

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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Who We Are



New Tactics, New Spirit

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS FUEL CROSS-BRANCH GROWTH

▲ From construction sites to utilities and beyond, ambitious organizing tactics are bringing IBEW representation to working men and women nationwide—while boosting the union's rolls and helping ensure long-term success.

Grow or die. That was the message that led delegates to the 38th International Convention in Vancouver to vote for greater support for the IBEW's organizing efforts.

New resources, new tactics and new spirit—supported by unprecedented teamwork between all levels of the union—are making a difference in the lives of members and others who want to join our union family.

In construction, IBEW-developed software programs are tracking projects in the pipeline across the nation, giving local unions

and signatory contractors the jump on competitive bids to put unemployed members back to work. And efforts to recruit young workers are building strong ties with surrounding communities that enhance our ability to win new work.

In the professional and industrial sectors—at utilities and other workplaces where some employees are already working under the protection of IBEW contracts—internal organizing campaigns are strengthening the ability of currently organized workers to protect their gains.

The IBEW has launched eight new national campaigns calling upon major employers to recognize the rights of workers—who are feeling the

ORGANIZING EFFORTS *continued on page 2*

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New Tactics, New Spirit

Continued from page 1

Membership Development Efforts Fuel Cross-Branch Growth

pinch of an economy and a too-often hostile political environment—for a voice on the job.

Each campaign has its own Web site and a structure able to quickly respond to misrepresentations and opposition from our adversaries. We will be reporting on the progress of these campaigns in coming months.

In this issue of *The Electrical Worker*, we report on some recent winning organizing efforts.

Today, in the midst of the 2012 campaign season—where anti-union forces are spending billions on candidates who would like to see our unions destroyed—IBEW's unwavering commitment to grow the labor movement is a promise kept to our courageous founders who came together to challenge a comparably arrogant and powerful corporate elite back in 1891.

Growing our organization means more members pitching in, reaching out and hooking up with their local unions' membership development efforts. A stronger, larger, more influential IBEW will benefit all of the union's members.

As in the past, our adversaries still have the power to defeat some of our friends in public office and roll back some of labor's gains.

But—if we are united—they will never, ever stop workers from seeking a brighter future by organizing on the job. ■

Grid Upgrades String Texas Organizing Opportunities

Justin Boone says his jurisdiction was simply the right place at the right time to strip dozens of experienced outside line construction workers from the region's nonunion shops and put them to work for signatory contractors taking advantage of the rapidly-expanding wind power industry in the western panhandle of Texas.

Boone, business manager, Wichita Falls, Texas, Local 681, says opportunities are growing as transmission lines are under construction to carry wind power through Local 681's territory in the state's north-central quadrant to the Dallas-Ft. Worth metropolitan area.

Seventh District Membership Development Organizer Tom Davis credits Local 681's gains to Boone and his staff building a comprehensive approach to advancing market share in outside construction.

That means both actively encouraging union contractors in the north to head down to Texas, building solid relationships with the area's unorganized workers and negotiating more flexible agreements to help signatory contractors stay viable.

As Texas, a state that neither exports nor imports electrical power, established geographic regions for wind power development called Competitive Renewable Energy Zones, Boone e-mailed the list of transmission projects to signatory outside line contractors across the country.

"We were being hopeful," says Boone. Some local and state nonunion contractors couldn't get bonding to snag 100-mile line construction projects. But it wasn't enough just to get larger signatory contractors into town.



New members of Wichita Falls, Texas, Local 681 celebrate their improved wages, benefits and safety conditions after they left nonunion line construction companies to work for signatory contractors.

Boone, an inside journeyman wireman—who says he learned the “lingo of the trade” from his predecessor, Larry Chamberlain, now a Seventh District International Representative—sat down with Chamberlain and contractors to negotiate a renewable energy agreement that enabled contractors to have one point of referral and a standard wage. “If they were jumping jurisdictions,” says Boone, “they didn’t have to worry about different contracts and could remain competitive.”

With union contractors coming in from Houston and down from northern states, Local 681's organizer Leland Welborn was in a position to successfully pitch IBEW's benefits to nonunion workers. More than 30 left nonunion Willsboro Construction behind. They brought a full package of skills and experience, says Boone, who met with them to discuss the benefits of IBEW membership, showed them a sample

exam and outlined how they could end up testing for full journeyman's tickets.

“These are knockout crews,” says Boone. One project manager was so impressed with their abilities that he assigned them to run their own job.

Many of the newly-recruited crews are adept at the most difficult portions of building transmission lines, clipping and sagging. Workers attach the lines to the towers and travel along them in a powered bucket to make sure they are not overly taut or loose.

The gains from networking with nonunion crews are multiplying as new members bring their friends and relatives over to apply for union jobs.

Gabriel Pimenetal, who had worked for nonunion Sun Electric since 2005 and now works for North Houston Pole Line, a Quanta subsidiary, helped some Hispanic crew members with limited English-speaking skills to understand and support the changes that come with union affiliation. “Gabriel was our go-to guy,” says Boone.

Says Pimenetal, “Workers at Sun Electric heard a lot of negative stuff about the union. We debated whether or not to join.” So Pimenetal and co-workers Raymond and Reuben Martel met with local union representatives. “When we got back to our co-workers,” says Pimenetal, “they were excited to hear about the benefits and training that the union provided.”

“The [new members] are doing an excellent job. Our safety department has been out there several times and is impressed,” says Rick Garland, a 33-year member of Houston Local 66 and a general foreman for North Houston Pole.

“I try to be on the lookout and communicate with my co-workers to take some of the work off of the general foreman,” says Pimenetal. “If we work safely, it's one less thing he has to worry about.”

Safety awareness—a common practice for line crews—took some adjustment for those coming over from open shops, says Boone. “We heard horror stories about practices that put workers in jeopardy,” he says.

Garland, who hired many nonunion workers and heard their stories, says “Their employers simply put production ahead of safety.”

Growth in renewables is contagious, says Boone, who is working to build more market share for his local's inside wiremen, too, using the Construction and Maintenance Department's Project Tracker to stay on top of future projects. As more transmission lines are built, more wind farms will be constructed, providing good jobs for the next few years.

“We've got over 1,100 miles of transmission line to build,” says Garland. “We've got so much work, we're turning jobs down.”

Garland sees the union ranks growing elsewhere in Texas. Recently 22 nonunion outside line workers in Marfa joined Amarillo Local 602. While pay scales in right-to-work Texas aren't in the same league with California or the East Coast, he says, “There's a whole lot of overtime and a whole lot of work here. And we're hearing it will last through 2015.”

Demand for renewables is opening up jobs in other economic sectors.

“I passed by Dallas-Fort Worth and saw a huge yard where steel transmission towers are being fabricated. Above the manufacturing shop was a 30-foot banner saying, ‘Hiring,’” says Boone.

Boone and Local 681 pledge to keep zeroing in on opportunities to bring in new members, including visits to nonunion work sites. That means working around obstacles. “We often get chased away from utility properties when they see our [untagged] vehicles,” says Boone. ■

IBEW Organizing Software Builds Union Power

Two new IBEW programs are harnessing the power of advanced software and data processing to build market share and grow the IBEW.

Project Tracker: Compiling data on upcoming projects, Project Tracker helps business managers and signatory contractors throughout North America track the latest construction jobs in their area, listing contact information for general contractors and owners. The system draws its data from reporting systems at McGraw-Hill and Industrial Info Resources. McGraw-Hill reports on all projects with a minimum dollar value of \$100,000, IIR on projects at a minimum of \$1 million. The system is free of charge for all locals.

OARS: The Organizing Accountability Reporting System is an online program that lets organizers from British Columbia to Florida share information on IBEW campaigns in their area—from upcoming elections to reports on union-busting activities. IBEW organizers can now share information straight from the field with their fellow organizers throughout the United States and Canada, giving union drives a big boost. ■



New IBEW organizing software makes finding out about upcoming construction projects and organizing campaigns in your area as easy as clicking a mouse.

New Tactics, New Spirit

Recovery Agreement Nets Big Wins for Arkansas Locals

As a mere 4 percent of Arkansas residents belong to unions, getting a toehold in construction market share has always been an uphill climb. The state has had so-called “right-to-work” laws on the books since the 1940s, and—as in much of the South—long-simmering antagonism toward trade unions often travels from generation to generation.

But IBEW leaders in the Natural State are succeeding in spite of towering obstacles. One roadblock had come from lower-paying, nonunion contractors who were undercutting signatory contractors’ ability to submit competitive bids. By putting in place the Arkansas Recovery Agreement, which created alternate classifications to allow for a more flexible crew mix, signatory contractors are securing more and more work.



By utilizing alternate classifications, Little Rock, Ark., Local 295’s signatory contractors are winning more bids on projects and are getting journeymen off the benches.

That has spelled increased man-hours for existing members, as apprentices and journeymen answer more calls, pick up their tools and hit dozens of sites statewide. The effort has also bolstered the rolls at the union’s four major construction locals—Little Rock Local 295, El Dorado Local 436, Fort Smith Local 700 and Jonesboro Local 1516.

For Local 295 Business Manager Bobby Thornton, new jobs harken back to a more robust time in the industry. “We’re again doing work at some factories that we haven’t been inside in 30 years,” he said. “Our members are back in places I worked at as an apprentice.”

Such success wasn’t by accident, and it didn’t happen overnight. Arkansas Organizing Coordinator Charlie McKinney lit the fuse on the effort when he was business manager of Fort Smith Local 700 in 2010. “We were just in a place where we didn’t want to be. Market share was low. So I put every-

thing in the jurisdiction under the recovery agreement. With time, we saw some of our 15-member shops grow to 30-member shops. This has been the best thing that we’ve done for our members and contractors in the state.”

Soon afterward, leaders of the locals began coordinating efforts to win more jobs, get journeymen off the bench and grow their ranks. By implementing the recovery agreement statewide, market share in the Arkansas has steadily grown from just over 6 percent last year to about 8 percent. It’s a major accomplishment in a state that has the fourth-lowest union density in the nation.

“The business managers have clearly communicated to the membership how valuable the recovery agreement is,” said Tenth District Organizing Coordinator Dave Hoque, who aids membership devel-

opment efforts throughout Arkansas, Tennessee and the Carolinas. “With a program like this, it may take a year or two years before you start seeing some tangible effects. In Arkansas, the leaders had to lay the groundwork for some time. It’s starting to pay off, and members are starting to come around to see how this is a solid tool for journeymen and apprentices.”

Jonesboro Local 1516 started off 2011 with a 17 percent market share in its jurisdiction, the northeast corner of the state. Some 15 months later, the local commanded nearly 43 percent of available work, local estimates show.

“We’ve been planning industry nights just to keep up with the man-power request,” said Local 1516 Business Manager Kirk Douglas of the job fairs that attract potential members for upcoming projects. “As our contractors are able to get more bids, they feel more confident. They go after more and more work, which gives our members more man-hours.”

Similar stories are repeated across the state.

“The numbers don’t lie,” says Hoque, “but they don’t show the preliminary hard work that it takes to get a program like this going. Fortunately, once the foundation gets laid, then—boom—things take off.”

‘We All Came Together’ in LITTLE ROCK

For many electricians like Kevin Barnes, employment in the Little Rock area has been hit or miss.

While going through his apprenticeship, the newly minted Local 295 journeyman saw many of his fellow members on the bench.

But for the last year, Barnes and his classmates have enjoyed steady work on projects large and small. “We’ve picked up some residential [work] in the past few years,” said Barnes, who topped out in April and earned the Apprentice of the Year award. He recently finished an apartment remodeling project that involved rewiring new units and installing fire alarm systems and security cameras. “With the recovery agreement, we’ve gained some jobs that we wouldn’t have gotten otherwise. Initially, some people were nervous and worried about the plan, but we’ve really had no complications. Work is picking up slowly and surely, and I’m feeling pretty optimistic.”

Business Manager Bobby Thornton said that even in the down economy, buy-in for the program by the membership is increasing as signatory contractors go after more projects. “We’re not at full employment, but we’re making progress,” he said. “We’re having success with gas stations, truck stops, strip malls—things we haven’t been in the market for in decades.”

And as more journeymen come off the bench, the local is growing. Through the recovery agreement, 15 new members have been added since January, while man-hours remain on a modest but steady climb of about 4 percent since early 2011.

Thornton is quick to point out that his local’s success is intertwined with the efforts of other construction locals across the state.

“This isn’t just us,” he said. “This is everyone. We all came together to do something unique. And in many ways, we’re just getting started.”

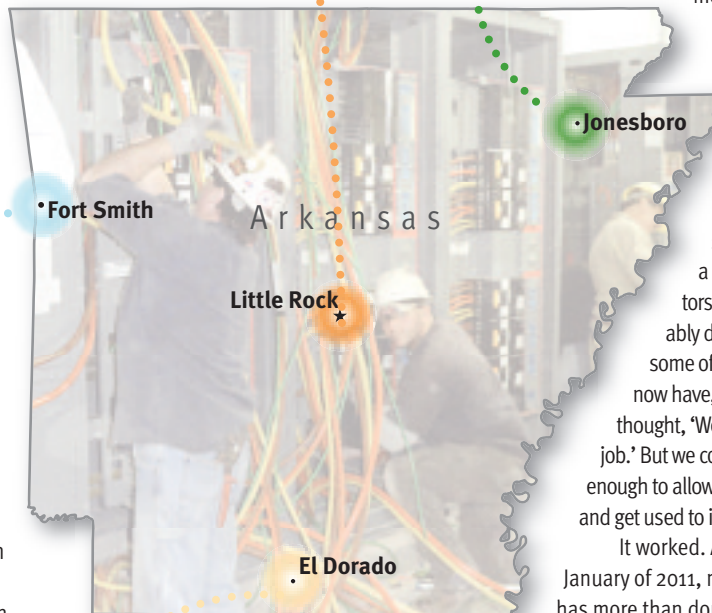
IBEW Values Take Root in FORT SMITH

Along the Oklahoma border to the west, unemployment in Fort Smith still hovers around

the national average of about 8 percent. But as signatory contractors in the area find success with the recovery agreement, more and more area residents are finding work—and Local 700 plays a role.

