

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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## Panama, IBEW Sign Training Agreement for Panama Canal Expansion



Credit: Tim Prendergast

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill greets Elberto Cobos, labor representative to INADEH, Panama's job training authority. He was part of the Panamanian delegation that included INADEH's Training Director Juan Planells, left, the Panama Canal Authority's Ivette Millan and Balboa, Panama, Local 397 Business Manager Felicia V. Ng K.

A delegation of Panamanian government officials came to Washington, D.C., in April to sign a training agreement with the IBEW and the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee to help meet the needs of a new generation of electricians at home.

The agreement makes available the edu-

cational resources of the NJATC to the Panamanian government's job-training authority, INADEH, to assist it with the development of its own electrical training program.

The Panama Canal, one of the most ambitious engineering projects in the world, is undergoing an expansion that will create a new water lane along the canal to accommodate increased traffic.

The expansion, the largest construction project in Panama since the canal's construction in the early 20th century, will require thousands of trained electricians, and the government wants to make sure that the majority of work will be

done by Panamanian citizens.

The new two-mile lock, which officially began construction in 2007, is expected to cost more than \$5 billion and could begin operations as early as 2014.

"We are expecting to see growth in all crafts, particularly electrical construction," said Ivette Millan from the Panama Canal Authority.

During their visit to Washington D.C., the delegation from INADEH and the Panama Canal Authority toured the headquarters of the NJATC and Washington, D.C., Local 26's training facility.

Representatives from the NJATC gave a two-hour presentation to the delegation on the committee's apprenticeship curriculum and educational resources.

"I'm very impressed with the technology

EXPANSION AGREEMENT continued on page 2

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## Expansion Agreement

and the curriculum you have here,” said Clarissa Sinisterra, INADEH’s electrical coordinator. “I’m also impressed with the learning materials that you provide your students. It’s good that your training is so hands on and practical and I look forward to implementing it in Panama.”

The connection between the Panama Canal and the IBEW goes back to its construction, which began in 1904. “Our members helped build the canal,” said Fifth District Vice President Joseph Davis. “And many stayed to maintain it.”

Most members were U.S. citizens who worked in the Canal Zone, which was owned by the U.S. government until 1999.

Members of Balboa, Panama, Local 397, which represents maintenance electricians at the canal, are hopeful that the new agreement will lead to future growth among Panamanians as the expansion project progresses. “It’s potentially an opportunity to grow the IBEW by thousands here,” said Local 397 Business Manager Felicia V. Ng K.

“It says a lot about our commitment to professionalism and training that when Panama was faced with its biggest construction project in nearly a century, it turned to the IBEW for help,” said International President Edwin D. Hill. ■

# Jersey City Training Center Hosts Labor Secretary, N.J. Governor

A high profile meeting between Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine occurred at a natural nexus between green jobs training and the future of U.S. energy production: an IBEW training center.

Solis and Corzine spent the day at the Jersey City Local 164 Training Academy taking in classes, speaking with labor leaders and discussing the Obama administration’s plans for jump-starting the economy through development of the domestic renewable energy industry.

“Secretary Solis was very interested in what was going on,” said Local 164 Training Director John DeBouter. “She couldn’t have been more outgoing and friendly and supportive of what we do. She was very impressed with our training center.”

At the April 29 visit, Corzine and Solis, joined by N.J. Labor Commissioner David Socolow, discussed the state’s plan to create 20,000 green jobs by 2020. President Obama has committed to spending \$500 million to create green jobs across the country.

“We know what we have to do to get the economy stimulated,” Solis said. “My hope and my dream is that we see more business pop up here in New Jersey” as the green industry grows.

In what was not just another day at the training center, apprentices and journey-level members were in classes when the high-level delegation toured the facility. The group stopped by the conduit fabrication lab and got a quick lesson on three- and four-bend saddles. They dropped in at the telecommunications lab, the conveyer lab and motor control lab, where a class of 15 apprentices were wiring motor starters and motors.



Jersey City, N.J., Local 164 Training Director John DeBouter, left, and Local 164 Business Manager Richard “Buzz” Dressel, join Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Gov. Jon Corzine for a press conference following their tour of the training center.

At the solar photovoltaic lab, instructor D.J. Solleder demonstrated how modules produce DC voltage, and went on to explain the conversion of AC power through the inverter. Solleder also explained how a solar path instrument is used to determine the best possible positioning of panels.

The group also explored the site where the local is adding a 48-kilowatt solar array at the training center. Local 164 has already installed 432 poly-crystalline solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the union offices.

Solis and Corzine also participated in a roundtable discussion with several unemployed workers, two of whom had a background in electrical theory. Each submitted applications for membership in Local 164. ■

## New Study Calls for Reforms to Transmission Grid

A new report by North America’s transmission grid watchdog confirms what the IBEW and renewable energy advocates have been arguing on Capitol Hill for years. Integrating wind, solar and other forms of green energy into our current power system will require big changes to how the national electrical grid is planned and operated.

One of the North American Electric Reliability Corp. report’s top recommendations is for policy makers to remove barriers to transmission siting, a vital step if we are to install the thousands of miles of transmission

lines needed to bring renewable energy to where it is most needed.

“Making wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy a realistic option for consumers requires a commitment to expand our grid system across state lines,” said International President Edwin D. Hill.

Legislators are already taking up NERC’s suggestion, introducing a bill in March that would allow the federal government to override local objections to siting new transmission lines that cross state lines.

“We cannot and will not maximize the production of renewable energy in this country unless we fix

“Making renewable energy a viable option requires a commitment to expand our grid system.”

Edwin D. Hill, IBEW International President

the transmission problem,” Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) told a Senate committee meeting in April.

The draft legislation is expected to be incorporated into the comprehensive energy bill currently being debated in Congress.

The report also recommends that the patchwork of grid systems

in place, which usually covers a single metro area with weak links to other systems, be consolidated into larger regional operating areas.

“Local grids need to be better integrated with each other if we want to see more reliability and transport capacity,” said Utility Department Director Jim Hunter.

Wind is one of the fastest growing sources of energy, making up 42 percent of all new energy capacity last year. The report advocates incorporating new operating practices, such as more accurate forecasting of energy availability and introducing advanced technologies—like smart-grid—to open up even more opportunities for wind power.

“Using today’s technology to reliably integrate clean, renewable energy resources into the utility system will benefit today’s consumers as well as future generations,” said American Wind Energy Association Chief Executive Denise Bode. ■



# Boston Local Installs Wind Turbine on Historic Nantucket Farm

**M**ore than 15 electricians from Boston Local 103 recently completed installation of the first 250-kilowatt wind turbine in the United States on Nantucket's largest and oldest family farm.

Located less than a quarter of a mile from the southern shore of the island off of Cape Cod, the turbine can produce enough electricity to provide 80 percent of Bartlett's Farm's energy needs.

The turbine, which has a rotor diameter of more than 100 feet, is unique because of its size. "Most turbines are either small models for residential use or 1-megawatt ones for large commercial facilities," said Herb Aikens, owner of Lighthouse Electrical Contracting, Inc. "The 250 kilowatt is the just the right fit for medium-size businesses."

Lighthouse Electrical Contracting has specialized in wind power since it was started in 2002.

The farm's owner, John Bartlett, was inspired to install the turbine after seeing a presentation by Local 103 member Newell Thomas at a wind energy conference more than two years ago. "His farm had hosted experimental turbines back in the '70s and was interested in bringing them back to the island," said Thomas, manager of the renewable energy division for Lighthouse.

The farm, which grows fresh produce for Nantucket residents and tourists, has been in the Bartlett family for nearly two centuries.

Thomas, an electrical engineer, has been an advocate of green energy since the energy crisis of 1974. "Wind power really caught my imagination then, and has held it ever since," he said.

Bartlett helped finance the turbine through grants from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust and the U.S. Agriculture Department meant to encourage farms to establish renewable energy sources. The project ended up costing more than \$1 million.

Cape Cod and its nearby islands are quickly becoming a center of wind energy in the region. Cape Wind, a planned 130-turbine offshore wind farm to be located in Nantucket Sound, cleared a major hurdle in January when the U.S. Minerals



Management Service issued its positive final assessment of the project.

"We are very proud of this installation and congratulate Herb

Aikens for the completion of this significant project at the doorstep of Cape Wind," said Local 103 Business Manager Michael Monahan. ■

*The 250-kilowatt wind turbine at Bartlett's Farm on Nantucket Island will supply 80 percent of the farm's energy needs.*

## Coalition Touts Nuclear Power's Benefits

**W**ith eyes on the present and future green jobs picture, more than 800 organizations and 1,000 individuals have banded together to champion nuclear power's low carbon emissions, safety and career opportunities.

The CASEnergy Coalition—short for clean and safe energy—boasts a broad roster of members from labor unions, environmental groups, the business community and beyond. More than 130 IBEW locals from California to New York have signed on to the group.

"Good jobs for IBEW members in any low-carbon setting should be celebrated," said Todd Newkirk, IBEW Utility Department International Representative. Newkirk touted the environmentally friendly aspects of nuclear power—an industry rich in IBEW membership—which provides nearly 75 percent of all carbon-free electrical generation in the U.S. and offsets nearly as much carbon dioxide as is released from all U.S. passenger cars combined.

CASEnergy is a strong advocate for creating well-paying jobs that can't be outsourced. The average annual salary for a nuclear engineer is nearly \$83,000. There are currently more than 30 new reactors under consideration to be built across the U.S. If constructed, more than 20,000 temporary and permanent jobs could be added to the market—many of them with union representation.

"Union members are the best people to help lead this new age of nuclear energy," said Cranbury, N.J., Local 94 Business Manager Chip Gerrity. Local 94 is part of the coalition, representing nearly 1,000 members at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station and the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant. "When it comes down to it, it's all about the training and the quality of people. The IBEW has both. Our members know the value of a good day's work and have high standards."



President Barack Obama's and Vice President Joe Biden's New Energy for America plan includes nuclear power as a key piece of greening the power sector. "It is unlikely that we can meet our aggressive climate goals if we eliminate nuclear power as an

option," a statement from the administration said. While safety is a high concern—especially with this year's 30th anniversary of the Three Mile Island meltdown in the background—the coalition highlights the stringent regulations the industry has adopted.

"Some people still have the misconception that nuclear is a risky business, when it's actually the most heavily regulated industry anywhere at any given time," Newkirk said. "That is why it is important to belong to CASEnergy. It is time for the nuclear sector to be seen for what it is, day in and day out—green and clean."

CASEnergy is headed by former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman and a former Greenpeace leader. Studies presented by the coalition have drawn approval and support from diverse members of Congress, AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department President Mark Ayers and IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill.

"We know that nuclear energy is one of several ways to boost economic growth and support good jobs in the construction and operation of new plants," President Hill said. "The industry will also help ensure that our nation has a diverse and secure supply of energy to meet the needs of the American people well into the future."

For more information, visit [www.CleanSafeEnergy.org](http://www.CleanSafeEnergy.org). ■



# MasTec Satellite Technicians Install IBEW in Georgia

**T**oo many workers were being cussed out by their supervisors or fired for no reason. James Hampton, a satellite installer-technician for MasTec in Duluth, Ga., knew in his gut that things had to change. So last February, he placed a call to the IBEW asking for help. International Organizing Representative Carmella Cruse and Atlanta Local 613 Assistant Business Manager Robbie Evans met with Hampton and several co-workers.

On April 30, Hampton's co-workers voted 32 to 22 to be represented by Local 613. The vote is a giant step for IBEW's efforts to win job security and respect for thousands of MasTec workers nationwide and bring the company—which declared record revenues (\$1.4 billion in 2008) and holds 25 percent of the national market for satellite TV installation—into the circle of responsible employers.

"I was ready to pay the consequences," says Hampton, who began working at MasTec in 2003. After learning of his support for organizing his co-workers, supervisors tried to turn other technicians against him, saying that "they needed to watch out for me," he said.

"Everyone saw the same thing I did," Hampton said. Workers who took company trucks home were



Dave Edwards, left, and James Hampton spearheaded a successful organizing campaign at DirecTV installer MasTec in Georgia.

**"They were coming at us hard before the election. Now they are backing off because we have a union standing behind us."**

*James Hampton, MasTec satellite installer-technician, Duluth, Ga.*

charged \$80 per week. Favoritism was rampant in job assignments, with workers getting paid different rates for performing the same work.

Worst of all, technicians were hit with back charges, forced to pay out of their pockets for equipment failures that were out of their control.

MasTec contracted with Bell and Associates, an Austin, Texas-based firm that showcases its versatility in assisting employers who are either fending off unions or bargaining with them. The company was confident that, with the Austin firm's help and their own obstructionist tactics, the union campaign in the suburb of Atlanta could be derailed.

MasTec has stonewalled on signing a first contract with IBEW at its Tampa, Fla., location, first organized in 2006. Negotiations were going well at the company's West Palm Beach, Fla., shop, organized in 2008, until the IBEW petitioned for the Duluth election. Then MasTec went to the NLRB and petitioned to decertify the unit. Even though the IBEW blocked the decertification, the company figured that it could convince Duluth workers that a union would take more from the workers than it could give.

Bell and Associates held meetings with the 63-worker force, claiming to be "neutral," interested only in "giving workers information about unions." But Hampton and a co-worker, Dave Edwards—with help from Cruse and Evans—had prepared their co-workers for union-bashing.

"I'm a research-oriented person," says Edwards, a one-year employee who left self-employment as a real estate appraiser after the housing bubble burst. He checked out the IBEW online and circulated information to his co-workers outlining arguments they would hear against unions, including a link to the video, "Confessions of a Union Buster."

When the consultants warned that organizing a union could put the workers in jeopardy like those at General Motors, Edwards, Hampton and other workers challenged their assumptions. "Bell's consultants seemed to take it personally," says Hampton, who notified members in one of the captive audience meetings of new movement among installers in

other locales. The CWA, Hampton reported, had just organized workers in Paducah, Ky., at DirecTech, MasTec's main competitor. And the IBEW was knocking on the door at another location in Tennessee. The consultants cut the meeting short.

Despite fears among a section of the work force that supporting the union could cost them their jobs, a majority lined up for IBEW representation.

Cruse identifies two factors that were decisive in the campaign's success. First, the volunteer organizing committee broadly represented the work force. Hampton, who is African-American, teamed up with Edwards, who is white, and a Hispanic organizer to help unify the predominantly Hispanic work force. International Organizer Maria Gonzales assisted in the outreach. Second, says Cruse, Assistant Business Manager Evans "did a good job showing what Local 613 was all about—just what kind of organization they were joining."

After the vote, MasTec retaliated against the union's election observer by reassigning him to less lucrative work. The union has filed several NLRB charges on this and other violations.

Hampton sees a change in company attitude since the charges were filed. "They were coming at us hard before the election," he says. "Now they are backing off because we have a union standing behind us."

Edwards went straight to the Internet to report on the election win to inform MasTec workers across the country about the victory.

"I never was pro-union before this," says Edwards. "Now, I'm super pro-union." Edwards works nights in a restaurant, and his boss calls him "Norma Rae," after Sally Field's character in a 1979 film based upon the life of a legendary Southern textile organizer.

Fresh from operating his own business, Edwards scoffs at corporate lobbyists who say that unions destroy companies. "We're not asking them to sign their lives away," he says. "We just want some checks and balances and the bare minimum that we should expect from any employer." ■

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# Online Electrical Worker Gets New Look

**T**IBEW has overhauled the online version of The Electrical Worker starting with the June issue on [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org). With linked headlines, search options and a crisp, modern look, members will get more readable access to news about their industries.

"With the new design, we wanted something more along the lines of the online reading experience that people are accustomed to," IBEW Media Department Director Jim Spellane said of the HTML version. "We also wanted something that is going to be consistent with the print look."

