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A NEW DEAL FOR NUCLEAR

Resurgent Industry Primes for a Revival



Construction is underway for the first nuclear plant to be built in the U.S. in decades. The seven-year, \$15 billion project to install two reactors on the 42-acre site at plant Vogtle outside Augusta, Ga., is putting IBEW members to work—and nuclear's renaissance could mean thousands of jobs for union members in the construction and utility sectors.

Photo credit: Southern Co.

(Editor's note: This is the first in an occasional series about the job opportunities for IBEW members in a nuclear renaissance.)

Nate McGoldrick remembers spending summer days as a child riding his bike and playing soccer in his pastoral hometown of Stillman Valley, Ill. A two-hour drive west of Chicago, the town of 1,000 offers a slice of life familiar to many small Midwestern locales: champion high school football teams, traditional values and tight-knit families. McGoldrick, an ace

athlete, once considered going to a nearby college in the hopes of getting a teaching degree and coaching soccer at Stillman Valley High School, where he graduated in 2009.

But while further contemplating career options, something else critical to the town drew his attention: the twin cooling towers of nearby Byron Nuclear Generating Station that loom like stout pillars against the otherwise flat horizon. For people old enough to remember the accident at Three Mile Island in 1979, Byron can prompt suspicion among skeptics of the industry. But for

19-year-old McGoldrick and many of his peers, it has always simply been a benign part of the scenery.

"I know people in the past have been kind of afraid of nuclear, but it was just something that we grew up with and didn't really think about in

negative terms," said McGoldrick, the son of Downers Grove, Ill., Local 15 Vice President and Assistant Business Manager Terry McGoldrick. "I knew as a kid that it has been a good thing for our community, as far as jobs were concerned."

McGoldrick now sees those towers less as scenery and more as security in a slippery economic climate. Instead of racking up debt to attend a pricey four-year university, McGoldrick is learning radiation protection at Linn State Technical College for a career in—what experts hope will be—a revived nuclear sector.

McGoldrick says the realities of the recession and the promises of a union job helped steer him toward the two-year program, and his classmates share similar stories. For many of McGoldrick's generation, the idea of nuclear energy being some sort of environmental bogeyman has subsided, while the fear of financial uncertainty has spiked considerably.

NEW DEAL FOR NUCLEAR *continued on page 2*

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A New Deal for Nuclear

The enhanced safety record of plants has also contributed to a favorable shift in popular perception. According to the most recent Gallup poll measuring people's attitudes toward nuclear power, a record-high 62 percent of respondents view the industry favorably.

At the same time, the offshore oil drilling disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has done as much to enrage the populace as it has to devastate the environment and the economies of the Gulf states. While the "Drill, Baby, Drill" crowd has quieted, the disaster has prompted President Obama to throw support behind safer, carbon-free methods of feeding America's increasing appetite for electricity—especially by splitting atoms.

Opportunities and Hurdles

"Without a doubt, we're at a defining moment for the industry," said Dave Mullen, International Representative in the Utility Department at the IBEW headquarters in Washington, D.C., who worked for 15 years at Quad City Nuclear Power Station on the Iowa-Illinois border. He applauds President Obama's February announcement at

Lanham, Md., Local 26 of \$8.3 billion in loan guarantees to build two new reactors—the first in three decades—at the Southern Co. owned-and-operated Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Augusta, Ga. (See "IBEW Hosts Obama Announcement on Loan Guarantees for Georgia Nuclear Project," www.ibew.org.)

But Mullen also recognizes the time it might take for the rebounding industry to transition from small steps to ground-gripping strides.

"Building a plant takes about six years," Mullen said. "So the reality is that this is all going to take a while. But in the long term, it's clear that nuclear is coming back with Obama's announcement. So what happens at Vogtle is certainly going to be the measuring stick."

In short, the union needs to cross the finish line for Vogtle on-time and on-budget to get future projects off the ground.

"We're talking about a huge effort over in Georgia that can create thousands of new jobs in the next few years," Mullen said. "With that loan money comes the chance for us to really prove ourselves and show what we can do as professionals in the industry."

"But if we fail, that's it," he said. "The renaissance could be finished before it really begins."

Education for Tomorrow

The industry is betting that efforts at Vogtle will succeed, and major players aren't sitting on the sidelines waiting to get into the game—especially with projects in south Texas and at Calvert Cliffs in Maryland next up in the queue.

Through an innovative partnership between the Nuclear Energy Institute, the IBEW and large companies like Exelon Corp., industry insiders and academics have joined forces to streamline comprehensive courses of study in nuclear power operation at 52 technical colleges nationwide—including Linn State, where McGoldrick takes courses. As a result, more young men and women than ever are flocking toward careers in the industry, and time is of the essence.

At nuclear facilities across the country, the sector is looking at a 38 percent retirement rate in the next five years, with a current shortfall of skilled labor to replace former employees.

"A lot of the younger generation looks at nuclear as being up-to-date, and without the drawbacks of carbon emissions," said IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. About 80 percent of the nuclear sector is unionized, the bulk of which comprises IBEW members. About 15,000 IBEW operators, technicians and maintenance workers service 42 sites nationwide. "We're going to need to quickly—but thoroughly—train the next batch of professionals who are going to run and maintain these new systems when the veterans have hung up their hardhats," Hunter added.

'A Shot in the Arm' for Electricians

While the students coming out of the NEI partner programs will virtually be guaranteed jobs, the infusion of loan guarantee money into the nuclear sector also looks promising for rank-and-file construction members—especially as the construction industry stares down nearly 30 percent unemployment.

Due to stringent licensing rules, nuclear facilities demand constant upgrades almost immediately follow-

ing construction. In addition to the hundreds of workers who will be employed on the construction side of the Vogtle project—and, hopefully, similar projects in the future—a fully-functioning plant can require as many as 400 to 800 permanent workers whose jobs cannot be outsourced.

Augusta, Ga., Local 1579 Assistant Business Manager Will Salters helps represent nearly 100 members on the construction and maintenance sides at Vogtle, and he worked with local leaders prior to President Obama's 2008 election victory to ensure that any expansion projects were kept within union jurisdiction.

"If things go according to plan, we're looking at a serious shot in the arm for our membership—both here and nationwide," said Salters, who also serves as secretary-treasurer for the Augusta Building Trades. "I anticipate that we'll have 600 members at work during Vogtle's peak in the next few years."

And the numbers keep rising. Back in Washington, Hunter says an ambitious—but very realistic—goal is to construct 40 new plants within the next few decades.

"People ask, 'Is this really possible?'" said Hunter. "But consider that in the '60s and '70s, we built a lot of plants on a relatively short timetable. And these are by far the best paying construction jobs within 100 miles of a nuke site. Can you imagine all the people who will move into an area during the construction phase? From an operations and maintenance standpoint, 40 new sites would yield about 20,000 careers—not just jobs. These are well-paying careers that people will comfortably retire from after decades on the shop floor."

Putting Union Expertise up Front

In May, International President Edwin D. Hill presented ideas to key players in the industry at the Nuclear Energy Institute Executive Conference in San Francisco—highlighting the efforts that the IBEW has taken in order to be the standard bearers in a brave new world of power generation. The NEI is composed of company leaders from the nuclear technologies sector.

"[N]uclear power is essential to

our energy mix now and in the future," President Hill told the assembly. "We all know it has taken years to overcome negative attitudes and falsehoods about our industry. We have worked hard to get this opportunity to prove ourselves once again, and we will be held to very high standards with little margin of error. If we fail, then we may not get another chance for a generation. And I for one don't want to think about the consequences if that were to happen. But we will not fail if we commit to making our industry an example of the highest quality and performance."

Part of what will give the IBEW a shot at proving itself is the attachment of project labor agreements to Obama's promised loan guarantees—a move that experts say will force the industry to take the high road of constructing, wiring and maintaining new facilities for decades to come.

"If you were to build these new facilities without PLAs, work could very easily be passed on to less-skilled, nonunion workers who don't have a long-term investment in a nuclear renaissance," said Hunter. "They look at it as one job, not a mission—so it's to our benefit not only to ensure that the renaissance goes forward, but that we have a solid foothold in any developments down the road. President Hill's statements to the NEI reinforce that importance."


The Road Ahead

On break from Linn College's rigorous schedule, Nate McGoldrick is spending time in Illinois with his family and gearing up for the next semester of school—which includes an intensive radiation protection program with possible field work on outages at facilities across the country.

McGoldrick makes no bones about his decision to move into the next generation of nuclear work.

"A while ago, I was like a lot of young people. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," he said. "But I've done my homework on this. I'm proud of the choices I've made so far. And I am looking forward to working at a nuclear plant and being a union member."

"If that's not a good opportunity," McGoldrick said, "I don't know what is." ■



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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS TO UTILITIES: Plan Now for Depleted Work Forces



Fourteen linemen were hired above predicted staffing levels at Madison (Wis.) Gas and Electric after Local 2304 pushed for work force planning to be part of the utility's required energy assessments. Photo credit: Steve Salt; all three photos

Utility local leaders and members who are sick of too much talk and too little action on the glaring need to replace hundreds of thousands of retiring workers now have a potent new tool to grab the attention of employers and public officials.

A report by the research arm of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners urges regulators to investigate the present and future staffing of utilities and “be prepared to encourage solutions where appropriate and mandate them where necessary.”

The report from the National Regulatory Research Institute, says IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter, offers utility members “a new comfort level” for showing up at commission hearings on utility rate increases to elevate and drive home work force planning issues.

At least a third of the nation's electrical utility workers—a total of about 160,000—are eligible to leave their jobs by 2013. The latest report follows another from the Task Force on America's Future Energy Jobs concluding that the nation's electric power infrastructure is in “serious jeopardy” due to a lack of qualified workers in the pipeline. (See “Will Utilities be Prepared to Face Uncertain Future?” The Electrical Worker, November 2009.)

While most state commissions already have statutory authority to push utilities to prepare to replace a graying work force, says Hunter, the report gives locals added leverage to push them to act.

Some local unions have already demonstrated that increased training and staffing can be won by taking their case to state commissioners.

In 1992, Madison, Wis., Local 2304, representing workers at Madison Gas and Electric, showed up at a rate hearing and asked the employer for a copy of its comprehensive work force plan. “They said, ‘We don't have a plan,’” says Business Manager Dave Poklinkoski.

IBEW utility locals joined with other unions in the state, forming the Utility Workers Coalition to push for work force planning to be an integral part of the commission's strategic energy assessments which, by law, must be prepared every two years.

“The good news,” says Poklinkoski, “is that all utilities in Wisconsin are now mandated to work with unions to develop comprehensive work force plans, and some have increased hiring to prepare for retirements.” At Madison G&E, for instance, 14 linemen were hired above the staffing level to prepare for future retirements.

But the bad news, says Poklinkoski, is that “the economy

has taken a nosedive and utilities are retreating on their promises. We have to have another round of hearings to hold them accountable.” In some locales, utilities are continuing to offer early retirements to increase their immediate bottom line, despite the looming manpower shortages.

This is a disaster waiting to happen and it's time to get involved, says Hunter.

“Unions provide a point of view that no one else does,” says Hunter, “because we are on the inside and know what is happening every day.”