“Down here in the South, people don’t accept unions as much as in other places,” said Business Manager Carl McPeak. “But with the newer CEs and CWs that we’re bringing in, they appreciate the heck out of what we have to offer them. I know a lot of them are going to be with us for the long haul.”

That’s also good news for journeymen and apprentices who are getting more man-hours. Nabbing projects at big box stores like Dick’s Sporting Goods—a job that helped clear the names on Book Two—and other smaller jobs has contributed to doubling the number of members working since October, McPeak said. “This is huge for us,” he said.



According to Local 700 leaders’ estimates, contractors steadily increased their market share from 4 percent in January of 2011 to nearly 8 percent in April.

‘Full Employment’ in EL DORADO

The success in some of the larger cities is also starting to be reflected in El Dorado Local 436’s jurisdiction—

which extends through the south-central part of the state, and includes many smaller towns.

“Our numbers had dropped since the recession,” Business Manager Pat Cossey said. But since the statewide recovery agreement was implemented, “We’re now at full employment,” he said.

Cossey said that by bringing in more local hires as construction wiremen and construction electricians, contractors are breaking into the residential market.

“We’re seeing some growth in some new markets,” Cossey said. “It shows the value of working together as a team to take on some big challenges. If it can happen in Arkansas, it can happen anywhere.”

Doubling Market Share in JONESBORO

Two and a half hours north-east of Little Rock, signatory contractors in

Jonesboro Local 1516’s jurisdiction are snapping up projects—including schools, auditoriums, fairgrounds and restaurants—all because of the recovery agreement, Business Manager Kirk Douglas said.

“We had to do away with some old thinking,” he said. “I know that a lot of our contractors in the past probably didn’t bid on some of the projects they now have, because they thought, ‘We’ll never get that job.’ But we convinced them enough to allow them to try it out and get used to it.”

It worked. And since January of 2011, market share has more than doubled. “It’s all about confidence,” Douglas said.

“Contractors need to know that they can be competitive, and now they have more tools to do just that.”

With greater market share comes greater exposure and positive attention, Douglas said. He points to a 100-member project at Northeast Arkansas Baptist Memorial Hospital—the largest industrial job in the state—as proof.

“That was the big one that opened the door,” Douglas said. “After our signatory contractor got that, they started bidding on renovation projects for schools, fire stations, you name it.” It was at that point that market share started opening up for companies targeting the smaller projects.

“Before this, some of our employers might have bid about four, maybe five of those kind of jobs a year,” Douglas said. “Now they’re bidding on almost everything.” ■

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New Tactics, New Spirit

Professionals at Canada's NB Power Vote IBEW

The famous inventor Thomas Edison once said, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

Heeding Edison's axiom, Local 37 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, refused to give up after four failed attempts to organize a diverse group of 186 professionals, including information technology specialists, accountants, financial planners, purchasing agents and supply chain personnel at NB Power, the province's government-run utility.

In June, the professionals voted to authorize Local 37 as their bargaining agent.

Union's Public Posture Plants Seeds

Business Manager Ross Galbraith said that the seeds of success in the organizing campaign at the company—where 90 percent of all workers are now represented by IBEW—were planted during and after the last representation vote that was narrowly lost six years ago.

Since that loss, says Galbraith, Hydro-Quebec, a neighboring utility, made a 2009 bid to take over NB Power. Local 37 publicly opposed the merger, citing its potentially negative effect not just on the work force at the utility, but on consumers. The deal was derailed.

Scott Mullin, a 16-year NB Power systems analyst, says the turmoil was the driving factor that culminated in the June victory, but a more professional approach by Local 37 also contributed to the win.

Job Security Concerns Tip Vote

"NB Power is a Crown corporation [government-run] and we would have been at the government's mercy facing Hydro-Quebec, one of the world's largest utilities," says Mullin, who noted that Local 37 had been a strong voice for all workers—both union and nonunion—at the utility during the time of the proposed sale, a fact that was noticed by the nonunion workers.

Professional workers, he says, were then shocked when, a year and a half following the deal was scrapped, NB Power put 12 high-paid executives on layoff status, the first time the company had resorted to such a measure.

"Members who voted against the union before now feared for their jobs," says Mullin, who reminded his IT co-workers that NB Power was a unionized company, with "just a sliver" of the work force unorganized, leaving his col-



Fredericton, New Brunswick, Local 37 helped nearly 200 professionals at NB Power win a voice on the job.



leagues more vulnerable.

"No other job in Atlantic Canada offers the opportunities we have at NB Power. If members lose these jobs, we will have to move to Ontario or further," says Mullin.

Professionalism Wins Respect

"In the last few years, we've done a lot in this local to raise our profile," says Galbraith, who ensured that extra copies of local union newsletters were circulated in the offices where the newly-organized professionals, members of the shared services department, work. "We knew they would only agree to join a professional organization and we worked hard to establish a professional image," says Galbraith. Concerns among NB Power workers extended well beyond their own job prospects.

"The spinoff work from NB Power, like contracts for welding, pipefitting and locally-made materials, could have dried up in a Hydro-Quebec merger," says Mullin, who saw the deal as part of that company's controversial plan to build a transmission line straight down to New York, an option that is being opposed by IBEW utility locals in the U.S.

NB Stays Neutral

Labor and management have a track record of "working through tough issues at NB Power," which promotes its relationship with the IBEW on the company's Web site, says Galbraith.

The company took a neutral stance on the organizing campaign, which was structured in four stages, says Local 37 President Steve Hayes, an NB Power

retiree who was assigned to work with IBEW's Membership Development Department to organize the new unit.

First, Local 37 established a campaign Web site. "It was the cornerstone of our campaign," says Hayes. Then the local began circulating fliers in front of the main office answering frequently asked questions about unions. Leafleting continued during the winter, even on sub-zero days, demonstrating the local's commitment to building union power at the utility.

Fresh Tactics

While some shared service workers began to call the local union hall to express support for the campaign, fresh tactics were needed to bring along some of their less enthusiastic peers. Sandwich boards were set up outside the main office with QR (quick response) codes that could be scanned with smartphones to take workers to the campaign's Web site. YouTube videos of the union in action, including an IBEW-produced video of a successful campaign to organize attorneys general in the state of New Jersey, were posted.

Flash drives were distributed to all shared services workers containing a welcome message from International President Edwin D. Hill, an interview with Galbraith and links to stories about successful IBEW campaigns among IT specialists in Indiana and court supervisors in California.

IBEW Shows Brotherhood Beyond Borders

"The statement from President Hill was important," says Galbraith. "We wanted to demonstrate that the IBEW is truly an international organization, that the folks in Washington know where New Brunswick is and that unions are not alien to highly-skilled, well-educated workers," he adds.

Local 37 organizers and member volunteers knew opposition to organizing in the IT ranks sank prior campaigns. "Some of my co-workers thought they were superior to workers who organize unions," says Mullin. "I tried to convince them that doctors, nurses, firefighters and dentists all have associations to speak for them and the IBEW was offering the same opportunity."

Two meet-and-greet sessions were held in a hotel down the street from NB Power's main office, where the local union provided lunch for prospective members.

In past campaigns, only other NB Power workers made the case for organizing. This time, labor lawyers, International Representative Brian Matheson and other professionals were there to discuss collective bargaining options.

"Some members were concerned that they were going to lose their jobs with or without a union," says Mullin,

whose brother is a union activist on Via Rail, Canada's passenger line. "But they became convinced that if they were part of an organized group, they would be able to fight for more severance pay than the company would initially offer and win the right to return to their jobs if they were restored."

"We got a lot of information out, but didn't push too hard in our one-on-one discussions with NB's shared services workers," says Hayes. "The whole thing was about treating them with respect," he adds. If workers had a different opinion about unions, that was their right. But Local 37 provided facts to lay the basis for a changing of minds, says Hayes.

Team Effort Inspires More Inside Organizing

Region 6 Lead Organizer Rod McVicar says the NB Power campaign only succeeded because of the team effort between Local 37, locally-based International Representative Brian Matheson and the Membership Development Department.

"I'm quite proud of how we combined traditional organizing formats—like call-ins, leaflets and informational picketing with online sources, Facebook and YouTube," says McVicar. The NB Power win has inspired local unions in Canada to step up their internal organizing efforts, says McVicar. "We expect this win to be repeated at other utilities and workplaces." ■

Boston TV News Employees Win Representation

Fletcher Fischer knows that membership development sometimes comes one new member at a time, and inch by inch. That's why the Boston Local 1228 business manager successfully went to bat for a handful of broadcasting professionals whose poor working conditions and low pay spurred them to reach out to the IBEW for help.

Four creative designers who do graphics for WCVB-TV Channel 5's nightly news had seen for years the tangible benefits that their co-workers in other positions at the ABC affiliate enjoyed with IBEW representation. But the designers, who weren't covered by the bargaining agreement, had witnessed their own wages stagnate even as more and more assignments and deadlines were handed to them.

"It was basically a 'more work than there are bodies' kind of scenario," said Fischer. "They work at the No. 1 station in the Boston TV market, but they weren't seeing fair rewards for their efforts."

After talking with other organized co-workers at the station, the four employees reached out to Fischer, and a quick campaign resulted in a unanimous vote on May 9 to join the IBEW.

"We have a good track record of advocating for dozens of techs and other employees at the station," Fischer said. "They knew the union's reputation and believed in what we could do for them." ■

IBEW Tools Help Grow El Paso Local

IBEW organizers are often told to think outside the box. “I hear that a lot,” says El Paso, Texas, Local 583 Business Manager Javier Casas. “We’re not just talking about it, we’re doing it.”

Over the last year, Local 583 has made significant inroads in traditionally nonunion construction sectors, resulting in more work for signatory contractors and good jobs for members.

Casas credits the local’s success to its adoption of a mix of tactics and new tools—integrating top-down and bottom-up organizing to grow the IBEW.

One of the local’s most important tools has been Project Tracker, the Construction and Maintenance Department’s database of upcoming construction projects, allowing the IBEW to go after new work while projects are still on the drawing board.

Casas says he and his staff spend hours poring over the data, seeing which jobs are coming to El Paso.

The area is experiencing something of a construction boom. U.S. Army base Fort Bliss underwent a major expansion last year, which brought in more than 10,000 additional troops, providing a needed boost to the local economy.

“We’ve got restaurants, shopping strips, movie theaters—all going up because of the new soldiers and civilian support staff coming to El Paso,” says Casas.

While it’s good news for the local construction market, ensuring the work is done by National Electrical Contractors Association members has been a challenge.

“Small works projects haven’t usually been our focus,” Casas says. “We weren’t players in the sector.”

But by using Project Tracker, Casas was able to get the information about these jobs to signatory contractors in El Paso and across the country, encouraging them to aggressively bid on the work.

“Every time I saw a new project, I would send out a mass e-mail to all the contractors I knew to let them know about it,” he says.

Casas researched general contractors, finding out if they ever worked with union shops in the past—information he used to attract NECA contractors.

“It is labor intensive, but it paid off,” he says.

Some of the bigger NECA contractors, like U.S. Electric and Parson Electric, have successfully bid on jobs in the El Paso area because of Local 583’s outreach efforts.

The use of alternative job classifications, like construction electricians and construction wiremen, helped keep union

bids competitive, winning work that was usually lost to the nonunion firms.

“CWs/CEs have been vital to keeping the IBEW in the game,” Casas says.

The local also aggressively policed wage and hours laws, working with the U.S. Department of Labor to crack down on employers who cheat their workers out of pay and benefits.

So far they’ve helped win more than \$1 million in back wages for the defrauded employees.

“We’re keeping the competition honest so they know they have to play by the rules,” Casas says.



Downtown El Paso, Texas, is undergoing a construction boom.

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

To make sure there are enough signatory contractors to do the work, Casas has been encouraging his own members to go into business for themselves. It is not easy, he says, in today’s economic climate, but already four Local 583 members have struck out on their own, laying the groundwork for the next generation of NECA contractors in Far West Texas.

From stripping nonunion electricians to organizing subcontractors, bottom-up organizing also plays a big part in the local’s growth strategy.

Earlier this year, 25 tree-trimmers for Asplundh Tree Expert Co., voted to join the IBEW after failing to receive a raise in more than four years. Their average pay was around \$10 an hour.

Safety was another major concern, says Seventh District International Representative Fernando Huerta, who worked on the campaign.

“Employees were working near energized equipment without the proper equipment or training,” he says.

Huerta credits Local 583, Regional Organizer Tim Bowden and Lead Organizer Robert Sample for helping to make the campaign a success. The local is currently negotiating a first contract.

Casas’ advice to locals looking to copy his success: “Educate your contractors about all the tools available to them. Project Tracker is one of the best things the International Office has put out in years. Use it and then talk it up with NECA contractors. Inform them what’s coming up in your area, so you can go after the work in a coordinated way.” ■

International Secretary Emeritus Ralph A. Leigon Dies

The IBEW is saddened to announce that International Secretary Emeritus Ralph A. Leigon passed away June 15. He was 93.

“Brother Leigon was one of the old warriors of the IBEW, a leader who we all have learned from and whose footsteps we are proud to have followed in,” says International President Edwin D. Hill.

Born in Vaughn, N.M., in 1918, Leigon’s family moved to Las Vegas in 1943, a city he would call home for most of his life.

Serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he entered the electrical trade a year after the war ended in 1946.