Some of the updated features include options to print one story at a time, e-mail articles with the click of a mouse and use a helpful keyword search option for archived pieces. A PDF version of each issue will still be available on the Web site for those

who would like to download and print the paper in its original format.

All news and information in the print Electrical Worker will be available in the online version, including

Brotherhood," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill. "We see this as a positive development."

As always, we encourage members to "go green" and opt for an

**"As media moves more to web-based formats, we look at the Electrical Worker's new online presence as a step forward in the way we report accurate, timely news to the Brotherhood."**

*Edwin D. Hill, IBEW International President*

Local Lines, Circuits, In Memoriam, letters to the editor and editorials from officers.

"As media moves more to web-based formats, we look at the Electrical Worker's new online presence as a step forward in the way we report accurate, timely news to the

e-mail link to the online version of the newspaper. If members click on this option (found on the home page of [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)) they will no longer receive their Electrical Worker in the mail, cutting down on print and mailing costs and benefitting the environment. ■



## IBEW Mayor Reaches out to President to Save Garment Jobs

**O**nly a week after taking office as mayor of Des Plaines, a suburb of Chicago, Local 134 Business Representative Marty Moylan wrote to President Barack Obama asking for his help in saving the jobs of 500 union workers at his city's Hartmarx apparel factory, makers of Obama's custom suits.

Two bidders on the manufacturer's assets are weighing keeping the Illinois plant open, but financial giant Wells Fargo is considering pulling the plug.

Moylan asked Obama to intervene to prevent the liquidation of the 122-year-old company (formerly Hart Schaffner & Marx), based on the fact that Wells Fargo has been the beneficiary of approximately \$15 billion in federal bailout funds and has asked for more.

"The net result of these funds being available is that instead of stimulating the economy, bankers



*Marty Moylan, Local 134 Business Representative*

are making obvious decisions to possibly close American businesses and put people out of work. This is exactly opposite of what the stimulus program is supposed to accomplish," said Moylan.

Preventing liquidation, said Moylan, "is important, not only from a financial perspective, but also philosophically—we must invest in American companies and American jobs."

On May 4, Moylan joined State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, union officials and U.S. Rep. Phil Hare at a rally in support of Hartmarx workers. "These are good-paying union jobs. It's important to support American-made products," says Moylan.

On May 11, workers at Hartmarx, members of Workers United, voted in favor of a "sit-in," pledging to remain at their job site if Wells Fargo or a buyer attempts to close the factory. Organized by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union nearly 100 years ago, Hartmarx now employs 3,500 workers nationwide.

A 43-year journeyman wireman, Moylan won the mayor's race with a 1,500-vote margin over three candidates in the city of 54,000.

During his campaign, he knocked on 5,000 doors throughout the city and received strong support from Local 134 co-workers, the building trades and other labor organizations. ■

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## New Work Ferries in Vancouver Island Shipyard's Comeback

**T**he sounds of shipyard craftsmen at work are finally returning to Esquimalt Graving Dock—the largest marine dry dock on Canada's West Coast—after years of quiet.

The dock, located in Victoria, British Columbia, is seeing a surge in federal construction dollars to modernize the facility. And new government and private shipping contracts for Victoria Shipyards, the biggest shipbuilder on the island, are creating new jobs for Victoria Local 230 members.

"We've made a huge comeback on the docks," said Local 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit. "We were down to a skeleton crew of about nine guys in the '90s. Now we're looking at topping more than 100 members."

Much of the new work is due to increased spending by the Department of National Defense to beef up the navy's and coast guard's fleets.

In one of the biggest projects the shipyard has seen in decades, more than a dozen Local 230 members were involved in wiring over 30 coast guard search-and-rescue ships, which were completed four years ago, said Local 230 member George Kohorst. Kohorst, now an electrical instructor at Camosun College, was the lead field engineer on the project.

The ships were even featured on the TV program "The Guard."

The \$60 million contract was completed 14 months earlier than planned. The Canadian government was so pleased with the IBEW's work that the local was awarded a contract for eight training ships for the navy.

Starting this fall, the shipyard will perform maintenance on the Canadian navy's West Coast submarine fleet, opening up dozens of new jobs. Local 230 is expected to have more than 170 electricians working on the dock by 2010, Venoit said.

The dock, which dates back to before Confederation, has traditionally been one of the busiest in North America, building ships for both the British and Canadian navies.

But the 1980s saw the beginnings of a slowdown as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney instituted

cutbacks to naval spending and ended federal subsidies to the shipbuilding industry, helping to bring work on the dock to a near halt.

"The shipbuilding industry is a three-legged chair," said Venoit, who started in the shipyards in 1980. "It requires support from the federal and provincial governments and private industry. Saw off one of those legs and the whole thing could fall over."

Despite the federal dollars now coming in, the IBEW, along with other shipyard unions, is still pushing for all B.C. ferry work to be done at B.C.

shipyards. They have launched a grassroots campaign to persuade members of the legislative assembly to overturn the decision by the anti-labour Liberal government to award ferry building and maintenance contracts to foreign companies.

British Columbia has one of the largest ferry services in North America.

"If the federal government trusts us to maintain their submarines and naval work, British Columbia can entrust us to build their ferries," Venoit said. ■



*Some of the more than 30 search-and-rescue ships built for the Canadian coast guard by members of Victoria, British Columbia, Local 230, were ferried up the East Coast for service in the Maritimes.*

*Parmi la trentaine de navires de la Garde côtière canadienne affectés aux opérations de recherche et de sauvetage, sur lesquels ont travaillé les membres de la S.L. 230 de Victoria, en Colombie-Britannique, certains ont été transportés sur la Côte Est pour desservir les provinces maritimes.*

## Reprise de la construction de nouveaux traversiers sur les chantiers navals de la Colombie-Britannique.

**A**près plusieurs années de silence, nous assistons enfin au retour des travailleurs sur les chantiers navals à la cale sèche d'Esquimalt, le plus grand quai commercial en cale sèche sur la Côte ouest canadienne.

Situé sur l'île de Vancouver, ce quai en cale sèche, a pu profiter d'un investissement du gouvernement fédéral pour la modernisation de ses installations. Les nouveaux contrats maritimes octroyés par le gouvernement et les entreprises privées à *Victoria Shipyards*, la plus importante entreprise de construction de navires sur l'île, vont contribuer à la création de nouveaux emplois pour les membres de la S.L. 230 de Victoria.

"C'est un retour très important sur les quais. Dans les années 90, nous n'avions plus qu'une équipe d'environ neuf ouvriers. Nous y comptons maintenant plus de 100 travailleurs et ce nombre augmente de jour en jour," déclare Phil Venoit, gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 230.

Le Département de la défense nationale a décidé d'augmenter son investissement afin de renforcer les

flottes de la marine et de la garde côtière, ce qui représentera une bonne partie des nouveaux travaux.

"Plus d'une douzaine de membres de la S.L. 230 avaient travaillé antérieurement sur un des plus gros projets jamais vus sur le chantier naval au cours des dernières décennies, en y effectuant les travaux d'installation électrique sur une trentaine de navires de la Garde côtière affectés aux opérations de recherche et de sauvetage...mais la fin de ces travaux remonte à quatre ans déjà!" déclare George Kohorst qui travaillait alors en tant qu'ingénieur en chef sur le projet, et qui occupe maintenant la fonction d'instructeur en électricité au Collège Camosun.

Les navires ont même été présentés lors d'une nouvelle émission de télévision intitulée "*The guard*".

Ce contrat de 60 millions de dollars a été terminé 14 mois avant la date prévue. Le gouvernement canadien, plus que satisfait du travail accompli par les membres de la FIOE, a décidé d'attribuer à la section locale un autre contrat pour huit

navires-écoles destinés aux aspirants de la marine.

À compter de l'automne prochain, une douzaine de nouveaux emplois seront créés sur le chantier naval qui assurera l'entretien de la flotte de sous-marins de la Garde côtière dans l'ouest du pays. Selon le confrère Venoit, la section locale 230 s'attend à ce que plus de 170 électriciens travaillent sur le quai d'ici 2010.

Ce quai, datant d'avant la Confédération, a anciennement été l'un des plus occupés en Amérique du Nord, alors qu'on y effectuait la construction de navires pour la marine britannique et la marine canadienne.

Mais un ralentissement s'est fait sentir dans les années 80, lorsque le Premier Ministre Brian Mulroney a annoncé des coupures dans les dépenses du secteur naval et cessé les subventions fédérales à l'industrie de la construction navale, ce qui a mené à une quasi interruption des travaux sur le quai.

"On peut comparer l'industrie de la construction navale à une chaise à trois pattes car elle a besoin

de l'appui des gouvernements fédéral et provincial ainsi que de l'industrie privée. Si vous sciez une des pattes, tout va s'écrouler!" dit le confrère Venoit dont les débuts sur les chantiers navals remontent en 1980.

Malgré l'investissement du gouvernement fédéral, la FIOE, conjointement avec les autres syndicats des chantiers navals, continue de faire pression afin que tous les travaux de construction des traversiers puissent être effectués sur les chantiers navals de la C.-B. Ils ont lancé une campagne populaire afin de convaincre les députés de l'Assemblée législative de renverser la décision du gouvernement [anti-syndicaliste] libéral d'accorder les contrats de construction et d'entretien des traversiers à des compagnies étrangères.

La Colombie-Britannique possède un des plus importants services de traversiers en Amérique du Nord.

Si le gouvernement fédéral nous accorde sa confiance pour le maintien de ses sous-marins, il va sans dire que la Colombie-Britannique peut nous confier la construction de ses traversiers." conclut le confrère Venoit. ■



## IBEW On Duty



*Middleton, Mass., Local 2321 member Charlie Coleman spent most of 2008 serving in Iraq.*

### Surviving Rocket Attack, Member Soldiered On

Charlie Coleman understands the values of perseverance and resolve. That's why after surviving a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a job site last year in Hawija, Iraq, the 22-year IBEW member was undeterred from his mission to continue rebuilding the primary school that he and his squad had labored on in the tumultuous city north of Baghdad.

"It was chaotic, but I knew what I had to do next," said Coleman, staff sergeant with the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and a Middleton, Mass., Local 2321 member. "I just rolled up my sleeves and set my mind back on the job."

None of Coleman's fellow troops—nor the scores of Iraqi children nearby—were injured in the attack, though it left a strong impression on the soldier.

"Returning to the school the next day showed the community something," Coleman said. "It sent a message—we're not giving up on you, and we're willing to do what it takes to make sure you have the basic necessities of life."

For nine-and-a-half months last year, Coleman committed himself to rebuilding the battered Iraqi infrastructure in cities near Forward Operating Base McHenry, 40 miles southwest of Kirkuk. A 16-year U.S. Army reservist and Verizon employee by day in the U.S., Coleman's skills as both a soldier and a technician were valuable on assignments at area schools, hospitals and other sites.

"Charlie was very committed to serving the people of Iraq," said Local 2321 Business Manager Ed Starr. He rallied local members to support the Coleman family—including Charlie's wife and two young boys—by raising about \$6,000 for the household. Members also sent Coleman care packages and letters to bolster his spirits.

"Overall, I would say the experience was positive, but I was glad to return home—missing my family was the hardest part," Coleman said. His unit returned to the states last November, just in time for Thanksgiving.

For his service, Coleman was honored at the local's March meeting with a proclamation from the Massachusetts state legislature, as well as a plaque from Sen. John Kerry. Other letters of thanks rolled in from IBEW leaders throughout the Northeast.

"I have a lot of appreciation for my co-workers, my family and my union for supporting me while I helped serve my country in a time of need," Coleman said. "The Brotherhood really lives up to its namesake." ■

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

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

### www.ibew.org

From breaking news to video news stories, our updated Web site has information not available anywhere else.

### IBEW on the Huffington Post

International President Edwin D. Hill has a new blog on the Huffington Post. Read it monthly at [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com).

### IBEW on Twitter

President Hill has joined the latest social networking scene. Find out what's on his mind at [http://twitter.com/IBEW\\_IP](http://twitter.com/IBEW_IP).

### YouTube

The IBEW has its own channel on YouTube, devoted exclusively to videos about the IBEW and its members. [www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker](http://www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker).



### HourPower

This month on the IBEW's online video magazine, see IBEW locals compete for bragging rights at the IBEW Hockey Tournament, held for the first time in the United States. [www.ibewhourpower.com](http://www.ibewhourpower.com).

### ElectricTV

For building owners and contractors, ETV has a show about building automation, brought to you by the NECA-IBEW team. [electricTV.net](http://electricTV.net).





## Circuits



Photo Credit: Bill Burke, Page One/Union City

*Washington, D.C., Local 1900 Vice President Greg Waller, center, with the political activism award he received from AFL-CIO Metropolitan Washington Council President Jos Williams, right, and Political Coordinator Rick Powell.*

### Maryland Members Help Pass Prevailing Wage Law

Grassroots lobbying by IBEW members and other labor activists in Charles County, Md., helped win a landmark prevailing wage law earlier this year.

The new law makes the county only the fourth jurisdiction in the state to require government contractors to pay a standard wage for state-funded construction projects.

The campaign was launched by Tri-County COPE, a political action committee representing unions in three Maryland counties. Helping to lead the efforts was Washington, D.C., Local 1900 Vice President Greg Waller.

A 32-year member, Waller helped to organize President Obama's campaign in Charles County. He was inspired to get involved in the prevailing wage campaign by Washington, D.C., Local 26 Political Director Larry Greenhill, who lives in the county.

"It was one of the biggest labor campaigns we've seen in a while," Waller said. "We had volunteers from all the unions in the area making phone calls and sending letters."

For his efforts in the campaign, Waller was recognized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of the AFL-CIO, receiving its annual award for political activism.

Council President Jos Williams credited the bill's success to Waller, Greenhill "and other up-and-coming leaders advocating on behalf of working families in Charles County."

### Study: Advanced Coal Coming Soon

With \$3.4 billion dollars set aside in President Obama's stimulus bill for the advanced clean coal industry, energy experts and coal advocates are in a favorable position to move new technology forward—creating jobs and reducing carbon in the process.

Touting a recent study commissioned by the IBEW, the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity and other groups, a coalition of labor leaders and energy experts met in Washington, D.C., in February for a press conference outlining the financial and environmental benefits of clean coal technology, which captures and stores carbon emissions underground.

"The nation stands at a crossroads of opportunity for domestic investments and innovation in new technology and energy efficiency that will save jobs, create new jobs, build new industries and revitalize American manufacturing," said Bob Baugh, executive director of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council.

The study claims that new technology can foster millions of high-paying jobs, yielding nearly 7 million work-years of employment and generating \$1 trillion of economic output.

"The promise of federal funding will get some of these projects up and running, demonstrating that they are viable and competitive in price with other technologies," said IBEW Utility Department Director Jim

Hunter. "Things are looking brighter for the industry and the prospect of more union jobs—we just need to keep fighting."

The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative illustrates the government's commitment to looking at ways in which technology can reduce sulfur, nitrogen and mercury pollutants from power plants while shrinking greenhouse emissions. Obama's Secretary of Energy Steven Chu said at his Senate confirmation hearing, "Coal is an abundant resource in the world. It is imperative that we figure out a way to use coal as cleanly as possible."

The U.S. has the largest coal reserves in the world, which produce half of the nation's electricity. Tens of thousands of IBEW members are employed at coal-fired utilities, some of which are already moving forward with clean coal test projects. Plants in Wisconsin, North Dakota, West Virginia and elsewhere are conducting experiments with carbon capture technologies.

"Many lawmakers, industry leaders and energy experts are all recognizing that in order to make a long-term change in carbon emissions, clean coal has to be a part of the solution," International President Edwin D. Hill said. "The technological advancements in the industry will help put us on the path to energy independence while creating good-paying jobs and, ultimately, reducing our environmental footprint."