In the overwhelming majority of rate cases before public service commissions, local unions support companies increasing rates to maintain current wages and benefits. “While

we're not used to intervening,” says Hunter, “we have to use the regulatory process to bring all parties to the table to address the planning needs. The safety and reputation of union members are at stake, as well as the quality of service.”

At the IBEW Utility Conference this month, leaders will urge local unions to call their utility commissioners and offices of people's counsel to schedule meetings upon their return home. The time for off-the-record discussions is ripe since few formal hearings are scheduled.

“Utility commissions are not thought of as the most logical place [to be heard] but union guys can offer up a new perspective because they know how their companies are being run,” said Scott Strauss, author of the research report, who will be addressing the Utility Conference.

To review the report, visit www.nrri.org. More information can be found at www.naruc.org. For contacts at state utility commissions, visit www.naruc.org/commissions.cfm. ■



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IBEW on the Huffington Post

President Hill has a blog championing good jobs and more. Read it at www.huffingtonpost.com/edwin-d-hill.

YouTube

The IBEW has its own channel on YouTube, devoted exclusively to videos about the union and its members. Watch online at www.youtube.com/user/theelectricalworker.

HourPower

Did you know President Ed Hill is a motorcycle enthusiast? In our latest President's



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Sun Shines On New IBEW Job Opportunities

More than 200 members of Las Vegas Locals 357 and 396 are at work in the Nevada desert building what will be the largest solar power project in North America.

Despite the economic slowdown in the construction market, many locals are successfully going after new job and training opportunities in alternative energy, including the rapidly growing solar industry.

According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, solar electric capacity grew by 37 percent in 2009, creating nearly 20,000 new jobs, making it one of the fastest growing sectors in the electrical industry—growth that is translating into jobs for out-of-work wiremen.

Silver State Solar

Las Vegas Local 357 member Tim Gardner is one of them. Laid off from the massive CityCenter project last fall, he is finally back to work, thanks to a new huge solar energy project currently underway in the Nevada desert.

He is one of the more than 200 IBEW members constructing the largest solar photovoltaic power system in North America.

The Copper Mountain solar plant, under construction in the remote El Dorado Valley, approximately 50 miles south of Las Vegas, will boast nearly 1 million solar panels. The 50-megawatt array is an expansion of the nearby 10-megawatt El Dorado Energy solar plant.

“Between IBEW Locals 357 and 396, the project is being built 100 percent by IBEW journeymen, apprentices and linemen,” said Local 357 Business Manager David Jones.

California-based Sempra Generation, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy, is expanding its Noperations to meet the increased demand of con-

sumers in Southern California for clean and affordable energy. Crews broke ground on the project in March; it is expected to be online late this year.

Photovoltaics isn’t a new field for Local 357, which has developed a reputation throughout the state as the go-to people when it comes to solar.

In 2004, the local—with assistance from a grant from the Department of Energy—opened a photovoltaic lab at its Las Vegas training center. More than 800 members have gone through the program, says Jones. Gardner is one of them, using his downtime after being laid off to get certified in solar installation.

And in 2008, nearly 100 Local 357 members and travelers completed a 70,000-panel, 15-megawatt system at Nellis Air Force base, which is expected to eliminate more than 20,000 tons of carbon emissions.

“Our focus on alternative energy training has paid off for the IBEW in terms of real job creation,” Jones said.

But getting the Copper Mountain project required the local to aggressively market itself. In addition to promoting its training capacities, the local agreed to a higher apprentice-to-journeyman ratio to cut down on costs.

With discussions about turning the El Dorado Valley into a statewide center for renewable energy, and a state requirement that at least five percent of its energy needs come from solar by 2015, photovoltaics is likely the future of electrical work in Nevada, Gardner said.

In June, NV Energy asked the state’s Public Utility Commission to support its plans to build a 200-mile transmission line, which would

allow easier access to renewable energy resources generated in the more remote parts of the state.

“I don’t see a lot of high-end resorts and hotels in our near future, so we need to work on going after the renewable energy sphere, because there is a lot of room for it to grow,” Gardner said.

A Market to Be Tapped

Successfully going after job opportunities in the new energy economy requires top-notch training in the latest renewable energy technologies.

Milwaukee Local 494’s year-old photovoltaic training program got a big boost this spring when We Energies, a utility serving Wisconsin and parts of Michigan, announced that it was awarding the local a \$75,000 grant to help it develop a solar training lab.

“We view the IBEW as an important partner in the energy industry,” said Jessica Thibodo-Johnson, a renewable energy specialist for We Energies. “And we are very interested in helping them develop their solar training facility.”

The lab will be housed in Local 494’s newly constructed training center. It will consist of six solar work stations, which will give students hands on experience in assembling and disassembling PV panels and connecting them to the grid.

“We feel it is in our customers’ best interest to help develop solar training services through our partnership with the IBEW,” Thibodo-Johnson said. “Our customers will benefit from a well-trained, highly skilled pool of certified solar installers that will help them take advantage of renewable

energy incentives by safely installing photovoltaic panels.”

JATC Continuing Education Coordinator John Cyr says that the local has put more than 60 IBEW journeymen through its solar training program in the last year and is looking to expand those numbers once the lab is completed by the end of the summer.

“We’ve got a big waiting list,” he said.

The Wisconsin IBEW already

boasts of nine locals offering photovoltaic training with more programs likely in the works, says Sixth District International Representative Terry Roovers.

“This is a market to be tapped,” Cyr added. “But the success of solar is dependent on the quality and training of those doing the work and we are ready to make sure the industry can count on the best in the electrical field.” ■

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After the Flood, Union Members Help Re-energize Cedar Rapids

The damage caused by massive floodwaters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, two years ago destroyed hundreds of homes, crippled businesses and dealt a blow to a state already stung by the recession.

In the aftermath, more than 1,200 IBEW members rose to the challenge of helping get the area back on firm ground—a task that is finally yielding tangible results.

“It’s been a long time coming, but we’re seeing signs of recovery,” Local 405 Business Manager Bill Hanes said. “Businesses are returning. In some areas, things are nearly back to the way they were before the flooding. In other places, we’ve still got a long way to go.”

On June 13, 2008, the Cedar River—which runs through the center of the city—swelled to a historic high, swallowing levees and submerging 10 square miles of the city. Eighteen thousand residents were displaced and hundreds of businesses and government buildings were inundated. As rainfall fed the raging Mississippi River less than 100 miles to the east, devastation mounted throughout the state as more flooding enveloped riverside areas. By the end of the nine-day ordeal, hundreds would watch their homes and livelihoods wash away, at least temporarily, with the flood.

Mobilizing After ‘Iowa’s Katrina’

Recovery efforts following “Iowa’s Katrina,” as many refer to it, could have lagged if not for the IBEW’s involvement in rebuilding the city, Hanes said.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that we’ve been a big part of the solution,” Hanes said. “Nonunion contractors couldn’t have summoned the kind of skilled work force we did.”

Hundreds of local members were joined by 800 travelers to resurrect Cedar Rapids’ industrial plants—including Quaker Oats and agriculture giant Cargill—and re-energize the city’s only salvageable 225-megawatt power plant. It was dirty, dangerous work. Floodwaters were rife with chemicals and bacteria, and underground wire in nearly



A Cargill employee pumps water out of a high voltage switchgear at the Cargill corn processing plant following massive flooding in 2008. More than 250 IBEW members worked to revive the plant.

all buildings had been exposed to water and needed replacing.

The massive scope of the damage often required seven 16-hour days per week from members, some of whom came from as far as California, Florida and Washington.

“It’s been a long time coming, but we’re seeing signs of recovery. Businesses are returning. In some areas, things are nearly back to the way they were before the flooding. In other places, we’ve still got a long way to go.”

— Bill Hanes, Local 405 business manager

Power and Problems

At Alliant Energy’s Prairie Creek powerhouse in the heart of the city, hundreds of members logged nearly half a million man-hours bringing the facility back online. All control systems had been damaged beyond repair and massive turbines needed to be rebuilt. The town’s only other powerhouse was completely wiped out.

Local 405 member Glen Henry of Acme Electrical Co. led the reconstruction and wiring effort at Prairie Creek. “We had about 300 electricians working with us over the span of a year and a half,” he said. “Most of them were

travelers, so housing was an issue. We had guys sleeping on our shop floor for a while, and the local college offered them a place to stay, too.” Other entities outside of town that were relatively immune from the flood offered additional accommodations.

Inside wiremen’s efforts to jolt Prairie Creek back to life couldn’t have succeeded without the work of hundreds of Cedar Rapids Local 204 members. The members—many of whom live in more remote areas of the state—converged on the waterlogged city to restring high voltage lines, restore underground distribution lines and help residents facing widespread power outages.

But while striving to help rebuild the city, Local 204 received a punch below the belt.

“We were right in the thick of things and lost our office in the flood,” said Business Manager Dave George.

Higher-than-expected floodwaters soaked computers, paper records and other equipment throughout the building located next to the river, forcing George and his crew to relocate to office space on the edge of the city. “Through it all, though, everybody kept a cool head and we didn’t have a single major safety issue. You’d think it would maybe be the opposite—but in a high state of emergency, our members are even more cognizant of safety due to the nature and urgency of the task at hand.”

Back on the Clock

Across town, Local 405 members from Acme and signatory contractor the ESCO Group resurrected the Quaker Oats plant—the company’s largest in the country and one of Cedar Rapids’ largest employers. Nearly 1,300 members of the machinists union are now back at work at the plant.

“Between Prairie Creek and Quaker, this was uncharted territory for all of us,” Henry said. “None of us had ever seen anything close to the scope of devastation here. We were making critical decisions on an hourly basis to get power back and ultimately make it so folks could get back to their jobs.”

One of the hardest-hit sites in

the city was the Cargill plant, which called on nearly 300 members to reconstruct and rewire the facility. Of all major industry sites in Cedar Rapids, the Cargill building has taken the longest to rehabilitate.

“The manpower brought in was critical to the rebuilding process,” said Local 405 member Doug Yates of the ESCO Group, who supervised electricians at Cargill. “It was definitely a testament to the IBEW’s organizational skills that they could ramp up a job from 40 people to hundreds in just a few weeks. It was very hard for some of these members to be away from their families, especially for weeks at a time.” Cargill provided break tents, catered meals and an emphasis on a safe work environment.

IBEW members completed nearly all of the electrical work at businesses in the downtown Cedar Rapids area, Hanes said. All of the city’s manufacturing plants are now up and running, and more than 80 percent of businesses are back and serving customers. “Getting the industrial base back has allowed a large number of residents to return to work in the city,” Hanes said.

Hitting Home

Local retirees also stepped up to volunteer their expertise for homeowners who suffered flood damage. Cedar Rapids’ local labor management cooperation committee put up \$100,000 for experienced hands to rewire about 200 homes—mostly for residents lacking sufficient insurance coverage to combat the damage.

But even though most Local 405 members live on the outskirts of town away from the river, many are staring down troubles of their own. Nineteen of the local’s 850 members had severe flood damage to their homes that only allowed them to salvage what they could and move out. A handful of others were able to refurbish and remodel their houses and are starting to return to some semblance of normal life.

“It’s not perfect yet—there are still some very large challenges looming,” Hanes said. “But the Brotherhood has stood strong for this community, and we’ll continue to as we work to rebuild our city.” ■



Saskatchewan Government Targets Workers' Rights

Premier Brad Wall's right-wing Saskatchewan Party government continues its legislative assault on workers' rights, recently passing one of the most far-reaching attacks on collective bargaining rights for construction workers in Canada.