Leigon describes life in Las Vegas during the city’s early years in a letter he addressed to delegates at the IBEW’s 38th International Convention last year:

“I was initiated into Las Vegas Local 357 when the population of that frontier town stood at about 10,000. The Flamingo Hotel had just opened and—over the next six decades—I watched as Las Vegas grew to nearly half a million residents.”

He quickly became a leader of Local 357, becoming business manager in 1950. He was also active in Las Vegas’s nascent labor movement, serving as a charter member of the Southern Nevada Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, and the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council. He also was president of the state AFL-CIO from 1958 to 1963.

In addition to his union activities, he was deeply involved in local political and community organizations, including the Nevada Democratic Party Central Committee, the state board of education and the Employment Security Advisory Board.

Leigon’s contributions to Las Vegas were noted by many elected officials and civic figures, including Mayor William H. Briare, who proclaimed “Ralph Leigon Day” in 1976.

In 1960, he joined the International Executive Council representing the Seventh IEC District, becoming secretary of that body in 1974.

In 1976 he was appointed International Secretary by International President Charles H. Pillard.

One of his top jobs as International Secretary—which was combined with the International Treasurer position in 1998—was ensuring the success of the IBEW’s COPE program, helping to build the Brotherhood’s political power in Congress and in statehouses across the country.



“None have been more committed to fulfilling our mission than Brother Leigon.”

— International President Edwin D. Hill

“His vision for the IBEW pension plans was transformational, and the assets in the plans grew at an amazing rate,” says retired International Representative Michael Nugent, who worked under Leigon. “The IBEW is a far better place for the leadership that International Secretary Leigon provided.”

it is this: Never follow them and underestimate yourselves. You are the future of our two nations.”

Members of the IBEW, officers and staff send our deepest condolences to Brother Leigon’s many friends and family. ■

He retired in 1985.

“Our organization cherishes the contribution of those who put their hearts and souls into serving our membership,” President Hill said of Brother Leigon at the International Convention last year in Vancouver. “And none have been more committed to fulfilling our mission than Brother Leigon.”

Leigon is survived by his wife, Georgia, his two children and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren.

In his last message to the IBEW, Brother Leigon wrote:

“Brothers and sisters, our haughty adversaries will always underestimate the heart and soul of hard-working union men and women. If I have any message for you

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Miss. Shipyard Gets Billions in New Ships



The Navy's next large-deck amphibious assault ship, the future USS Tripoli, will be built by Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733 members.

A May announcement of a \$2 billion U.S. Department of Defense contract for an amphibious assault ship, the USS Tripoli, has bolstered the hopes and job security of thousands of IBEW shipyard workers in Mississippi.

Virginia-based Huntington Ingalls Industries, which employs more than 1,400 members of Pascagoula, Miss., Local 733, will be responsible for the detail design and construction of the future USS Tripoli (LHA 7), the Navy's next large-deck amphibious assault ship. The company formed as a spinoff from Northrop Grumman in 2011.

Construction will begin in 2014. Delivery of the ship, which will travel at a maximum speed of 22 knots (25 miles per hour) is expected in 2018.

The Tripoli will have the potential to operate for sustained periods, traveling to war zones to insert or extract marine air and ground forces supported by helicopters and fighter aircraft.

Local 733 Business Manager Jim Couch says, "We are elated. Huntington Ingalls was only able to secure this contract based upon their growing confi-

dence in the work of our members."

Layoffs at the yard would have been inevitable, says Couch, as existing ships are completed. Now, the local will have the opportunity to move workers who would have been idled to the new project, while adding apprentice classes to replace workers who are retiring in large numbers.

"By starting a new apprentice class now," says Couch, "we will ensure that by the time the Tripoli starts being built, we will have electricians who are completing the last year of their four-year apprenticeship and are equipped to do just about any of the work needed."

The LHA 7—more than two football fields in length and 106 feet high—will improve upon previous amphibious ships by including a larger hangar deck for more aviation capacity and more space for military personnel, parts and support equipment for landings.

The assault ship will replace the steam boilers on the previous class of amphibious assault vessels with a gas turbine propulsion plant for greater fuel efficiency. The project's electrical potential will be greatly enhanced.

IBEW Government Employees

Department Director Chico McGill, a former business manager of Local 733, worked in the analog-controlled engine room of the prior Tarawa-class amphibious ship when he started in the shipbuilding industry in the 1970s. He says, "The gas turbines are a lot more efficient and safe than steam-driven power. I remember back when we would hold up a board to a suspected steam leak and see if the pressure would cut the board." Today's technologies, says McGill, require marine electricians to be better trained in electronics to work with modern digital controls and diagnostic devices.

McGill says the new vessel will be well-suited to serve humanitarian missions with enough deck space to establish a floating hospital.

Secretary of the U.S. Navy Ray Mabus, a former governor of Mississippi, says, "I'm very proud of our Navy-industry shipbuilding team and the tremendous effort that has culminated in the award of this critical shipbuilding program. The ship will ensure that the amphibious fleet remains capable of expeditionary warfare well into the 21st century." ■



Canadian Building Trades Signs Milestone Agreement with Oil Sands Companies

The multi-billion dollar oil sands industry has transformed the vast, forested valleys of Northern Alberta into one of Canada's biggest booming regions, revolutionizing the North American energy industry and boosting the Canadian economy in these tough times globally.

The area is home to vast deposits of buried bitumen, which, once extracted from the ground, is processed into synthetic crude oil and sold on markets in the United States.

The oil sands are responsible for nearly half a million jobs across the country, say industry and union leaders, and they predict more to come in the future.

And to meet the need of developing a new generation of skilled tradesmen for the oil sands, the Canadian Building Trades and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers entered into a joint agreement June 1, which commits both parties to increase training opportunities, while making it easier for existing skilled workers across North America to connect with job opportunities in the oil sands.

"Every billion dollars of oil sands investment means 2,000 to 3,000 construction jobs," says Robert Blakely, director of Canadian Affairs for the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO. "The demand for skilled workers will only grow."

But the graying of the baby-boom generation, which currently makes up much of the construction work force, means Canada is facing an imminent skilled workers shortage that could grind the industry to a halt.

According to the federal government's Construction Sector Council, by 2018 more than 360,000 construction workers will have exited the work force, creating a 200,000-worker gap that will have to be filled if the energy industry is to keep growing.

"We are facing a massive baby boom crunch, and getting young people into the trades must be a priority if Canada is going to thrive," Blakely says.

"Canada's skilled trades unions train 80 percent of construction apprentices, including 40,000 trained annually in concert with the oil sands industry and our employer partners," says Blakely. "With co-operation between the companies and unions, the oil sands will be Canada's skilled trades training super-highway."

Under the agreement, both parties will invest millions in new training facilities and recruitment efforts to beef up the building trades' already existing training infrastructure.

The joint partnership will also lobby provincial and federal officials on issues related to work force availability, supporting policies that make it easier

for construction workers in Canada and abroad to make the move to Alberta.

"We will be able speak as one on some key issues, getting the attention of politicians across party lines," says Blakely.

For Edmonton Local 424, which is one of the main locals working in the oil sands, the agreement means a formal recognition

of the vital role unions play in industry.

"It raises our profile and recognizes the important work we do," says Local 424 Assistant Business Manager Ken Mackenzie. "The building trades are No.1 when it comes to delivering the training the industry needs, and now by coming together will supply qualified skilled trades workers across Canada

and the United States."

"Guaranteeing a steady supply of skilled construction workers is vital for not only for the oil sands but the entire Canadian economy," says First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "This is an important step in making sure we will continue to have a first-class work force, both now and in the future." ■

Les Syndicats des métiers de la construction du Canada signent un accord déterminant avec les entreprises qui exploitent les sables bitumineux

Le secteur des sables bitumineux, une industrie de plusieurs milliards de dollars qui a transformé les vallées du Nord de l'Alberta en l'une des régions les plus florissantes au Canada, a révolutionné le secteur de l'énergie en Amérique du Nord et stimulé l'économie canadienne en ces temps difficiles pour l'économie mondiale.

Cette région abrite de grands gisements de bitume et une fois extrait du sol, le sable bitumineux est transformé en pétrole brut synthétique puis vendu sur les marchés aux États-Unis.

Comme l'affirment les dirigeants syndicaux et ceux des entreprises de ce secteur, l'industrie des sables bitumineux fournit près d'un demi-million d'emplois à travers le pays et selon eux, ce nombre ira grandissant.

En vue de répondre au besoin de se doter d'une nouvelle génération de gens de métier qualifiés dans le secteur des sables bitumineux, les Syndicats des métiers de la construction du Canada et l'Association canadienne des producteurs pétroliers ont conclu, le 1er juin, une entente qui engage les deux parties à créer plus de possibilités de formation, tout en facilitant l'accès aux possibilités d'emploi dans les sables bitumineux aux travailleurs déjà spécial-

isés en Amérique du Nord.

« Chaque investissement d'un milliard de dollars dans le secteur des sables bitumineux crée 2,000 à 3,000 emplois dans le secteur de la construction et une forte demande de travailleurs spécialisés est à prévoir » dit le confrère Robert Blakely, Directeur des affaires canadiennes, pour le Département des métiers de la construction (FAT-CO).

Mais le vieillissement de la génération du baby-boom qui compose la majeure partie de la main-d'œuvre du secteur de la construction signifie que le Canada devra faire face à une imminente pénurie de main-d'œuvre qualifiée, une situation qui pourrait paralyser l'industrie.

Selon les prévisions du Conseil sectoriel de la construction, qui relève du gouvernement fédéral, d'ici 2018, plus de 360,000 travailleurs du secteur de la construction auront pris leur retraite, ce qui devrait créer un manque à gagner de 200,000 travailleurs. Ce manque à gagner devra être comblé pour que le secteur de l'énergie continue de s'accroître.

« Nous sommes confrontés au départ massif des baby-boomers à la retraite; attirer les jeunes vers les métiers spécialisés doit donc constituer une pri-

orité si on veut que le Canada soit prospère » affirme le confrère Blakely.

« Les syndicats canadiens représentant les gens de métier forment 80% des apprentis du secteur de la construction, ce qui inclut les 40,000 personnes formées annuellement de concert avec l'industrie des sables bitumineux et nos partenaires employeurs. Grâce à la coopération entre les entreprises exploitant les sables bitumineux et les syndicats, cette industrie va devenir le chef de file de la formation de gens de métier qualifiés » précise M. Blakely.

En vertu de cette entente, les deux organisations vont investir des millions de dollars dans de nouvelles infrastructures pour la formation et le recrutement afin d'améliorer l'actuelle infrastructure d'apprentissage des Métiers de la construction.

Les deux partenaires feront également du lobbying auprès des fonctionnaires provinciaux et fédéraux sur les dossiers concernant la disponibilité et la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre, manifestant leur appui à des politiques visant à inciter les travailleurs de la construction au Canada et à l'étranger à se déplacer sur le territoire canadien jusqu'en Alberta.

« Nous parlerons d'une même voix sur les principaux enjeux pour attirer l'attention des politiciens de tous les

partis » déclare M. Blakely.

Pour la section locale 424 d'Edmonton, l'une des principales sections locales ayant des membres travaillant dans le secteur des sables bitumineux, cette entente représente une reconnaissance formelle du rôle indispensable que jouent les syndicats dans l'industrie.

« Elle contribue à accroître notre visibilité et reconnaît le travail important que nous accomplissons. Les syndicats des métiers de la construction se classent au premier rang lorsqu'il s'agit d'offrir les possibilités de formation pour mieux soutenir l'industrie et lorsque tous les éléments seront réunis, ils pourront fournir des gens de métier qualifiés à travers le Canada et les États-Unis » explique Ken Mackenzie, gérant d'affaires adjoint de la section locale 424.

« Pouvoir disposer d'une offre stable de travailleurs qualifiés est crucial non seulement pour le secteur des sables bitumineux mais pour toute l'économie canadienne. C'est une étape importante pour s'assurer que nous continuerons d'avoir une main-d'œuvre de premier ordre, maintenant et dans le futur » conclut Phil Flemming, Vice-président du Premier District. ■

Transitions

DECEASED

James Brizendine



We are saddened to report that retired Tenth District International Representative James "Jim" Monroe Brizendine, 88, died April 27.

Brizendine was initiated into Pine Bluff, Ark., Local 1658 in 1962. As Twelfth District International Representative, he serviced locals representing members at large manufacturing employers such as Westinghouse, facilitating mediations, conducting workshops and coordinating steward training programs.

A veteran of the United States Army 69th infantry, Brother Brizendine served in Belgium, France and Germany during World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge and European Theatre Operation Medal with three Battle Stars.

Brother Brizendine retired from the IBEW in 1983 and moved back to the family land in Starrville, Texas, to live as a rancher. His wife, Rosemary, said, "He was always a cowboy and always had a horse." He had a passion for raising cutting horses, and he competed for many years, winning awards from two cutting horse associations. Brizendine was also active in the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Brizendine was always active in local community projects, including the Masons, Oklahoma Consistory of the Scottish Rite, Arkansas Governor's Education Committee and Starrville Community Center.

On behalf of the officers, members and staff of the IBEW, we send our condolences to Brother Brizendine's wife, Rosemary, his children, grandchildren and his entire family. ■

Circuits

Wireman Lands (Missile Defense) Job in Paradise

When Santa Rosa, Calif., Local 551 member Steven Benjamin was laid off last Christmas Eve, it didn't look like he'd be taking a vacation anytime soon. Four months later, he was working on a Pacific Island, spending his free time scuba diving, snorkeling and biking around a bona fide tropical paradise.

Benjamin's journey started when Bechtel Corp., a contracting firm operating on the Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands, placed a general call for an electrician with at least five years' journeyman experience and merchant mariner's documentation. A former merchant marine with 30 years' electrical experience, Benjamin fit the bill.

