesaving Award

L.U. 413 (i&mo), SANTA BARBARA, CA—At our March 15 union meeting Pres. Joe Furino presented the IBEW Lifesaving Award to Bro. Edwin Morales. Morales took quick action while coming to the aid of another Local 413 brother in need on Aug. 14, 2011. Bro. Morales's quick action saved Bro. Robert Day's life.

Work at this writing is very scarce in Local 413. Local 413 purchased a new building across the street from the hall to expand hands-on-apprenticeship and journeyman training.

The LMCC-sponsored Boys and Girls Club Bowling Fundraiser held Feb. 25 was a huge success, raising \$2,887 for the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Maria. Fifteen teams of apprentices, journeymen, contractors, vendors and families took part in the event.

Another "corporate power grab" funded by right-wing billionaires aimed at silencing union members' voices in California has qualified for this November's ballot. Some experts are saying that if this ballot measure passes it will be the day California will start to become a so-called "right-to-work" state. We need to turn out to defeat this measure! For more information visit www.californialabor.org/corporatedeception.

Chuck Huddleston, B.M./F.S.



Local 413 presents IBEW Lifesaving Award. From left: Bus. Mgr. Chuck Huddleston, Bro. Robert Day, award recipient Bro. Edwin Morales and Pres. Joseph Furino.



Local 441 Rosendin Electric crew at the Orange County Operations Facility job site in Santa Ana, CA.

Effort to Silence Workers

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA—Once again anti-union millionaires from Orange County aim to attack union members in California, introducing a misleading ballot measure that will be voted on at the general election in November. The measure, disguised as an initiative to get special interest money out of politics, really only targets union members and their ability to have political contributions deducted from their paycheck, while healthy corporations reserve the right to spend unlimited amounts on politics. Corporations already outspend unions 15-1 in political campaigns. Presented as reform, the result of this measure would effectively silence the worker and increase corporate influence in the political arena. Our free speech rights as union members—the same rights corporations claim for themselves—should not be subject to the popular mood. To learn more, visit www.californialabor.org/corporatedeception.

Rosendin Electric recently landed several projects in Orange County's jurisdiction, some of which involve solar. One of the projects in particular has been contracted with the County of Orange and provides for construction of carports with photovoltaic panels on top that will create energy for the building facilities. Rosendin will construct this application at several county facilities, which promises to provide lots of job opportunities.

Rich Vasquez, B.R.

Parade Float Wins Award

L.U. 457 (u), MERIDEN, CT—IBEW Local 457 participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Hartford, CT, and received the Judge's Award for best float. Members who participated included: Int. Rep. Edward W. Collins Jr., Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Rich Sank, Pres. John Fernandes, Joe Uhouse, Vincent DiMauro, Brian Coggshall, Russ Mollica, John Leahy, Mike Cassidy, Paul Smith, Mike Kozyra and Jim Mastria.

Rich Sank, B.M./F.S.



Local 457 received award for St. Patrick's Day parade float.

Welcome to New Apprentices

L.U. 531 (i), LAPORTE, IN—At our March 2 union meeting, new apprentices were inducted (see photo below). Welcome to all.

On April 14, Local 531 hosted a very successful blood drive with the American Red Cross. Thanks to all who participated.

On July 3-7, Purdue North Central will host the American Traveling Tribute honoring veterans of foreign wars; it will include a replica of the Vietnam Wall, a display of gold dog tags for soldiers who lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghan wars, and other



Local 531 inducted new apprentices, from left: Zachary Cripe, James Allsop, Jonathan Schwoegler, Brandon Purkal, Beau Sich, Joshua Tillema, Sean Kalsow, Jacob Ellis and Andres Hurtado. Not pictured: Ken Trusty.



IBEW members from Local 553 and Local 8 in a joint venture on Laibe Electric project at Verallia glass plant project.

displays of patriotism. Local 531 will offer electrical support for that event. It will be a great event and anyone in the area should come and pay tribute.

Our local union picnic will be held Aug. 4.

With upcoming 2012 elections, it is our job as union members to defeat candidates who want to deprive us of our right to belong to a union and collectively bargain. We must not allow divisive social issues to divert our attention from the real bread and butter issues, such as earning a living wage and providing for our families. One thing is certain, we must motivate our members to get out and vote their pocketbook. The chants at the worker rallies in Indianapolis opposing so-called "right-to-work" proposals still echo in my head: "Remember November."

Dean F. Harmon, Pres.

Work Picture

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC—The 2012 presidential elections are fast approaching. So, everybody remember to register and vote. Remember, our unions need to survive, so support labor-friendly candidates and cast your vote.

During the month of April, our local had a good work picture. As of this writing, the Shearon Harris Nuclear Powerhouse has some work consisting of a three-week shutdown. A new contractor in the area is doing work on the Highway 540 loop as well as some traffic-signal work. A steel mill in our jurisdiction also had a four-day shutdown project.