Passed in May, Bill 80 alters labor law to allow for organizing "wall-to-wall," not segmented by job description. Previously, unionized workers in the construction industry had to belong to a craft-specific union, which bargained with contractor associations on a provincial-wide basis.

The fear of many labour activists is that the legislation will open the door for employer-favored unions like the cross-craft Christian Labour Association of Canada to get a toehold in the industry, weakening the power of the building trades and driving down working standards and benefits for all construction workers.

CLAC is infamous throughout Canada for raiding other unions by cozying up to anti-labour employers and undercutting wages and benefits.

"CLAC will come in and offer an employer a contract that is 17 percent less than what we are asking for," said Regina Local 2038 Business Manager Gary Vieser. "The contractor will then sign the deal with them without even talking to the workers first."

For many building trades leaders who believed Wall's promise—made shortly before he became premier—that he would not alter existing labour law in the construction industry, Bill 80 is a particularly bitter pill to swallow.

"The men and women in Saskatchewan's construction industry hoped that Wall meant what he said in 2007 and that he would keep his word," wrote Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council Business Manager Terry Parker in the Star Phoenix. "Sadly, our experience with Bill 80 is a cautionary tale of mistruths, falsehoods and broken commitments."

Neither Wall nor Labour Minister Rob Norris bothered to consult the building trades before introducing the legislation, but letters obtained by Parker through the provincial Freedom of Information Act show that Saskatchewan Construction Association President

Michael Fougere had written the government in 2008 asking precisely for the changes contained in Bill 80.

Most Anti-Labour Government in the Country

The bill is only the latest in a string of laws passed by what many Canadian labour leaders consider the most anti-union government in Canada.

Elected in 2007, Wall's Saskatchewan Party almost immediately introduced two bills meant to weaken workers' rights. One gives

employers the authority to prevent their employees from going on strike by declaring them providers of an essential service, while the other eliminates the use of majority sign-up in recognizing a union.

"Even some employers are angry about this, because even if they voluntarily want to recognize the wishes of their employees to form a union, they still have to stage an election," Vieser said.

The situation has gotten so bad that last year the International Trade Union Confederation included Saskatchewan in its annual global

survey of places with the worst records of workers' rights violations.

"It's a dubious distinction to be cited in the same publication as the likes of countries such as Colombia, Burma, Belarus, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Iran, Pakistan and the Philippines, where trade union leaders are routinely murdered or imprisoned for defending workers' rights," said Saskatchewan Federation of Labour President Larry Hubich in a statement.

The International Labour Organization, a global body charged with overseeing international labour standards, found the province guilty

of violating employees' right of freedom of association.

Wall also recently broke another campaign promise by signing the New West Partnership, an inter-province free trade agreement almost identical to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, a 2007 trade pact between Alberta and British Columbia that Wall promised to keep Saskatchewan out of.

Like TILMA, the New West Partnership gives corporations and private individuals the right to sue provincial governments over any regu-

Les droits des travailleurs ciblés par le gouvernement de la Saskatchewan

Le Premier Ministre du parti de droite de la Saskatchewan, Brad Wall, poursuit son « assaut législatif » entrepris contre les droits des travailleurs alors qu'il a récemment fait adopter une loi qui s'avère une des attaques les plus radicales contre les droits de la négociation collective pour les travailleurs de la construction au Canada.

Le projet de loi 80 qui fut adopté au mois de mai, modifie la loi du travail dans l'industrie de la construction, en permettant la syndicalisation globale des travailleurs, par opposition à la syndicalisation en fonction des métiers. Avant, les travailleurs syndiqués de l'industrie de la construction devaient appartenir à un syndicat de métier spécifique chargé de négocier une convention collective avec les associations d'entrepreneurs à travers la province.

Plusieurs syndicalistes craignent que cette législation n'ouvre toute grande la porte aux syndicats contrôlés par l'employeur tels que l'Association ouvrière chrétienne du Canada (AOCC - CLAC) et leur permette d'avoir un pied dans l'industrie. Cette situation pourrait affaiblir le pouvoir des syndicats de métiers et mener à une déqualification en gros des métiers en abaissant les

normes professionnelles ainsi que les avantages sociaux pour tous les travailleurs de la construction.

En maraudant d'autres syndicats, l'AOCC (CLAC) s'est taillée une réputation à travers le Canada voulant qu'elle s'insinue dans les bonnes grâces des employeurs anti-syndicalistes et coupe dans les salaires et les avantages sociaux.

« L'AOCC (CLAC) se présente devant un employeur en lui offrant un contrat qui, en bout de ligne, lui coûtera 17% de moins que ce que nous demandons. Ce dernier signe l'entente avec l'Association sans même consulter ses employés », dit Gary Vieser, Gérant d'affaires de la S.L. 2038 de Régina.

L'adoption du projet de loi 80 est une pilule très difficile à avaler pour plusieurs dirigeants des syndicats de métiers qui avaient cru aux promesses faites par Wall—peu avant qu'il soit élu Premier ministre—à l'effet qu'il ne toucherait pas aux lois du travail existantes dans l'industrie de la construction.

« Les travailleurs et les travailleuses de l'industrie de la construction en Saskatchewan croyaient que Wall était sérieux dans ses propos en 2007 et qu'il tiendrait parole. Malheureusement, notre expérience avec ce projet de loi 80 se résume à

un récit édifiant de faussetés, de mensonges et d'engagements non respectés », écrivait Terry Parker, Gérant d'affaires du Conseil provincial des métiers de la construction de la Saskatchewan dans le Star Phoenix.

Avant d'introduire cette législation, ni Wall, ni le Ministre du travail Rob Norris n'ont pris la peine de consulter les syndicats de métiers. Mais en vertu de la loi sur la liberté d'information (*Freedom of Information Act*), le confrère Parker a pu obtenir des copies de lettre attestant qu'en 2008, le Président de l'Association de la construction de la Saskatchewan, Michael Fougere, avait proposé au gouvernement de modifier la loi en apportant précisément les changements contenus dans le présent projet de loi 80.

Le gouvernement le plus anti-syndicaliste au pays

Ce projet de loi est la plus récente loi anti-syndicaliste adoptée par ce gouvernement que plusieurs dirigeants syndicaux Canadiens considèrent comme le plus anti-syndicaliste au Canada.

Dès qu'il fut élu premier Ministre en 2007, Brad Wall du Parti saskatchewanais, s'est empressé d'introduire les projets de loi 5 et 6 qui

visent tous deux à réduire les droits des travailleurs en milieu de travail.

Le projet de loi 5 donne à l'employeur le pouvoir d'empêcher ses employés d'aller en grève, en déclarant que ces derniers doivent fournir un service essentiel; quant au projet de loi 6, il supprime l'usage d'une majorité de cartes d'adhésion signées pour la reconnaissance d'un syndicat.

« Cette situation irrite certains employeurs car bien qu'ils consentent à reconnaître le désir de leurs employés de se syndiquer, un vote doit quand même avoir lieu », déclare le confrère Vieser.

La situation s'est détériorée à un point tel que la Confédération syndicale internationale a inclus la Saskatchewan dans son « Rapport annuel des violations des droits syndicaux ».

« La province a la distinction d'apparaître sur la même liste douteuse que des pays tels que la Colombie, le Burma, le Bélarus, le Soudan, le Zimbabwe, le Swaziland, l'Iran, le Pakistan et les Philippines, là où des dirigeants syndicaux sont régulièrement assassinés ou emprisonnés pour avoir défendu les droits des travailleurs », a déclaré Larry Hubich, Président de la Fédération du travail de la Saskatchewan.

Cornell University's Diversity Program Succeeds with IBEW Experience

lation, public policy or law deemed harmful to investment, which includes laws regarding public health, safety and environmental standards.

"It's all about driving down working standards to their lowest common denominator," Vieser said.

The Grassroots Fights Back

Vieser says organized labour is responding with grassroots political action, looking to chip away at the Saskatchewan Party's legislative majority by focusing on seven seats

in which the party won by less than 300 votes in preparation for the next election.

"We've been heavily leafleting those areas, going door-to-door," he said. "We're making it clear to voters that these attacks are on all working people."

"Saskatchewan used to be Canada's pioneer in progressive labour legislation," said First District Vice President Phil Flemming. "We must stop Wall and his policies from becoming a model for anti-worker politicians throughout the country." ■

Deux syndicats du secteur public ont déposé une plainte contre le gouvernement, auprès de l'Organisation internationale du travail—l'organisation chargée de veiller à l'application des normes du travail internationales—qui a reconnu la province coupable d'avoir enfreint la liberté d'association des employés.

Récemment, Wall a rompu une autre de ses promesses électorales en signant le *New West Partnership*, un accord de libre-échange interprovincial, presque identique à l'Entente sur le commerce, l'investissement et la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre (*ECIMMO*), un pacte commercial entre l'Alberta et la Colombie-Britannique signé en 2007. Il avait pourtant promis de garder la Saskatchewan en-dehors de cet accord.

Tout comme pour l'Entente sur le commerce, l'investissement et la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre (*ECIMMO*), ce pacte de libre-échange entre les provinces de l'Ouest autorise les entreprises ou les individus à intenter des poursuites contre les gouvernements provinciaux relativement à tout règlement, politique publique ou législation sur les normes de la santé publique, de l'environnement et de la sécurité qui pourrait constituer une restriction à l'investissement.

« Le seul objectif visé est de diminuer la valeur des normes provinciales au dénominateur commun le plus bas », ajoute le confrère Vieser.

Une réplique de la population

Le confrère Vieser affirme que le mouvement syndical compte sur l'action politique populaire pour affaiblir la majorité détenue par le Parti saskatchewanais à l'Assemblée, en se concentrant sur sept sièges que le parti avait acquis par une faible majorité de 300 votes.

« Nous avons fait beaucoup de porte à porte afin de distribuer des prospectus dans cette région et nous expliquons aux électeurs que ces attaques touchent toute la population active », explique-t-il.

« La Saskatchewan a déjà été la pionnière des lois du travail progressistes au Canada. Nous devons mettre un frein aux politiques anti-syndicales de Wall avant qu'elles finissent par devenir un modèle pour les autres politiciens anti-syndicalistes à travers le pays », conclut Phil Flemming, Vice-président international pour le Premier District. ■

Cornell University was a natural place to turn when the IBEW was looking for help to develop the union's diversity training program. The school's Industrial Labor Relations School enjoys deep respect from labor activists.

Cornell's faculty members know how to provide education and knowledge that helps labor union members and leaders to better unite across lines of race, gender, nationality and age. And they understand the importance of giving current leaders the tools to mentor and promote new leaders who represent that diversity.

But diversity awareness is not just an academic endeavor on the upstate New York Ivy League campus. It's a bridge between skilled workers, a tool to expand the horizon of the trades, and a necessary step in providing good service to a customer base that includes students and instructors from nearly every nation in the world.

"We're expanding horizons in the union and [our efforts] are recognized by county legislators and our city council members when they need work done."