### Florida Airport Work Nets Kudos for Contractors

More than 70 members of Jacksonville, Fla., Local 177 helped two national companies win a prestigious award for stellar efficiency and safety on a \$13 million job at the city's international airport.

St. Louis-based Guarantee Electrical Co. and White Electrical of Atlanta won the Federated Electrical Contractors 2008 Joint Venture Award after joining forces in February 2007 to add two new concourses to the airport. Totalling 1,600 feet in length, the concourses will service 20 gates to accommodate 7.5 million passengers annually.

"It was definitely not your everyday kind of work," said Local 177 member Greg Lea, superintendent general foreman at the site. Lea noted that the complex jobs of installing everything from high-tech security systems, intricate lighting and fiber optics proved novel projects for apprentices and journeymen alike. "But we're IBEW members—we like a good challenge."

Local 177 members completed the 18-month project ahead of schedule, logging about 80,000 man hours with no safety incidents.

"The IBEW workers demonstrated excellence, efficiency and professionalism on a job that involved a lot of newer technology," said David Yencarelli, project manager with White Electrical. "The members definitely brought their 'A' game."



*Members of Jacksonville, Fla., Local 177 completed a \$13 million airport project ahead of schedule and with no injuries.*



## Transitions

"We take the Code of Excellence very seriously, and our members strive to do the best job on every worksite," Local 177 Business Manager Russell Harper said.

Federated Electrical Contractors is an international network of leading electrical companies that engage in joint ventures throughout the continental U.S. and abroad. The FEC only employs union labor.

### IBEW Member Elected Head of Hawaii Metal Trades Council

Honolulu Local 1186 member Don Bongo became the first IBEW member in decades to head the Hawaii Metal Trades Council after being elected president by the council's executive board in April.

The council is made up of 12



Don Bongo, Local 1186 member

unions representing more than 4,000 workers at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

"It's a heavy duty responsibility," said Bongo, who started in the shipyard in 1982. "But I'm ready to do what it takes to represent all the workers in the yard."

Bongo comes from a long line of union activists. His father was a member of the firefighters union and his grandparents were active in organizing sugar cane workers.

Bongo's top priority is to increase the number of permanent jobs at the yard. The summer season often sees a slowdown in work and Bongo wants to help seasonal workers stay on the job.

Bongo also is hopeful about resurrecting the labor-management partnership between unions and the U.S. Navy that was dismantled by President George W. Bush.

In addition to his union activism, Bongo is a veteran of the Iraq War. His National Guard unit was sent to Iraq in 2004, where he served as a combat engineer.

"He's got a big job ahead of him but I've known Don a long time and I know he'll be strong voice for every shipyard worker," said Local 1186 Business Manager Damien Kim.

The shipyard, site of the infamous 1941 attack that dragged the United States into World War II, serves as the Navy's regional maintenance facility. ■

### DECEASED Robert G. McWillie



Robert McWillie.

Born in Viscount, Saskatchewan, Brother McWillie was initiated into Saskatoon Local 319 in 1949 following military service in England, France, Holland and Germany in World War II. He worked as a lineman for Saskatchewan Power Corp., then took a power distribution job with the city of Saskatoon. As a member of Local 319, he served on the executive and examining boards and as president. He went on to serve for 10 years as business manager of Local 319 before he was appointed International Representative in 1966.

Former International Executive Council Secretary James R. McAvoy said McWillie functioned as the district's trouble-shooter, traveling from coast to coast on behalf of First District Vice Presidents William Ladyman and K.G. Rose. He also assisted members across Canada in organizing and negotiating.

"I couldn't say enough about him as a man," McAvoy said. "Even

The IBEW regrets to report the April 25 death of former First District International Representative

if you only met him once, you never forgot him."

McWillie represented the IBEW on the Canadian Standards Association and served as president of the Western Canada IBEW Power Utility Council. He retired in 1981.

As a retiree, he served for four years on the board of directors of the Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board and on other labor committees. He was active in war veterans organizations and had a great interest in genealogical and historical research, even writing a book on the McWillie clan.

The IBEW extends its most sincere condolences to Brother McWillie's wife, children, grandchildren and many friends and family. ■

### DECEASED Kenneth L. Olsen



We are sorry to report that retired Eighth District International Representative Kenneth L. Olsen passed away on

April 28.

Initiated into Billings, Mont., Local 532 in 1969, Olsen, a journeyman wireman, served as a member of the examining board and executive board before becoming treasurer and

assistant business manager.

Business manager from 1984 to 1989, he was appointed International Representative in 1989.

"This is a guy who had a zest for life," says Eighth District International Representative Fred "Rocky" Clark. Olsen mentored Clark from his first days as a business manager of Local 44 in Butte, Mont. "He was always there with the answers," says Clark.

A U.S. Army veteran, Brother Olsen served various Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees in Montana and throughout the Eighth District. He was an officer of the local Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, and was an active member of the Democratic Party at the statewide level and in Yellowstone County.

After his retirement in 2004, Olsen moved from the district's seat in Idaho to Montana to be closer to his daughters and grandchildren. He enjoyed traveling by motor home from coast to coast visiting friends and family.

The officers, staff and members extend our heartfelt condolences to Brother Olsen's wife, Lois, and their family and friends. ■

## Spotlight on Safety

### Federal Court Decision Protects Construction Safety

A February decision by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will improve safety enforcement in the building trades.

The court restored a long-standing OSHA doctrine that general contractors could be found liable for unsafe conditions caused by subcontractors. That policy was overturned in 2007 by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, an independent federal agency, after an appeal from an Arkansas contractor.

"This decision highlights the importance of making the employer with overall control of a construction project responsible for the safety of all workers on the site," says attorney Victoria Bor, who represented the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, in *Solis v. Summit Contractors*.

The case stemmed from a 2003 citation by OSHA against Summit, a general contractor, building a college dormitory in Little Rock, Ark. Summit had subcontracted brick masonry work on the project. An OSHA compliance officer observed the subcontractor's employees working on scaffolds which lacked guardrails and adequate fall protection in violation of federal regula-

tions. OSHA issued citations to both Summit and the subcontractor.

Summit disputed the citation arguing that OSHA's standards only require a contractor to protect his own employees. An administrative law judge upheld the citation, but, in 2007, the three-person Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission reversed the decision in a 2 to 1 vote.

OSHRC members are appointed by the president. By tradition, two are from the president's party. The vote was on party lines, with two Republican commissioners voting to overturn Summit's citation.

Construction managers are already planning to undermine the court's holding.

In a story in the environmental health and safety magazine *EHS Today*, Stephen C. Yohay, a management-side attorney, says that it is "fair to expect that challenges to the multi-employer policy will continue to be raised."

"Safety is everyone's responsibility" is more than a slogan," says IBEW Safety Director Jim Tomaseski. "IBEW and the Building Trades will be vigilant in defending the Summit decision and ensuring that all contractors abide by legal protections and promote a culture of safety awareness on the job." ■

Local Lines

Charter Anniversary Celebrated

L.U. 6 (c,i,st&u), SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Local 6 held our Charter Anniversary Celebration commemorating our longstanding history in the IBEW on Feb. 21. There was an immense feeling of pride in the ball-room that evening, and it was evident a good time was had by all. The presentation ceremonies and the camaraderie during the dinner and dancing made for a fantastic evening. Many thanks to all who attended!

This year’s St. Patrick’s Day parade was a well-attended success. Our marching contingent led the way for the 9-foot diameter “solar-panel” shamrock and the model of the Golden Gate Bridge, fabricated from thin-wall conduit. Twenty of our members’ children rode on the float. Our retirees’ cable car followed, completing our presentation. Our thanks go to the parade committee and co-chairs Lou Sullivan and Brendan Greene.

Work in the city is still slow. It is heartening to hear Pres. Obama mention electrical workers, specifically in his infrastructure plans. We look forward to when those plans break ground.

Phil A. Farrelly, Pres.

Local’s Summer Activities

L.U. 8 (as,em,i,mar,mt,rts,s&spa), TOLEDO, OH—Well, summer is here and hopefully you are working or about to go out on a call. We have weathered another winter in the Midwest, with the refinery and powerhouse work providing many of our jobs. With any luck, the work outlook will continue to get even better.

It’s not too early to start staking out that hot spot for the Annual Perch Tournament. Get your team together and find out where they are going to be. Golfing is in full swing and softball should be well under way. Good luck to the softball teams on their upcoming tourney. I am sure they will represent Local 8 well. Thanks for taking the time to make our local shine in the IBEW family. Remember to have a great time and enjoy the camaraderie.

The annual summer picnic has been moved to Labor Day. It will take place after the Labor Day parade, back at the hall and pavilion behind the Industry Building. Plan to attend—it will be a great time with lots of fun for all ages. Enjoy the summer.

Ben “Red” Tackett, P.S.  
Jim Kozlowski, B.M.



Attending the Local 6 Charter Anniversary Celebration are, from left: IEC member Patrick Lavin, Ninth District Int. Vice Pres. Michael S. Mowrey, Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill, Local 6 Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. John J. O’Rourke and Local 6 Pres. Phil A. Farrelly.

Organizing Victories

L.U. 20 (em,i,mt,spa,t&u), DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX—Local 20 has worked tirelessly on recent NLRB representation elections, including a win for a new unit of employees from Stanley Works/Access Technologies. With three consecutive organizing victories, momentum is growing. There is an ongoing effort to convert the remaining contractors from 8(f) to 9(a) status. (An “8(f)” agreement is considered by the NLRB as a “pre-hire” agreement and does not bind the employer to continue bargaining after the agreement expires. With a “9(a)” agreement the employer is obligated to continue bargaining after the agreement’s expiration.)

Some of our contractors chose to voluntarily recognize Local 20 as the employees’ bargaining representative upon presentation of the signed authorization cards. Other contractors, however, chose to require a petition be filed with the NLRB to hold a “secret ballot” election.

Election results thus far have been overwhelmingly in support of the union. Two recent victories returned 49-1 and 38-2 results for the union. Representation elections can be costly for contractors, and require hard work by the union to ensure members are kept well-informed during the process. So far results have been great, even though some contractors enlisted a high profile, expensive union-busting law firm.

Our organizing victories give our ranks a much-needed boost in morale during these times of economic uncertainty.

A.C. McAfee, B.M.

Summer Picnic Aug. 29

L.U. 26 (ees,em,es,govt,i&mt), WASHINGTON, DC—The annual Local 26 summer picnic will be Saturday, Aug. 29 this year at Camp Letts in Edgewater, MD, off the Chesapeake Bay. (This is a change from our normal first Saturday in August.) Watch for your quarterly magazine, In Charge, or go online to [www.ibewlocal26.org](http://www.ibewlocal26.org) for information and a ticket request form. Again this year, the picnic will incorporate a health fair and a 5K run/walk. No tickets are sold at the gate.

As of this writing, negotiations are in full swing with NECA and Cherry Lane for the Inside and Residential Wireman agreements. When you receive this article, the parties will either have reached an agreement or submitted any unresolved issues to CIR.

We mourn the brothers who passed away since

our last article: Thomas Osvatics, Darrell Hess, William E. Carper, Kevin Deiss, Dean E. Foote, Frank E. Brownell, Saa B. Yffono and Brian D. Moncrief.

Best wishes to recent new retirees: Kenneth W. Baldwin, Landreth O. Jones, Richard S. Stout, Frank T. Bibb, Patrick M. Brennan, Francis W. Gist, Douglas B. Thompson, Donald T. Smith, Norman C. Thompson Jr., Terry W. Webb, Robert C. Young, Rupert D. Garner Jr., Robert D. King, John L. Coon, David N. Ritter, Joseph T. Caroon, George R. Rigsbee, William R. Matkins III, Curtis L. Lancaster, Edward W. Higgins and David I. Davis.

Charles E. Graham, B.M.

Appointments Announced

L.U. 38 (i), CLEVELAND, OH—Congratulations to Marty Seeholzer, who was appointed by the Executive Board to fill the spot of retired Executive Board member Ross Conforto; and to Jamie Davis, who was appointed to fill Marty’s seat on the Examining Board. Both men have long demonstrated their commitment to the IBEW and we know they will serve this union well in their new positions.

With sadness we report the death of former business manager and president Gil Steele Sr. on April 3. Gil Sr. had 60 years of service in Local 38. He was president for 22 years and then business manager for eight years before retiring in July 1997. Gil Sr. was a great labor leader and a person who would try and help any member of this union. We are grateful for his years of service.

Bus. Mgr. Gil Steele Jr. thanks all Local 38 members on behalf of his entire family for the support they have shown by coming to the services and sending kind words.

Members are reminded that the Cedar Point family picnic is Sunday, July 5.

Dennis Meaney, A.B.M.



Local 38 Pres. Walter O’Malley (left) swears in Examining Board member Jamie Davis (center) and Executive Board member Marty Seeholzer.

Trade Classification

(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		(o) Outside	(rtm) Radio-Television Manufacturing	(t) Telephone
(cs) Cable Splicers	(et) Electronic Technicians	(mt) Maintenance	(p) Powerhouse	(rts) Radio-Television Service	(u) Utility
(catv) Cable Television	(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians	(so) Service Occupations	(uow) Utility Office Workers
(c) Communications	(govt) Government	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers	(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				



## 'The State of the Union'

L.U. 46 (as,c,cs,em,es,et,i,mar,mo,mt,rtb,rts&st), SEATTLE, WA—Earlier this year the State of Washington decided to withdraw all reciprocity agreements dealing with Journeyman Electrical Licenses. Before working in Washington, according to the state, you must take the Washington State Test; they will no longer issue temporary permits.

Recent functions at the union hall included a NASCAR party, a Spring Fling Soiree and a crawfish gumbo feed. Thanks to all who volunteer. These diversions are a perfect way to see old friends again.

Bus. Rep. Kyle Katzman and the Local 46 motorcycle club will ride to Hurricane Mills, TN, in June. IBEW members from our surrounding locals as well as dozens along the way will attend a 41st annual IBEW family reunion. This collective ride is dedicated to the memory of past Local 46 business rep Jim Ringle. We all miss Jim.

Our union family here in Seattle is strong and prepared to meet challenges ahead. Together we can win. Remember the food bank at the hall; donations and withdrawals are welcome.

Golfers compete for the biggest trophy in town at the Seattle picnic this summer.

Computer "hot spots" are now available at the hall. This is convenient for members and a huge step toward going "paperless."

*Kevin Quinlan, P.S.*

## Intel & Code of Excellence

L.U. 48 (c,em,i,rtb,rts&st), PORTLAND, OR—Pres. Obama's labor-friendly administration inherited an economy nearing meltdown. So, when Pres. Obama read of Intel's commitment to invest \$7 billion, it got his attention. He called Intel CEO Paul Otellini to acknowledge his faith in our American economy.

Intel's investment is a glimmer of hope in our post-Republican world. Intel is making this investment over a two-year period to create a new 32-nanometer process technology. These new applications are made possible by the latest Intel chips. We will see new product enabled by these power-sipping, yet powerful, ultra-low-voltage chips due out this summer.

It's exciting that the technology jungle's 800-pound gorilla lives in our back yard—and that Otellini is utilizing U.S. workers to expedite implementation of Intel's newest technology. U.S. workers will allow Intel to beat its competitors to the marketplace and provide a competitive advantage.

Let's not forget, another 800-pound gorilla in the U.S. economic jungle is organized labor. To improve the IBEW's competitive position, Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill endorsed the Code of Excellence to inspire greater worker professionalism.