There was a glass plant project in Henderson, NC, at the Verallia Plant. [Photo, at bottom.] We were fortunate to have a couple of electrical contractors on site—J&J Electric from Indiana, and a Local 8 contractor, Laibe Electric, from Ohio. Fortunately all crafts were mostly union also, even the general contractor.

The local's organizer is communicating with the local for e-mail addresses for communications regarding the local's events.

David Ingram, P.S.

Collective Bargaining Rights

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI—Collective bargaining is at the forefront of a fight to save our way of life. A petition to get collective bargaining language in our state constitution is well underway. We need at least 320,000 signatures to get this on the November ballot. If we succeed in getting this on the ballot and passed, it will make most of the anti-labor bills passed in the last year null and void. Having collective bargaining rights in the constitution will ensure that the middle class won't be systematically wiped out by the other side.

The only way to get this on the ballot and passed is if we all do our part in getting signatures and encouraging others to get involved. This ballot is going to help preserve the middle class that was fought for with the blood, sweat and tears of our forefathers. If we don't fight for this it will make all the sacrifices the older generations have made in vain.

Our work outlook is very slow at this time. The slump in our area is the worst since the 1980s. However, there is always light at the end of a tunnel and hopefully we will see it sooner than later.

Jason Rivette, P.S.

Rebuilding Together San Diego

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Volunteers gathered at the Local 569 hall April 28, for what is lightheartedly called "Good Karma Day." That's because the last Saturday of April is the annual day of action when electrical workers put their skills to work for volunteer community service. It's a yearly tradition for IBEW Local 569 workers, who spend the day doing much-needed electrical work for low-income residents, veterans, elderly and disabled residents. This year, Wounded Warriors and Big Sister League Facilities were also beneficiaries of this impressive Rebuilding Together San Diego renovation event.

San Diego's Freedom Station is one of the places renovated by a team of Local 569 electricians and other community volunteers. Transitional housing for injured warriors, it is an important place for all San Diego veterans. Local member and veteran Richard Jacob, electrical team leader at Freedom Station, performed work such as replacing wiring and installing solar light fixtures and had this to say: "I participate in this event every year, and as a veteran I am glad I can make a difference for the vets." San Diego is a military town—and, for members, helping ensure that warriors get a hand-up is not just good karma, it's deeply personal.

David B. Taylor, P.S.

Political Season Heating Up!

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—The work picture is very bright in Local 595 and it is very welcomed. We continue to have full employment for our journeymen and apprentices and are fortunate to be employing 30 apprentices from our sister locals that currently have a slower work picture. We expect this trend at Local 595 to continue through 2012.

We have begun work on the build-out of our new JATC facility, which will be twice the size of our current site and a "Net Zero" energy-use building. We hope to be moved into a substantial part of it by August when the fall semester starts. The future training of our apprentices and journeymen will only improve with this incredible new facility.

We are finalizing our contracts in both the West and East jurisdictions, and maintenance of benefits seems to be the order of the day. We can only hope that when we re-elect President Obama in November the economy continues to rebound and that work in our jurisdiction remains plentiful. I was fortunate to be able to listen to President Obama's address on April 30 at the Building Trades Legislative Conference, where he committed to continue the hard work every day to turning this great nation around. Pres. Obama said that our country has seen harder times and we're ready to fight!

We must engage our members and do what it takes to win in November!

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.



Local 595 instructor extraordinaire Mel Switzer (right), David Christensen (center) and Paul Tyler (left) cast their ballots at the wage allocation meeting.

Union Get-Togethers

L.U. 613 (em,i,o,rts&spa), ATLANTA, GA—Former Columbus, GA, Local 779 was merged into Local 613 in 2004. All Local 779 members, apprentices and assets came with them. Some of the Columbus hands went to Albany, GA, a few to Alabama and some dropped their tickets altogether. Even though they are all Local 613 members now, they still get together the first Saturday of each month and head to their old union hall for breakfast. They also host a meeting the first Monday in the month to keep other members in the Columbus area involved in the union. Many in that area do not get a chance to come to Atlanta for the regular meetings, barbecues or other social events held downtown, so they hold a breakfast near home and catch up on things. Many retirees come along, also. They want to be in familiar surroundings and they do want to know what is going on with other members, new members and in their new local. Sometimes, some of the assistants or the president joins them.

Beatrice Andrews, P.S.



Local 613 members gather for a breakfast in Columbus, GA.