The jobsite, the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, is where the U.S. Army tests its offensive and defensive missile weapons. The temporary assignment called to overhaul one of two personnel ferries, critical for getting mission specialists and maintenance workers from Kwajalein to one of the other islands on which operations take place.

"They wanted jobs done right, on time," says Benjamin. "They didn't want to take a chance on unqualified people."

Bechtel fast-tracked Benjamin's trip, and after a week of form faxing and credential gathering, he was on his way across the Pacific Ocean to Kwajalein.

During his first week, Benjamin tackled a problematic marine battery charger that made batteries overcharge, some to the point of explosion. In one

afternoon, Benjamin found that a faulty heat sensor, loose electrical buss and a grounded buss bolt caused the issue, fixing what the local electrical shop could not in four months.

"That impressed the marine manager and a few other people as well," says John Hammond, a retired member of the pipefitter's union in charge of the ferry's overhaul.

Benjamin's main work was overhauling the catamaran Pvt Sorenson, an eight-year-old vessel that runs on underwater jet engines. The design, which puts two small hulls underwater at opposite sides of the boat rather than a single-hull design, allows for better stability and speed on water than most ferries. His main duties included rebuilding jet drives and diesel engines, as well as replacing one engine that exploded.

The Marshall Islands, a collection of small islands and ring-shaped coral islands called atolls, are about 2,000 miles northeast of Australia. Captured by the Japanese in World War II, they were liberated by Allied Forces in 1943. Since then, the Islands have been used by the United States for missile testing. Because of the nature of what goes on there, the Islands have a unique limitation: the only people who can visit are those who are either directly sponsored by Marshallese residents, or have business with the U.S. Army.

In his down time, Benjamin enjoyed biking around Kwajalein, snorkeling in waters with up to 100-foot visibility, and scuba diving through the old World War II shipwrecks.

Benjamin's time at the atoll ended



Santa Rosa, Calif., Local 551 member Steven Benjamin spent three months in the remote Pacific Marshall Islands, home of the U.S. Army's ballistic missile testing site.

last month. Disappointed to leave, he said he is happy to have had the chance to meet new friends, explore the ocean and experience one of the most beautiful, isolated places in the world.

"It's a really nice place," Benjamin says, "I'm hoping I can come back again."

Benjamin's not the only one glad for the opportunity. For his local back home, to have their group represented by one of their own so far away is an honor.

"Steve's a very good electrician," says Local 551 Business Representative Denise Soza. "We stand proud behind our members and our training, and I believe we are the best of the best." ■

IBEW Students Earn Union Plus Scholarships

This year, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to 10 students with IBEW connections.

The winners hail from across the country, with goals to further their education. Union Plus Scholarships are awarded to students based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of the labor movement.

Caitlin Eckert, whose father, Lawrence, is a member of Washington, D.C., Local 26, received a \$2,000 scholarship. She is working on her master's degree at Loyola University, and is pursuing a career as a school counselor.

Dimitre Nitchev won a \$1,000 scholarship, and plans to become an orthopedist. His father, Valkan, is also a member of Washington, D.C., Local 26.

Devon Jedamski was awarded \$1,000. A second-year Union Plus award recipient, he is pursuing an aeronautical and mechanical engineering degree. His father, James, is a member of Rochester, N.Y., Local 86.

Kelsey Potter, whose father, Gary, is a member of Huntington, W.Va., Local 317, received a \$1,000 scholarship. She plans to major in English and teach writing.

Lutitia Ferguson won a \$1,000 scholarship, and plans to pursue a career as a psychologist. Her father, Terry, is a member of Louisville, Ky., Local 369.

Michael Tomaszewski, whose father, Frank, is a member of Alton, Ill., Local 649, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. He is training to become a union worker.

Hayley Grzych received a \$1,000 scholarship and plans to pursue a career as a pediatric surgeon. Her father, Douglas, is a member of Gary and Hammond, Ind., Local 697.

Harry Shenberger III, whose father, Harry, is a member of Bethlehem, Pa., Local 1600, received a \$500 scholarship. He is studying electrical technology and plans to work alongside his father as an IBEW member.

Benjamin Magyar was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship, and currently plans to be a nurse practitioner. His father, Joseph, is a member of Milwaukee, Wis., Local 2150.

Alaina Warren, whose father, James, is a member of Middleton, Mass., Local 2321, received a \$1,000 scholarship. She is studying English and plans to be a teacher. ■

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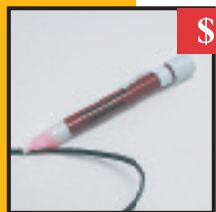
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The popular competition is back after last year's hiatus when leaders, members and staff were gearing up for the 38th International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. This year's event will be the 15th contest since its kickoff in 1997.

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

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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.

Local Lines

Welcome to New Contractors

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rs,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and increased work opportunities. Work has remained fairly steady with the numbers hovering around 200 on Book 1. With Jeep, the flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) project at the coal burner, the Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance (GEMA) plant in Dundee, and many school projects at the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University, hopefully we will see the number on the book drop very soon.

Local 8 welcomes several new contractors: Christ Electric, Advanced Distributed Generation (ADG), Perrysburg Electric, and CNC Electric. Thank you to our organizers for their hard work in signing on new contractors. More employers means more work for our members.

Congratulations to Local 8 members who recently announced their retirement: Steve Rockwood, Charlie Wistinghausen, Pat Boyle, Eugene McCarthy, Wally Tackett, Nelly Haffner, Ned Steele, Norm Weiser, Richard Cooper and Mike Ringger. Thanks to all for the years of service and quality work. Enjoy your retirement!

Remember to work safe.

Bryan Emerick, P.S.

Graduating Apprentices

L.U. 12 (i,o&se), PUEBLO, CO—Congratulations to the class of 2011 graduating apprentices of the Pueblo Electrical JATC, who were honored at the 112th Anniversary Banquet of the IBEW Local 12. Good luck to these brothers in their careers (photo, below).

We are sad to report the passing of 60-year member Joseph Flanders, who was also honored at the banquet and will be missed. Rest in peace, brother.

Clif Thompson, P.S.



Local 12 honors graduating apprentices. Front row, from left, Carlos Martinez, Jeff Zane, Dawn Bernal (representing her father, graduate James Bernal), Chad Ashley, Frank Rogers, Alfonso Maes and Scott Marten; back row, Training Dir. Ron Scott. Not pictured: Jonathon Grenard and Justin Conner.

Political Action Necessary

L.U. 16 (i), EVANSVILLE, IN—After several challenging weeks of difficult negotiations, Local 16 ratified a new three-year agreement with the NECA chapter. This contract provides enabling language for a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) /Sub fund and economic gains for the membership while allowing the contractors more opportunity with shift work. Talks highlighted the strengths (integrity, training, skill level, market recovery programs) of the IBEW and clarified future actions the partnership may have to take. Thanks to all who stood behind Bus. Mgr. Paul Green and his negotiating committee, especially Sixth District Int. Rep. Paul Noble, who consistently encouraged both parties to find a workable solution.

The anti-labor juggernaut empowered by the 2010 elections has made it crystal clear that pro-union people must become politically, legislatively and socially active. To this end, the IBEW Local 16 Political Action Committee was recently reorganized. PAC meetings are at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the hall. Any member or retiree in good standing is welcome to join. After witnessing the damage to common construction wages, new unemployment restrictions, and Indiana Republicans forcing so-called “right-to-work” legislation without a public referendum, it should be obvious that changes are desperately needed.

Donald P. Beavin, P.S.

New Signatory Contractor

L.U. 22 (i,rs&spa), OMAHA, NE—Local 22 has a new signatory contractor, A/C Lightning Protection Inc., as of April 2012. Employees of A/C Lightning Protection were working under a contract with another union before, but did not feel it was best suited to the type of work they were doing. Thanks to the help of Bus. Rep. Brett Johnson, Bus. Mgr. Gary Kelly and Int. Rep. John Bourne, a new classification was made so the men could join the union. We welcome the new members to our local.

Congratulations to the 2012 apprenticeship class graduates. Graduates are: Telecommunications—

Bruce Cady, Randy Gorman, Jeffrey Lentz, Kirk Pulliam and Shawn Woodring. Residential—Eloy Avalos, Julio Gomez, Kenneth Gomez II, Jeffrey Hazen, Dan Hiller, Russell Luschen, Ryan Olsen, Jesse Trede, Justin Voycheske, and Lance Zimmer. Inside Journeymen—Ryan Andress, Joseph Arellano, Orion Berg, Matthew Converse, Jared Devore, Michael Evans, Shane Foote, Jordan Gegzna, Sean Grover, Jeffrey Hamilton, Douglas Ignowski, Ryan Jacobsen, Ronald Karnett, Anthony Kelly, Michael Kocsis, Colby Ladehoff, Christopher Langer, Cody Lantis, Corey Madden, Justin Mass, Richard Mathouser, Jeffery Mikovec, John Minshall, Michael Myers, John Sak, Timothy Saucier, Daniel Sievers, Weston Spaustat, Bryan Spicer, Andy Swanger, Russell Swanson, Matthew Talmon, Joseph Woosley and Jason Zubrod.

Chris Bayer, P.S.

Maryland Live Casino

L.U. 24 (es,i&spa), BALTIMORE, MD—The first phase of the Maryland Live Casino project was completed with the help of 150 IBEW Local 24 members. The project was the third casino in Local 24’s jurisdiction in the last several years and all three projects were awarded to union electrical contractors.

The Maryland Live Casino at Arundel Mills Mall in Anne Arundel County is the largest casino in the state. The 350,000 square-foot casino floor includes: 4,800 slot machines; 150,000 square feet of office space; and 1.5 million square feet of parking. The installation included: 1,350 LED garage fixtures; two 2,500 KW diesel generators; and 22,500 linear feet of LED cove lighting, which included 6,000 feet of programmable color changing lighting. Additionally, 300 exterior LED color changing fixtures created the largest theatre controlled venue in the Baltimore region. The project is powered with a 10,000 amp 480 volt service.

BK Truland was the union electrical contractor



IBEW Local 24 members successfully completed the first phase of the Maryland Live Casino construction project.

on the project, and it was managed by general foremen Dave Stachowiak and Michael Berman, and foremen Jamie Collins, Chad Dwyer, Sean Handley, Brian House, Sean LeBrun, Mathew Lince, Frank Matkins, David Piel, Daniel Richmond, Robert Rogers and Darren Stachowiak. The data work was installed by 25 IBEW members at peak with Tech Inc., and was managed by foreman Chris Yowell. Local 24 shop stewards on the project were Harry Godlove and Constance Williams.

Our thanks go to every Local 24 member who worked on this project.

Roger M. Lash Jr., B.M.

Local Union Update

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—Agreements were reached on both the Inside and Residential agreements. The new contracts were ratified at special-called meetings in April. The new Inside and Residential Wireman Agreement books will be printed and mailed to members.

Local 26 congratulates 2012 JATC graduates. At graduation ceremonies on June 2, it was a delight to see so many supportive family members and happy graduates! Best wishes to you all as journeyman electricians!

The DAD’s golf outing was again a huge success. We spanned four golf courses with over 400 golfers participating. Thanks to everyone who sponsored, volunteered and participated! We made a very sizeable donation to Dollars Against Diabetes, thanks to Local 26 members and sponsors.

The Manassas, VA, picnic was June 16. The Edgewater, MD, picnic is Aug. 4. The picnics provide fun for families of our members. It is great to have such a fabulous turnout for these events and the health fair.

We mourn members who passed away since our last article: James D. Wright, Rudis G. Flores, George M. Norfolk Sr., Michael A. Kennedy, William L. Smith and Elmer J. Statter.

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.

Best wishes to recent retirees: Lewis J. Dehnam Jr., Kevin J. Colbert, Charles T. Cusack, Steve Penska, Russell A. Perry, Ronald L. Rohrbaugh, Gary L. Hammett, John M. White, Richard W. Kagle, Larry S. Catlett, Milton G. Connor, Dennis K. Levesque, Andrew J. O'Reilly III, James P. Tetlow and Larry T. Grenier.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

New Re-Sign Dates

L.U. 34 (em,i,rts&spa), PEORIA, IL—In June, Local 34 implemented the new re-sign dates—beginning on the 10th and ending on the 16th of each month. There were only a few wrinkles that had to be ironed out; other than that the transition was a success.

Work in the area looks promising this summer. The new construction projects haven't staffed up yet and we have travelers working in the local. Thanks to the travelers who have helped us staff our work. For the travelers, if you are in the area come in and sign our books.

We had our first Spring Golf Outing and our 5th Annual Steak Fry, and both events were a good time. As you all know, when you have a gathering with a bunch of wiremen, the stories, the memories, the history and the camaraderie all under one rooftop is just a feeling that words can't describe.

Our Training Dir. Paul Flynn recently put on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) for our journeyman wiremen. Eighteen journeyman wiremen took the class and received a certification.

Congratulations to IBEW Local 34's newest journeymen, the apprenticeship graduating class of 2012. [Photo at bottom, left.] Good luck and be safe.

Meredith Booker, Pres.

Annual DinnerDance/ Apprentices Graduation

L.U. 42 (catv,em,govt,lctt&o), HARTFORD, CT—On Saturday, April 21, Local 42 held our 6th Annual Dinner Dance and Apprentices Graduation at the Marriott Hartford Downtown hotel in Hartford.

Local 42 Bus. Mgr. Milton R. Moffitt Jr. presented Charles "Red" Sharpe, charter member, with his IBEW 55-year service pin award and John Shane with his IBEW 50-year service pin award. Although both are retired, Bros. Sharpe and Shane continue to be assets to the Brotherhood and are prominent members of the IBEW Local 42 Retirees Club.