— Dave Richardson, Local 241 journeyman wireman, diversity recruiter for Cornell University

Jacob Benninger, superintendent of the campus' electrical shop, a former training director for Ithaca Local 241, says, "Education is our area's biggest industry. Our staff has a lot of autonomy and our workers need to communicate well with all members of a college community that covers 15 million square feet of space and multiple research facilities."

Dave Richardson, a 30-year Local 241 journeyman wireman, is Cornell's full-time diversity recruiter. He says, "We're expanding horizons in the union and [our efforts] are recognized by county legislators and



Ithaca, N.Y., Local 241 journeyman Kathryn Boucakis instructs a student in pipe-bending at a Central New York Careers in Construction Day event.

our city council members when they need work done."

As a leader of the Skilled Trades Diversity Council, Richardson helps deliver training to foremen and superintendents on the campus while also visiting high schools. He also helps run the trades' pre-construction program that prepares recruits to enter apprenticeships for several trades.

The Skilled Trades Diversity Council, a six-year partnership between Cornell and the Tompkins-Cortland Building Trades Council, grew out of a regional push to build a work force that reflects the demographic composition of both the campus and the surrounding community.

In 2006, the council was awarded a \$114,000 grant by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to set up the pre-construction program and the Central New York Careers in Construction events for high-school students and out-of-school youths.

Drawing participants from nine counties, the pre-construction preparedness class enables each participant to visit training programs for each trade. Upon completion, they may apply to one or more unions. "We've had participants who had issues after they entered training programs and we've acted as liaisons between them and their instructors," says Charade Kittle, co-chair of the pre-construction program.

Diversity awareness videos used in training sessions for Cornell trades members were produced by consultants Susan Woods and Pamela Henderson. The two—who have more than 40 years of experience at Cornell between them—designed IBEW's Amplifying Membership Participation=Strength program. (See "Diversity and Inclusion Program Builds Union's Strength," *The Electrical Worker*, March 2010.)

The IBEW training, currently being offered to International and local leaders, calls upon them to achieve the goals of a resolution passed at the last IBEW Convention encouraging inclusion and participation of minority members at all levels of the organization.

Training videos at Cornell, IBEW and the Skilled Trades Diversity Council present real-life situations where misunderstandings and bias are examined with an eye toward developing healthier working relationships.

"We're putting stuff out front and dealing with it," says Dan Fuller, superintendent of the control shop. "I view this training as part of a larger goal—to eliminate racism." While he believes that the training is well-received, Fuller believes the need is continuous. "Because this is such a big place, the effort needs not abate. When you relent, encroachment occurs again. We have to hold our ground [against bias]." ■

Transitions

DECEASED Richard Dowling



Eighth District International Executive Council member Richard Dowling, who gave the

Brotherhood more than four decades of solid service and leadership, passed away on May 31 of a heart attack at the age of 67.

The Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 business manager was a progressive leader and organizer known for his easy smile and dedication to the labor movement. Under his direction, his local had grown in membership from 4,000 to 5,000. Brother Dowling had been looking forward to hosting the 38th IBEW Convention in Vancouver next year.

First District International Representative Laird Cronk said Dowling embodied the best qualities of an effective leader.

“To me he was the perfect guardian of the local union. He made everything a little bit better, a bit more secure.”

— Laird Cronk, First District International Representative

“To me he was the perfect guardian of the local union,” Cronk said. “He made everything a little bit better, a bit more secure. You had confidence that everything was under control when Rick was at the helm.”

IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said, “It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Brother Dowling and thank him for his many years of dedication to the trade union movement. I pray that God will watch over his family during this challenging time.”

Brother Dowling was elected to the IEC at the union’s 37th Convention in Cleveland in September 2006. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928 Business Manager Mike MacDonald nominated Dowling for the position. Addressing the delegation, MacDonald said, “Because of Rick’s vast experience and his character of a solid and compassionate trade unionist, I am certain he will be a strong voice for Canada and a valued member of the [IEC].”

Brother Dowling relocated to Canada from Scotland in 1967 and

initiated into Vancouver Local 213 the following year. He served on several local and regional committees and was appointed business manager and financial secretary in 2002.

He won election to the position the following year and re-election in 2006. He represented workers in the utility, inside construction, electrical manufacturing, communications and cable television sectors.

Dowling’s activism had recently focused on dispelling the myths of open-shop organizations such as the Christian Labor Association of Canada, which he described as “anything but a union.”

The officers and staff express our most heartfelt condolences on Brother Dowling’s death to his wife, Marga, their children and many friends. ■

DECEASED Clyde Bowden



The IBEW regrets to report the April 28 death of retired International Executive Council

Chairman Clyde Bowden.

Brother Bowden chaired the IEC for more than 14 years before stepping down in January 2001.

Born in Russellville, Ark., he was initiated into Diamond Bar, Calif., Local 47 in 1950. In July 1956,

“My father poured his heart and soul into the IBEW.”

— Tim Bowden, 7th District International Representative

IBEW On Duty



Coos Bay, Ore., Local 932 member Tim Flood spent nearly a year in Iraq.

Teamwork Key to Apprentice’s Battlefield and Career Success

Staff Sgt. Tim Flood spent nearly a year navigating some of the hairiest spots in the war-torn countryside as an Army National Guardsman stationed at Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq. The Coos Bay, Ore., Local 932 fifth-year apprentice coordinated large convoys that ran fuel and food between U.S. bases along the main supply route from the southern area toward the north past Baghdad.

The squads waited until the black of night to roll out for missions—avoiding easy detection by insurgent operatives who kept their rifle crosshairs on the roads 24 hours a day. The runs usually took anywhere from eight to 20 hours, including daytime hours spent at far-off bases while waiting to return to Tallil. One protracted assignment lasted nearly a day and a half due to an IED explosion that hamstrung the mission. Hours upon hours on bumpy roads tested the patience and endurance of U.S. troops who had to be ready for anything at a moment’s notice, even when threats never materialized.

“It was 99 percent waiting, because you’re just driving down the road, gun in hand, expecting something to come at you in the dark,” said Flood, 33, who returned home in May. “Then that last one percent finds you working as a tight-knit team. You might have to respond to a sudden IED or gunfire. At that point, you and the other troops have to be a well-oiled machine to meet the challenges.”

Flood estimates that he supervised 60 missions during his July 2009 to May 2010 tour. Every run found the squad leader commanding six gun trucks, each carrying four soldiers. The heavily armed—and armored—mine-resistant vehicles escorted about 50 fuel trucks per mission. Flood said his crew ran the most missions of any other similar outfit during his deployment in Iraq, racking up 80,000 miles over hostile terrain.

Though Iraq marked his first time in the battlefield, Flood’s military pedigree runs deep. His father is a retired Navy chief and his grandfather served in the Army during World War II. Flood followed in their footsteps

when he was 20, signing up for the Army, but opted out of the service to work various jobs starting in early 2001 to pay the bills. As his grandfather was a card-carrying IBEW member for decades, Flood always had it in the back of his mind that going into the trades could be a lucrative track.

“I had been working in manual labor jobs when I signed up for the apprenticeship with Local 932,” Flood said. “I knew it would pay off in the long run. I needed something more than just a job—I needed a career that was going to give me opportunities.”

Flood landed a position as an inside wireman apprentice with Ladd Electric in nearby Reedsport, where he worked for several years. He signed up for the National Guard in 2006, which ultimately led to his 2009 deployment.

“The union was great when I needed to go to Iraq,” Flood said. Local leaders arranged for him to postpone coursework and finish his final year once he was back on American soil. The married father of a five-year-old girl, Flood looks forward to added financial stability once he finishes his assignments and the economy bounces back.

Flood also continues to sharpen his soldier skills by spending three months a year training, including logging time at air assault and rappel master school—all courses that boost military-level skills and credentials.

“Working with my fellow union members offers a lot of the same kinds of camaraderie and team-building that I value about the Guard,” Flood said. Though currently out of work, he can count on a military paycheck to get by until he’s called to grab his hardhat and tools—and he says the work picture looks promising for the summer.

Local leaders praised Flood’s sense of dedication and brotherhood.

“Tim Flood has been one of our best apprentices, and he’s going to make a fine journeyman when he turns out,” said Local 932 Business Manager Robert Westerman Jr. “We’re thankful for his sacrifice and service both to the country and the membership.” ■

Organizing Wire

he transferred his membership to Phoenix Local 387, where he served as business manager for three decades, from 1968-1998.

He served on the Arizona Governor's Energy Task Force, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors and the Arizona State Apprentice Council. He was a past president of the Arizona State Electrical Association, labor representative on the Arizona State Advisory Council for OSHA and served as secretary-treasurer of the Central Arizona AFL-CIO.

He spent his retirement years raising cattle on his small farm in Peoria, Ariz.

"My father poured his heart and soul into the IBEW," said Bowden's son Tim, an International Representative in the 7th District. "His family and his union are the things he really cared about."

Brother Bowden is survived by his wife, Judy, three grown children, and his brother Dee, a retired member of Phoenix Local 640.

The IBEW officers, staff and members extend our deepest condolences to Brother Bowden's family and his many friends. ■

DECEASED Jack P. Anderson



The IBEW regrets to report that former Eighth District International Representative Jack P. Anderson died on May 27. He was 79.

"He loved the IBEW and everything about it."

— Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Walters

A Utah native, Brother Anderson was initiated into Salt Lake City, Utah, Local 354 in 1955. A journeyman wireman, he rose through the ranks of the local, first serving as an executive board member, president and then business manager-financial secretary, a position he held for nearly 20 years.

During those years, he served on the apprenticeship, labor management and negotiations committees as

well as a trustee on the health and welfare and pension boards. He also served on the Utah AFL-CIO board of directors and on the state Democratic Party's Central Committee.

Anderson was instrumental in helping to create the Eighth District's first health care fund, said Eighth District International Representative Rocky Clark, pooling funds from locals throughout the district.

He was appointed International Representative assigned to the Eight District in 1983, serving as then-Vice President Jon Walters' in-office representative, handling correspondence and other office matters for staff in the field.

Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Walters met Anderson while working as a traveler in Utah in the '60s. "He was one of the people who mentored me when I was up and coming in the union," Walters said.

Walters says he was particularly impressed with Anderson's writing ability. "He had a real gift with the written word," he said. Those skills came in handy as a member of the law committee at multiple IBEW conventions, with Anderson helping to write many of the committee's decisions.

He was also deeply involved with the work of the Council on Industrial Relations.

"He loved the IBEW and everything about it," Walters said. "We used to joke that we were married to the union."

Anderson retired in 1997.

He served in the United States Navy as a chief radioman for submarine services from 1947 to 1952 and attended the University of Utah before entering the trade.

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW offer our condolences to Brother Anderson's wife, Darlene, his two daughters and grandchildren. ■

APPOINTED Gina P. Cooper



International Representative Gina Cooper was appointed Director of Professional and Industrial

Organizing for Membership Development, effective July 1.

Sister Cooper says she is enthusiastic about building on the recent organizing successes made by the IBEW in the professional and industrial sphere—victories that keep coming even in these tough economic times. "We are seeing workers from nearly every economic sector seek out the benefits and respect that comes with membership in the IBEW and they haven't let a bad economy slow them down."

A Las Vegas native, Cooper started her IBEW career more than 20 years ago with Las Vegas Local 357. She also worked for Hollywood, Calif., Local 45 before her appointment as assistant business manager for Las Vegas Local 396.