The COE is working well in Local 48, as demonstrated by Otellini's decision to invest \$2 billion in Intel's Oregon facilities alone. Many of those jobs are living-wage, union-labor construction jobs. Rosendin Electric Inc. is the largest electrical contractor at Intel's Hillsboro, OR, Ronler Acres facility. REI Superintendent Brandon Rainwater commends IBEW members for their outstanding work.

Local 48 Bus. Mgr. Clif Davis personally recognized these excellent IBEW members; he noted they are demonstrating that Intel's investment of capital deserves and is receiving 100 percent commitment from union labor.

*Bob Blair, P.S.*

## Service to Community

L.U. 50 (u), RICHMOND, VA—During hard economic times people find ways to help each other. Over the 2008 winter holidays, union members who work for Dominion Virginia Power and live in Shenandoah County, VA, wanted to help those in need. The challenge was to find "far-reaching" ways to benefit those less fortunate.

Approximately \$1,040 was raised with donations from union members, the Shenandoah Valley Central Labor Council and salaried workers. New Local 50 member Shaun Alkire, a new DVP hire, spearheaded the fundraiser and located an area organization we could support that helps those in need. The Shenandoah Pregnancy Center provides guidance to young families as well basic needs such as food, baby formula, clothing, etc. Funds raised assisted six families through the center. We hope to make the fundraiser an annual event.

More recently, the same Local 50 members participated in a Bowl-A-Thon in Woodstock, VA. Over a dozen members, friends and families bowled for three hours. Bowling fees were donated by local businesses. DVP matched the employees/members' individual donations over \$50, dollar for dollar. Over \$1,200 in contributions was raised. All funds raised were donated to the American Red Cross, Shenandoah County Chapter.

Many thanks to Local 50 members and families, especially Shaun Alkire, as well as Dominion Virginia Power, for participating in a worthy cause.

*John Albert, B.R.  
Mike Barclay, R.S.*

## Employee Free Choice Act

L.U. 68 (i), DENVER, CO—Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act is one of the most important political efforts of recent history. However, there are many misconceptions regarding the Act. Among other things, it is important to realize that the Employee Free Choice Act is an amendment to the National Labor Relations Act, and is not a brand-new law.

Instead, it basically does three things: increases penalties for employer misconduct; changes the choice for secret ballot from employer to employee; and speeds up the process. To read it for yourself, go to [www.employeechoiceact.org](http://www.employeechoiceact.org).

Please call your U.S. senator today. Call (866) 207-2060; you will be prompted to enter your zip code, and the system will connect you with your senator. Encourage your senator to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

The best economic stimulus package for America is to put people back to work, with respectable wages and benefits. Help get it started by calling today!

We extend deepest sympathy to the families of our lost brothers: James S. Harris, Neal H. Hart, Harry H. Moser, Robert L. Pinz, Jacob M. Mares, John F. Burns, William J. Jordan and William D. Bobby.

*Ed Knox, Pres.*

## Active on Political Front

L.U. 90 (i), NEW HAVEN, CT—In recent months our local has been working hard on the political front at the state legislature. Over 225 bills were introduced that would affect our local union membership. We saw an increased attack on organized labor this year, including attacks by opponents of the Employee Free

Choice Act. We still came out ahead of the game when all was said and done.

We also began the interviews and testing of our new apprenticeship class. We saw an increased number of folks seeking a new career path.

In March, Local 90 sponsored the Second District Comet, Train the Trainer class. All attendees received an education on the importance of the Comet program and how to teach it. It was good to see our fellow IBEW members from the different locals, branches and districts.

*Sean Daly, V.P.*

## Solar Installation Work

L.U. 96 (i), WORCESTER, MA—Work is slowing in the area, but with the passage of the economic stimulus bill and other potential projects, we are hopeful for an increase in employment for the latter half of the year and in early 2010.

By the time this article is published, the election of Local 96 officers will have been completed. Results will be provided in our next article.

Mark your calendar. Members and friends of the local are invited to the annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 25 at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Oxford, MA. Information is available on our Web site at [www.ibewlocal96.org](http://www.ibewlocal96.org).

We are urging the Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians to require that all solar installations throughout the state be completed by a licensed electrician. We need your support. If you receive any information in the mail regarding this initiative, please respond immediately. An inadequate response from all electricians in the state may lead to the loss of this work to other trades.

Thank you to all members who participated in job actions. Your support reinforces the importance of our local.

For more local union information, visit us online at [www.ibewlocal96.org](http://www.ibewlocal96.org).

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

## Former President Retires

L.U. 102 (c,catv,i,it,o&t), PATERSON, NJ—Our former president, Alan Schell, retired in January. A member of our local for over 38 years, Alan served as president for the past eight years and was vice president for 13 years. Alan also previously served as president of the Holding Corporation, as Examining Board member and as trustee for our pension, welfare and annuity funds. As former JATC director, he helped establish many continuing education classes our journeymen enjoy today. Alan's leadership has been invaluable to our local union.

Bro. Schell was a delegate to the International Convention and also served on numerous committees including the membership development committee. He was building committee chairman from 1981-1988.

Recently, Alan's stewardship helped us acquire a new building and state-of-the-art training facility. Through the years Bro. Schell unselfishly dedicated his service to our local. Alan truly exemplifies the spirit of brotherhood. He has always shown the ability to make members feel welcome, and to bring out the best in all of us when a task needed to be done. He will be greatly missed here at the local.

We thank Alan for his longtime service. We all wish him a happy, well-deserved retirement.

*Ed Fredericks, P.S.*

## Contract Negotiations

L.U. 136 (ees,em,i,rtb&u), BIRMINGHAM, AL—It's been a while since we reported from Birmingham. Like everyone else, our work has slowed with the economy, but we have been busy on environmental projects for the power companies. We even have a few traveling brothers working in the area, and we thank them for coming in and helping us.

Newly elected Bus. Mgr. Jerry Keenum and other officers have been busy in their first months in office, and at this writing our local is in negotiations for a new contract. We will continue to try to raise the standard of living for our members, keeping our health insurance solvent, putting money into retirement funds, and raising our wages to a level where we can make sure our families don't go without. We want a wage package fair enough that members don't need to rely on overtime.

We look forward to better times and more job opportunities in the future as our economy rebounds from this slump. Also, Bro. Keenum thanks everyone for their thoughts, prayers and kindness during his recent recovery.

*Bobby Hamner, P.S.*



*Local 136 retirees meet the first Wednesday of each month.*

## Coffeen Power Station Work

L.U. 146 (ei,i&rts), DECATUR, IL—We have been fortunate to have full employment due to the Coffeen Power Station project and we thank the traveling brothers and sisters for helping us man this work. We expect the Secure Energy project to start very soon and are still hoping for Future Gen to begin work in Mattoon. The Tenaska project in Taylorville is moving ahead and the mine and bio-fuel project in Oakland, IL, is still planned.



*2009 UCAN graduates: Union Community Activist Network graduates from IBEW Local 146 are, from left, Ron Cummings, Susan Varvel, Mary Sapp and Rich Underwood. Not pictured is Joe Paradee.*



## Local Lines



*Among the Local 158 members who worked on electrical renovation of a disabled veteran's house for the Rebuilding Green Bay program were, from left: Frank Maierhofer, Steve Schmidt, Troy Behnke, E-Board member Bruce Steffel and Carrie Gottschalk.*

Our Training Dir. Steve Wrigley, with the assistance of journeymen Dave Ward and Tim Gosnell, helped 14 scouts earn their merit badge in electricity; training was conducted at Caterpillar Tractor Company.

The JATC has also offered numerous OSHA 10/30 hour classes and significant code changes classes. Thanks to instructors John Koehler, Greg Powel, Matt Frederick and Jim McKee.

We mourn the passing of Robert Daut, Richard Burge and Russell Reinhart. We extend condolences to the families of these local brothers. Each of us is richer for having known them.

We wish to remind everyone that there can be a better way forward. Some may want you to believe that the economy just happens to you, but we know that political and economic policies and rules matter...and that policies adopted should reflect the interests and values of working people.

*Rich Underwood, R.S.*

## 'Nothing to Fear'

L.U. 150 (es,i,rt&spa), WAUKEGAN, IL—"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." This powerful statement was made by Franklin D. Roosevelt during his first presidential inauguration in 1932. The statement goes on from there: "...nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days."

Let's face it: we are all afraid right now, whether we have a job or not. There is good reason to be afraid in this economy and today's world. The country is facing enormous challenges as is the rest of the world. We have seen the market in free fall and home values plummet along with pension monies and investments. We are facing greater unemployment than we have seen in over 25 years.

We should never forget what made this country great: its citizens. That's right; you and me. We are what's going to turn this country around. So keep the faith and let's treat each other with dignity and respect. It's the only way.

*Wendy J. Cordts, P.S.*

## Anniversary Banquet

L.U. 158 (i,it,mar,mt&spa), GREEN BAY, WI—Our local, like most, is going through a slow period of work. The one largest manned job we had, Tetra Tech, has reduced manpower to about a dozen. We are hopeful that the summer and fall will bring more employment.

We recently held our local's 89th anniversary banquet. It was well-attended by over 240 people, and it was a total success. We presented years-of-service pins and also recognized our fifth-year apprentices, who will be topping out this year. We also recognized longtime member and apprenticeship coordinator Pat LaHaye for his years of service and contributions to the apprenticeship program. As of this writing, Pat planned to retire at the end of May. The anniversary celebration was a fun night. We look forward to number 90.

I am proud to report that 10 Local 158 members worked on a disabled veteran's house for the Rebuilding Green Bay program. Changing a few outlets turned into a complete house electrical renovation. It was a great cause for a super individual and his family.

*Donald C. Allen, B.M.*

## Bro. Andrew Reichwein Mourned

L.U. 160 (lctt,o&u), MINNEAPOLIS, MN—With great sadness Local 160 announces the death of Bro. Andrew Reichwein. Andy died as a result of severe injuries suffered in a tragic work accident.

Andy and 12 of his Connexus Energy brothers were working in Paducah, KY, to restore power to over 700,000 people following one of the largest natural disasters that ever hit the state.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, a funeral service was held at the House of Hope Church in St. Paul, MN. Crews from Connexus, Minnesota Power, McLeod Co-op, Xcel Energy, Kandiyohi Power, Lake Country Power, East Central Energy, Great River Energy, Dakota Electric, Minnesota Valley Electric, Minnesota Valley REC, Agrilite Co-op and Wright Hennepin Co-op paid tribute. Brothers from Meeker Electric also wished to attend, but were denied by their management.



*In a memorial tribute to Local 160 member Andrew Reichwein, IBEW utility workers attending his funeral service align their company trucks with flags hoisted.*

Bro. Reichwein was a lineman for the cooperative for eight years. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Deena, daughter Alexis, and all his family.

*Daniel S. Seawell, P.S.*

## Work Picture Slow

L.U. 196 (govt,mt,o,t&u), ROCKFORD, IL—Our work picture is very slow and does not look good for a while. We were to have a couple of wind farms starting soon but they appear to be delayed because of money problems and politics; we thought this would get us through the tough times. We still are fighting some other trades on work we have traditionally performed. There have been agreements reached and they continue to be disrespectful of any and all agreements.

Remember to attend your local union meetings and support your union. Vote in every election for your paycheck; do not let the other issues cloud your way.

*Edgar R. Mings Jr., B.M.*

## Officers Elected

L.U. 212 (i), CINCINNATI, OH—Local 212 held elections March 23, for the office of business manager/financial secretary and one Executive Board position. With a clear majority of the votes cast, the current officers, Bus. Mgr. Scott Smith and Executive Board member Jason Walden, will continue to represent the Local 212 membership.

The local and the JATC have begun training members in the proper installation of solar photovoltaic systems. The first class, for trainers, was held in March this year with the involvement of some of our contractors that will be bidding on this type of work. By getting people certified in the installation of solar photovoltaic systems, Local 212 hopes that this will expand our market share by capturing the renewable energy markets. This is merely the first step in an ongoing effort to enable our union members to gain new skills and be more adaptable to new technologies that will bring us new opportunities and help maintain our standard of living now and in the future.

The Local 212 retirees meet the first Wednesday of each month and are working to preserve the legacy of IBEW Local 212.

*Klaus Grismayer, P.S.*

## Pacific Northwest Adventure

L.U. 230 (c,catv,em,i,mar&u), VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA—On May 14, 2008, Bro. Fred Martin departed his home on a remarkable solo journey to circumnavigate Vancouver Island in a kayak. Taking only basic supplies including a spare paddle, a life jacket, water purifier, and a supply of dried food, Fred's one concession to the electronic age was a device called "Spot Messenger," sending a daily signal using Google Earth mapping to family and friends via e-mail, to track his progress.

Twenty days off the rugged coast of Brooks Peninsula, Canada's most westerly point, in 6-meter seas and 50-knot winds, Fred was hit by a huge wave and suffered his only capsizing, breaking three ribs. After taping up his broken ribs with trusty black electricians tape, Fred carried on. He paddled amongst Grey whales, camped next to ancient First Peoples totems, shared a beach with a wolf, soaked in natural hot spring pools, saw seals and otters, and viewed breathtaking scenery. Often paddling 16-hour days without going ashore, he battled wild wind and tides. "There were a few times when I figured it was all over," Fred says in his understated way. "There was just nowhere to go."

Showing the same strength of purpose and determination that he's known for on the job, 40 days and some 720 miles after setting out, Fred (who will only admit to being 59 years old) paddled back into the protected waters of Fanny Bay completing this incredible adventure. Congratulations, Fred: you are an inspiration to us all.

*Keith Coppinger, B.R.*



*Local 230 member Fred Martin circumnavigated Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in a kayak.*

## 'Labor History' Campaign

L.U. 234 (i&mt), CASTROVILLE, CA—Bro. Juan Dominguez initiated and is leading the "Save Our Labor History" campaign, which involves building a local library book collection devoted to labor movement history. Bro. Dominguez persuaded the Salinas Public Library to create a special collection located in the Cesar E. Chavez branch library, thereby preserving and making readily available to future generations our predecessors' hard-fought struggles and sacrifices to gain basic rights for workers. There is not enough room here to share in detail what this has entailed but we are pleased to answer all inquiries.

In March, through the tireless efforts of Organizer Paul Gutierrez, Local 234 was the proud sponsor of a Renewable Energy Conference. Many local organizations and public officials were able, in a short time and at one location, to learn from industry experts about current and future "green" technologies. We respectfully embrace our responsibility as an environmental caretaker and industry leader in the necessity of supporting our community's steady advance into the 21st century.

*Stephen Slovacek, P.S.*



## Green Energy Projects

L.U. 280 (c,ees,em,es,i,mo,mt,rs&st), SALEM, OR—As of early spring, work has started at the University of Oregon. Oregon Electric has the underground work for the Knight Basketball Arena along with the boiler and chiller upgrades for the whole campus. With 200 members on Book 1, this work is needed! The economy is extremely slow and hopefully some of the “stimulus” money will get Oregon working. “Green Energy” projects are on the books in our local, even a \$220 million wind-turbine project approved in Central Oregon.

With the slowdown in the economy, now is the time to take classes offered by our IATC. Classes such as fiber optics are outstanding training opportunities with great hands-on instruction and excellent preparation by the instructors. Another class upcoming this June is Bro. John Powell’s “Supervisor’s Prep” course, by popular demand. Watch for new classes being added by checking Web site [www.cjatic.org](http://www.cjatic.org) and clicking on the training schedule link.

The membership has Bros. Jared Ottinger and Mike Gephart in our prayers as both are currently dealing with brain surgery. Collections are ongoing; if you wish to donate or help out, please call the hall for details.

Please work safe. See you at the picnic in September!