'Happy Canada Day'

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—Happy Canada Day to all Canadian brothers and sisters. As of this May 1 writing, work is slow and has been for a bit. We currently have 16 members working in Lab City at the Iron Ore Company in Labrador. Thanks to Will John Doyle, business manager of Local 2330 in St. John's, Newfoundland, and Local 2330 Pres. Ann Geehan for the job calls. We also have 45 members in Regina, Saskatchewan, 40 at the Co-op Refinery, and five at the Potash Mines in Rocanville. Thanks to Doug MacCallum, acting business manager of Regina Local 2038, and Brian Pastuch, Local 2038 assistant business manager and dispatcher. By the time this is printed I expect these numbers will be higher.

I regret to report the passing of a 49-year IBEW member, retired Bro. Charlie Zwicker, on April 25 at age 70. Charlie was well-loved and respected by all who worked with him.

On a brighter note, Bros. William Bonang and Trevor Harris achieved their Interprovincial Red Seal Journeyman Construction Electrician status in April. Congratulations!

I must apologize to Bro. Dave Rudolph's wife, Barb, for mistakenly referring to her as Deb in the last issue. Sorry, Barb. I did find out quickly that people do read my article.

Tom Griffiths, Pres.

Active & Informed Members

L.U. 649 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), ALTON, IL—Organized labor is under an attack unlike anything we have seen in this lifetime. Invigorated by the passage of right-to-work-for-less in Indiana and the frontal assault on collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin, our enemies are turning their attention to Illinois.

Several members of Local 649 recently attended labor rallies in Springfield and Champaign when those fine Illinois cities were visited by leading advocates of the anti-labor movement. It was great to be a part of the rallies. We enjoyed sharing a bus ride to Champaign with our brothers from Local 309. Those of us who attended came away energized. I just wish more of us had participated.

When Reagan busted PATCO, the air traffic controllers union, we stood by and watched. Our enemies were emboldened by our passivity. Now, they are winning and we are losing. What has been gained through collective bargaining is being stripped away through legislation. I call on all union members to become politically educated. Be active citizens and informed voters. Vote your economic issues. Don't be distracted by phony social issues. Apathy and ignorance will end our way of life.

Charles Yancey, A.B.M.

Business Manager Retires

L.U. 659 (c,catv,em,i,lctt,o,st,t&u), MEDFORD, OR—June 30 marked the retirement of Bus. Mgr. Ron Jones. Ron was initiated into the IBEW in 1967. He worked 14 years on Outside Construction and became a journeyman lineman. Ron served as a shop steward, on the outside line negotiating committee, the safety committee, and as the Construction Unit recording secretary.

In 1981 Ron went to work for Pacific Power working in the Medford Construction Dept. and Roseburg District. He served as shop steward, Roseburg Unit recording secretary and was elected to the Executive Board.

Former business manager Jim Mclean hired Ron in 1992 as an organizer and in 1995 Ron became assistant business manager. In 1998, after Mclean's retirement, Ron was appointed by the Executive Board as business manager. He was elected in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011.

Ron was only the fifth business manager the local has had since its charter in 1937. He has served on many national committees and as a trustee on many trusts funds. Ron's commitment and dedication to the local have shown in the many hours he has spent representing us.

Thanks for all the years of service, Ron, and congratulations on your well-earned retirement.

Tom Legg, Pres./P.S.

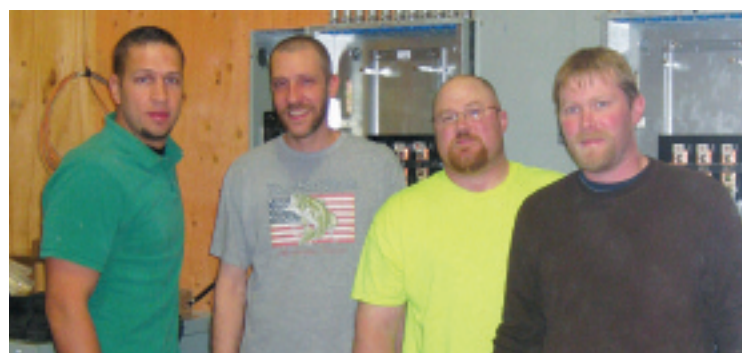
Cleveland Electrical Expo

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—The Local 673 JATC recently sponsored a bus trip for our apprentices and journeymen to the Electrical Expo in Cleveland. Our members had the opportunity to view and try out some of the latest tools and technologies in our industry. Besides the cool exhibits, we also had the chance to engage in an evening of brotherhood over food and refreshments.

It appears that so-called "right-to-work" legislation in Ohio may be postponed for a year due to fears by Republicans that this issue might bring out a large number of voters who might not vote for Romney. With this little bit of a reprieve we will need to stay vigilant in our education of the electorate. The anti-union opposition's clever way of labeling this as "right to work" makes it quite a challenge to get out our message.

Some of our young apprentices are getting a taste of some fast-paced work that needs to be accomplished to meet schedules at our local mall. At this writing, Ullman Electric is running two shifts to finish a new H&M store that must be completed in six weeks. Under the guidance of Bro. Jerry Scott out of Local 38, our apprentices are getting the hands-on training of putting together a difficult project like this. Great job!