She was responsible for organizing new industries, including a locating company and a credit union. She helped negotiate contracts, investigate grievances and file unfair labor practice charges. In addition, Cooper headed up a grassroots solidarity team to mobilize Local 396 members around pressing workplace and policy issues.

She also served as the treasurer/recording secretary of Telephone Coordinating Council 3, where she helped coordinate activities for 19 IBEW locals with members employed by Sprint (now CenturyLink) across the United States.

In 2005, she began her tenure at the International Office, assigned to the Telecommunications Department. She serviced multiple system councils and assisted in the creation and implementation of the Telecommunications Code of Excellence.

Residing in Clarksburg, Md., with her husband, Fourth District International Representative Kenneth Cooper, two of her five children, eight dogs and three ducks, Cooper enjoys outdoor activities and long walks in the woods.

"I am very excited to take on this challenge," Cooper says. "It will take all of us working together to make this program successful. Together we will add dignity and respect to the lives of workers and their families across North America."

The officers and members of the IBEW wish Sister Cooper great success in her new position. ■

Internet Organizing Key to Software Company Win

When young, tech-savvy organizers began using the term "netroots" to describe grassroots organizing via the Internet, they primarily focused upon political campaigns or lobbying efforts. A home-grown, multi-state, May organizing victory by field service and installation engineers at a firm that designs and installs software for cost recovery and expense management stamps the union label firmly on netroots strategies.

The path leading to a winning NLRB election for Boston Local 2222 started last October, when an Equitrac worker approached the union with his concerns over job security as his employer kept dismissing co-workers and increasing the workload on the remaining employees.

"They piled the work on those of us who were left," says 13-year senior field service engineer John Harris, who has seen the company's work force in New England shrink from 13 in 2003 to two.

Equitrac Corp. has closed almost all of its offices and now field service staff work out of their homes—with their time on the job measured by calling in from the field or when they log in on computers when working from home. The local union helped to organize an e-mail campaign sending workers across the country information discussing the need for a union and their right to organize. Then the campaign, in marketing parlance, went viral.

"Thirteen workers—located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut—did it all themselves," says Lead Organizer Steve Smith. "I'm used to organizing campaigns where I meet with a few guys in a Dunkin' Donuts, but I believe this is increasingly the way organizing will be done." Once five or six workers had the same complaint, he says, a bridge was created that led to "guys from Boston trading notes with guys from New York."

Weekly conference calls were set up to answer questions about unions, countering misinformation from managers. "I would give an opening statement," says Smith, "then the workers would take over."

"The conference calls were even more decisive than the Internet, especially when they were followed by one-on-one conversations between engineers," says Harris, who had extensive experience in organized workplaces earlier in his work life and had "talked union" before the campaign with little success.

"People on the fence [about the union] felt they had little to lose," says Harris. In better times, he says, they would just go to get a better job. But, with the current recession, "They were willing to give the union a chance."

Equitrac, a privately-held company based in Plantation, Fla., didn't take the workers seriously when they first petitioned for an election. The company told them on a company-sponsored conference call that they would lose their freedom if they voted for a union, says Harris. He challenged the charge.

"I explained that I was happy to be part of the union. I didn't lose my freedom. The sky was not going to fall. Millions of people belong to unions and they do just fine," says Harris. The conduct of the campaign—leaving so much initiative in the workers' own hands—further refuted the company's pitch.

"Congratulations on your victory and welcome to IBEW Local 2222," said an e-mail message from Business Manager Myles Calvey after the vote. "By uniting in a union, you'll never stand alone against a powerful corporation," added Calvey, who is also Second District IEC member.

"This was an inspirational learning experience, but also an ordeal," says Harris. "A lot of co-workers were dismissed, but we had a determined layer of people who were willing to put time and dedication into the campaign."

A new representation election will be held soon for workers in Equitrac's southern region, comprising Illinois, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri and Puerto Rico.

"All of us in the union want to serve our clients and provide excellent service," Harris said. "After all, the customers are paying the bills. Shouldn't the company want to do the same? ■

Local Lines

Dedicated to Training



Local 1 JATC Instructor Linda Little recently earned her doctorate.

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es, et,fm,i,mt,rs,s,se,spa, st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO—The NJATC electrical training center has historically been blessed with talented, dedicated instructors who work tirelessly with apprentices and journeymen to further our members' education in this ever-changing industry. Recently, NJATC instructor

Linda Little received her doctorate in curriculum development from St. Louis University. [See "For St. Louis Apprentices, There's a Doctor in the House," *The Electrical Worker*, June 2010.] Linda's hard work and passion for this local drove her to continue her education in the interest of providing the best possible education for our members.

Linda joined Local 1 in 1982, and has been an instructor for 14 years. Her duties include classroom education and curriculum development for day and evening classes. Additionally, Linda is a member of the National Electrical Code Panel and the first woman from the IBEW to serve as one of 19 principals of that group.

Local 1 and all the members she has taught thank Linda for her dedication to Local 1 and her commitment to members' education. Congratulations, Linda!

We mourn the death of the following members: Gregory Jones, Daniel Heeney, Ahmed Hamada, Edward Schoenbein, Joseph Lupicki, Bernice Sapp, Harvey Heidemann, Joseph Novogoratz, Daniel Specker, Harry Baird, Tilford Griffis, Donald Bradshaw, John Rufkahr Jr., Bernice Forir, Donald Sebacher, Clifford Lindsey, Walter Lallis, Arthur Kemp and Carl Bock.

Matt Gober, P.S.

Solar Array at Family Residence

L.U. 11 (i,rs&spa), LOS ANGELES, CA—Retired Pres. Emeritus Dean Todd recently decided to have a solar array installed atop his family's home in Santa Clarita, CA. He chose Independence Power, a local union signatory contractor to do the work. Owner Fred Cherrick and his son Robert were responsible for designing the 10,000 watt system to Dean's exacting specifications. It was installed by member Larry Wernli and apprentice Brian Meck.

The Todd family is extremely proud of their

new system and has placed a huge IBEW logo on the equipment for visitors to see. Their monthly power usage is far less than what is produced, causing their meter to run backward and forcing Edison to purchase power from the Todds. "That's just the way I like it," says Dean. The recent remodel of the home incorporates other green features such as skylights and solar-powered attic fans.

Congratulations to the members of both organizing committees for their active participation in the local's organizing efforts. Together we've secured numerous project labor agreements resulting in contractors being signed and jobs being created. All our members are invited to participate by signing up to receive e-mail alerts through the Web site at www.ibew11.org.

Bob Oedy, P.S.



Local 11 Bro. Dean Todd stands in front of newly installed solar panels at his home in Santa Clarita, CA. Todd is retired president emeritus of the local.

Master Craftsman Award

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL—Local 15 instrument mechanic and chief steward Brian Burant won LaSalle Nuclear Station's Master Craftsman Award for 2009. The prize was a Master Craftsman toolbox valued at more than \$5,000. Bro. Burant immediately donated the prize to the LaSalle Pink Warriors, a group dedicated to fighting breast cancer.

Dominion offered 19 of our members at Kincaid Station a voluntary separation plan, which



Local 15 congratulates union steward Bro. Leroy Barnes on his election as president of the Exelon African-American Members Association.

included up to 20 months of pay and six months of medical coverage. Of these 19 members, nine accepted the package.

A travel agreement was signed to allow our members to travel to Limerick Nuclear Station for their spring outage and we also agreed to a one-year pilot program regarding emergent travel to non-Local 15 represented sites. The Zion Nuclear Station decommissioning talks have resumed after a one-year break.

We are currently in negotiations with Midwest Generation concerning the benefits portion of our contract. The benefits package of the contract expired on June 15, 2010.

For the first time in the history of the Exelon African-American Members Association, a Local 15 member, Bro. Leroy Barnes (steward/Chicago North), was elected president of the EAAMA. Congratulations, Bro. Barnes!

Doug Vedas, P.S.

Senior Stewards Recognized

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—As part of a new recognition program that IBEW Local 37 recently launched, 23 union members received the "senior steward" designation for the exemplary leadership and commitment they have demonstrated in the role of shop steward. On Feb. 25, the group gathered at the Riverside Resort and Conference Centre in Mactaquac, NB, where they were formally recognized during a special meeting of the Local 37 Executive Board and IBEW Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming.

The purpose of the Senior Steward Recognition Program (SSRP) is to recognize those who have taken on the role of shop steward and remain committed to ongoing training, being involved with com-

mittees, promoting the union, and taking on other leadership roles within the union.

In order to be considered for this designation, shop stewards are required to meet certain eligibility criteria and go through an application and review process. The long-term goal of the program is to further develop shop stewards as leaders, identify potential mentors, and make the union stronger.

On behalf of the union, Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith congratulates the new senior stewards, and thanks all shop stewards for their dedication to Local 37 and its members!

Ross Galbraith, B.M.

Political Season

L.U. 41 (em,es,govt,i,se&spa), BUFFALO, NY—Local 41 again participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Some quick thinking and improvising were needed to do a last-minute repair of the float, but it all came together just fine. Thanks to our members and their families who braved the cold weather to attend.

In April we were proud to be a participant in this year's IBEW Ontario Provincial Hockey Tournament. A special thanks to Windsor, ON, Local 773 for their hospitality and a wonderful tournament. It was good to see so many IBEW members coming together for this event.

The work has been slow to start. As of this writing, we still have several new projects that have been delayed. These projects should start to bring people on by early summer.

We are currently in negotiations with the Town of Evans and on the Residential agreements.

The political season is soon upon us. So much of our future depends on decisions made by politicians. We have a good relationship with many of



Local 37 recognizes union members receiving Senior Steward designation. Among those attending are, front row: Local 37 Pres. Stephen Hayes (second from left), Int. Vice Pres. Phillip J. Flemming (fourth from left), and Bus. Mgr. Ross Galbraith (fifth from left).

Trade Classifications

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

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

them. Some will need our help in the fall. Our COPE Committee will investigate all candidates seeking our endorsement. Please try to stay informed on the issues. The future of working people depends on it.

Michael J. Gaiser, A.B.M.

Bus. Mgr. Towsley Mourned

L.U. 43 (em,i&rts), SYRACUSE, NY—Local 43 mourns the loss of Bus. Mgr. William Towsley.

On March 20, 2010, Bus. Mgr. Towsley lost his courageous battle with cancer. Bill performed his duties as business manager up until a few days prior to his passing. His work ethic and his passion to improve the lives of those he represented will forever be an inspiration to those he left behind. To his surviving sons Kenneth and William, both members of Local 43, and his daughters Tracy and Jennifer, we extend our sincere sympathy.

The community's outpouring of best wishes and sympathy after Bill's passing serves as a testament to his life's work to improve the lives of working people. Bill's many accomplishments, his involvement in numerous charitable foundations, his membership on boards and committees that benefited the working families of Central New York, are too numerous to list.

On April 17, at the IBEW Construction Conference in Washington, D.C., the business managers of New York state presented the Towsley family with a plaque to honor Bill's career. The plaque read, in part: "Presented as an honorarium to the memory of our friend, our colleague, our teacher and most of all our Brother Bill Towsley. The members of the IBEW, their families and all working people are better off as a result of Bill's lifelong dedication to the labor movement."

On the bottom of the plaque was written, "Thanks for sharing your father's talents with us." Local 43 officers and members could not agree more with what was written on this plaque. Godspeed, brother.