*Jerry Fletcher, Pres.*



*Local 280 Instructor Mark Deforest (facing camera) explains to Bro. Jerry Cox the best fiber-optic splicing techniques with the help of a magnification monitor. In the background are photovoltaic inverters, meters and disconnects at the local’s Redmond campus.*

## United Way Polar Plunge

L.U. 294 (ees,em,i,rs,spa&u), HIBBING, MN—As the global recession continues to be problematic, it has delivered a devastating blow to the steel industry in our area. Several taconite plants have faced closures or reduction of their production lines resulting in hundreds of layoffs for area residents.

But three IBEW members found a way to help these families. On April 21, one of the area resorts on Lake Vermillion held a United Way fundraiser. The 1st Annual Polar Plunge was held with the temperature at a comfortable 7 degrees.

Twenty-four courageous participants went to extra depths to raise funds for needy families in the area.

A warm towel and a hearty thank-you go out to Local 294 members Matt Lavoy and Brian Stahl, along with Local 343 member Jeremy Marchwick, for representing the IBEW in this worthwhile cause.

Remember to be proud of your union. We are the IBEW.

*Dan Aho, P.S.*

## ‘The Beat Goes On’

L.U. 306 (i), AKRON, OH—Our local says goodbye to Secretary Carole Jackson, who retired after 20 years of faithful service. The widow of late Bro. Paul Jackson and mother of Bro. Brian Jackson, Carole earned a graduate degree from the school of IBEW life. May she enjoy a happy retirement pursuing her dreams and being a young Grandma to her children’s, children’s children.

We welcome Sherry Monk, who brings a great deal of experience to our office family and should keep Sharon from talking to herself!

Personal thanks to Local 640, Phoenix, AZ, Training Dir. Doug Niblett, Senior Instructor Steve Duff, and secretaries Debbie and Mary for taking time to give me the 50-cent tour of their new Training Facility. State-of-the art schools enhance the IBEW presence in any economy.

We hope the economy continues improving and that employment will follow suit. My Grandpap used to say, “If you have a good year—it’s enough; if you have a bad year—it’s enough. Electric work is like farming; we never quit!

We mourn the loss of Bros. Terry Oaks, Connie Mack Johns, Jim Thomas and Dale McGough. Bros. Oaks and Thomas were third-generation Local 306 members.

Work smart, work safe—and most of all may you have work.

*Robert Sallaz, P.S.*

## Local Celebrates 75th Year

L.U. 322 (govt,i,it,lctt,o&u), CASPER, WY—Local 322 celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. The local was chartered Feb. 9, 1934. It has grown to serve a membership of over 550 members in the Inside Construction, Outside Construction, National Parks, and Rural Electric Associations. There will be a luncheon and pin ceremony in August to celebrate the 75 years of union service in the electrical industry. Thank you to all the past officers, members and office staff who have helped the local develop and become a standard of union excellence in the state of Wyoming.

In February, the Activities Committee organized an afternoon of family bowling at El Marko Lanes in Casper. The local sponsored the event, with free bowling for members and their families, lunch and

many door prizes. Thanks to Bob Hicks and Jon Horton, members of the Activities Committee, for the idea and for helping make the day a great success.

*Chris Morgan, P.S.*

## San Jose Blood Drives

L.U. 332 (c,ees,i&st), SAN JOSE, CA—IBEW Local 332 with the Stanford Blood Center has held blood drives once a quarter at our regular union meeting since February 2008. The drives have been a huge success! The most recent drive was April 7. Stanford Blood Center noted that for a first-time effort, we are setting records!

We thank Local 332 members, families and friends who donated: Jeff Ajlouny, Maria Ajlouny, John Arvay Jr., Greg Bacon, Russell Balderama, Thomas Barrett, William Black, Diana Esper-Bowman, Cheryl Brady, Ken Brown, Leslie Churan, Barbara Cox, Charles Davis, Don Dixon, Darshelle Esteban, Mark Felber, Daniel Garcia, Michelenia Goddard, Andrew Gorini, Mike Gorin, Mark Gregory, Ola Grubb, Rich Hagedorn, Bryce Hansen, Bruce Hawley, Chris Hernandez, Paul Holden, Matthew Howard, Ruben Jasso, Jay James, Victor Jimenez, Daniel Jones, John Kennedy, Jeff Kirby, Yun-Ho “Brian” Lee, Brent Londre, Kevin Lucas, Ian McCaskill, Frank Mann, Jesse Marcus, Brenda Martin, Mark Martinez, Julie Miller, Mike Minkle, Conny Moller, Jim Moreland, Mike Mucci, Ryan Myers, Nikki Nisby, Dennis Norris, Sandra Nugent, Ken Ortloff, Chris Owen, Robert Paretti, Marian Polichnowski, Ron Puccinelli, Duane Rasmussen, Rafael Rodriguez, Shannon Rodriguez, Scott Seaberg, Pete Seaberg, Melinda Sigala, Pat Stackhouse, Ken Stackhouse, Mike Sullivan, Earl Talbott, Erika Watson, Wendell Weber, Christian White and Chuck Zimmerman.

Special thanks to Executive Board member Cheryl Brady, who organized the blood drives.

*Gerald Pfeiffer, Pres.*

## ‘Time to Stay United’

L.U. 340 (i,rs&spa), SACRAMENTO, CA—June finds Local 340 like most of the other locals in our Brotherhood: with high unemployment and few places to travel seeking work. Our state has a \$15

billion deficit and we are in the middle of an election to cut spending and services and raise taxes.

However, we remain optimistic about the future and we are taking advantage of the recession to organize our jurisdiction and gain IBEW market share. Members can assist with our efforts by working with the organizers.

They can attend political meetings such as those of School Boards, City Councils, Board of Supervisors or other local boards. This will let the politicians know we will hold them accountable if they do not support working people. We are at our strongest when we “unite” and right now is the time we need to stay united!

We are saddened by the passing of the following retirees: Bros. Ken Benbow (former Local 340 president and father of local members Steven and Jerry Benbow), John Castro, Elwood Clark (father of member Glenn Clark) and Doug Hock. We also lost two active members: Bro. Sirdhet Allison and Bro. Randy Austin (son of former member Dwight Austin and father of Local 340 members Jarod and Justin Austin). Rest in peace, brothers.

*A.C. Steelman, B.M.*

## Free Choice Act Rally

L.U. 364 (catv,ees,em,es,i,mt,rs&spa), ROCKFORD, IL—Local 364 congratulates Bro. Paul Williams on his election as Rockton Township trustee. We also recognize and enthusiastically thank the brothers who ran for public office, in an attempt to represent working families as elected officials, but unfortunately did not win: Bro. Tom Sink, who ran for Roscoe Township trustee; Bro. Darrin Golden, who narrowly lost in the Democratic primary for Harlem Township road commissioner; Bro. Jeff Polsean, who ran for Rockford Township trustee; Bro. Paul Happach, who ran for Winnebago School Board; and Bro. Dan Schlittler, who narrowly lost his bid for re-election as clerk of Sumner, WI.

Rockford United Labor, our AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, hosted a rally supporting the Employee Free Choice Act in late April. Local 364 Bus. Agent Charlie Laskonis was a featured speaker. Seventy union members attended and wrote letters in support of the bill to federal legislators. This legislation holds the key to greater unionization and a higher standard of living for workers, which in turn will lead to a stronger economy for the majority of Americans.

Business groups and those who got us in this terrible economic quagmire have spent millions in their deceptive campaign to cause confusion and mislead the public about the Employee Free Choice Act. We will not let them get away with it!

*Ray Pendzinski, P.S.*

## Alternative Energy Training

L.U. 388 (em,i,rs&spa), STEVENS POINT, WI—The local thanks Jason Kay and Don Karl for another fine job of making the 2009 Local 388 Fishing Jamboree a great success. Thanks also to members and their families for participating. (See photo, pg. 12.)

The local has a new Web site. Please check it out and see what you think. In the future we will provide updated photos and also provide members the ability to pay their dues online. Please visit [www.ibewlocal388.org](http://www.ibewlocal388.org).

Within the state of Wisconsin, IBEW locals were fortunate to receive \$265,000 in funding through the state to help in advancing renewable



*Enthusiastic IBEW volunteers take to frigid waters for the United Way Polar Plunge fundraiser. The swimmers are, second from left, Local 294 members Brian Stahl and Matt Lavoy, and Local 343 member Jeremy Marchwick.*



## Local Lines



Local 388 members and their families turn out for the local's 2009 ice fishing outing.

energy training, such as photovoltaic solar installation. As an organization, we are excited about developing new opportunities for our electricians and apprentices to gain training and put into practice emerging new green energy technologies.

At this writing, we are keeping our neighbors to the west of us in our thoughts while they go through another round of bad weather and the problems of flooding to their communities.

Work is still slow. Our contractors seem to have enough to keep them going, but not enough to clear the books. However, we hope this spring and summer things change and we will have full employment.

Guy LePage, P.S.

## IBEW Members Aid Veterans

L.U. 400 (es,i&o), ASBURY PARK, NJ—IBEW members from Locals 400 and 456, along with members from the Masons, the Carpenters and the local community, helped complete an addition for Lt. Brian Brennan, who was wounded in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb that struck his humvee. (See photo below.) At press time, this group of volunteers is ready to start work assisting another soldier reclaim his life in Union Beach, NJ. Guys came out for the last four months helping with whatever time they had. Troop support will happen once again on June 18 when the Lakewood Blue Claws hold a Support Our Troops Night.

Peter Geronimo, B.M.

## Welcome to New Members

L.U. 412 (u), KANSAS CITY, MO—In September 2008, 17 apprentices graduated. We currently have 23 apprentices in training; they will turn out in 2010 and 2011. The 2008 graduates are pictured in the accompanying photo.

IBEW volunteers from Locals 400 and 456, with others, welcome home a returning veteran. From left are: Mike Carmody, Masons Local 5; IBEW Local 400 members Bob Ammeraal, Pat O'Keefe and Tomo Vujanovic; Masons Local 5 members Dave Wickham, Ashley Chalmers and Brian Pierce. IBEW volunteers not pictured: Local 400 members Glenn Seiler and Tom Acerra, and Local 456 member John Reilly.



On July 14, 2008, the merger between Kansas City Power & Light Company and Aquila became official. As a result, 168 members from former IBEW Locals 695 and 814 were amalgamated into IBEW Local 412. Welcome all!

Other great news is that Local 412 has signed a letter of intent for the operations and maintenance with KCP&L regarding the wind farm in Spearville, KS. More details to follow.

A Stewards Training class was held March 25-26 and 21 attended the training. The class was taught by 11th District Int. Rep. James F. "Jim" Lynch.

Debi Kidwiler, P.S.



Local 412 class of 2008 apprentice graduates, joined by training coordinators, gather for a group photo: J.R. Scranton, welder; mechanics Ryan Smith, Dean Webber and Dave Clark; Christina Wattenbach, electrician; Danny Eidson, mechanic; Rick McRae, electrician; Bill Price, mechanic; Hy Martin, welder; mechanics Jeremy Curless and Tim Enos; Chris Gibson, welder; Electrical Training Coordinator Rick Moser; electricians Doug Rae and Gary Fairbanks; Welding Training Coordinator Ryan Yokley; Wanda Martin, mechanic; welders Steve Ketron and Joe Ramirez; and Mechanical Training Coordinator Bill Maples.

## New Training Center

L.U. 424 (as,ees,em,es,i,mo,o,ptc,rtb,rts,spa&u), EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA—Though the recession has slowed work, there are bright spots such as continuous maintenance and small construction packages on the existing oil sands plants. The advent of warmer weather means hiring should increase for Shell's Scotsford Refinery and the Keephills Power Plant.

Over the past year, there was also a flurry of construction activity in our own backyard. Training Dir. Ray Matthews and his staff moved into our new union-built 15,000 sq. ft. Training Center last June. The building incorporates some unique features such as a 5-ton, 600V overhead crane. The overhead crane not only facilitates moving heavier equipment such as motors and cabinets for the Motor Controls course, but also enables hands-on instruction for Overhead Crane Operation, Signaling and Rigging. It will also give students more of a "live" feel when working with "boom" cranes, since most of the signals and all of the rigging methods used for both types of cranes are the same.

A cost-saving feature of the building is the 44-person tiered seating audio-visual room with video conferencing capability and wireless mics, enabling an instructor in Edmonton to link up with a class in Calgary or Ft. McMurray, or a meeting of business office staff from all three offices. The 44 consoles have power and data outlets; all classrooms have built-in electric screens and amplified sound. The 9-kv solar panels generate 35 percent of the power demand. Despite our long northern winters, some months power costs were reduced by \$500.

Dave Anderson, P.S.

## 'Continued Growth & Service'

L.U. 502 (c,em,i,it&t), ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Following an informative presentation by Pres. Carl Randell and Bus. Mgr. Mark Trecartin, Local 502 voted unanimously to support implementation of the IBEW Code of Excellence. We look forward to using this new tool to secure more work for our members.

At our February regular meeting Local 502 welcomed 12 new members to our union.

The Point Lepreau Nuclear Plant refurbishment and Canaport LNG continue to employ the bulk of our membership. We look forward to a busy 2009 with major work coming at the Irving Oil Refinery and the Potash Corp mine in Sussex.

On April 1, Local 502 offices moved to our new building at 26 Kiwanis Court. We look forward to continued growth and service to our members from our new home.

Premier Shawn Graham and Gov. John Baldacci were in Saint John announcing the development of an energy corridor to move electricity and natural gas between the Maritimes and New England. This paves the way for potential construction of a 600-megawatt gas fired power plant to sell into the New England market.

We mourn the passing of Bros. Ray Hansen and Donnie Baird.

Dave Stephen, P.S.

## Hockey Tournament

L.U. 530 (i,o&rtb), SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA—Our Local 530 hockey team recently competed at the annual hockey tournament held this year in New York. Despite bus troubles the team arrived on time

and put on the foil giving it all they had. Thank you, New York Local 3, for your great hospitality.

While work in Sarnia has been extremely slow with not much work coming soon, some of our members have been employed on the road. Thank you to Locals 1687 and 804 for the work.

Al Byers, P.S.

## A Proud History

L.U. 540 (i), CANTON, OH—The nucleus of our Brotherhood formed in 1890. The work was hard; the hours long and the pay small. Linemen risked their lives on the high lines 12 hours a day in any kind of weather, seven days a week, for a meager sum of 15-20 cents an hour. In some areas the death rate for linemen was very high.

A union was the logical answer. Our first was the Electrical Wireman and Linesman's Union, No. 5221, of the AFL. St. Louis lineman Henry Miller was elected president of that union. Miller packed his tools and traveled to many U.S. cities to work the trade.

Everywhere he went he organized electrical workers.

A first convention was called in St. Louis in 1891. The name adopted for the organization was National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Henry Miller was elected first grand president and J.R. Kelly of St. Louis as grand secretary-treasurer. A motion to affiliate with the AFL passed at the convention. The AFL granted a charter, which gave the NBEW sweeping jurisdiction over electrical workers in every branch of the trade.

This info is from "IBEW History and Structure." Take time to read more about our proud history. Even in today's economy, we can take pride in what our union forefathers went through to get us here today.

Jerry Bennett, P.S.

## Work Remains Slow

L.U. 688 (em,i,t&u), MANSFIELD, OH—I, Dan Lloyd, am pleased to have become a journeyman this winter.

Work continues to be slow for our area contractors.

Also, we are saddened to report the loss of our Local 688 Bros. Fred Balduf, Don Goodwin and Roger Young. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Dan Lloyd, P.S.

## 'The Big Picture'

L.U. 692 (i,mt&spa), BAY CITY, MI—At this writing, we have 127 on Book 1 and 600 on Book 2. Book 1 is loaded and not moving. School work is coming up but is always short lived; Midland Hospital was awarded nonunion; and power plant start dates have not yet been considered.