Jim Braunlich, P.S.



IBEW Local 673 brothers working on H&M store construction at Great Lakes Mall: Dave Gaeta (left), Lloyd Brannon, Tony Suhadolnik and Tom King.

Local Lines

Celebration for Brothers

L.U. 681 (i,o&spa), WICHITA FALLS, TX—We recently had a retirement celebration luncheon at the Lake Kickapoo Tracking Station. Those honored were Jackie Carlton, Roger Ferguson and Donald Heflin. We would like to say a great big thank-you for their many years of service. They are part of the original group that was organized into the IBEW when the Lake Kickapoo Tracking Station was organized in 1987.

The inside work situation is still slow but we hope for some work to come our way soon. On the outside, it is a different story; it is very busy with the transmission work that is being done in most of Texas right now.

Leland Welborn, A.B.M.



Local 681 congratulates recent retirees Jackie Carlton (left), Roger Ferguson and Donald Heflin.

'Volunteers Spring into Action'

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—As spring arrived in central Ohio, some organizations called upon the great electricians of Local 683 to donate to their cause. More than 45 members donated their time and experience to Rebuilding Together Central Ohio during two weekends, to make homes safe and comfortable for nine families.

Members also donated time cleaning and landscaping the Worker's Memorial Park, in preparation for the May 12 dedication ceremony. Some 25 members sacrificed a Saturday to install power pedestals for campers at the Hoover Y Park. Leaders at the park offered tickets for all the volunteers to come out to their annual bluegrass festival.

Thanks to the Local 683 leaders, who lead by example, and to our retirees who continue to give back to the community and support our local. Thanks to our members, apprentices and helpers who came out, and brought their children along to see what Local 683 and community service is really about.

The season for giving has just begun. Please volunteer when our local needs you most. Find your opportunity to give at the union meetings; plan to attend.

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



Local 683 volunteers Bro. John Plottner (left) and Bro. Todd Roddy (right), joined by Bro. Roddy's son Todd (center).

'Great Night of Brotherhood'

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—It was a great night of brotherhood at our annual Service Pin and Brother of the Year Awards presentation and cookout. We were honored to have members with as much as 65 years of service attending, as well as 16 new members being sworn in to our Local 915 family.

Congratulations to the following brothers on your years of service: for 40 years of service—James Niemeyer, Jim Potts; 50 years—Jesse Harris, Henry Marks, David Slazas; 55 years—Harold Hudson, Franklin Johnson, Robert Kaiser, Nelson Perez; 60 years—William Patrick; and 65 years—Joseph Cain and John Graham.

Our James H. Phillips Brother of the Year Award went to a brother who has devoted his life to the betterment of his union. He served as recording secretary for 16 years, serves on our Examining Board and has spent countless hours selflessly serving his local in whatever capacity was needed. He is an outstanding and loyal IBEW member and we are honored to name Bro. Larry Campbell as this year's Brother of the Year Award recipient.

Recognition also goes out to Bro. Leon Ward on his 4th Annual Fishing Tournament and his dedication each year to unite our members in this event.

Theresa King, P.S.



At Local 915 awards presentation, from left: John Graham, 65-year member; Pres. Randall King; Larry Campbell, brother of the year; Bus. Mgr. Bill Dever; and Joseph Cain, 65-year member.

RGV-Laredo/JATC Graduates

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—The Rio Grande Valley Laredo JATC congratulates the class of 2012 inside wireman graduates.

The graduates set a fine example of dedication in their apprenticeship, which has inspired our new apprentices to move onward with their studies and look beyond the theory of an electrical worker in training—to successfully completing their appren-



Local 1015 Training Dir. Ray R. Duran (left), apprentice graduate Francisco Hernandez and Seventh District Int. Rep. Gary Buresh.



Members from Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District faced off in a bowling showdown. A few members from City of Lodi and PG&E joined in the fun. A Turlock team won top prize: a monogrammed set of IBEW Local 1245 poker chips.

ticeship and meeting their goals through education. The keys to the successful education of our members are strength and dedication—which have led the RGV-Laredo/JATC graduates to this day of a new career in the electrical industry. We look forward to continue educating and training electricians seeking to utilize the opportunities for learning and working as highly qualified electrical workers.

Local 1015 has experienced high unemployment, but in 2012 the work picture has started to improve as members are going back to work. Local 1015 has increased its membership through organizing efforts, as a means to improve opportunities for electrical workers' success.

At this writing, the Local 1015 election of officers was scheduled for June 2012. At press time results were pending.

Ray R. Duran, Training Dir.