Jim Corbett, P.S.



Local 43 Bus. Mgr. Bill Towsley passed away in March.

Annual Stewards Conference

L.U. 47 (lct,mo,o,u&uow), DIAMOND BAR, CA—Happy Independence Day.

Our annual Stewards Conference was May 8 in Costa Mesa. Bus. Mgr. Pat Lavin welcomed more than 150 stewards. Brian Baker, IBEW Political/Legislative director, discussed current federal legislation and the respect for the IBEW in Washington, due to our membership.

At the conference, our business manager discussed the growth of Local 47 over the last 11 years. Art Murray reviewed the history of organized labor and the IBEW. Dr. Richard Grossman from the Grossman Burn Center, where members of IBEW 47 have been



IBEW Local 47 members and their families attend the 4th Annual Desert Days in Stoddard Wells.

treated, gave a graphic and riveting presentation on burn treatments. The results were incredible.

We assisted the locked-out Rio Tinto mine workers represented by ILWU in Boron, CA. Local 47 staff barbequed for more than 500 locked-out workers and their supporters. The lockout recently ended with a new agreement.

On April 23-25, approximately 300 members and their families enjoyed our 4th Annual Desert Days held in Stoddard Wells.

Ongoing contract negotiations include the Original Mowbray, Guzman Gardens, and the Cities of Banning and Colton. We concluded a one-year agreement with Bear Valley Electric with a 3.75 percent wage increase.

We are sad to report the passing of Craig Wehrly, SCE D.O.C. support specialist from Ventura. Live safe, live well, work union!

Stan Stosel, P.S.

Locals Amalgamate

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,rtb,t&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—On May 1, members of IBEW Decatur, IL, Local 1306 became members of Local 51. The amalgamation creates a very diverse local with more than 3,200 members with a vast array of classifications. With this addition, our local is well-positioned to continue to meet any challenges ahead through added strength and solidarity. On behalf of the member-



Local 51 journeyman linemen Jason Crabb and Ken Yokem are joined by apprentice linemen Joe Kindred and Jason Scott on a job for L.E. Myers, working under foreman Bill Steffey.

ship of Local 51, I would like to welcome the brothers and sisters from Local 1306 into our local.

The current work scene has slowed considerably for our outside power members, due to the rejection of the host utility request for a rate increase.

The current situation results from decisions that get caught up in the political process. Hopefully with several wind-generation projects getting ready to start, the manpower losses we have suffered on utility property will be offset by requests for manpower on the wind farms.

Remember to work safe, give a good day's work for a good day's pay and attend your union meetings.

Dan Pridemore, Pres.

Graduates Honored

L.U. 53 (lctt,o,rts&u), KANSAS CITY, MO—As of this writing, our work picture for construction remains very slow. We are experiencing the worst unemployment in many years and the work situation does not look promising for the near future. Thanks to all of the locals that have provided work for our members.

On April 8, we had our dinner and awards ceremonies for recent graduates of Missouri Valley Line Constructors Training Program, our construction lineman training program. Congratulations to the new journeyman linemen: Dustin Acklie, William Boyd, Jeff Carpenter, Dan Danuser, William Dever, Arron Farrar, Don Ginther, Matt Hazelton, Russell Hermreck, Jacob Kurtz, Richard Perks, Michael Rew, Justin Schmidt, Richard Shaffer and Clint Dew.

Our 22nd Annual Crappie Tournament was April 24, and although the weather was terrible we had 28 teams participate. Winners were: for 1st place—Gary Spoor (construction) and Roger Wainright (construction); 2nd place—Norm Quinn (construction) and Mark Henke (AECI-Thomas Hill); 3rd place—Darin Langford (construction) and Rick Stoneking (construction); 4th place—Nathan Warstadt (S.W. Co-op) and Jason Maupin (S.W. Co-op); and 5th place—David Johnson (Laclede Co-op) and Steve Hodges (Laclede Co-op).

Support your local union by attending your unit meetings. Remember: work smart and work safe.

Robert E. Stuart, B.M./F.S.

Homecoming

L.U. 57 (lctt,mo,o,t&u), SALT LAKE CITY, UT—In March of this year, Staff Sgt. Jesse Davis returned home safely after serving a third deployment overseas. He was met at the airport by family and friends and then returned home to Spanish Fork, UT, for a Soldiers Welcome

Home Parade with escort provided by the Spanish Fork Firefighters and Rocky Mountain Power crews.

Jesse is an apprentice lineman in American Fork, UT. After serving in the Airborne Infantry in Iraq and Afghanistan, and being recently married, he was called back to active duty with the Georgia National Guard in November 2008. With his apprenticeship hold, Jesse headed for Georgia for training and deployment to Afghanistan, first to Orgun-E and then to Gardez. Jesse was given the nickname "Bob the Builder" because of his ability to build just about anything that was needed.

After narrowly escaping the attempt of a suicide bomber at the base where he was stationed, Jesse is back home in Spanish Fork, completing the tasks of climbing poles and keeping the lights on.

Welcome home, Jesse, and thank you.

Scott Long, P.S.



Followed by Rocky Mountain Power trucks, Staff Sgt. Jesse Davis (center), a Local 57 apprentice lineman, rides aboard a fire department truck during his welcome home parade.

60-Year Membership

L.U. 77 (lctt,mt,o,t&u), SEATTLE, WA—Inland Power & Light shop steward/fleet mechanic Paul Atkins and journeyman lineman Rick Luiten recently presented Milt Strong with his 60-year IBEW membership pin and certificate.

In 1946 Milt's brother was offered a job at Inland Power. On the day his brother was to start, Milt went in his place, starting his 40-year career at the cooperative. In the early years Milt's wife, Betty, said she would act as the call center for the cooperative when there were power outages. The customers just called the Strong's house.

Milt can remember building the first power line to Mount Spokane and many others during his career. He recalled rescuing a fellow lineman, called Blacky, who was electrocuted while on a pole. There were no bucket trucks back then, so Milt put his hooks on, climbed the pole, threw Blacky over his shoulder and climbed down the pole. Milt retired from the cooperative in 1987 as a line serviceman in the Deer Park area. He had worked on the Inland Power system as far south as the Palouse, WA, area during his tenure there.

John Trumble, B.R.

Local Lines

Marcia Rae Tamlyn

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR—On March 8, 2010, Marcia Rae Tamlyn died unexpectedly. Marcia worked at Local 125 for 35 years and many of our members had the privilege of hearing her kind voice on the telephone even though they had never met the helpful woman on the line. Services for Marcia were held on March 19 in Vancouver, WA.

Marcia was born Dec. 21, 1946, in Watertown, SD, to Lucille and Ray Tamlyn. She graduated from Goldendale High School in 1965, and then moved to Vancouver where she continued her education at Clark College. Marcia's interests included being with friends and family, gardening, traveling, gourmet cooking and reading. Some of her generous volunteer work included assistance in creating Life Story Books for children being adopted in Clark County.

Marcy Putman, P.S.

New Facebook Page

L.U. 131 (i,rtb,rts,se&spa), KALAMAZOO, MI—Nominations for officers were held at the May 3 meeting. Michigan state Rep. Robert Jones (60th District) spoke to the membership and asked for support in his upcoming race for the Michigan Senate's 20th District.

The annual golf outing was held June 26, followed by the afternoon picnic at Prairie View Park. It was good to see all who attended, enjoying sharing great stories and great times.

For all those computer savvy brothers and sisters, we now have a Facebook page (Electrical Workers Local 131). This helps to make quick notifications to the membership, and currently more than 10 percent of the members use this resource. Also, the apprenticeship's Facebook page gives updates on upcoming events and classes. Both are accessible through the local Web site at www.ibew131.com.

We are saddened by the loss of our brothers Dick McDaniel, David Hatton and Mike King. We offer sincere condolences to their families.

On a positive note, Local 131 extends best wishes to our recent retirees: Vickie Wight, Russ Sandefur and Paul Stewart.

Daniel C. Ranck, P.S.

Thanks to Union Volunteers

L.U. 177 (bo,ees,i,mo,o&pet), JACKSONVILLE, FL—Local 177's Membership Development Volunteer Committee remains energized with Bus. Mgr. Russell Harper's leadership and Field Organizer Carlos Nunez's hard work organizing activities for the MDVC to participate in. The MDVC has been volunteering at public events such as the Mud Run for Multiple Sclerosis, Walk for MS, Walk for Diabetes and even set up a booth at the Clay County Fair. [Photo at right.] They have been getting the face of the IBEW out to the public letting the community know who we are and what we stand for. For anyone interested, the MDVC meets at the union hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Thanks to all the members, their families and friends who have volunteered at the various events.

The work outlook in the Jacksonville area remains dismal, and we all look forward to better times in northeast Florida. Thanks to all the locals that have been able to employ our traveling brothers and sisters. We look forward to the day when we may be able to reciprocate.

Alan Jones, Pres./A.B.M.

Fun Summer Events

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA—The first annual Eastside Retirement and Service Pin Dinner was held at Chateau Faire Le Pont in Wenatchee, WA. It was a great success. Retired member Jack Eidukas was instrumental in getting the event off the ground. Special thanks to him and the others who volunteered. Union brothers and sisters had a great time with good food and lots of laughs. We hope the event is even bigger next year. Thank you to all who attended.

We have an exciting summer packed full of events:

- The westside golf tournament is at Eaglemount golf course in Mt. Vernon, WA, on July 10.
- The eastside picnic is at Hydro Park in Wenatchee, WA, on Aug. 7.
- The eastside golf tournament is in Wenatchee on Aug. 14.
- The westside picnic is at Hillcrest Park in Mt. Vernon, WA, on Aug. 29.
- The Westside Retirement and Service Pin Dinner will be sometime in September.

What great occasions to see brothers and sisters you know or new faces you have not yet met. Hope all can attend the union events. Any questions about dates or times please call the hall.

Work is still slow in the local with little signs of improving. Stay strong; we will get through these tough times together.

Rob De Velder, P.S.

A New Union Hall

L.U. 193 (i,lctt,o,rts,spa&u), SPRINGFIELD, IL—The new Local 193 union hall is now open! The last meeting at the old hall was held and attended admirably! The new hall is fabulous! There are six new training classrooms with room for expansion.

May 18 was the first union meeting in the new hall. IBEW Int. Sec.-Treas. Lindell Lee and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn were just some of the special guests scheduled to attend the open house on June 10.

Three Local 193 contractors—Anderson Electric Inc, Haenig Electric Co., and Lewis Electric Inc.—have successfully completed several solar-powered commercial projects. A wave of future solar projects is coming out in our area. Congratulations to all on boldly applying new green technology in the Local 193 area. Anderson Electric installed solar panels at the new hall.



Local 177 volunteers David Gates (left), James Elliott, Eric Burns and Mack Williams help distribute cold bottles of water to participants at a Walk for Multiple Sclerosis event.



Solar Panels "hatched" by Springfield, IL, Local 193 contractor Lewis Electric Inc. at the Ostrich Farm site.

The work scene is slow, but Scheels Sporting Goods is to break ground at the new MacArthur Extension soon. The construction project is a 200,000 square foot building. Please check out our Web site at www.ibew193.com.

Please remember our local brothers who passed away: Russell Carmean, John Luka, Richard Smith, John Thoele and David Wanless.