Coal plants are hitting opposition from green activists, conservation groups and concerned citizens. A couple things worth noting: America has the largest coal reserves in the world and coal produces one-half of all our energy. The opposition talks about green technology. Do they understand advanced clean coal is reducing carbon emissions from yesterday's standards and that it helps America work toward energy independence while providing jobs? Why do these activists own cars that produce emissions? I attended a coal hearing that was full of activists, and I didn't see one electric car in the parking lot! I wonder if they shop Wal-Mart, which purchases goods from China, a





*West Frankfort, IL, Local 702 reports that a major January ice storm caused record power outages in a tri-state region and left 45 miles of “168 H-structures” on the ground.*

country that pollutes heavily. Yes, there are concerns and standards must be followed. But there’s a bigger picture here critics don’t see. Coal is not the problem, but part of the solution.

Thanks to brother locals that help keep our members employed during these troubled times.

Our condolences to the families of recently deceased retirees: Glen A. Cross, Otto Koenig, Warren Lipke, Charles Davis and Walter Kienbaum.

*Tom Bartosek, P.S.*

## Record Ice Storm

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,uwo&ws), WEST FRANKFORT, IL—The damage caused by the ice storm of January 2009 exceeded \$200 million in Local 702’s jurisdiction alone. This ice storm caused record power outages throughout 702’s Illinois, Indiana and Missouri jurisdictions. (*See photo above.*)

Bus. Mgr. Paul Noble and his staff thank the following: all construction linemen, apprentice linemen, groundmen, journeyman trimmers, and trimmer trainees; all CSRs and utility members from Southern, Eastern and Western divisions of Ameren; and IBEW members from cooperatives throughout the states of Missouri and Illinois.

We currently have 22 journeyman wiremen on the Book 1 out-of-work list and 1,025 on the Book II out-of-work list. At this writing we have 90 journeyman wiremen working at Prairie State Energy Plant, reportedly the largest privately funded project under construction in the United States at this time.

*Marsha Steele, P.S.*

## Retirees Banquet Held

L.U. 712 (c&i), BEAVER, PA—On Saturday, May 18, a banquet was held at the Monaca Turners for our newly retired members. They are: Donald R. Betts, Edward G. Churchick, Fred E. Derbaum, Spencer L. Ferry, Peter J. Haber, Morris E. Hilliard, Thomas E. Houston, Richard K. Hutton, Frederick J. Knott, Ronald F. Pantaleo, Timothy J. Shaffer, Joseph E. Shaw, Richard L. Siverling, John J. Stevenson Jr., Richard F. Strawbridge and Robert M. Sutliff. Over 100 members turned out to honor these men. Seeing everyone enjoying the good meal and many stories reminded all of us of the great debt we owe these longtime members for what we and our families are able to enjoy today. We wish all the retirees a happy retirement.

The family picnic this year will be held at Idlewild Park on July 11.

Our work picture is still slow. A refueling outage at Beaver Valley Power Station is tentatively set to start around the third week of October with a 28 to 30 day window. We thank the surrounding sister locals

that have also provided our members with work.

Fair and reasonable three-year working agreements with the local chapter of NECA for inside and residential wireman have been finalized.

See you at the meeting!

*Larry Nelson, P.S.*

## Contracts Settled

L.U. 760 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), KNOXVILLE, TN—Local 760 and Fort Loudoun Electric Co-op settled contract negotiations in late 2008 with an excellent three-year agreement.

Local 760/Atomic Trades and Labor Counsel negotiated with Babcock and Wilcox and UT-Battelle to settle four-year agreements, each with an excellent ratification incentive.

Congratulations to all those involved in the recent contract negotiation settlements.

Local 760 and Bros. Bobby Harris and Mark “Pee Wee” Long coordinated with East Tennessee Children’s Hospital/Safe Kids of the Greater Knox Area to help an area family meet the necessary electrical upgrades to bring their baby boy home from the hospital. Later, Bus. Mgr. Bove and Asst. Bus. Agent Mark Long met with representatives of the hospital/Safe Kids program to donate and supply electrical outlet covers to aid the program’s families.

Local 760 recently presented a \$1,000 check to Knoxville weather guru Matt Hinkin for the program Project Help, which assists the neediest with their home heating bills.

Helping those in need defines our Brotherhood. Thanks to each involved for all you do.

*George A. Bove, B.M./F.S.*

## Bobsled Building Project

L.U. 910 (i&rts), WATERTOWN, NY—The membership voted on rate increases to both the Inside and Residential Agreements effective April 1, 2009. The \$1.50 Inside increase was voted and approved with 90 cents going to H&W and 60 cents to Pension. The Residential members approved a Group I increase of \$1 with 70 cents to rate of pay and 30 cents to the Pension. The Group II \$1.20 increase was distributed with 90 cents to rate of pay and 30 cents to Pension.

S&L Electric received a big thank-you from the Plattsburgh Building Trades for the donation of electrical work and materials in the Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project building in Lake Placid, NY. Nascar veteran driver Jeff Bodine created the bobsled building project to bring technology from auto racing into bobsled design. The Building Trades was approached by the organization for donations of labor and construction of the new facility. Various union logos are displayed on the sleds representing sponsors.

The Greg S. Maur Memorial Scholarship, initiated by the Maur family in memory of their son, will again be available to Local 910 members, their children or grandchildren. If more than one Local 910 family applies, the award would be determined on financial need.

Ninety-four members received service pins this year; eight pins were presented to members at the January membership meeting and other pins were mailed. Congratulations to all.

*Roger LaPlatney, P.S.*

## Banquet & Pin Ceremony

L.U. 932 (c,i&st), COOS BAY, OR—I thank the members and their families for attending our winter banquet and pin ceremony Feb. 7 at the Mill Casino in North Bend, OR. Several years-of-service pins were awarded. Members receiving their pins were: for 70 years of service—Ben Reese; for 60 years—Albert McHugh and Paul Turner Jr.; for 55 years—Bruce Cox Jr. and Bob Shelton; 50 years—R.J. Collett; 45 years—Bill Phillips and William Hayes; 40 years—Loren Dirksen, Robert Green, Jess Dyer, Gerald Marca, Harry McDaniels and Richard Shotbolt; 35 years—Dwayne Caldera, Dave Foord and Eugene Skoglund; 30 years—Larry Adams and John Wilkinson; 20 years—Jim Baldwin, Joe Buchanan, Brian Crawford, Jim Duffy, Thom Wenger, Robert Westerman and Steve Wortley. Congratulations to all these members!

We also had a special recognition awards ceremony for Thom Wenger, who retired as organizer for Local 932; and for James MacDonald and Danny Stanfield, who were seriously injured on the job. Bro. MacDonald was in attendance at the banquet.

Remember, the local union is run by those who participate. Attend your union meetings.

*Robert Westerman, B.M./F.S.*



*Local 932 Organizer Thom Wenger receives award at banquet ceremony.*

## Welcome to New Members

L.U. 1116 (em,lctt&u), TUCSON, AZ—Summertime in Arizona is a great time to enjoy outdoor activities with family and friends, but knowing your limits and using your personal protective equipment should be addressed; be aware of your surroundings during recreation time and strive for high standards in your work practices.

In Arizona, a “right-to-work” state, organizing nonmembers is ongoing. This quarter we welcome new members: Clarissa Avalos, Cory Nagle, Bret Larson, Michael Williams, Peter Krause, Art Lyon, Nicholas Finch, Marcor Haws, Mike Padilla, Larry Maennche, Dustin Shupe, Kyle Swesey, Joseph

Harris, Adam Hogan, Danny Rowe and Robert Tyler.

Check those labels before you buy; let’s make an effort to “Buy American” every chance we get.

Don’t forget our servicemen and women. When you see a military veteran, if you wish to let them know you appreciate them one way to communicate that message, even when in crowded or noisy surroundings, is to place your hand over your heart and then extend your hand outward; it’s a silent way of saying thank you.

*R. Cavaletto, P.S.*

## Generosity on Big Island

L.U. 1186 (as,catv,ees,govt,i,mar,o,rts&spa), HONOLULU, HI—Big Island Bus. Rep. Donn dela Cruz conveyed a special “mahalo” to all who participated in the “Labor a Good Neighbor Food Drive” to benefit the Hawaii Island Food Bank’s Food Basket.

A total of 4,432 pounds of food and \$1,635 in cash and checks were donated by the generous and caring people of our Big Island. “Thanks for the great effort and for Labor Working Today for a Better Tomorrow,” said Bro. dela Cruz.

*Brian Lee, P.S.*



*Local 1186 Big Island Bus. Rep. Donn dela Cruz (right) and retired IBEW member Andy Aquino, originally from Local 639 and now residing in Hawaii, volunteer their time for community service as Salvation Army bell ringers.*

## 1220 ‘Scholarship Build-Out’

L.U. 1220 (rtb), CHICAGO, IL—Much is said about getting our country back to work, and the construction trades are a big part of any prosperity. But there is another build-out that strengthens our country’s future, and that investment is in the education of our people. Local 1220 is offering its own college scholarship administered by labor educators of DePaul University.

The Executive Board voted on the scholarship, the members passed it at the general meeting and it was immediately announced in the March newsletter. “Our no frills fiscal plan through the years made it possible to both reduce dues and offer this scholarship,” Bus. Mgr. Madeleine Monaco said. “We found that there is more financial help in the early years of college and less available to finish—we corrected that by making eligibility for any year as well as for college-bound high school students.”

One scholarship requirement is a 250-word essay on “How IBEW Local 1220 has helped me and my family.” In this way, Local 1220 hopes a new generation will see the benefits of organized labor

Local Lines



*In Macon, GA, the IBEW Local 1316 parade float contingent makes a strong showing at the Cherry Blossom Festival.*

to ensure a just workplace. Although for a small amount this first year, we hope this program will grow and benefit our members and their children.

*Jim Sterne, P.S./B.R.*

Festival Parade Float

L.U. 1316 (i&o), MACON, GA—Local 1316 took a very active part in Macon’s annual Cherry Blossom Festival. The city of Macon has been recognized as “the Cherry Blossom Capital of the World” and celebrates with an annual two-week festival. The theme of this year’s festival was “the pinkest party on earth.” To promote our local union we entered a float, decorated with a rock ‘n’ roll theme, which included a jukebox and a larger than life Elvis. Rock ‘n’ roll music accompanied 30 partygoers comprising union members, their children and grandchildren. Participants wore pink IBEW T-shirts with white Union Yes hats.

Local 1316 Bus. Mgr. Johnny Mack Nickles said, “The exposure our union and the labor movement received was exceptional, especially with the coverage on local newscasts and the half-page photo in our area newspaper, The Macon Telegraph.”

*Michael Gardner, Org.*

2009 Election of Officers

L.U. 1900 (so&u), WASHINGTON, DC—Local 1900 officers were elected on March 7 by an overwhelming majority of the votes cast by the membership. Re-elected to a three-year term were: Bus. Mgr./Pres./Fin. Sec. John Holt, Vice Pres./Executive Board Chmn. Greg Waller, Treas. Ernie Harrison, Rec. Sec. Karl Furbush; and Executive Board members Randy Bunch, Joe DiMarco, Jessica Clayton, Linda Eastwood, William Miller, Jack Hennessey, Steve Sanner and Lionel Briscoe.

Special thanks to our election judge, Carolyn Otts, as well as to election committee members Barbara Debose and Judy Stewart, who worked with Carolyn throughout the process. Let’s not forget our tellers who worked throughout the day: Brandon Ahakuelo, Jean Caldwell, Nick Folden, Shirley Gilmore, Armon Hawthorne, Rosalind Hollis and Edna Luckett. Thanks also to Carol Robertson for lending her assistance to Carolyn and her committee throughout the entire process.

Now with the election of officers behind us, the real work lies ahead. The union will enter negotiations this year with Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Washington Gas—Frederick Division; and next year with Mirant Mid-Atlantic LLC.

In conjunction with negotiations we will call on our members to contact their state and federal representatives on issues dealing with infrastruc-

ture of the electric system, global warming and re-regulation in Maryland, to name a few.

*Karl Furbush, B.R./R.S.*

Negotiations & Elections

L.U. 1944 (t), PHILADELPHIA, PA—Contract negotiations are being worked out between the New Castle Unit of Local 1944 and AT&T Company. Many thanks to the negotiation team of Bus. Mgr. Joyce Scott, Vice Pres. Sandy Thomas and the rest of the New Castle negotiation team. The union members of 1944 wish New Castle the best and hope they negotiate a great contract.

At this writing, Local 1944 was gearing up for the June election of local union and unit officers, following nominations held in April. By the time this article is published, Local 1944 will have elected officers and I will try and announce the results in the August edition.

Continue to support the AFL-CIO, as well as Pres. Obama, in making the Employee Free Choice Act a reality. Remember to write your elected House and Senate members, and remind them to vote the good of their constituents.

*George Greiner III, P.S.*

Tribute to Leadership

L.U. 2150 (govt,lctt,o&u), MILWAUKEE, WI—On March 31, Dan Sherman stepped down as business manager for Local 2150 due to health reasons. Since 1987, when he was appointed business representative, Dan has dedicated head, heart and soul to the well-being of Local 2150 members and workers in the labor movement. In 1998, he was appointed assistant business manager. He was appointed business manager in 2004. Bro. Sherman became an advocate for those without a union and fostered a strong organizing program. He was one of the first to recognize the coming shortage of skilled workers who keep utilities operating 24/7.

Also on March 31, Asst. Bus. Mgr. Joe Koehler retired. He began his IBEW career in 1984 as a tree trimmer with former Local 377, which subsequently amalgamated with Local 2150. After five years in the industry, Joe was placed on Local 2150’s staff as business representative. In 2004, he was promoted to assistant business manager. Jo became a valuable advisor to Bus. Mgr. Dan Sherman and helped guide the union through initial contracts with the recently organized Waukesha Electric Systems.

As leaders of Local 2150, Dan and Joe helped make Local 2150 the respected, successful labor organization it is today. They will be missed by all who had the honor of working with them.