IBEW Local 42 also celebrated the graduation

of 22 apprentice journeyman linemen. These graduates of the Northeastern Apprenticeship and Training (NEAT) program each received a wooden commemorative plaque of a journeyman lineman and an IBEW logo watch. Congratulations to the graduates: Bros. Brian Andrychowski, Todd Barker, Jason Boucher, John Chiarella, Michael Duval, Joshua Edwards, James Evans Jr., Scott Fontaine, Gleb Frolov, Michael Hollis, Joshua Hume, Richard Hume, Anthony Marciano Jr., Patrick McCabe, Matthew Mockler, Christopher Morello, John Pettway Jr., Robert Post, Jose Ramos, Matthew Sawin, David Thomas and Michael Winoski.

Jacquelyn Moffitt, P.S.



Last year Local 48 member Brent West's son Luke West, age 11, wowed Family Night attendees, including at least 100 kids, with his artistic skills. Luke was inspired by the temporary tattoo distributed at the event and used chalk for his free-hand drawing on the black top.

Local 48 Family Night

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—Don't miss IBEW Local 48's second annual "Family Night" during the general membership meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

Family night has transformed our August general membership meeting from the lowest-attended meeting to one of our best attended. Family Night provides spouses and family members a better understanding of union membership and how IBEW Local 48 operates. The meeting will be light on business in order to welcome families and will include our traditional summer barbeque and special entertainment for kids of all ages. Hosting our families at

their home local will give even more opportunity to show that IBEW 48 is good for members and their families. Please plan to attend and introduce your family members to your union brothers and sisters. Visit Web site www.ibew48.com for details.

Robert Blair, P.S.

Register to Vote

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—The importance of being a registered voter has never been greater. Yet there is more confusion among more voters regarding "active status" than ever before.

You might think you are in the category of "active" simply because you received a primary ballot. Unfortunately, this isn't true. Colorado law says that you are NOT "active" if you didn't vote in the November 2010 general election. There is no correlation with whether you voted in the June 2012 primary election. Being "active" was not required in order to receive a ballot for this most recent primary election. (Easy to see why that would create confusion.)

Here's an easy remedy for the confusion: Go to: www.GoVoteColorado.com. If you don't have access to the Internet, please contact the Office of the Secretary of State at (303) 894-2200 Ext. 6307. You may also call Local 68 at (303) 297-0229 for further assistance.

Our Local 68 picnic will be Aug. 18, noon–3 p.m., at the Westminster Elks Lodge. The horseshoe tournament begins at 11 a.m. Take Lowell south from 72nd, and take the first right after the railroad tracks—onto West 69th Place/Elk Drive. Call the hall for more information!

Our deepest sympathy goes to families of our recently deceased brothers: John A. Romes, Earl A. Burch, Paul S. Thompson, Daniel L. Stratman, Richard T. Fisk, Edmund Fischer, Guy A. LaFrance, Ralph V. Wackerly and Edward J. Daly.

Ed Knox, Pres.

'Life of a Veteran Apprentice'

L.U. 76 (c,i,rts&st), TACOMA, WA—On May 24, IBEW Local 76 held our Annual Service Pin Night. Service pins awarded represent a combined total of 6,275 years of service. We were proud to present three 70-year pins, four 65-year pins and 10 60-year pins. Retired journeyman inside wireman Louis Beaudoin was in attendance to receive his 70-year service pin. Also present were: James Cassidy Sr., who received a 60-year pin, and his son James Cassidy Jr., who

received a 55-year pin. James Cassidy Sr. is a retired marine wireman and will celebrate his 100th birthday this year.

IBEW Local 76 third-year apprentice Matt Todd is the subject of a video called "A Day in the Life of an H2H Vet," produced by the national Building & Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Matt is a military veteran and currently serves in the Air National Guard. He is one of many armed service veterans who have come into the building trades through the Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) program. Our thanks go out to Matt and all of our veterans who have served our country, and we welcome vets who have entered the building trades. To view the video, visit Web site www.bctd.org.

Mac McClellan, P.S.

A Battle Won for Workers

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—Work in our jurisdiction is slowly improving for the summer. Some long-awaited projects have begun.

We recently won a year-long battle against the anti-union Associated Builders & Contractors Inc., on a \$222 million project labor agreement for two schools in Meriden, CT.

The ABC also filed suit in superior court to ban PLAs in Connecticut on publicly funded projects. Because of this action, our state governor stepped up to the plate and submitted a bill that passed both chambers to make PLAs in Connecticut legal. Thanks go to Gov. Dan Malloy. Thanks also to all our members who attended the rallies at the Capitol and the building committee meetings in Meriden. All of us working together brought victory. Our legislative session is over for the year with bills passing to help us and none that would hurt our cause.

We now have to focus on the upcoming elections and keep our friends in office and also help remove those who have the decimation of organized labor on their agenda.

Some of our annual fun events are on the horizon—our golf and softball tournaments and summer outing. We hope all will attend.

Sean Daly, Pres.

IBEW Members Featured in PBS Program

L.U. 94 (lctt,nst&u), CRANBURY, NJ—IBEW Local 94 members who work as live-line coordinators were recently featured in a PBS program, "America Revealed: Electric Nation." The program focused on the U.S. power grid and the people who deliver electricity through 200,000 miles of high-tension transmission lines. Bro. Tom Verdecchio, chief steward and PSE&G's senior live-line coordinator, helped develop a helicopter program in 2002 that allows workers to make repairs when the lines are energized. This work is vital to the operation of the grid.

Politicians Attend Local Meetings: To get the membership more involved in politics, we invited elected representatives to attend the monthly meetings. Invited visitors have included: U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, who at this writing is in a hot primary election, chiefly due to redistricting; New Jersey Assemblyman Joe Cryan; and Shelly Adler, a candidate for the U.S. Congress. Shelly is running for the Third District seat that her late husband, former U.S.



Local 34 congratulates inside graduates. Front row, seated: Mike Mullens (left), Mick Hayworth, Beau Brummitt, Ryan Mattes, Todd Greene, Dave Bushnell, Justin Allison and Landon Parker. Middle row: Brandon Currie, Matt Johnson, Josh Knox, Fred Rogers, Adam Smith, Jarod Lambrich, Sean Leatherman, Charlie Buffam, Shawn Smith and Training Dir. Paul Flynn. Back row: Justin Phillips, R.J. Mercer, Jake Corbly, Justin Ramsay, Greg Porter, Scott Cornelison and Chris Wilson.



Local 76 Bus. Mgr. Dennis Callies (left), 70-year service pin recipient Louis Beaudoin and Pres. Mike Church.

Local Lines

Rep. John Adler, previously held. Shelly is running against incumbent Rep. Jon Runyan, former Philadelphia Eagle, who offers nothing on behalf of working people. We thank Local 94 members for their attendance at the meetings and encourage their increased participation from the floor with the visitors. New Jersey is among the states that are not "right-to-work-for-less"—and we want to keep it that way!

Carla Wolfe, P.S.

Fundraisers for Charity

L.U. 108 (ees,em,es,lctt,mar,mt,rtb,rts,s,spa,t&u), TAMPA, FL—On March 24, we held our 12th Annual Golf Tournament in memory of our fallen brothers. We raised \$15,000 and Tampa Electric Company matched our contribution—for a total donation of \$30,000 to Tampa General Hospital Burn Unit. Special thanks to Jeff Woodlee, Mike Miley, Chris Parsels, Ron Smith, Dave Davis and all the volunteers for their hard work.

On March 31, Local 108 members and Tampa Electric held the 5th Annual Charity BBQ Cook-Off. Thank you to Dallas Smith and the many volunteers who helped raise \$4,500 for the Make a Difference Fishing Tournament, a nonprofit organization that helps children with disabilities.

On April 21, we held our 112th anniversary celebration at our newly remodeled hall. Thank you to Pres. Chris Parsels for spearheading the event, and special thanks to Bros. Russell Brown, Lee Childers and Burt Galloway.

Local 108 members at Sensor Systems negotiated and ratified a new contract. Thanks to Asst. Bus. Mgr. Doug Bowden, Pres. Chris Parsels, Unit Chairperson Joan Cobin, Unit Vice Chairperson Don Delancey and Judy Allen for their hard work.

We will begin accepting proposals in August for upcoming negotiations with Tampa Electric; negotiations are scheduled to begin in early 2013.

Congratulations to former TECO Unit Chmn. Thad Lopez on his new position as operations manager for Tampa Electric. We thank him for the long-time service and dedication to our local.

Bill Cate, P.S.

JATC Graduation

L.U. 150 (es,i,rts&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—Recently the JATC held a graduation banquet for this year's graduates. The following members are now journeymen: Casey Bassler, Matthew DeFilippis, Ryan Hubert, Adam Bassler, Eric Blackburn, Joshua Blough, Aaron Brean, Gerald Houghton, Michael Pierce, Omar Reyes, Mario Sanchez, Cody McLaughlin, Justin Zorc, Chris Katzel, Eric Randall, and Mike Moran. The sole VDV graduate is Joe Conte. The outstanding apprentice was Aaron Brean. A hearty congratulations to them and many wishes for a long and profitable career.

The new contract was voted on at a special meeting in May and has been settled. Pat Garrity was sworn in as our new Executive Board member in May.

Work continues to be extremely slow to nonexistent—a sad state of affairs especially since the number of permits issued each month is in excess of our out of work list.

Our annual picnic will be held Aug. 18, at the Lakewood Forest Preserve. It is always a nice day of camaraderie for our members and their families so please try to attend.

Eight new apprentices have been accepted

into the program in addition to two current members who are upgrading. Much has been made recently about the JATC program and its monies. The JATC is a school; not something to be run at a profit. Changes have been made to the program in view of the economic downturn including only having one full-time teacher.

Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.

Standing Up for Workers

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Local 158, like the rest of the Wisconsin state locals, was busy with the recall election of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. The recall election took place on June 5. The outcome of this election will have a large impact on the future of collective bargaining rights as well as so-called "right-to-work" agendas in this state. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett ran against Walker for a second time with hopes of unseating the union-busting governor; however, unfortunately, this did not happen.

We had many members helping out with leaf drops, member-to-member walks, phone banking, attending rallies and doing whatever was needed to help out. This battle started over 16 months ago and we had our opportunity to unseat the governor, but did not do so. One bright spot was that we regained majority in the state Senate with a recall victory over Republican Van Wanggaard. This election will have a huge impact on what happens in the rest of the country.

Our local work outlook has slowed up quite a bit with the completion of two nuclear plant outages. These outages served our local well and also provided some much-needed work to some traveling brothers and sisters. We are employing several members at Lambeau Field for a renovation project going on there as well as some people going out to a project at Green Bay's new Veterans Clinic. Looking forward to more work to come.

Donald C. Allen, B.M.

Selfless & Courageous Act: IBEW Bone-Marrow Donor

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—In the true spirit of brotherhood, Local 196 member Jeremy McCollum registered nearly two years ago to become a bone-marrow donor to possibly help an "unknown someone" who may be in need of his healthy marrow. Jeremy recently received a call that a 40-year-old cancer patient desperately needed donated marrow to help her survive and that he was a match. Jeremy answered that call. On May 17, he was admitted and went through the painful process of donating his marrow so that the patient's odds of surviving cancer could increase. What a selfless, generous and courageous decision for a young man to make and then follow through on.

At the time of this writing, work continues to be good and Local 196 has started more than 25 apprentices in the first two quarters of 2012 to prepare for the upcoming workload. Check the job board to get up-to-date information on our work outlook.

Stay focused, watch out for every brother and sister on the job site, work safe and be a positive part of your local union!

Eric Patrick, B.M.

New Journeyman Linemen

L.U. 222 (o), ORLANDO, FL—Greetings. As of this spring writing, we already have a named storm in the Atlantic. So by the time you read this in August, we will probably be very busy. Everyone please stay safe.

Seven new journeyman linemen topped out since the beginning of the year: Eddie Gibbons, Tony Elrod, Raudel Jimenez, James Cody Phillips, Donald Dupuis, Chad Vlaeminck and Greg Bombard. Congratulations to all.

Local 222 member Dale Smithmier built a display case and delivered it to the union hall. Some of our members have already donated vintage insulators, switches and IBEW line work memorabilia for display. Thanks to them and a special thanks to Bro. Smithmier.

Stay safe, work smart.

William "Bill" Hitt, Pres.



Local 222 Bro. Dale Smithmier with display case he made for the union hall.

2012 Service Award Dinner

L.U. 226 (em,i,rtb,rts&spa), TOPEKA, KS—Shown in the photo below are Local 226 service award recipients who attended the 2012 service awards dinner.

All members who received service awards this year are as follows:

For 65 years of service—Dale Hunter; for 60 years' service—Lawrence Bodle, Cecil Combs, Harry Galloway, Robert Kopp, Roy Vern Love, Roy Mannen, Robert McNeely, Leslie Meek, Robert Nelson, Luke Pell, Vernon Pickert, Lloyd Rumold, Harry Self, Delmar Stice, Charles Turner, Myron Wilson, Chauncie York; for 55 years—Jule Fowler, Merlin Geisler, Ronald Hewitt, David Norris, John Stice; 50 years—Richard Fiest, Donald Harris, David Mlynek,



Local 226 Bus. Mgr. Brian Threadgold (left), Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Jonathan B. Gardner (second from right, back row) and Pres. Josh Gann (far right) congratulate service award recipients, front row, beginning second from left: Dale Hunter, Dave Mlynek, Charlie Turner, Gary Robbins, Roy Mannen and Andy Sanchez.