Solidarity & Support

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—On April 28, Local 1049 observed Workers Memorial Day, a national day of remembrance for workers who died at the workplace. We remember those men and women who, while trying to provide for their families, never returned home. We honor them by continually improving,

not only our lives, but the lives of those around us. We should strive, on a daily basis, to make our work places safer and more worker-friendly.

Sadly, in recent times, we have had several members pass away too early in life. Many of our members supported the families of those lost in numerous ways. Maybe you bought a raffle ticket, attended the annual Car Show/Chili Cook Off, participated in the Poker Run, or maybe you reached into your pocket. Whatever you did, your help was greatly appreciated. On behalf of those families, I want to say thank-you.

After a long run of steady employment, we have seen a downturn in work. Unfortunately, we have experienced layoffs in three of our Outside branches. Bus. Mgr. Donald Daley has been reaching out to all of our employers and has been successful in getting some of our members back to work.

Bus. Mgr. Daley is continuing to meet with representatives from LIPA, National Grid and PSEG. He is ensuring that all of our members' needs will be met during the transition from one employer to another.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

Union Activities & Events

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA—Play ball! Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell is spearheading numerous sporting events to build camaraderie among our members and reach out to our communities.

The IBEW 1245 Sacramento Regional Charity Bowl drew together nearly 50 members and supporters in late April. The event raised \$1,013 for the Shriners Children's Hospital. Event organizers also registered new voters, getting an early start in labor's campaign to defeat the Corporate Deception Act on the California ballot in November.

Some 40 people turned out for the Second Annual bowling showdown in Modesto, pitting local members at the Turlock Irrigation District against those at the Modesto Irrigation District. Said MID's Mike Gomes: "We're just trying to keep the different companies together and keep good relations going."

Coming up: the Local 1245 Soccer Tournament with 14 teams signed up to go toe-to-toe in Ripon, CA; and the Perry Zimmerman IBEW Local 1245 Golf Tournament. Also on tap: a Clay Shoot jointly sponsored with other northern California IBEW locals; a trip to Kansas City to compete in the Lineman's Rodeo; and another shot at a title in this year's Ninth District Softball Tournament.

Rich Lane (Turlock Irrigation District) and Jerry Debaca (Pacific Gas & Electric) manned an IBEW table at the recent Pacific Coast Safety Fest in Dublin, spreading the word about our local's new First Responder Training Program, which provides information to police, firefighters and other first responders on how to respond safely to electrical emergencies.

Our Outside Line department reports that 2011 was a record year: 191 percent above our five-year average. New contractors are being signed up at a very fast pace.

Eric Wolfe, P.S.

'Things are Looking Up'

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—We are experiencing an upsurge of the work due to a number of efforts taken by this local. Our contractors are finding ways to employ our members utilizing these efforts. We have been successful with a number of school jobs that have kept many of us working. Recently, such agreements have resulted in jobs at the new MaineGeneral hospital project, a multiple year project, and the Bangor Convention Center project, which is slated at over a year's worth of work. E.S. Boulos has utilized these efforts in areas of gaining commercial work.

Currently, Sullivan & Merritt and Hillside Electric have also contracted industrial work in Old Town, Brewer and Verso Paper in Bucksport. Other

efforts have produced substation and wind tower work. It seems for the moment most of our local is employed. We have a new three-year contract and things are looking up.

We welcome former members Dave Arnold and Don McInnis back into our ranks. We extend our condolences to one of our contractors, Pat Guimond, who recently lost his wife to cancer.

Timothy G. Bickford, P.S.



Construction is under way at the new convention center in Bangor, Maine, employing a number of IBEW Local 1253 members.

Members Approach 600-Day Milestone

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Local 1307 members employed by NRG Energy are approaching a milestone. As of this writing, they have achieved 584 days without a lost-time or recordable accident. Local 1307 represents bargaining unit employees at Indian River Power Plant in Delaware and Vienna Power Plant in Maryland. Congratulations to all on a job well-done and performed safely.

Local 1307 would like to recognize 10 recently retired members.

Members who retired from NRG Energy in 2011 include: Gary Gray, machinist, who retired Feb. 1; and Richard Era, lead operator, who retired Aug. 1.

Members who retired from Delmarva Power in 2011 include: Judy Powell, utility service person, retired June 1; Sally Yates, senior outreach specialist, retired June 1; Donald Dennis, trouble serviceman, retired June 1; and Kenny Johnson, trouble serviceman, retired Sept. 1.

Members who have retired from Delmarva Power in 2012 include: Paul Skorobatsch, engineering fieldman, who retired Jan. 1; Ken Dunning, meter reader, retired Jan. 1; Benn Simpson, a trouble serviceman who also served on the local's E-Board and Negotiating Committee, retired Feb. 1.; and Sam Kaufman, service associate and local E-Board member, retired March 1.

We thank these members for their many years of service and wish all a long and happy retirement.

Edward D. Sparks, P.S.