*Nancy Wagner, P.S.*

In Memoriam

PBF Death Claims Approved for Payment in April 2009

Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount
1	.....Burns, E. G.	6,250.00	25	.....Putala, J.	3,000.00
1	.....Cull, R. E.	3,000.00	25	.....Vita, J.	3,000.00
1	.....Hagedorn, L. C.	3,000.00	26	.....Brownell, F. E.	3,000.00
1	.....Manning, J. A.	12,500.00	26	.....Carper, W. E.	3,000.00
1	.....Pagano, R.	3,000.00	32	.....Mendenhall, R. D.	3,000.00
1	.....Sander, L. R.	3,000.00	32	.....Wrasman, R. J.	3,000.00
3	.....Arnhold, P. R.	3,000.00	35	.....Chesaneck, J. J.	3,000.00
3	.....Assenzio, S. J.	3,000.00	35	.....Sapula, S. J.	3,000.00
3	.....Bonagura, V.	3,000.00	38	.....Holztrager, M. D.	3,000.00
3	.....Calvert, C. J.	3,000.00	38	.....Keppler, E. R.	3,000.00
3	.....Chamberlain, C. C.	3,000.00	38	.....Preising, J. R.	3,000.00
3	.....Chiappetta, F.	1,500.00	41	.....Schultz, E. H.	3,000.00
3	.....Coleman, R. B.	2,926.78	42	.....Waite, C.	2,887.98
3	.....Davis, P. N.	5,450.62	44	.....Mosness, D. R.	3,000.00
3	.....Frank, L.	3,000.00	45	.....Barrett, A. C.	3,000.00
3	.....Garcia, P.	3,000.00	46	.....Dones, W.	3,000.00
3	.....Grandone, A. M.	2,931.87	46	.....Jurgensen, D. E.	600.00
3	.....Hatch, R. J.	2,931.18	48	.....Adams, H. O.	3,000.00
3	.....Kelso, J. A.	3,125.00	48	.....Riehl, M. N.	6,250.00
3	.....Klein, P. M.	3,000.00	51	.....Gibbs, G. E.	6,250.00
3	.....Langevin, P. F.	5,625.92	51	.....Kozlowski, S.	1,467.99
3	.....Marino, P.	3,000.00	53	.....Burgoon, B. D.	3,000.00
3	.....Matthews, A. J.	6,250.00	53	.....Henson, D. L.	6,250.00
3	.....Mazza, C. T.	3,000.00	53	.....St Clair, A. E.	3,000.00
3	.....McKen, N. K.	6,250.00	57	.....Allan, R. E.	6,250.00
3	.....Nickelsen, W. H.	1,500.00	58	.....Cameron, J. W.	3,000.00
3	.....Nowak, C. P.	12,500.00	58	.....Chapman, G. H.	3,000.00
3	.....Richardson, H. S.	6,250.00	58	.....Hoste, L. J.	3,000.00
3	.....Ruppert, F. A.	6,250.00	58	.....Klieman, K. J.	3,000.00
3	.....Schafer, B.	2,935.00	58	.....Lehn, M. D.	6,250.00
3	.....Schmaling, F. D.	2,935.98	58	.....Lindensmith, K.	3,000.00
3	.....Siedenburg, S. R.	6,250.00	58	.....Monterosso, K. R.	6,250.00
3	.....Smith, W.	6,250.00	58	.....Reid, W. L.	3,000.00
3	.....Stockdale, O. L.	3,000.00	58	.....Rood, G. R.	1,500.00
3	.....Stopek, I. C.	3,000.00	58	.....Savage, J. R.	3,000.00
3	.....Tibbetts, C. H.	3,000.00	66	.....Mitrovich, M. L.	3,000.00
3	.....Tobia, A.	2,960.00	66	.....Reynolds, C. W.	3,000.00
3	.....Trefon, E.	3,000.00	66	.....Tucker, C. E.	3,000.00
3	.....Wagner, F.	3,000.00	68	.....Bobby, W. D.	3,000.00
5	.....Diller, R. L.	3,000.00	68	.....Jordan, W. J.	3,000.00
5	.....Knapp, G. H.	2,888.00	70	.....Forgie, R. E.	3,000.00
5	.....Lekas, G.	3,000.00	70	.....Harrod, L. J.	6,250.00
5	.....Panek, J. A.	3,066.82	71	.....Thompson, H. J.	2,873.50
5	.....Rago, J. T.	3,000.00	76	.....Prowse, J. T.	3,000.00
6	.....Cunningham, H. H.	3,000.00	77	.....Baker, M. C.	2,940.79
6	.....Lynch, R. A.	3,000.00	77	.....Dawson, C. N.	2,953.59
9	.....Fritz, W. H.	3,000.00	77	.....Kelly, J. M.	3,000.00
11	.....Baker, P. N.	2,000.00	77	.....Myers, J. A.	6,250.00
11	.....Bickford, L. W.	2,944.00	77	.....Niebuhr, D. E.	1,472.00
11	.....Casino, P.	3,000.00	77	.....Ring, L.	3,000.00
11	.....Harrison, J. H.	3,000.00	77	.....Vaughn, R. L.	3,000.00
11	.....Hernandez, H. J.	3,000.00	82	.....Lachance, H. R.	3,000.00
11	.....McClain, C. E.	3,000.00	82	.....Yarnell, D. L.	3,550.00
11	.....Roman, R. A.	6,250.00	84	.....Brasher, R. L.	3,000.00
11	.....Root, T. H.	2,899.46	84	.....Johnson, J. L.	2,531.94
11	.....Royer, B. H.	3,000.00	84	.....Wright, T.	3,000.00
11	.....Wasson, C. S.	750.00	89	.....Brockway, R. A.	6,250.00
11	.....Watkins, M. A.	3,000.00	90	.....Cooper, D. J.	3,000.00
11	.....White, L. B.	2,875.17	90	.....Radowiecki, C. T.	3,000.00
11	.....Young, W.	3,090.00	90	.....Solomon, G. A.	3,125.00
12	.....Johnson, S. E.	3,000.00	96	.....Wellen, R. L.	3,000.00
13	.....Coppage, W. E.	2,957.09	97	.....Worthington, R. H.	3,000.00
14	.....Ormston, W. W.	3,000.00	97	.....Zainchowski, C. A.	3,000.00
16	.....Brenner, J. D.	6,250.00	98	.....Fiocca, G.	3,125.00
17	.....Kirchoff, M. E.	3,000.00	98	.....Kirk, C.	6,250.00
17	.....Tillman, A. E.	3,000.00	98	.....Ricci, G. F.	5,208.33
18	.....Bauer, C. L.	3,000.00	98	.....Weaver, A. M.	3,000.00
18	.....FORAGE, J. J.	3,000.00	98	.....Whalen, M. D.	12,500.00
18	.....Hoffner, R. W.	2,937.59	99	.....Mongeau, R. M.	6,250.00
18	.....McMichael, L. G.	3,553.60	99	.....Purdy, C.	3,000.00
20	.....Shepherd, J.	3,000.00	100	.....Allen, R. B.	5,801.30
21	.....Schmall, L. A.	3,000.00	102	.....Babernitsh, F.	3,000.00
24	.....Dixon, M. D.	3,982.00	102	.....Boyle, N. R.	3,770.20
24	.....Dunn, M. L.	3,000.00	102	.....Burrows, R. W.	2,933.69
24	.....Smith, M. H.	3,000.00	102	.....Gamma, J. C.	3,000.00
24	.....Synodinos, J.	3,000.00	102	.....Ogden, F.	3,000.00
25	.....Jacobia, R.	3,000.00	102	.....Parrottino, D. E.	3,000.00



Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount	Local	Surname	Amount
103	Butler, G. L.	2,727.48	213	Barber, A. A.	2,925.33	413	Owens, E. A.	6,250.00	636	Hill, L. R.	3,000.00	1316	Horton, A.	3,000.00
103	Cormier, T. J.	3,000.00	213	McDonald, A. M.	2,796.00	413	Turner, D.	2,935.98	639	Neal, D. K.	3,000.00	1319	Gibson, M. R.	1,500.00
103	Taylor, H. M.	6,250.00	219	Leonard, R. G.	2,961.59	429	Christian, R. E.	6,250.00	640	Spitler, C. R.	3,000.00	1393	Cranor, B.	12,500.00
103	Taylor, W. E.	2,871.96	223	Wade, J. T.	3,000.00	429	Tinsley, J. T.	2,000.00	648	Davis, R. H.	3,000.00	1424	Greene, R. A.	2,958.93
104	Hardiman, G.	2,952.66	226	Bell, E. F.	6,250.00	441	Harper, W. R.	3,000.00	653	Boschee, H. M.	3,000.00	1426	Syrstad, R.	2,131.18
104	McKinstry, S. A.	6,250.00	226	Morrison, W. D.	6,057.00	441	Hobbs, R. J.	3,000.00	659	Chandler, R. L.	3,000.00	1426	Syrstad, O. F.	2,952.39
105	Liepelt, E.	3,000.00	229	Page, C. F.	3,000.00	441	Paulsen, M. L.	3,000.00	659	Kimmel, R. L.	3,000.00	1432	Macinnis, H. W.	6,250.00
105	Sobczak, D. M.	6,250.00	229	Potter, R. W.	6,250.00	441	Rexford, R. E.	3,000.00	659	King, O. B.	3,000.00	1439	Smith, D. S.	1,826.67
110	Jorgensen, W. H.	1,474.40	230	Ollenberger, R. P.	6,250.00	441	Smith, T. H.	3,000.00	659	West, J. L.	3,000.00	1501	Laird, R. D.	3,000.00
110	Linden, E. J.	3,000.00	230	Postings, N.	3,000.00	446	Lofton, J.	2,910.50	659	York, B.	6,250.00	1516	Seamans, M. E.	5,709.85
110	Miller, P.	3,000.00	231	Clausen, G.	2,690.34	449	Christopherson, D. M.	3,000.00	666	Marston, R. E.	3,080.00	1547	Clayton, A. T.	2,896.00
110	Molin, L. J.	2,950.98	233	Alfson, R. W.	3,000.00	449	McDonald, K. R.	3,000.00	666	Minter, S. L.	4,630.00	1547	Keiner, H.	2,779.14
110	Schulemann, J. S.	2,942.39	236	Preteau, T. R.	3,000.00	449	Scott, R. O.	3,000.00	666	Ragan, D. P.	2,936.50	1547	Townsend, J. J.	3,000.00
112	Ellis, M. D.	3,000.00	236	Roberts, C. E.	3,000.00	459	Matson, C. H.	1,500.00	668	Earhart, T. L.	5,051.65	1701	Coffin, R. J.	6,250.00
124	Clark, G. W.	3,000.00	238	Whitaker, S. L.	3,000.00	465	McNea, W. J.	3,000.00	676	Aeppli, E. A.	1,500.00	1933	Baird, H.	3,000.00
124	Hadley, B. H.	3,000.00	241	Cortright, J. E.	2,940.00	474	French, D. B.	3,000.00	682	Knutson, R. A.	3,000.00	1937	Bolling, E. E.	3,000.00
124	Mock, R. P.	3,000.00	242	Waseen, R. K.	6,250.00	474	Meador, F. M.	3,000.00	682	Wilder, G. F.	3,000.00	2150	Riemer, T. M.	2,867.00
124	Stuart, R. F.	3,000.00	254	McNab, D. A.	3,000.00	479	Bray, T. G.	2,946.39	688	Goodwin, D. E.	3,000.00	2150	Walker, E. J.	2,938.44
124	Worrell, N. E.	3,000.00	258	Bilinski, F.	3,000.00	479	Davies, M. F.	1,469.06	692	Kienbaum, W. E.	3,000.00	2295	Varney, A. E.	3,000.00
125	Dahlhoff, R. R.	2,895.57	258	Eschak, W.	3,000.00	479	Lloyd, R. L.	6,250.00	697	Porter, L. A.	3,000.00	2337	Cash, B. L.	3,987.67
125	Ellis, J. J.	2,931.58	258	Federink, P.	3,000.00	481	Crowe, R. M.	3,000.00	697	Wick, R. L.	6,250.00	2376	Waymire, J. A.	3,000.00
125	Hays, W. P.	2,731.12	258	Weel, W. J.	2,000.00	481	Martin, J. A.	6,250.00	701	Gonda, A.	3,000.00	I.O. (24)	Duffy, P. G.	3,000.00
125	Newman, G. J.	2,942.00	261	Twiss, M.	3,000.00	481	Parsons, J. A.	3,000.00	701	Merker, F. A.	3,000.00	I.O. (48)	Dowler, H. C.	5,299.24
126	Brown, E. L.	3,000.00	269	Chatman, D.	6,250.00	488	Decker, R.	3,000.00	701	Obzera, W. O.	3,000.00	I.O. (568)	Morin, B.	3,000.00
126	Hentschel, E.	3,000.00	275	Nemmers, J. P.	3,000.00	494	Barg, G. W.	3,000.00	702	Bruns, R. W.	3,000.00	Pens. (70)	Welch, C. L.	3,000.00
130	Ducote, R. P.	3,000.00	278	Cohn, C. D.	3,000.00	494	Hoffman, L.	3,000.00	702	Choate, E. J.	3,000.00	Pens. (305)	Hammond, R. A.	3,000.00
130	Hankel, N. J.	3,000.00	278	White, P. G.	6,250.00	494	Kocian, K. K.	6,250.00	702	Cleland, J. N.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Anderson, Q. M.	3,000.00
130	Joubert, L. L.	3,000.00	288	Berndt, C. H.	3,000.00	494	Sobanek, L.	2,311.44	702	Morrill, C. A.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Beaulieu, L. J.	2,955.19
130	Klein, L. J.	3,000.00	292	Johnson, R. G.	3,000.00	494	Thielman, E. J.	12,500.00	702	Owen, L. N.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Boatner, H. M.	3,000.00
130	Lapara, N. J.	3,000.00	295	Blake, F. D.	3,000.00	508	Ford, E. W.	6,155.00	712	Barnett, J. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Cahill, J. J.	3,000.00
130	Militello, A.	3,000.00	302	Canepa, G. L.	6,250.00	508	McElveen, J. M.	3,000.00	714	Pryor, J. C.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Cullom, J. R.	3,000.00
130	Oliver, E. J.	3,000.00	302	Coakley, B. A.	1,500.00	518	Jones, C. L.	3,000.00	716	Pasch, E. G.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Daugird, C. F.	1,966.16
130	Wilson, S. P.	3,221.53	302	Gonzales, B. J.	3,000.00	518	Shepherd, R. P.	3,000.00	728	Ashenfelter, W.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Dickson, M. L.	3,000.00
134	Bieniak, T. A.	3,000.00	302	Vidmar, L.	2,946.00	527	Grimaldo, J. L.	2,880.38	728	Faber, D. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Dover, K. W.	3,000.00
134	Brankin, T. F.	3,000.00	304	Andersen, M. K.	6,250.00	527	McNeill, R. A.	6,250.00	728	Kieley, W. P.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Draisey, J. P.	3,000.00
134	Daeschler, C.	2,969.11	304	Phillips, J. R.	3,000.00	531	Rogers, R. J.	3,000.00	728	Lindner, W. G.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Ebbert, D. A.	3,000.00
134	Dahlstrom, H. E.	3,000.00	305	Adams, D. R.	12,500.00	538	Fowler, D. L.	6,250.00	728	Lundi, J.	2,958.79	Pens. (I.O.)	Faunce, H.	3,000.00
134	Johnsen, A. L.	3,000.00	309	Talbott, W. R.	2,931.98	540	Draher, D. E.	3,000.00	733	Goff, R. D.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Frayse, J. W.	3,000.00
134	Laden, R. P.	3,000.00	313	Arndt, E.	3,000.00	540	Trew, T.	1,500.00	756	Contino, J. A.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Gibbs, R. E.	2,956.79
134	Lala, R. V.	1,500.00	313	Brower, C. G.	3,000.00	551	Lagomarsino, R. G.	2,955.51	760	Bridges, W. G.	2,880.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Gruenberg, W. I.	3,000.00
134	Lange, P. F.	3,000.00	322	McGinley, H. J.	938.00	553	Franks, D. G.	3,000.00	760	Elmore, O. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Harlos, H. H.	3,000.00
134	Mau, H. G.	3,000.00	329	Searcy, S. S.	2,840.82	553	Oneal, N. L.	3,000.00	769	Vance, W. V.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Harris, J. F.	3,000.00
134	McCarthy, R. P.	3,000.00	332	Bumann, A. D.	2,937.58	557	Dickey, C. E.	3,000.00	776	Rhodes, E. D.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Henderson, A.	3,000.00
134	McKeag, L. L.	3,000.00	332	Morando, L.	3,909.25	558	Barnes, C.	3,000.00	776	Wyndham, R. W.	12,500.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Hill, M. E.	3,000.00
134	Morano, D. T.	6,250.00	332	Plunkett, W. D.	3,000.00	558	Grimes, J. C.	3,000.00	777	Tandlmayer, J. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Hollenbach, D. M.	3,000.00
134	Murphy, F. L.	3,000.00	340	Azevedo, F. J.	3,000.00	558	Pride, H. W.	2,912.00	791	Lydon, W. X.	2,821.65	Pens. (I.O.)	Kirilenko, W. J.	2,909.00
134	Parrish, J. A.	3,000.00	342	Thomas, L. T.	3,000.00	569	Berryman, C. A.	3,000.00	816	Bell, S. L.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Kjarum, R. A.	3,000.00
134	Price, F.	3,000.00	343	Ornat, P. B.	12,500.00	569	Kelly, M.	2,950.74	852	Galloway, P. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Lohr, H. R.	3,000.00
134	Rossi, D. L.	1,500.00	347	Garrett, J. R.	3,000.00	569	Loh, J. W.	2,878.36	861	Babineaux, C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Maley, R. C.	3,000.00
134	Sparks, A. S.	3,000.00	347	Ostring, P. R.	3,000.00	569	Lovin, D. L.	12,500.00	861	Gudry, G.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	McCrae, A. C.	3,000.00
134	Tansey, E. J.	3,000.00	349	Suskey, J. A.	3,000.00	569	Marchese, J. A.	3,000.00	889	Mayorga, F.	2,950.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Nace, C. E.	3,000.00
134	Welko, P. P.	3,000.00	349	Vargas, H.	3,000.00	569	Pfeifer, N. B.	2,941.06	894	Barriage, R. A.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Perfield, G. W.	3,000.00
134	Zivat, E. J.	2,919.98	351	Capps, A. J.	2,890.77	569	Scott, D. J.	6,250.00	894	Vernon, J. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Perry, L. R.	3,000.00
136	Jennings, E. M.	3,000.00	351	Spector, S.	2,863.17	569	Taylor, K. E.	6,250.00	910	Guimond, R.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Pew, J. K.	3,000.00
139	Austin, E.	3,000.00	353	Macswan, J.	3,000.00	577	Meyer, P. E.	6,250.00	932	Thomas, J. J.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Picirelli, C.	3,000.00
143	Hoover, G. B.	2,926.00	353	Mazzaferro, S.	3,424.52	577	Murray, J. A.	3,000.00	934	Anderson, T. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Powers, L. F.	2,814.00
145	Lanza, B. J.	6,250.00	353	McGoldrick, D.	3,000.00	583	Dawkins, W. J.	3,000.00	949	O'Gorman, J. A.	2,928.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Prather, H. R.	2,909.70
150	Cerk, F. R.	3,000.00	353	Vanya, J.	3,000.00	595	Bell, P. J.	3,000.00	949	Zweibahmer, A. C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Quinlan, J. F.	3,000.00
150	Rowe, D. R.	3,000.00	354	Clark, C. R.	3,000.00	595	Sagapolu, V. J.	2,952.50	952	Myers, L. C.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Quinlen, J. W.	2,945.59
153	Bakeman, R. H.	3,000.00	354	Isackson, R. L.	3,000.00	596	Sloan, J. W.	3,000.00	969	Harney, B. G.	2,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Ratkovec, V. V.	3,000.00
158	Comins, R. L.	3,000.00	354	Purrrington, M. L.	3,000.00	601	Saban, M. L.	2,920.78	970	Wetzel, R. L.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Reiman, O. J.	3,000.00
163	Olejnik, J. J.	3,000.00	357	Keele, H. E.	3,000.00	602	Crabtree, B. T.	3,000.00	972	Fulton, G. M.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Renk, B. J.	3,000.00
163	Sarno, P. J.	3,000.00	357	Kunzer, T. G.	12,500.00	602	Wein, G. O.	3,000.00	972	Wallace, J. S.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Reynolds, J.	1,000.00
164	Gaffney, H. W.	3,000.00	363	Papula, H.	3,000.00	604	Deegan, R. F.	2,759.70	993	Evans, W. H.	2,957.50	Pens. (I.O.)	Rij, J.	3,000.00
164	Mazzei, A.	3,000.00	365	Houston, R. L.	3,000.00	606	Irving, E. H.	12,500.00	995	Fontenot, B. J.	6,250.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Rose, C.	3,000.00
164	White, F.	3,000.00	366	Krpan, M.	3,000.00	611	Tate, J. W.	3,000.00	1186	Crowell, F. L.	2,937.58	Pens. (I.O.)	Sletterdahl, R. A.	3,000.00
175	Bivens, A. H.	3,000.00	369	Flora, E. M.	3,000.00	613	Burnett, W. T.	3,000.00	1186	Masumoto, H.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Strelez, J. J.	3,000.00
175	Blevins, R. J.	6,250.00	369	Hornback, E. K.	3,000.00	613	Folden, W. D.	3,000.00	1200	Meinschein, B. J.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Strycharz, J. W.	3,000.00
176	Boucher, J.	3,000.00	369	Tudor, W. L.	3,000.00	613	Folden, A. L.	1,500.00	1220	Linnemann, F.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Sullens, T. C.	3,000.00
191	Bond, H. R.	3,000.00	375	Heist, M. R.	3,000.00	613	Jones, J. F.	3,000.00	1220	Thompson, W.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Tacznosky, R. R.	3,000.00
191	Kennedy, W. O.	1,500.00	375	Zimmerman, S. I.	6,250.00	613	Morgan, G.	3,000.00	1245	Armas, S. M.	4,015.02	Pens. (I.O.)	Wells, L. G.	3,000.00
191	Sand, G. M.	2,941.00	379	Jolley, S. F.	3,000.00	613	Osborne, D. J.	6,250.00	1245	Fraser, J. D.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Yergler, A. R.	3,000.00
194	Oswalt, J. P.	3,000.00	379	Jones, C. J.	2,940.79	613	Pickard, J. O.	3,000.00	1245	Ogg, H. E.	3,000.00	Pens. (I.O.)	Zaske, O. A.	2,935.98
204	Willits, T. R.	3,000.00	387	Benfield, L. N.	3,000.00	613	Strickland, J. L.	2,950.00	1245	Turner, J. R.	6,250.00			