Frank Nelson, Donald Roberts; 45 years—Larry Eby, Gary Herriman, Franklin Hess, Jerry Hutton, Robert Norris, Virgil Stewart; 40 years—James Goodyear; 35 years—Leroy Duncan, William Hart, Terry Jordan, Mark Pottorf, Max Wentworth; 30 years—Scott Bond, Robert Nickoley, Gary Robbins, Andre Sanchez; and for 25 years—Philip Bleil, Rex Cullison, Rick Ferguson, Douglas Kramer, Darren Ousdahl and Ronald Smith.

Local 226 congratulates and thanks all award recipients for their dedicated service.

Robert Bausch, Organizer

Scholarship Award Recipients

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—This year saw the most Local 234 Scholarship Essay entrants ever. Our Executive Board chose the following winners at the April meeting: Jordan Borg for Monterey County, Reno May for San Benito County, and Jackie Yeung for Santa Cruz County. Each scholarship recipient receives \$500 payable to the college of his or choice. Congratulations to this year's winners. Our Bus. Mgr. Andy Hartmann will present the scholarships at the awards ceremony. It is encouraging to learn so many new ways that union members' children appreciate and express their understanding of the many benefits unions offer our working families.

Although by some standards ours is a small local, it is an honor to report that 15 members have successfully completed the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) to date.

We had a good turnout of members for the Annual Artichoke Festival Parade, where the weather was perfect and everyone had a good time.

Stephen Slovacek, P.S.

Training Center Expansion

L.U. 246 (ees,i,rts&spa), STEUBENVILLE, OH—It's all about training. In April, our JATC officially opened the 4,000-square-foot Anthony L. Shreve Annex to the K.W. Gasser Training Center. It consists of labs featuring conduit bending, motor control, green technologies, craft certification and instrumentation. This space allows our instructors to take the classroom theory to hands-on practice for consistent instruction for our students. It is crucial for apprentices to have hands-on labs in the fast pace of today's construction industry where there often is not enough time on the site to train to the fullest extent necessary. That was the motivation for Director Shreve for our expansion—training to the fullest extent.

On May 19 at our graduation dinner, we wel-



Local 246 apprentice graduates: front row, Ken Jackson (left), Ian Myers, Dan Abrams, Steve Barkoci, Alex Lewis; back row, David Burdette, Ryan Taylor, Josh Williams, Buster Bowman, Todd Triplett, Travis Jenkins and Rob Glover. Not pictured: Rachael Jordan.

comed 13 new journeymen to the ranks of the IBEW. All were also presented an Associate Degree of Technical Studies by Dr. Laura Meeks, president of Eastern Gateway Community College. Special recognition goes to Bro. Steven Barkoci, our outstanding apprentice, who graduated summa cum laude from EGCC. Congratulations to all graduates on a great job.

The realities of modern day competition in electrical construction and our responsibilities to our industry were brought to life by NJATC Dir. Michael Callanan. We were also honored to be addressed by State of Ohio Apprenticeship Dir. Andy Maciejewski.

Kyle N. Brown, B.M.

Top Apprentice Honours

L.U. 254 (ees,em,mo,o,rts&u), CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA—Bro. Neil Gilchrist, Power Systems Electrician (P.S.E.) and Bro. Dustin Buchanan, Powerline Technician (P.L.T.), earned the highest ranking in their final year of apprenticeship studies. This makes them tops in their fields, in the Province of Alberta, Canada, based on their grades and performance on the job.

Congratulations from the Executive Board and members of Local 254 to these brothers, and to all the new and upcoming journeymen and electrical workers.

As young and new members enter into the trades, we all must remember our brothers and sisters who mentored us as they move into their retirement.

In solidarity, IBEW Local 254 supports the members of the past, present and future!

Douglas McArthur, R.S.

Thanks to Apprentices/Instructors

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rts&st), SALEM, OR—Local 280 thanks the 48 apprentices that we graduated this year and the fine instructors who taught them. Our barbecues at both Tangent and Redmond were fantastic to give our new journeyman wiremen a great send off.

Awards were also presented to JoAnne Fletcher, along with an honorary membership plaque signed by Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, for her outstanding performance as our JATC secretary for 16 years and also as “mother to her babies” to the many excellent IBEW apprentices she has guided through the years. Rich Lofton received the coveted “Trainer of the Year”

award, selected by the apprentices as the journeyman who really leads by example either on the job or in the union. Bro. Rich has been a tireless servant for our local for many years, having served as president, business agent and assisted with anything our local needs. Both JoAnne and Rich are truly “IBEW Proud” and represent our union in the highest light.

Work has really picked up in our local with calls coming close to Book Two recently.

Please vote wisely in November. Candidate Mitt Romney has promised to press anti-union “right-to-work-for-less” legislation and remove project labor agreements (PLAs) from federal projects!

Jerry Fletcher, P.S.



Local 280 honorary member JoAnne Fletcher receives honorary plaque presented by JATC Dir. Dave Baker.

Members Step Up—Great Strides

L.U. 292 (em,govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—We have made great strides in the political arena thanks to volunteer efforts of our members. Our members stepped up to make the phone calls and attend the rallies at the state Capitol to fight the unnecessary, unsafe and unfair so-called “right-to-work” legislation. Our sisters and brothers have solidly supported both the Bonding and Vikings Stadium bills as well as keeping our current prevailing-wage laws in effect. Two delegates, Dan McConnell and John Hall, from Local 292 were elected to attend the Democratic National Convention in North Carolina. Labor had a strong

showing at the Minnesota DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party) state convention, and we thank every member who participated in the political process.

Our work picture looks slightly better, and we have dipped below 760 on the Inside Out-of-Work Book. Upcoming work includes possible expansion at the Mall of America and construction of the “The People’s Stadium” for the Minnesota Vikings. Again, we thank the traveling sisters and brothers for the sacrifices you are making. You have pulled away from your family to provide for them when there is no work locally. This is no small task, and we want you to know that we thank you for your dedication to the IBEW. Our business manager, Rodger Kretman, thanks the locals that are providing work for our members.

Carl Madsen, P.S.



Local 292 members attend June 2 Minnesota DFL Convention. From left: Brandon Duerr, John Hall, Dave Callaway, Bill Toninato, Tony Maghrak, Dan McConnell, Pete Lindahl, Bus. Mgr. Rodger Kretman, Ric Chantry, Larry MacDonald, Andy Snope, Jeff Lange, Rick Ramberg, Shawn Ulm, Peggy Griffin and Randy Pullis. Not pictured: Everett Pettiford and Roy Lanners.

Solar Installation Venture

L.U. 300 (govt,i,mt&u), MONTPELIER, VT—Congratulations to Andrew Czeck, awarded “Inside Wireman Apprentice of the Year” for calendar year 2011-2012. Andrew’s achievement bestows great credit on himself and the IBEW. Keep up the good work.

It appears that we will have a busy construction season in the solar installation field. We appreciate all the members who cooperated in the new guidelines to help kick off the new venture. As long as the sun keeps shining, we’ll keep installing.

The merger between Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service continues to roll forward. We are currently working with the IBEW members from both utilities to work toward an agreement that is beneficial to all parties. When completed, the utility will service 70 percent of residences within Vermont. We are working toward creating an agreement that incorporates the best of both worlds and focuses on the members, safety and working relationships.

Local 300 sends its heartfelt thanks to all members and local unions that contributed to the Local 300 members (Bruce Lamb and Richard Seguin) involved with accidents this year. Your donations and words of encouragement reach beyond the boundaries of thanks. Best wishes.

Be safe, be well this summer.

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



Local 300 Inside Wireman Apprentice of the Year Andrew Czeck.

‘Charting a New Course’

L.U. 302 (i,rts&spa), MARTINEZ, CA—Two seemingly unrelated events may chart a new course for our local.

Members of our local honored community leaders as diverse as bankers, senior living specialists, green development promoters, and local politicians in a kick-off honoring the City of Concord for its leadership in a large development project on former U.S. Navy land.

In the end, conservation groups, community organizations and labor unions joined forces to come up with an eco-friendly, largely union project that will not only meet the growing needs of our population, but also preserve its natural amenities as well.

At another event on May 17, our local hosted representatives from the International Office and IBEW Ninth District officers for an educational evening highlighting a member-to-member outreach campaign known as “M2M.”

Local member volunteers visited the homes of our own members, reaching out to them in the spirit of brotherhood—inviting them to become re-invigorated with our local and attend local meetings, and reminding them of the benefits of union membership.

Both of these two events highlighted our local’s engagement with the community and with our own membership.

Gone are the days when we can take our membership—or our political power—for granted. We are proudly taking our message to the public!

Bob Lilley, P.S.

Safety Milestones Achieved

L.U. 304 (lctt,o&u), TOPEKA, KS—IBEW Local 304 members got a surprise at their construction unit meeting in Wichita, KS. Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill was in town for the Seventh District Progress Meeting and decided to drop by. Pres. Hill swore in five new members and took questions from the audience of approximately 40 linemen. Topics included the work outlook in the country, the state of the labor movement and politics. When asked by a journeyman lineman what motivated him to continue to serve, his response was, “I love what I do.”

Employees at the Westar Energy Power Plants reached two very important and first-time milestones. As of March 11, the 225 represented employees at



IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill speaks with members at a Local 304 construction unit meeting.

Local Lines

Jeffery Energy Center went one year without a recordable injury. Also, the entire Generation Business Unit, with 400 represented employees, reached 1 million man-hours without a recordable injury on May 16. This shows the professionalism of our crafts.

The wind blows hard in western Kansas. Because of that and the drive to offset carbon emissions by utilities nationwide, Kansas has more wind construction currently happening than any other state.

Local 304 members are on several jobs throughout the state, from high-line transmission work to constructing substations and underground collection.

Paul Lira, B.M.

JATC Apprentice Class of 2012

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—On May 11, a graduation banquet was held at Todaro's Party Center to honor our newest journeyman wiremen. [Photo at bottom, left.] Guest speakers and presenters of diplomas and awards included: Bus. Mgr. Mark Douglas Sr., JATC Chmn. Larry Thompson, JATC Training Dir. Paul Zimmerman, NECA Chmn. John Kellamis and from the U.S. Department of Labor, Dean Guido.

Our residential graduate was Adam Paul, whose graduation was delayed due to an Army tour of duty in Iraq. Thank you, Adam, for your service to our country.

Commercial graduates included: Eric Armbruster, Alexander Athens, Michael Bounce, Danielle Burant, Thomas Carter, Timothy Cole, Edward Glaser, James Jansen, Dustin Jordan, Allen Lambes, Jodi Lassiter, Christopher Lewczyk, Jeffrey Mallory, Todd Newnham, Jody Palmer, Russell Pease, Christopher Peck, Hugh Pennell, Michael Prock, Cody Ulmer and Jason Zenner. Awards for highest grade point averages went to: Christopher Peck, 95.7 percent GPA; Hugh Pennell, 95.1 percent; and Michael Bounce, 95.0 percent. We congratulate all of these fine sisters and brothers and wish them best of luck!

With sadness we mourn the loss of several retired brothers: Anthony Felber, Robert Yates, Cleon Billings, Earl Witsaman and Lawrence Bryner. We extend condolences to their families.

Please remember in this most important election year to register to vote. And come November, exercise your right to vote. Our jobs and our future depend on it.

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

Energy Star Award

L.U. 340 (i, rts&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—The Sacramento Area Electrical Training Center/JATC received the 2012 Energy Star Award presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This award is presented to recognize superior energy

performance in using 35 percent less energy and generating 35 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than similar buildings across the nation. Energy Star-certified buildings nationwide have prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to emissions from the energy use of nearly 1.3 million homes a year, protecting people's health, while saving more than \$1.9 billion.

Local 340 Pres. Tom Meredith presented the first President's Award to graduating apprentice Sister Alsester Williams-Coleman for "persistence and heart." Sister Alsester's fellow graduates voted for her to receive this award for showing the most union love and for her unending desire to help, learn and grow. We are very proud of this young woman, who "shows up" every time she's asked! Congratulations to all the graduates!

On the work front, there is not a lot to report for the Sacramento area. Thanks to the locals that are supplying work to our members.

We mourn the passing of: active member John T. McDonald, and retired members Floyd Wicklander, Robert Thompson, Manuel Sequira, James Picotte, Samuel Heredia, John P. Carr Jr. and Augustine "Augie" Adame (father of Local 340 Bros. John and Gene Adame and grandfather of Local 340 Bro. Wayne Chism).

A.C. Steelman, B.M.



Local 340 Pres. Tom Meredith (left) presents the Local 340 President's Award to Sister Alsester Williams-Coleman.

Congratulations, Graduates

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rts&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—This spring, Inside and VDV apprentices topped out and became new journeymen in their classifications. This year's Inside class is the first to graduate with an associate degree from Rock Valley College. Of 13 members who graduated, seven received honors and three received high honors! This year's co-



Local 306 congratulates the class of 2012 apprentice graduates.



Local 364 Inside wireman graduates with Bus. Mgr. Darrin Golden (far left). From second left are graduates Matt Stormont, Charles Weaver, Kyle Smith, Reed Hartman, Kyle Dornink, Zach Spitzmiller, Dave Wedwick, Chad Johnson, Chad Arnold, Matt Drew, Bret Nelson, Rosa Gibson and Jeremy Weaver.

apprentices of the year were Zach Spitzmiller and Dave Wedwick. Congratulations, new journeymen!

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO and IBEW Local 890 of Janesville, WI, requested help in Rock County, WI, for the recall election effort to defeat anti-union Gov. Scott Walker. Because of the election's importance, 20 Local 364 members went door-to-door to union members' houses to get out the vote.

This year-long fight has been brewing since Walker unilaterally eliminated bargaining rights of 380,000 public employees and reduced their retirements. Unionists from all over, including Rockford, IL, traveled north on multiple winter days in 2011 to join massive protests; some protests totaled over 100,000 people.