Solidarity in St. Louis

L.U. 1439 (u), ST. LOUIS, MO—St. Louis IBEW locals hosted a Solidarity Rally/Town Hall meeting with Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and Int. Sec.-Treas. Salvatore J. Chilia on April 19. [Photo, below.]

Approximately 800 were in attendance to hear about current events and benefits for all IBEW members. The message was: "Solidarity—Strength in



IBEW St. Louis locals attend Solidarity Rally/Town Hall meeting.

Numbers." Local 1439 originated the plan to rally members as the start of contract negotiations with the local utility company. With the influx of other IBEW locals to also attend, the location was changed to the newly built, all-green Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 Hall and Training Facility. The message from our leadership was well received. We encourage all locals to engage in this Town Hall opportunity.

Mike Walter, B.M./F.S.



Local 1523 members Bob Wells (left), Ed Love and Justin Jackson.

IBEW Members Save a Life

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—When you go to work you never know how the day will turn out. For journeyman linemen Bob Wells and Justin Jackson, a routine day at work turned out to be a lifesaving day.

On Jan. 21 the crew went out on a call. Justin was in the bucket changing out a transformer and switch. Foreman Ed Love and Bob Wells were at the truck gathering material for the job. When Bob turned around, he found Ed Love on the ground. Bob rushed to Ed and called for Justin to come down.

As Bob called 911, Justin checked Ed's vital signs and found that he had gone into cardiac arrest. Justin immediately started CPR. When Ed began gasping for air, Justin called for Bob to retrieve the AED machine from the line truck. The



Barrie, Ontario, Local 1739 hockey team.

ambulance arrived very quickly. Happy to say, Ed recovered and is back at work.

Our members' CPR training has paid off. Safety is a core value at Westar and with IBEW Local 1523. Justin and Bob demonstrated that training and teamwork can help save the life of a fellow worker. Local 1523 and Ed Love thank Justin and Bob for their courage. Westar honored Justin and Bob with a Lifesaver Award.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

Voter Registration

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—The election year is upon us. Re-election of President Obama and other union-friendly candidates is very important. With Davis-Bacon and project labor agreements being threatened by Mitt Romney, we can't afford not to re-elect the president. Many of our projects in our jurisdiction are covered under Davis-Bacon and PLAs; it would be devastating to lose these valuable tools for organized labor.

You and your family can help prevent losing future work on Davis-Bacon jobs by voting for union friendly candidates. Many IBEW members know people in their family who are not registered to vote. Contact your local union and ask them for information on how to help people get registered.

Local 1579 had 24 apprentices graduate this year. These new young journeymen are the future of the IBEW and will need your support. Congratulations and thanks to all IBEW graduating apprentices on all your hard work.

Attend your union meetings. The IBEW's greatest enemy is the indifference of those who do not regularly attend their union meetings. No one should be indifferent to their own welfare.

Until next time, buy American.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Union Spirit Strong in Barrie!

L.U. 1739 (i&o), BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA—Congratulations to our team for winning the "B" Division and to Samia Local 530 for winning the "A" Division at the hockey tournament. I would also like to congratulate coach Ray Tripp on winning coach-of-the-year hon-



Local 1837 congratulates workers on successful union vote. From left: Chief Steward Bob Economy, System Operator Gregg Wallace and Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers.

ors. And congratulations to all the members who came out and supported our team. Local 1739 would like to take this opportunity to thank Kingston Local 115 for a great tournament and a fun weekend.

Frank Kastle, P.S.

System Operators Represented

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME—In an NLRB election in late March, the system operators at Bangor Hydro Electric voted 8-0 to be represented by IBEW Local 1837 for collective bargaining. These highly skilled workers are often referred to as "dispatchers."

During the union organizing campaign, the system operators raised issues of unfair treatment in the past, but their primary motivation was the desire to negotiate improvements for their future. Despite the company's efforts to persuade them to vote against the union, the system operators stuck together, producing the lopsided vote in favor of organizing. The system operators enjoyed support from their co-workers at Bangor Hydro and from members of IBEW 1837 at other represented companies.

"Everybody's relieved and feels great about it," said System Operator Gregg Wallace. "We're happy to move forward."

Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers commended the workers for their decision to unionize. "On behalf of all of our members at Bangor Hydro and our other represented companies, I'd like to congratulate the system operators for their unanimous vote in support of their union," said Bus. Mgr. Rogers. "It's really a great day for those workers."

A few weeks later, the meter representatives at Maine Public Service unanimously decided that they would also like to be represented by Local 1837 and were granted voluntary recognition by management. Both companies are owned by Emera Inc. of Nova Scotia.

Matthew D. Beck, Organizer



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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THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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Edwin D. Hill
International President



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer

We won't sugarcoat it. Our loss in the Wisconsin recall election last month was a painful blow for working families—both in Wisconsin and across the country.