Don Hudson, P.S.

Work Outlook Hopeful

L.U. 197 (em&i) BLOOMINGTON, IL—As we move into warmer weather, the work outlook is optimistically hopeful. The White Oak Wind Farm will gear up soon as well as the Transportation Center in uptown Normal, IL.

We are happy to report we have turned out another fine apprentice class. Congratulations to Dirk Banks, Robert Black, Ryan Brown, Steve Fuller, John Grizzle, Randy Holland, Ned Karr, Mario Major, Rob Sipes and Adam Stubblefield, all of whom completed their apprenticeship. Brothers, we look forward to working with you on the job and wish you luck in your careers.

In honor of their daughter Keira, third-year apprentice Clint Johnson and his wife, Jayme, hosted a benefit for the American SIDS Institute. The night was filled with good food and fellowship. The Johnsons were able to raise more than \$15,000 in one evening. Thanks to all who attended and helped with the event.

An early morning ceremony was held at Illinois State University in lieu of Workers Memorial Day. It was a somber event, listening to the names of those who lost their lives on the job. Every day we must remember to work safe. Thanks to all who attended the ceremony; we had a great turnout.

Remember, get involved in your local union and stay involved!

Mike Raikes, P.S.



Local 197 congratulates recent apprentice graduates. At top, from left: Inside wireman graduates Mario Major, Dirk Banks, Randy Holland (high class average), Steve Fuller, Adam Stubblefield, Ned Carr and Rod Sipes; and Instructor Ken McLean.

At bottom, from left: Instructor Jake Knobloch and teledata graduates John Grizzle (high class average), Robert Black and Ryan Brown.

Summer Activities

L.U. 237 (i), NIAGARA FALLS, NY—Summer is here and Local 237 has a busy few months planned with loads of activities to ensure fun for everyone.

On May 8, apprentices and other volunteers from Local 237 helped with the annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive. This community service is one of our most successful volunteer projects every year.

Our Apprentice Graduation Dinner was held June 19 at the Crowne Plaza in Niagara Falls. Congratulations to the Inside graduates, Andrew Janese and David Plivoda, and the Residential graduate, Jacob McPherson.

Several times a year, the local enjoys camping out at the beautiful Allegany State Park. We have a kids camp-out, a couples camp-out and a stag camp-out. Due to a scheduling conflict, we combined the kids camp-out and couples camp-out this year; that will take place the Fourth of July weekend. With nature trails, creeks, wildlife and nights around the camp fire, this is a magical weekend for the children.

Our Annual Family Picnic will be on Sat., July 17, at area theme park Martin's Fantasy Island, which includes a water park. For details, please call the union hall. It will be a day of family fun. Have a safe and fun summer!

Russ Quarantello, B.M.

Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 291 (i,o,rtb&rts), BOISE, ID—Congratulations to all our newly elected officers. Your dedication and passion for our local and its membership do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated by all of us. Hopefully with good weather and a changing economy, the Treasure Valley's work situation will improve to where we can create some jobs to put our many unemployed members back to work.

Congratulations to Organizer Joe Schneehagen on the signing of MECI, an outside line contractor, to Local 291. Good job—and welcome to the new members.

Congratulations to Local 291's recent class of graduating apprentices. You graduates have done your local, your training director, your instructors and, most importantly, yourselves proud. Walk tall and be proud to be a journeyman wireman within the ranks of the IBEW. The graduates are: Jesus Coronel, Hank Amado, Paul Perala, Justin Hugo, Ray Atkinson, Chris Ankrom, Matt Bruns, Phil Keetch, Travis Hust, Rusty Colburn, Ryan Jenkins, Josh Mangum, Luke Hardy, Sam McConnell, Mike Jeske, Jenni Logan, Wayne Nihart, Craig Shively, Nick Harris and Aaron Granden. Once again, congratulations and welcome.

Ron Ely, P.S.

Hope for a Rebound

L.U. 309 (i,lctt,mo,mt,o,rts,spa&u), COLLINSVILLE, IL—The Inside branch is still suffering unemployment with no large projects planned in the near future.

Local 309 is still involved in an ongoing battle with the Carpenters District Council of St. Louis over their organizing and signing of nonunion electrical contractors forming a new electrical union well below our wage and fringe package for our area. This dispute started more than one year ago in St. Louis and has started to impact our jurisdiction. The general public as a rule can't distinguish or even comprehend the difference, which makes it hard to explain to the customer.

Our Outside Line Construction has yet to feel the full weight of the decision of the Illinois Commerce Commission's rate case filed by Ameren Illinois Utilities.

Illinois regulators voted on April 29 to cut the proposed increase by more than 90 percent. The ICC granted only \$4.7 million of the \$162 million that Ameren had been seeking.

Hopefully the economy will rebound and many of our unemployed members will be called back to work soon.

Scott Tweedy, A.B.M.

Graduating Apprentices

L.U. 357 (c,i,mt&se), LAS VEGAS, NV—On May 3, Local 357 started dispatching members from our new hiring hall at 808 N. Lamb Blvd., Las Vegas.

Local 357 officers and members congratulate the 79 new journeyman electricians and 25 installer/technicians who graduated in 2010. [See photo below.] This year's graduating apprenticeship class had the honor of being the first class to hold their graduation ceremony in the new hiring hall. We wish them all the best; they are our future.

Tim Bolton, P.S.

Local Hosts Retirees Luncheon

L.U. 443 (i,mo&o), MONTGOMERY, AL—Local 443 hosted its first annual retirees luncheon on March 18. The turnout exceeded all expectations with more than 70 retirees, spouses, friends and guests attending.

Bro. James McGowan Jr. was the oldest retiree in attendance at age 89. He also had the oldest ticket—he was initiated into the IBEW on May 1, 1942.

Local 443 was honored to have Fifth District Int. Vice Pres. Joe S. Davis as a special guest for the event. Vice Pres. Davis spent the day mingling with those in attendance and said he enjoyed hearing the stories retirees shared with him. Several active members also stopped by to see old friends and brothers. The luncheon gathering was a great success.



Local 443 retirees, spouses and guests gather at the hall for the retirees luncheon.

Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship and said they look forward to making this an annual event.

Brandon Cardwell, P.S.

A Vote for Representation

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rts,spa&u), POCATELLO, ID—At this writing we are waiting for the certification of election on InteGrow LLC, formerly GModelo, a malting facility whose employees first contacted us in late June 2009.

The election was held Oct. 23, 2009, and we won the vote by 17 to 9. The company filed an objection to the conduct of the election, was granted a certification hearing to determine supervisor's authority compared to case law history of Harbor Side Health Care. After a well-deserved wait of two months, the board agent recommended certification of election on Jan. 28, 2010. The company filed an exception to the agent's recommendation, and after being granted yet another extension, the company's attorney was untimely in filing the exception. In March, Pres. Obama made a recess appointment of two Democrats to the National Labor Relations Board, and we hope this will expedite our pending certification in our favor, as well as benefit the labor movement as a whole in the future.

The work picture remains good and we are grateful to have 60 traveling brothers and sisters help us fill our calls.

Our condolences to the families of two members who recently passed away, Bros. Albert Nyman and Robert Chadwick.

Congratulations to retirees Gary Creek and Stephen Drayton.

Mike Lee Miera, V.P./Organizer

A Brother Mourned

L.U. 453 (govt,i,rtb,rts&spa), SPRINGFIELD, MO—A memorial was held Sunday, March 14, for Bro. Joshua Jackson with more than 100 people in attendance. Josh was a well-liked fourth-year apprentice, who

was respected for his extremely strong work ethic and his dedication to the Brotherhood. Josh will be missed.

The Southwest Power Station II project has Local 453 at near full employment with several traveling members employed. Remember to treat our traveling brothers and sisters with respect, as you may be working in their local next!

Union meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please try to attend. With contract negotiations coming up this year, your participation is greatly needed.

Kevin McGill, P.S.

Community Project

L.U. 459 (ees,em,govt,so&u), JOHNSTOWN, PA—Our state of Pennsylvania has a program through which an organization can adopt a section of highway to clean up the trash, and the state posts a sign letting everyone know which group or organization keeps that section clean. Local 459 members adopted a two-mile section that passes the Keystone Generating Station, where some of our members are employed.

On April 17, the sisters and brothers pictured in the photo below spent their morning improving the community by taking part in the Local 459's project to clean up along the stretch of Pennsylvania state Rt. 210 that is designated as our section of highway to maintain as part of the PA Clean Ways Project. IBEW Local 459 receives the recognition for our union's efforts, and the state and community reap the benefits of volunteers' hard work.

Thank you to our Vice Pres./Bus. Rep. Paul Cameron, who organized this effort—and many thanks to all members who took part in the road cleanup project.

Kenneth L. Richards, Pres./A.B.M.



Local 459 highway cleanup crew volunteers.

Congratulations to All

L.U. 503 (t&u), MONROE, NY—Congratulations to Scott Jensen on his appointment as business representative; and congratulations also to Mary Casey, who was voted in by the Executive Board to replace Scott as vice president. We wish them both the best of luck in their new positions. Scott Jensen replaces Brian McPartland, and we thank Brian for his many years of service and dedication to the local.

Congratulations are also in order for the latest class to have completed line school. The graduates are: Gary Schmoeger, Anthony Chessari, Jimmy Mills, Dan Fischer and Judd Pollack. They started the apprentice program with a class of 21 on Sept. 5, 2006, and have now completed 24 months of training split between classroom, yard work and on-the-job training. Thanks to Local 503 trainers, Line

Chief HV Mark Angeloni, Jeff Wilbur and training coordinator and Line Chief Kenny Titland.

Glenn Smith, P.S.

Local 543 Members Work Aloft



Scheduled maintenance for NASA's 70-meter antenna is performed by IBEW Local 543 members.

L.U. 543 (mo&t), SAN BERNARDINO, CA—Local 543 members perform scheduled maintenance on NASA's Deep Space Network 70-meter antenna while working from an aerial lift. The 70-meter antenna has been shut down for a period of six months so that the hydrostatic and elevation

bearings can be replaced along with several subsystem components that require overhaul.

IBEW workers perform maintenance on all the systems of these "small" communications devices located on NASA's Goldstone Deep Space Communication Complex, which is on the Army's Ft. Irwin National Training Center. This is no small feat, as this satellite dish is larger than a football field. The IBEW technicians perform maintenance and operations for ITT Industries on this dish and 11 others located on the Goldstone Complex.

A total overhaul on this antenna caught the attention of National Geographic's "World's Biggest Fixes" television crew recently, as they have been filming the proud workers of IBEW Local 543 performing a major overhaul to this antenna that was built in 1966.

Jerry Koger, B.M.

New Phone Bank System

L.U. 551 (c,i&st), SANTA ROSA, CA—The work picture remains slower than we are used to seeing in our jurisdiction. Our saving grace has been the Humboldt Power plant, where our generators are now in place. We now have more than 80 brothers and sisters on-site, with a few traveling brothers picking up calls as of late March. The economic crisis has tightened the belt on money going

out for future projects on the horizon. Wall Street and the banks need to now release that bailout money to Main Street so we can all get back to work.

We are happy to report our new phone bank system is up and running; many thanks to the installation volunteers, Trevor Clarey, Anthony Erigero and Jeff Swift. With the central labor council renting space in our union hall, as well as the building trades, we can truly call Local 551 a "house of labor."