Despite our efforts, unfortunately, Walker's multi-million dollar, anti-union, corporate-backed campaign donors outspent us by 8 to 1 and he survived the recall drive. We did help carry Rock County for the Democrats. And there was a silver lining—Democrats won one of the recalled Senate seats gaining a majority, which puts an end to Walker's ability to ram through his anti-union agenda.

Charles H. Laskonis, B.A./Organizer

2012 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 440 (i, rts&spa), RIVERSIDE, CA—The Local 440 graduating class of 2012 is one of the largest classes to complete our program (photo at bottom, right). With sincere respect and admiration, we congratulate our new journeymen on their accomplishment. Though we are celebrating the end of your apprenticeship journey, graduates, and the fact that you no longer have to attend school two nights a week, I urge everyone to continue to strive and learn.

Take journeyman upgrade classes, not because



IBEW Local 494 hosts Special Olympians from Wauwatosa, WI.

we need our 32 hours of continued education, but because we want the knowledge that will make us that much better. Give our contractors a sincere "8 for 8" and teach our apprentices the importance of being efficient, while still maintaining the level of quality that we boast of. Spread the word to other electricians, and if things get slow, or if your hall asks for the help, salt a nonunion contractor. Salting can be an effective method to show a nonunion shop what we have to offer!

Congratulations, graduates. Here's to a long, safe and prosperous career as an IBEW wireman!

Bernie J. Balland, Organizer

Local Hosts Special Olympians

L.U. 494 (em,i,mt,rts&spa), MILWAUKEE, WI—For the third consecutive year, Local 494 members invited the Wauwatosa Special Olympians to enjoy a Milwaukee Brewers' luxury suite. Local 494 proudly promotes charitable giving and this event and charity are great examples of our outreach.

I have never witnessed such an unassuming, appreciative group of young people. The athletes were engaged from the first pitch to the final out. They clapped, cheered and chanted the entire game.

This group epitomized true baseball fans and Local 494 was fortunate to host such a wonderful event on behalf of the local membership. The Special Olympics motto is: "Let me win. But, if I



Local 440 congratulates the 2012 apprentice graduating class.

cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” This motto is a testament to these true winners. I have been reminded of how important giving is and I hope that through Local 494’s continued philanthropic outreach, we can all take away something positive from this experience.

Local 494 recently launched a Community Outreach Committee dedicated to finding and helping other deserving organizations within our area. We look forward to helping others and to next year’s Brewers game with the Special Olympians.

John Bzdawka, B.M.

Austin JATC Graduates

L.U. 520 (i&spa), AUSTIN, TX—Congratulation to the Austin Electrical JATC graduating class of 2012.

Ben Brenneman represented Local 520 at the 7th District Apprentice Competition and took top honors, scoring the highest score since keeping records.

The graduating class of 2012 includes: Walter L. Butler, Scott D. Cancellieri, Jason C. Cox, Matthew R. Daniel, Michael S. Dever, Shane M. Emerson, Mario A. Flores, Alfredo T. Gaspar, Adam D. Hill, Ismael Jaimes, Jason C. Johnson, William S. Ladd, John L. Larkin, Luis C. Leon, Daniel P. Lovelady, Rogelio L. Nunez, Jesus Perez, Arthur D. Puckett, Gilberto E. Ramirez Jr., Devin W. Remmert, Raul R. Rendon, Clifford A. Roberson, Matthew W. Winfield and Sean T. Witt.

The graduating class also completed the Seventh District Foreman Training series. The Annual Apprentice Banquet was held in May at the Omni Hotel. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments and good luck for a successful future.

Lane Price, Pres./P.S.

Thanks to Fellow Locals

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—In April, Local 530 was successful in recapturing our title as hockey tournament champs in Kingston, Ontario. We thank the hosts for a great time and for showing our team their city.

April 28 marked The International Day of Morning. Once again Local 530 was present to honor those lost through workplace accidents and workplace illness.

With the work picture past, present and future slow, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the following locals for employing our members: Local 529, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Local 2038, Regina, Saskatchewan; Local 1687 Sudbury, Ontario; Local 1739, Barrie, Ontario; Local 105, Hamilton, Ontario; and Local 2330, St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Local 530 is saddened by the recent passing of Bros. Yves Goulet and Cecil Mills Sr.

Al Byers, P.S.

Successful Spring Outage

L.U. 558 (catv,em,i,mt,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), SHEFFIELD, AL—Local 558 thanks all the local and traveling brothers and sisters who assisted on the spring outage at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. With your help and support we have another successful outage in the books and another one coming this fall.

Work in the jurisdiction is beginning to slow down but the anticipation of some upcoming projects has us optimistic for the near future.

Appreciation is also due to our fine group of

Habitat for Humanity volunteers who donated their time and effort on the electrical installation of houses in the Huntsville and Phil Campbell areas for the storm victims in north Alabama.

Our third annual spring picnic was May 5, with a great turnout of members and their families. Everyone enjoyed the good food and entertainment. Don Burbank won the car show this year with his slick 1966 Ford truck. Congratulations, Bro. Burbank!

Reminder to all members: Service pins for 25 to 70 years of service will be presented at our Aug. 13 union meeting. Letters will be mailed to members who are eligible to receive a service pin this year.

Mac Sloan, Mbr. Dev.

Kudos for Terrific Job

L.U. 586 (em,i&o), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Generally when people think of a local’s office, the elected officers come to mind. Often overlook are the office staff who are a very important part of the work that goes into the efficient job that is needed to keep the many facets of the office running smoothly.

Our local is blessed with three of the finest—Angele Harvey, Samantha Forbes and Micheline Taillefer, who look after the following duties: dues, security forms, banking, payroll, accounting, travel arrangements, researching members’ info and verification, advising members about pensions and health, etc. Thank you, ladies, for the terrific job.

Doug Parsons, Pres./P.S.



Local 586 office staff, from left: Samantha Forbes, Angele Harvey and Micheline Taillefer.

Big Thunder Mountain

L.U. 606 (em,es,i,rtb,spa&u), ORLANDO, FL—Kudos to two IBEW apprentices, Kevin Krumwiede and James Cummings (pictured in photo at top, right). As fourth-year apprentices, together they terminated the entire lighting controls for a refurbishment project at Big Thunder Mountain in Walt Disney World.

The quality of work they performed was as good as any done at the journeyman level. On the Thunder Mountain project, the electrical room they worked in had four panels with four contactor cabinets and 25 rheostat dimmers, two distribution panels and two motor control panels, along with two transformers. This electrical room controlled the majority of emergency, show and normal lighting throughout the Thunder Mountain ride. By the time Kevin and James finished this job they had become fifth-year apprentices. They did want me to mention the gutter above the panels was not their work but was pre-existing. Good work, brothers.

Our sympathy goes to the families of members who passed away: Bros. Bob Hamburg, Lafayette Michael, and Richard Larity. Bro. Hamburg was a longtime IBEW member and served as presi-



Local 606 apprentices Kevin Krumwiede (left) and James Cummings.

dent of the Local 606 Retirees Club. He and his wife, Betty, organized many meetings and gatherings for the central Florida retirees. All three of these brothers will be sorely missed.

Janet Skipper, P.S.



Local 636 Executive Board Rep. (and “champion”) Erin Edwards greets Rob Ellis, MySafeWork founder, at the 2012 Day of Champions event in Chatham-Kent.

Charter of Champions

L.U. 636 (as,catv,em,spa&u), TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA—More than a decade ago, Rob Ellis began his campaign to “inspire courage and influence change.” As he travels across North America to raise awareness among young workers, Rob delivers a simple but compelling message—we must all be “champions” in the cause of workplace safety.

Our local is proud to be a partner with this

hometown hero and we thank members who have added their voice to the chorus. Recognizing the importance of this campaign, proceeds from this year’s golf tournament—totaling more than \$8,000—were donated to MySafeWork.

To signify their commitment to this mission, students, employees and employers were invited to sign on to a Safety Charter in the form of a Team Canada hockey jersey. To date, more

than 11,000 names have been added—including those of Local 636 leaders.

In addition, students receive a card to remind them of their rights and responsibilities regarding workplace safety. It reads, in part: “I believe safety is a priority; I am committed to safety [for all]; ... I ask when I am not certain; I do not take risks; I address safety concerns; I report all incidents; I promote and maintain a safety culture.” Using these as signposts along the “Road to Zero” injuries, we will ensure a safe journey for all workers.

Paddy Vlanich, P.S.

New Journeyman Wiremen

L.U. 654 (i), CHESTER, PA—The class of 2012 graduates celebrated the completion of their apprenticeship training and the beginning of their careers as journeyman wiremen. A graduation ceremony was held at the Concordville Inn, on Friday, June 8. Officers and members of Local 654 wish all the graduates a safe and prosperous future.

We are pleased to announce the purchase of the idled Conoco Oil Refinery by Delta Airlines and its commitment to use union labor.

We are also pleased that our Bus. Mgr. Paul Mullen was appointed to the Delaware County Economic Development Oversight Committee. Bus. Mgr. Mullen was also recently elected president of the Delaware County AFL-CIO.

Please remember to attend union meetings—get involved, and buy American-made products!

James E. Thompson Jr., P.S.



Local 654 congratulates apprentice graduates. Front row, from left: graduates Tim Boyd, Brian Gardner, Steve Brough, Dave Younger, Jim Hilton, Kevin Friday, J.J. Kaczinski, Jamaal Sterling and John McGinley, and Instructor Mike Anderson. Back row: graduates Anthony Valente, Brad Peterson, Don Tucker, Will Macey, Brad Coyle, T.J. O’Neill, John Phillips, Morgan Tyson and Vince Cedrone.

Local Lines

Data Center Project

L.U. 666 (i,mt&o), RICHMOND, VA—A compressed schedule has meant a busy spring at the data center project. There have been over 300,000 man-hours on the project in nine months, much of that since the beginning of the year. One week in April, over 20,000 hours were logged. As of this writing, the project is starting to wind down. Everyone on the project should be proud of their efforts making a safe and productive job. Special thanks to all the travelling brothers and sisters who worked with us.

During March and April, 19 volunteers worked in conjunction with Rebuilding Together to help make improvements in the electrical systems of several senior citizens' houses. Skilled labor volunteers are the hardest for the Rebuilding Together coordinators to find, so many thanks to all who donated their time and skills. Hope we can see an even better turnout next year!

Congratulations to recent retirees: Joseph U. Boykin, David Girard, Thomas N. Gregory, Ronald B. Dodson and Roger A. Young.

Charles Skelly, P.S.

Lineman Rodeo Championship

L.U. 702 (as,c,catv,cs,em,es,et,govt,i,it,lctt,mo,mt,o,p,pet,ptc,rtb,rts,se,spa,st,t,u,uow&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Our 2nd Annual Lineman's Rodeo Championship was held inside at the DuQuoin State Fair Grounds Pavilion on April 21. The event was well attended with teams from California, Arizona and Virginia, as well as neighboring states. All who competed exhibited true sportsmanship and camaraderie during and after the competition. Our Local 702 members excelled in the events. Placing first in the Apprentice Overall Category was Victor Munoz; placing third was Random Neal; and placing fourth was Jonathan Hayes. The team that ranked first in the Journeyman Lineman Overall was that of Local 702 members Jason Novak, Kent Diekemper and Kevin Koester.

Local 702 thanks Asst. Bus. Mgr. Scott Kerley and all of those involved for their hard work associated with making this year's rodeo another success. We look forward to next year.

We cannot stress enough the importance of being politically active in your communities. Supporting political leaders who support labor equals an educated decision.

Marsha Steele, P.S.



IBEW Local 702's 2nd Annual Lineman Rodeo Championship.



Local 704 crew from Paulson Electric Company, from left: Bros. Ron Heitzman, Steve Mueller, Tom Ellwanger, Bob Wirzbach, Craig Marx, Brian Strohmeyer, Ron Means, Kevin Kutsch, Scott Didesch, Jamie Schrobilgen, Charlie Sisler and Russ Friederick.

Restoring Warehouse District

L.U. 704 (catv,em&i), DUBUQUE, IA—Pictured above is the crew from Paulson Electric Company at the job site of the first building in this historic district of Dubuque to be restored. The original Caradco Window and Door Factory will be converted into 72 apartments on the second and third floors. The first floor will be reserved for commercial and retail uses.

Thank you to Local 55 of Des Moines for sponsoring the Iowa Solar Training Workshop. This four-day, 40-hour SPV2000/SPV3000 Accelerated PV Design and Installation Workshop builds knowledge and skills to allow participants to take the NABCEP PV Entry Level Exam. I am told that the classes were well attended. The knowledge and skills gained in these workshops will certainly keep the IBEW in step with future trends of the solar industry.

Ron Heitzman, P.S.

Graduation & Pin Ceremonies

L.U. 716 (em,i,lctt,rts&spa), HOUSTON, TX—I hope all is well with all members. By the time this article appears, our 50-year-pin ceremony will have taken place. Without the sacrifices of our good members before us we would not exist today—many thanks to them all. I must acknowledge the recent retirement of Bro. Daniel Hetzel, Local 479 member, who served as Seventh District International Representative and serviced our local. Best of luck, Bro. Hetzel!

Along with our sister Local 66, we had the privilege of hosting two visiting trade unionists, Stuart Traill and Dave McKinley, from the Electrical Trades Union in Australia. These ETU representatives were also present at our Apprenticeship Banquet with words of encouragement. This Local 716 group of graduating apprentices may be one of the best and was acknowledged as such by IBEW Seventh District Int. Vice Pres. Jonathan B. Gardner.

We are hopeful the work picture will improve soon in our area. Many large projects have been bid on and we hope they will be approved, but as is the case everywhere the political climate is a problem. The upcoming elections at all levels of government will have a profound effect on all of labor. Register to vote and encourage all family members, fellow workers and neighbors to do so—and VOTE.