Despite building one of the broadest pro-worker grassroots coalitions in recent history, progressive and union activists fell short of removing the most radically anti-worker governor in the country from office.

The media's efforts to paint this as a death blow for organized labor is bit of a stretch. Let's not forget the numerous political victories we've achieved in the last two years—from beating back "right-to-work-for-less" in New Hampshire and Minnesota to overturning Ohio's anti-worker SB5 by more than 20 points. Even in Wisconsin, voters turned out one of the governor's strongest allies in the state senate, returning control of that body to the Democrats, effectively putting plans for right-to-work legislation on ice.

No, it's not the last gasp of the labor movement. But Wisconsin is a wake-up call for everyone concerned about the future of working America: If we don't start turning things around, the very future of the American dream of opportunity for all is at stake.

We have an economy geared almost exclusively to the needs of the top 1 percent. Our democratic process is warped beyond recognition by the rush of corporate cash in the wake of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision opening the floodgates of corporate money into electoral politics, a ruling that allowed Walker to outspend his opponent by a staggering 7-to-1 margin.

And inside-the-beltway political discourse is focused almost exclusively on talk of austerity, punishing those who are struggling the most—the working poor, young people and the unemployed.

This is not the America for which many of us fought. And it is certainly not the America we want.

The first step is changing the conversation and countering those forces—from the tea party to Congress and K Street—that preach austerity for working families, while promoting more breaks for the Wall Street class.

That's why on Aug. 11 we will be in Philadelphia, coming together with a cross section of working Americans—union and nonunion—to stand up for the middle class, urging all our fellow citizens, especially elected officials, to stand with us.

We chose Philadelphia because as the birthplace of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, there is no better place to introduce a second Bill of Rights, inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's 1944 economic Bill of Rights. FDR's proposition that "true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence," holds truer than ever and we want to make it part of the everyday discourse on the campaign trail and in the media.

We are timing the event to precede both the Republican and Democratic national conventions to make it clear we are broadcasting this message to both parties: a strong and prosperous America can't be measured by the stock market or GDP. It must be judged by the availability of good jobs, economic opportunity and hope—hope that our children and grandchildren will have the same shot at the American dream that we did.

We have seen what happens when conservative politicians backed by billionaires and right-wing ideologues take power. It's time to change the debate going on in this country and get working Americans fired up for November and beyond.

It is often said every election year that this is the most important election of our lifetimes, but this time, it's no exaggeration.

We only need to look at the radical change in Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida to see what a Mitt Romney presidency would look like.

Aug. 11 will only be the first step toward saving middle-class America, but we have to start somewhere. We hope you can join us—in the streets of Philly, on Twitter and Facebook and in the months to come as we build a grassroots army to put this country back on the road toward economic opportunity for all.

Check us out on the Web at www.WorkersStandForAmerica.com, on Twitter at [@Workers4America](https://twitter.com/Workers4America) and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WorkersStandForAmerica. ■

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Thanks for the Assist

I would like to personally thank Business Manager Timothy Frew, his staff and all of the members of Tangent, Ore., Local 280 who assisted our local in manning our shutdown call on April 9 at the Georgia Pacific paper mill on Toledo, Ore.

A few months ago, EC Company was awarded a major shutdown project at GP Toledo. EC notified us that they would need about 100 electricians for 10 days. We ended up needing 130 electricians for four days. Two weeks before the start of the shutdown, we realized we would be about 100 people short.

Brother Frew went above and beyond expectations in assistance to not only help man our calls but to get any and all willing Local 280 members to work on this project.

Thank you, brothers and sisters. You make me proud to be IBEW.

*Robert Westerman
Local 932 business manager, Coos Bay, Ore.*

Party of the 1 Percent?

We are about to elect a president of the U.S.A., or as I would hope, re-elect our present president.

In the past, many of our brothers and sisters felt that it would be better to elect a Republican rather than a Democrat. I hope any who are leaning in that direction will look at the record of the GOP in the last four years. They have held up or voted against legislation that would help the middle class or help make good jobs for Americans and they have openly stated their desires to eliminate union jobs and break our unions. They have made clear that it is their intent to eliminate health care and Medicare as we now know it. Our contracts provide good medical coverage while we are working, but when we retire our primary coverage comes from Medicare. Our union benefits in most cases become our secondary coverage. As an 82-year-old retiree, I am very thankful to have Medicare as my primary coverage.

I am also aware of the fact that Medicare needs to be worked on, to guarantee it will be available to all in the future. This is doable if the GOP would work for the middle class and the poor rather than the 1 percent who don't need any help. Look at the records of the bills offered by the GOP. They all favor the rich and take away from the working class. If it is your desire to take away our workers' rights and lose our middle-class status and make the rich richer, then support the GOP. But if you are happy to have a union that makes your life better and fights to save your benefits and give you the right to a days' pay for a days' work, then vote for Democrats for president and Congress.