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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**HOW TO REACH US**

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

**Send letters to:**

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**FROM THE OFFICERS**

## China Trade Must Be Fair



**Edwin D. Hill**  
International President

**A**n upcoming test of our nation's trade laws could well determine the future—not just of the once-powerful domestic tire industry—but of the entire U.S. manufacturing sector.

Despite the decline of manufacturing, hundreds of thousands of IBEW hours of construction work continue to be dedicated to manufacturing facilities. Our members have a deep stake in the outcome of the China tire trade dispute.

Over the last five years, imports of tires from China have increased nearly 300 percent. Since 2004, four domestic tire plants have shut down. At least two more plants will be closed this year, sending 2,400 more workers to the unemployment line. Five of the six plants are unionized.

The Steelworkers have filed a petition under Section 421 of U.S. trade law asking the U.S. International Trade Commission to rule that the industry has been subjected to unfair competition. The union calls for a three-year cap on imports of Chinese tires at about half of the 2008 total. President Obama will then have the option of granting the petition or turning it down. President Bush rejected every Section 421 petition each time he was asked to protect a U.S. industry against imports flooding in from China.

We have already seen progress in reversing many of the anti-labor policies of the Bush administration. But we still have cause for deep concern on trade.

First, China maintains great influence as a result of that nation's immense investment in U.S. treasury bonds and securities. In the tire case, Chinese government appointees are already attempting to influence members of the ITC outside of the official hearing process.

Second, corporate groups will pour big dollars into spreading half-truths to try to force the Obama administration to continue the "free trade" policies of the Bush administration.

We cannot let them win this time. When economic catastrophe occurs, like in the tire industry, our laws must come to the rescue of men and women whose labor has always kept us strong.

## Justice for MasTec Workers

**I**n his first address to Congress in 1861, President Abraham Lincoln laid out his view of the worker's role in wealth creation: "Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed." Were he alive today, I'm sure he would agree that it's always frustrating when a corporation reaps massive profits while leaving its workers out in the cold.

This is the situation at companies like MasTec, which pulled in record revenue last year—\$1.4 billion—while workers scraped by on declining wages and skimpy benefits. Employees also endured harassment for continued efforts to obtain union representation.

The IBEW originally organized a MasTec shop in Tampa, Fla., three years ago, but the company is still stonewalling on negotiating a first contract. The story is similar at other shops across the country.

But the IBEW is not giving up; neither are the activists working for MasTec who have taken a stand in a difficult economy. In February, workers at the Duluth, Ga., shop voted for IBEW representation through Atlanta Local 613 (see story on page 4). Some of them could have kept their mouths shut and simply looked out for themselves, but they had the smarts to know that without a collective presence, they are doomed to be dead-ended on their jobs.

It's times like these that further illustrate why Congress must pass the Employee Free Choice Act. With the act's stipulation that workers get access to first contract mediation and arbitration within 90 days of voting pro-union, those MasTec workers in Tampa would now be enjoying a better quality of life while helping the company flourish.

Will MasTec and similar communications companies like DirecTech be brought into the fold of more reasonable companies like AT&T and Verizon—who at least respect our right to collectively bargain—or will they simply take the money and run? Our efforts here could be precedent setting, establishing a template for workers in the communications field down the line. Like the activist MasTec employees, we must keep fighting.



**Lindell K. Lee**  
International Secretary-Treasurer



## Letters to the Editor

### A Strong Foundation



Local 400 member  
Laurence Blackburn  
and daughter Laura

Recently in the national news, labor unions have received a lot of negative publicity. The labor movement has played an important role in shaping the type of family life that I have had growing up.

My dad's membership in the IBEW has instilled in me the value of hard work. I have observed his empathy for the underdog in work related negotiations in the news and have come to understand his reasoning.

The most important way the labor movement has affected my life is that it allows my dad to be a real dad to my brother and me. I have observed that classmates' parents are absent from most of their activities, due to long work hours. My dad can pick us up from after-school activities, attend my cheerleading competitions,

volunteer for community projects and set an example for me. His membership in the IBEW allows him to successfully perform both of these important roles in his life—provider and father.

Because of the labor union, both of my parents have played an active role in my childhood, which has given me the strong foundation that will help me to succeed in life.

Laura Marie Blackburn

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

### Making the Grade

My husband Phillip Reyes receives your paper and I too enjoy reading it. I've noticed that many of the success stories are not in the state of Texas and thought I'd take a chance and brag on Amarillo Local 602. My husband and his co-worker Mark Bilbrey, both employed with D & K Hunt Electric Co., took their master electrician's exam in December and passed. Mr. Kerry Hunt does not refer to his employees as people who "work for him" but more as "we work together."

Others have since passed their journeyman electricians' exam and more are scheduled to fulfill this same goal. Ms. Erin Blain, the office administrator, is a wonderful help in assisting these gentlemen in submitting all necessary documentation. Should anyone be in this area, be sure to take a short drive and visit D & K Hunt Electric Co., and personally meet the people there. I promise you will have the utmost Texas welcome.

Norma Reyes

Wife of Local 602 member Phillip Reyes, Amarillo, Texas

### Sincere Thank You

Words cannot express our sincere thanks for the many cards, visits, food, and memorial contributions that we received following the tragic death of our sons, Greg and Chris Wadkins (Topeka, Kan. Local 226). The boys, who worked for Citadel Electrical at Fort Riley, Kan., were killed in an auto accident on March 24, 2009, on their way home from work. Even though they were taken suddenly from us, we know they are still happy and together.

When they first struck out to work in other states, this was unsettling to us; however, we soon came to understand and know the meaning of "brotherhood." They had acquired another family, which was their fellow electrical union brothers. The friends and family they soon found during their travels are ones that cannot be replaced. We hope to maintain these friendships for Greg and Chris.

To know that Greg and Chris have touched the hearts and lives of so many people is gratifying to us. We will miss their enthusiasm, dedication to work, their love of life, family and friends. Thank you again for your support. May the electrical union remain strong and supportive.



Greg Wadkins



Chris Wadkins

Ray and Pat Wadkins  
Parents of Local 226 members Greg "Korndog" and  
Chris "Chili Dog" Wadkins, Topeka, Kan.

## Who We Are

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).

## Chicago Shop Steward Committed to Workers' Rights



Jesus Cerda, now a shop steward at Chicago Local 134, was fired for asking for better pay and treatment on behalf of his co-workers.

Jesus Cerda, Local 134 shop steward at Best Neon Sign Co. in Chicago, is one of those leaders who fought for respect on the job long before he had an official title or union behind him. Such an approach can get one fired, and he was. But that's only the beginning of his saga of courage and determination.

In 2005, Cerda's six unorganized Hispanic co-workers—who assemble, wire, paint and package signs—selected him and a co-worker to deliver a petition to the boss asking for a \$1 per-hour raise and the right to the paid holidays enjoyed by the company's 10 electricians who were represented by Local 134.

"The boss said that we were acting like bandits," says Cerda, who reminded the owner that the issues on the petition had been brought forward a year earlier with no resolution. "The boss got angrier when he found out that we knew each other's salaries." Cerda migrated to the U.S. from Mexico in 1985, at age 16 to pick crops. He became a permanent resident in 1990 and a U.S. citizen in 1996, and has worked in the sign business for over 20 years.

The owner fired all seven workers who signed the petition. He recalled four—to re-join five co-work-

ers who did not take part in the petition campaign—but he left Cerda and two co-workers on the street.

Jesus and his brother, Alfonso, also a Best Neon worker, sought help from the Chicago Workers Collaborative, a non-profit group. The collaborative put the brothers in touch with Chris Williams, an attorney with the Working Hands Legal Clinic and a former union organizer. Williams filed unfair labor practice charges at the NLRB, winning reinstatement for Cerda and his co-workers, along with three months of back pay for each.

Williams suggested that the brothers organize a meeting with their co-workers and called Chicago Local 134 asking for an organizer to attend the meeting.

Ken Anderson, Local 134 business representative, met with the Best Neon crew and offered the local's support. Anderson says Cerda was "a great advocate" for the workers that he now represents as a shop steward.

At first, workers were afraid that they would lose their jobs if they voted for a union, says Cerda. But when Anderson circulated authorization cards, they became more confident.

Best Neon played hardball again. They brought in Blankenship and Associates, an Indiana union-buster, to schedule captive audience

meetings. Local 134 representatives asked to be present in the meetings, but were refused. Nevertheless, Cerda and his co-workers stood up in the meetings, asked how much profit the company was making and asserted their rights to a union.

In July 2007, the workers voted 9 to 0 in favor of representation with Local 134. "After all he endured and the leadership he showed, I knew that Jesus was the kind of person we needed as shop steward," says Anderson, who recommended to Business Manager Tim Foley that he be appointed to the position.

The attitude of management has changed since the union vote, says Cerda. Benefits have improved, and "now the company has respect towards us, and they organize meetings once a month to discuss how we can have a better relationship," he says.

"We need to stand up for our rights and not be afraid," says Cerda, who is married, with three daughters. "I want my daughters to go to school and have a better future than what I had."

Cerda still volunteers at the Chicago Workers Collaborative to help other workers better understand their rights and get organized. ■

# Give It Your Best Shot



## Enter the 2009 IBEW Photo Contest Today!

Each year we get a window into the breadth and scope of our diverse organization through the eyes of our fellow members. Last year, for the first time, IBEW members chose the winner. It's time for the 2009 contest, so take a moment to look around your workplace with a fresh eye. This year's winning image could be the one that you capture.

Like last year, a panel of judges will narrow down the entries to 15 finalists, which will be posted on [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org). Keep an eye on future issues of The Electrical Worker and the Web site for announcements on when the judging will begin.

**DEADLINE: November 30, 2009**

### Prizes to be awarded in each category:

First Place.....\$200  
Second Place.....\$150  
Third Place .....\$100  
Honorable Mention .....\$50

### 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. Photo submissions can be submitted as digital files of at least 300 dpi, in color or black and white, on slides or glossy 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 lineman's rodeo, a union meeting) can be submitted in place of individual names.
7. Photos previously published in the IBEW Electrical Worker or Journal are not eligible for submission.
8. All entries must include a completed contest entry form. *Please note that photo entries and forms may be submitted through the IBEW Web site at [www.ibew.org](http://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.

### IBEW Photo Contest Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and state \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Local union number \_\_\_\_\_  
IBEW card number \_\_\_\_\_