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

'Remember in November'

L.U. 776 (i,o,rts&spa), CHARLESTON, SC—As we prepare for our Labor Day celebrations, let us not forget to take a few moments to remember the ones who fought, were killed, beaten, maimed, financially devastated, broken emotionally and ostracized by their communities. Workers who didn't let police or state militia scare them into giving up on their values. Men and women who were not willing to accept conditions as they were because they could see the future of their children and grandchildren and didn't like what they saw.

This Labor Day the labor movement is under attack. History is repeating itself because we may have failed to educate our children about the things our grandparents fought for.

Remember these things this Labor Day. And remember in November.

Chuck Moore, B.M.

Summer Work & Dry Heat

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Arizona summers not only test the electrical world we live in, but also test the focus of fellow union members who have to work in the 100-degree plus conditions. Staying hydrated is the key to working through the day.

IBEW Int. Rep. Debra Harget conducted a Stewards Training class for our new and more experi-

enced stewards in May. It was a good mix of role playing and group discussions, explaining how a steward is a union member's "go to person" for dealing with contract/policy related issues; a resolution without a grievance is possible and documentation is the key.

Contract negotiation committees have been dealing with four different contracts this year and of course, medical premiums and wage increases are the hot topics.

Congratulations to our 12 new journeyman linemen, who turned out in June after a four-year apprenticeship. Being a union journeyman in any craft shows management that having union workers is a great investment for years to come.

A "union shout out" to all members statewide for putting in the extra hours to keep the power on and to those who volunteer in various activities in their communities!

Richard Cavaletto, P.S.

Protesting Anti-Worker Bills

L.U. 1316 (i&o), MACON, GA—This past legislative session in Georgia, the state Senate tried to pass a bill that would have made any peaceful protest or picketing illegal, plus carry a \$1,000 fine for an individual and a \$10,000 fine for an organization.

The bill also included language directed at the collection of union dues. The U.S. Constitution guarantees us rights to assemble and the right to belong to a labor organization.

On March 17, a thousand union members, with community and religious groups, met at the state Capitol in Atlanta to march and protest this legislation. [See photo, pg. 17.] IBEW members and their families from several Georgia locals—Albany Local 1531, Atlanta Local 84, Atlanta Local 613, Augusta Local 1579, Savannah Local 508 and Macon Local 1316—took an active role in the protest.

Through intensive lobbying efforts, phone calls, E-mails and visits to House members, we were able to defeat this legislation in the Georgia House.

This victory may be short-lived, because we are sure the GOP-controlled state House and Senate and the governor will push this anti-union legislation the next legislative session. We must register to vote and educate our members on this issue.

Michael H. Gardner, P.S.



IBEW Local 1116 Tucson Electric Power linemen perform a yearly practice of Pole Top Rescue procedures at the Ken Saville Training Center.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The *Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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FROM THE OFFICERS**Winning Campaigns Show Promise**

Edwin D. Hill
International President

The organizing campaigns featured in this issue of *The Electrical Worker* are a testament to what can be achieved through teamwork across all levels of our organization.

From Fredericton, New Brunswick, to Jonesboro, Ark.—nearly 1,800 miles to the south—local unions are joining with the Membership Development Department in an unprecedented effort to bring the benefits and values of trade unionism to workers who need a voice on the job.

While the climate for organizing unions can be as different as the terrain and culture of our nations, states and provinces, the fact is that organizing is always hard work. Just ask the folks at Local 37 who lost four campaigns at NB Power before they won. I am so proud that—across our continent—organizers are applying the same work ethic and professionalism that supplies power to our cities and builds our hospitals and skyscrapers to the task of growing our labor movement.

None of us expected that our organizational culture would change overnight. But—with the help of new resources approved by the membership at two successive International Conventions—we are moving forward. That means leaving behind the self-satisfied complacency of local union leaders who refused to organize or were intimidated by employers and lawyers who were professionals in “union avoidance.”

Professionalism is now ours, brothers and sisters. New tools like Project Tracker have helped give life to new projects under the Arkansas Recovery Agreement and have put more journeymen to work in El Paso.

The large swath of nonunion linemen joining Wichita Falls Local 681 to build transmission lines carrying wind power across Texas shows the value of locals paying close attention to the development of alternate sources of energy and other economic and political trends.

With an expanded research staff and Web presence, Membership Development is now poised to move into national campaigns against major employers. At the heart of our successes will be the growing communication among all of our organizers—including new volunteers—and the willingness to experiment with new methods and tactics.

Brothers and sisters, I know in every shop we have members with the intelligence, the passion and the work ethic to help us grow the IBEW. If your local leaders aren't asking for your assistance, volunteer. A larger, more influential IBEW is within our grasp and we need your help. ■

The Right Prescription

Like most Americans, I had my eyes on the television and blogs June 28 in eager anticipation of the Supreme Court's announcement on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. When the 5-4 ruling in support of the law came down, I cheered the decision—along with the millions of Americans who are already benefitting from the historic legislation.

For folks who believe that you shouldn't be drowned in debt or dropped by your insurance provider if you become seriously ill, this is a momentous victory. And it's a first step toward bringing comprehensive and reasonably-priced health care to all citizens.

There are certainly aspects of the law that we might disagree with. And many would say that it is not a perfect plan. But it is absolutely undeniable that children with pre-existing conditions, young adults, seniors and those who have spent countless years under the abusive thumb of an unruly insurance system are finally getting some real and necessary relief.

Although President Obama's signature domestic achievement has been dissected and argued about for more than two years already, the high court's ruling is far from the last word on the law. Ever the obstructionists, conservative lawmakers in numerous states are still banging the drum of “repeal and replace.” Just last month, the GOP-controlled House of Representatives voted for the 33rd time—largely symbolically—to overturn Obamacare. And a handful of governors across the nation have vowed to stand in the way of the law's further implementation, the poor and sick be damned. It's confounding but usual for this cast of characters.

As they have no real strategy for what the second half of that drum beat—the “replace” part—sounds like, I suspect that we will see more objections from the hard right now that we've turned more of our attention back to the bigger challenge of job creation. For now, we can at least pause to appreciate that justice has been served to legions of sick children and seniors in need of care. June 28 was a great day for them—and an honorable day for America. ■



Salvatore J. Chilia
International Secretary-Treasurer



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HOW TO REACH US

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

Send letters to:

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

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Letters to the Editor

Hypertension Alert

I recently went for a routine medical appointment at the VA Medical Center in Denver. Over the last several visits, my blood pressure was climbing just slightly. They gave me a blood pressure cuff to take home with me so that I could check it frequently and report the results back to them.

They told me that I'm entitled to one, because I'm an American veteran (of Vietnam).

It was paid for with American tax dollars, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, so I'm entitled to have one as an American veteran. I really do appreciate having the cuff to take home with me so that I can keep tabs on my blood pressure.

Problem is that the blood pressure cuff raises my blood pressure.

How does it raise my blood pressure?

It raises my blood pressure because it is not made in the United States.

Nothing against other countries, but we have unemployed Americans who could—and would be proud to—manufacture this item.

And especially regarding things that are purchased by our Veterans' Administration: We have unemployed VETERANS who could—and would be proud to—manufacture the item!

The best way to get America back to work is by buying American-made products!!

*Ed Knox
Local 68 member, Denver*

Democratic Double Standards?

It is not just the Republicans who are misguided. The Democrats get the same big pay, big retirement and lifetime health care. They also don't believe in a level playing field and are a bunch of hypocrites. Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements if you have put money in these programs through taxes. All politicians have used the Social Security trust fund as they wish. To me this seems like a Ponzi scheme.

The Democrats want the rich to pay more in taxes but think it is OK for themselves not to pay taxes. For example, Sen. John Kerry (D) had a yacht built in New Zealand instead of in America and had the yacht docked in Rhode Island instead of Massachusetts to avoid paying taxes. Is that fair? Imagine that—a Democrat having a double standard. Second, Treasury Secretary Geithner failed to pay self-employment taxes on \$35,000. Again, another double standard by the Democrats. Third, Rep. Charlie Rangel (D) failed to report rental income from his beachside villa in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Again, another double standard. Fourth, Mr. Tom Daschle failed to pay \$128,203 in back taxes. Fifth, HHS Secretary Sebelius had to pay over \$7,000 in back taxes.

The IBEW needs to step up and do what is best for the members and not worry about lining the pockets of the Democrats. I am neither a Republican or a Democrat. I think for myself and vote for who is going to do the best for our country and follow the Constitution. I will be surprised if this gets printed since I came out with some facts about the Democrats.

*Rodney Rooks
Local 26 member, Washington, D.C.*

Representing Retirees

As a 60-plus retiree of the IBEW as well as a former signatory contractor, I'd like to suggest that a bumper sticker be developed that would tout the benefit of union membership. A suggestion would be the current masthead of The Electrical Worker substituting "The" with "Retired" and keeping the line below "Electrical Worker."

In the current climate of anti-union efforts, I am proud to have worked in an industry that provided good benefits for my family and a proud retirement. In the current climate of the country, I don't see that the same benefits are available in the non-signatory industry.

*Eric David
Local 11 retiree, Los Angeles*

Who We Are

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

San Francisco Retiree Talks—and Walks—Labor History

Few cities celebrate their labor histories with more enthusiasm or attention to detail than San Francisco, home of the 1934 General Strike, a decisive event that highlighted the pressing need of workers to organize unions and gain a measure of justice on the job.

A series of guided walking tours to historic buildings and sites of struggle and an annual LaborFest draw thousands of residents.

While many of the guides and workshop hosts hail from academia, one stands out as a staunch and dedicated representative of the rank-and-file union members who have made the City by the Bay one of the world's great tourist destinations.

Peter O'Driscoll, a San Francisco substation maintenance electrician who retired from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. in 2006 after 38 years of service, began guiding visitors on walking tours sponsored by the city back in 1993, starting with one commemorating the storied Gold Rush.

O'Driscoll, a Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 shop steward whose activist legacy is carried on by three sons who carry IBEW tickets, co-conducts this year's Irish Labor History Walk, bringing to life the heroes who, like O'Driscoll, traveled from Ireland to infuse their brogues in the collective voices of their generation's workers. The walk is popular. On a rainy day, a recent labor walk still turned out 63 participants.

"It's about remembering where you came from," says O'Driscoll, the youngest member of a family of nine who grew up on a farm in Aughaville, County Cork. After traveling to Birmingham, England, where he worked in construction for two years, O'Driscoll, then 20, left to join a brother and sister in St. Louis, where he found work in a rope factory.

"My brother, who was a shop steward in the United Autoworkers at the Fisher Body plant in St. Louis, was my mentor," says O'Driscoll.

Numerous jobs followed, including tying rebar on bridge projects as an Ironworker, laboring in a steel fabricating yard as a member of the Boilermakers and serving in the Missouri National Guard before heading out to join one of his sisters in Eureka, Calif.

O'Driscoll joined Local 1245 in 1967, first working as a substation construction mechanic and then entering PG&E's electrical apprentice program two years later.

"I had heard so many negative things about unions that I didn't know



Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 retiree Peter O'Driscoll, right, instilled strong union values into sons Eamon, left, Stephen and Kevin, all IBEW members. O'Driscoll's grandsons Collin and Ryan are also photographed.

where to turn, so I started reading about labor in America and took a course at the University of San Francisco," says O'Driscoll, who said he took pride in reading about the history of the Irish Molly Maguires in the East's coal fields and passed his appreciation for labor solidarity on to his sons.

"My dad is a role model," says Kevin O'Driscoll, a San Mateo Local 617 journeyman wireman. "He goes to work and does the best job he can do and tries to be an example of what a good union member is, keeping those ideals in mind and applying them every day," says Kevin.

Kevin says he and his brothers—Eamon, a Local 1245 substation electrician and Stephen, a Local 1245 troubleman—headed their father's advice "that if you work collectively, you can always accomplish more than you can as individuals," says Kevin.

His sons' interest in the electrical trade, O'Driscoll recalls, was sharpened when he volunteered to run a PG&E safety fair, where they and other visitors were enchanted by displays exhibiting high-voltage equipment.

O'Driscoll's interest in safety wasn't just for show. One year, while helping construct the safety display, O'Driscoll sheared the head off of a bolt. He did some research and informed PG&E that substandard bolts were jeopardizing worker and consumer safety, leading to changes in purchasing.

"I've always been an active listener who asks a lot of questions," says O'Driscoll, who challenges others on his walking tour to reciprocate. "Usually one of the first questions I ask," says O'Driscoll, is what working conditions

and wage rates would be like if the General Strike of 1934 had failed to lead to more organizing, or if Francis Perkins, Franklin D. Roosevelt's progressive labor secretary, hadn't been around to improve the lives of workers during the New Deal.

His questions sometimes draw controversy on the tour. "I met a business guy who complained about how much money union workers earn and told me I was promoting labor unions over historical research," says O'Driscoll.

"I told him we could go to a coffee shop and talk politics all night, but I wasn't going to stop telling the truth about labor's history," says O'Driscoll, who paid his own way to the IBEW's 100th year anniversary celebration in St. Louis in 1991. "My plan is to give something back to organized labor, an organization that gave me the opportunity to earn good pay, enjoy a good quality of life and a fair standard of living," says O'Driscoll.

Larry Shoup, a historian who accompanies O'Driscoll on the Irish Labor Walk, says, "Peter is sincere, warm and open, and he has a nice relationship with the people who attend our labor walks."

O'Driscoll, who is now researching his family's history, spends part of his retirement traveling across the U.S. During those treks, he asks himself how different life for new immigrants is from the challenges he faced when he arrived from Ireland in 1962.

Addressing the current difficulties facing the labor movement, O'Driscoll says there is a pressing need for leaders with courage and conviction like Francis Perkins. The situation is complex, says O'Driscoll, but, "We need to always remember where we came from, and keep talking." ■