*Robert E. Fritz
Local 35 retiree, Hartford, Conn.*

Calling All Republicans

1968 was a year of incredible upheaval. In April, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. In June, Bobby Kennedy was assassinated. By the time Chicago hosted the Democratic Convention in August there were riots in the streets. In the middle of this chaos, 27-year-old Rev. Jesse Jackson appealed to his brothers to present a united front to the political parties. He had the clarity to see that one side took the Black Caucus for granted and the other side wrote it off as unimportant. What resulted from this was little or no voice at all.

Coretta King, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was in the front row seat of every Republican convention until her death in 2006. The Black Caucus has maintained a strong voice on both sides of the aisle to this day.

Labor, on the other hand, hasn't moved. One side takes us for granted and the other side writes us off. Our voice keeps getting smaller and smaller every day. We have a two-party system and we need to learn how to use it like others have to insure that our issues have a voice.

Our problem seems to be that our Republican members are reluctant to get involved. Depending on what part of the country we are talking about, anywhere from 12-40 percent of dues-paying members are Republican. That is more than enough to insure a voice to labor issues. Labor leaders need to seek out their Republican members and get these people involved in labor issues (like right-to-work) and fight this whole assault from a different angle.

In 1968, I was 22 years old and unions had a large market share. The NLRB was still intact. Things have changed. I am 65 years old and unions have lost their edge on market share. The NLRB has been chipped away until it's a shadow of what it was. If we want to leave a legacy of failure and collapse we are well on our way. We must change how we do our political business if we are to survive. Because one side takes us for granted and the other writes us off.

*Dan Atkinson
Local 68 Republican Labor chairman, Denver*

Who We Are

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

IBEW Instructor Helps Give Disadvantaged Workers New Lease on Life



The City of Rochester's Office of Adult and Career Education Services program gives returning students the opportunity to start a career in the skilled trades.

Joe LaPlaca's students come from every walk of life.

The retired Rochester, N.Y., Local 86 member is a project coordinator at the City of Rochester's Office of Adult and Career Education Services program, which introduces unemployed adults to the construction and technical trades.

Some are recent immigrants looking to start a new life in the United States. Others were born and raised in Rochester's toughest neighborhoods, looking to break the cycle of poverty and unemployment that is all too prevalent in New York State's third-largest city.

But despite their many differences, the students—whose ages range from their early 20s to their late 50s—share one goal: to acquire the skills needed for a decent-paying career.

"Our students want to be here," says LaPlaca, who has been teaching at OACES for more than a year. "They are looking at getting into real work."

The program offers a mix of introductory trades' courses in carpentry, electrical and metalworking as well as English as a second language and GED preparation classes.

"Some of our students never finished high school or had a real job in their life," says LaPlaca. Others, he says, are highly educated in their home countries, but have to redo their entire education because their academic

credentials aren't recognized in the U.S.

"I even had a couple of PhDs in their 50s who now have to start over in America from square one in terms of their careers," he says.

Running a classroom where more than 60 languages are spoken is one of LaPlaca's major challenges. "We've got people from Bhutan all the way to Cuba," he says, relying on a combination of pictures and body language to communicate.

The classroom isn't new to LaPlaca. A former apprenticeship instructor for Local 86, he spent years introducing high-school students to the construction trades at the Edison School of Applied Technology. (See "New York High School Opens Up Career Opportunities in Construction," *Electrical Worker*, June 2010.)

While the program has been in place for more than 20 years, it only recently introduced construction training to its curriculum. It has put more than 100 students through the program since it started last September, bringing non-traditional workers into the construction industry.

"I've had single mothers looking to be the first in their family to enter the work force bending conduit and welding," says LaPlaca.

Plans are in the works to incorporate renewable energy into the curriculum, including the basics of solar and wind power.

For Local 86 Business Manager

David Young, the program is key to providing good job opportunities for Rochester residents long cut out of the job market.

"With an increasing number of project labor agreements focused on putting disadvantaged city residents to work, OACES is an important partner in creating good jobs and rebuilding our city," he says.

Rochester is slated for some major construction projects in the next couple years, including an ambitious school modernization program, and Young says LaPlaca's students will play an important role in these jobs. Most of Local 86's upcoming PLAs incorporate community benefit agreements, which means contractors are required to employ a certain percentage of city residents, minorities and women.

"It's about building an alliance between the building trades and the community in support of good jobs for Rochester residents," says Young. He says he hopes to bring on some students as construction electricians this summer as positions open up.

LaPlaca also talks up the IBEW to his students, taking them on field trips to Local 86's training center. The goal is to help some of them enter the apprenticeship once they get their GED.

"We're providing a new lease on life for our students," LaPlaca says. "We're telling people that welfare or a job at McDonald's aren't their only options." ■