So it is not only our IBEW brothers and sisters phoning for our labor candidates for this year's elections, it is "all" of our trade union brothers and sisters. Volunteers strengthen our union movement; I can't stress enough how important you are. Thank you all! Now get on those phones! Call your union hall now and get involved. We need you!

Denise D. Soza, P.S.



Local 357 graduating apprentices, joined by Training Dir. Madison Burnet (front row, left) and Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. David R. Jones (back row, right), gather at union training facility.

Local Lines

Photovoltaic Systems Training

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA—Our San Diego Joint Apprenticeship Training Center offers a solar photovoltaic class to our fourth- and fifth-year apprentices, and an abbreviated version to our journeyman wiremen. The 16-week course includes once-a-week classroom instruction and eight Saturdays of hands-on training.

The course covers the basic requirements for safe and reliable PV system installation in accordance with national and local codes and standards; how to identify and conduct site surveys for photovoltaic systems; PV electrical and mechanical design issues; how sunlight and temperature affect PV system performance; relationships of PV cells, modules, panels and arrays; how to analyze common problem areas in the electrical design of PV systems, and much more.

Each student designs a PV system for his or her home including site plan, materials list, product info, rebate research, and cost analysis. Students receive rigorous classroom instruction and intensive hands-on experience. Big thanks to Sullivan Electric for its commitment to training our apprentices and journeymen in efforts to keep up with the cutting edge of this renewable energy technology.

Nicholas J. Segura Jr., P.S.

Contract Extensions Ratified

L.U. 595 (c,govt,i&st), DUBLIN, CA—We have had some real ups and downs in the work picture, and at press time the outlook is still uncertain. We are excited to have full employment of our apprentices, but a sizeable number of journeymen are still out of work. We are not yet out of the woods of this construction recession.

We are pleased to have our new extended contracts in place and to continue our healthy relationship with our strong NECA partners. The members understand the difficulties that the industry is having, and we realize we must stick together to come out of this with a strong bond between labor and management. We are all filtering through all the information about the Obama health care bill and how it will affect multiemployer plans. We understand that in the short run there may be an impact due to new rules like dependent children coverage to age 26 and the protections for pre-existing conditions and plan maximums, but of course we're excited about costs eventually being controlled and coverage being expanded to many millions of workers and their families who have been without health care. Now it's on to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

We mourn the passing on Feb. 21 of Bro. Bert J. Young at age 93. Bro. Young was a longtime, passionate educator in our industry and will be missed.

Tom Mullarkey, B.R.



Local 595 members vote to ratify new contract extension at special-call meeting.



Volunteers and participants gather for Local 601's Steak Stag. Back row, from left: apprentices Paul Rubenacker and Kyle Smith. Front row: apprentices Dustin Block and Lucas Bocook, journeyman wireman Shawn Davis, coordinator Bob Withers, retiree Bobby Woodward, local cooking friend Columbus Boykins, retiree Wendell Merry, and another cooking friend, James Culp.

Annual 'Steak Stag' a Success

L.U. 601 (i&rtb), CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL—Our local recently held its annual Steak Stag. Approximately 200 members attended and enjoyed the tasty menu of steak, ribs, shrimp, raw oysters and all the trimmings. The local supply houses provided prizes for the raffle drawings.

Our appreciation goes to Bob Woodard, a Local 601 retiree, for heading up the committee that planned the event and secured the food and supplies. Thanks also to Local 601 Apprenticeship Dir. Bob Withers, who enlisted apprentices to cook the food and help clean up. We also thank the businesses that supplied prizes. Everyone had a great time.

The work in our area continues to be very slow. We have approximately 118 local members and 22 apprentices on Book 1 at the time of this writing.

National elections are coming up in November. It is the responsibility of the membership to investigate what the candidates stand for, then go to the polls and make their votes count.

Dan Hatter, P.S.

New Mexico Local Wins Grant

L.U. 611 (catv,es,govt,i,lctt,o,spa,t&u), ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Our JATC recently received a \$10,000 grant from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.

Apprentices (fourth- and fifth-year) were asked to write an essay on their role in the field of green technology. The JATC committee then decided, based on the essays, who would attend one of two train-the-trainer seminars. The first class, on LED lighting systems, was held in Boston. Apprentices attending that class were: Bobby Getts, Damian Roybal, Jerry Bustamante, Jose Renteria, Eloy Jaramillo and Jason Sartain.

The second class, on photovoltaics, was held in Arlington, TX. Attending that class were: Logan Wilson, Joshua Hutchings, Frank Hanish, Ed Tavenner III, Ryan Wood and Randy Harker. Participating apprentices said the classes were very helpful and informative. Congratulations to all the apprentices chosen for the seminars.

As of April 2010, members can now pay their dues by phone with a credit card. There are no fees, as of yet, associated with the transaction and you can only call during local union business hours.

Please make every effort to attend the regular union meetings, held in Albuquerque on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Local 611 extends condolences to the family of Ted A. Lopez, who recently passed away.

Darrell J. Blair, P.S.

'National Rebuilding Day'

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA—The star of the 2010 Service Pin Party on April 9 was 70-year pin recipient, Bro. Robert Terwilliger. His son, 40-year pin holder Bro. Roddy Terwilliger, was on hand to make the presentation along with Bus. Mgr. Dominic Nolan and Pres. Mark Leach. Congratulations also to Bro. Ernie Howe for 65 years of service, and Bros. Lido Dalmaso and Richard Korfman for 60 years of service to Local 617.

On April 24, approximately 20 members with family joined the local work force for National Rebuilding Day. Pres. Mark Leach once again greeted participants with a gourmet breakfast before they were dispatched to various projects throughout the county.

The following participants spent the day at community centers and private residences repairing fixtures and services with the support of Armor Electric, C&E Electric and Rosendin Electric: D.J. Siegman, Joe Sweeting, Alan Sheehan, Irvin Hemingway, JaDaun Williams, Randy Williamson and son Julian, Randy Wetzel, Bob Harkins, Kit Venable and wife Kathrine, Dave Huston, Steven P. Kennedy, Jim Robertson, Steroling Able, Robert Simon Jr., Jessie Magana, Chris Carrillo, Marc Ellingsen, Art Lee and Burleigh Maples.

Our local grieves the recent loss of our brothers Bill Hecht, Ken LaBounty, Floyd W. Eiferle and Dan Simpson. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. We honor our brothers' service to our craft and industry.

Dan Pasini, V.P.

Steps to Gain Market Share

L.U. 625 (ees,em,i,mar&mt), HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA—In April, Local 625 members voted to amend their agreement to create new rates for smaller commercial, residential and communications jobsites. This is a bold move to address the growing problem of market share losses in these sectors. With only a handful of members employed in the residential and communications sector combined, our officers and Executive Board determined



Local 625 member Lenny Shaw (center), joined by fellow service-award recipients, proudly displays his 50-year award. Also celebrating the occasion are: 30-year members James Oickle (left), Stan McCulloch and Ross Tofflemire; and 20-year member Wayne MacMillan.

it was time to ask the membership for their approval to move to a more competitive position. Members agreed by more than 2-1.

The smaller commercial sector is the breeding ground for nonunion shops; from there they grow their business into the 25-30 man shops doing larger commercial and institutional projects—the very sector where most of our members are employed and where it has become increasingly difficult for our contractors to win tender packages.

Some have said the local is catering to the contractors. The truth is: An electrical contractor can exist without a union, but a union can't exist without signatory contractors! Our next job depends on our signatory contractor's ability to win the next bid.

There are 3,557 journeyman wiremen and 974 registered apprentices in Nova Scotia as of May 25, 2009. Locals 625 and 1852 combined represent only about 900 journeyman wiremen and 300 apprentices. We can't expect to do the majority of the work with 25 percent of the work force. The goal is to regain market share and organize the workers and shops. Only then can we hold our heads high and say we've honoured the memory of our founding fathers, 19 young men from Nova Scotia who had a dream 102 years ago that "there be no one working at our trade outside of our Brotherhood."

Tom Griffiths, Pres.



IBEW Local 673 member Staff Sgt. John D. Rusnak proudly displays his local union T-shirt for everyone to see back home.

Tribute to Service

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH—Local 673 member Staff Sgt. John Rusnak, stationed in Iraq, proudly displays his Local 673 T-shirt (photo above). This was just one of the many items from the care packages that our membership sent him. John sends thanks to the membership for the packages and is proud to be an IBEW member.

This is John's second deployment over there; the first time he was deployed he was a third-year apprentice. Then he came back and finished his apprenticeship in 2008. John was married to his wife, Chrissy, in May 2009 and then was notified of redeployment in the fall of 2009. He will return home by the end of this year.

Local 673 members would like to thank you, Staff Sgt. John Rusnak, for your continued service and dedication in the armed forces.

Local 673 welcomes our newly organized contractor SFI Electric and its employees into the Brotherhood.

Remember to check the Local 673 Web site www.ibew673.org for upcoming events.

Hope to see everyone at the picnic this month.

Danny Lastoria, Mbr. Dev. Rep.

Local Events Update

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH—Our members' interests are wide and varied outside of electrical work. Here is one such example: Local 683 member



Local 683 member Steve Nole referees at a high-school wrestling match.

Steve Nole, a 35-year IBEW member, has been a wrestling official for the Ohio District High School Wrestling program for 30 years (see photo). Bro. Nole is also an avid bowler.

Local union news: The Retirees Pizza Party Luncheon was held March 16. The Uncle Roy Euchre Tournament was March 27. At the April 8 regular union meeting, we had a visit from U.S. Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy. The Rebuilding Central Ohio project, which assists the elderly and disadvantaged homeowners of Central Ohio, was held April 17 and April 24. The Golf League began April 26 at The Links in Groveport. The blood drive was May 13. And for the May 14-16 trip to Gettysburg, "Muley" was in charge.

Also taking place are ongoing Code of Excellence, OSHA 10 & 30, and NFPA 70E classes.

We extend condolences to the families of recently deceased members: Salem L. Dudley, Jack L. Thomas, Emmitt O. Stephenson, Donald E. Stiverson, Carl H. Steele and Brian Kennedy.

Remember, regular meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Input is needed by *all* members because of important matters ahead for us all. Front row seats available (reservations are recommended).

Rick Deime, V.P./P.S.

New Leadership ... New Direction

L.U. 827 (catv&t), EAST WINDSOR, NJ—On April 5, 2010, the membership of Local 827 elected local union officers, and the new leadership recently was sworn into office. Three past presidents came together, united, focused and determined to build our membership. Bill Laing (former president from 1992-1995) is newly elected business agent/Executive Board-Essex Unit. Dominic Turdo (former president from 2001-2007) is newly elected business agent/Executive Board-Northern Unit. And myself, Bill Huber (former president from 1999-2001), newly elected president/business manager. Three strong-minded men, united in rallying the state membership, focused on the issues and determined to grow our membership in a declining economy. The task is tall, yet not impossible.

Others elected were: Vice Pres. Joe Penna, who formerly served as business agent/Executive Board member, International Telecommunications director and Third District International Representative; re-elected, Treas. George Ippolito; elected, Rec. Sec. Joe Mastrogiovanni; re-elected, Georgeanne Scarpelli, business agent/Executive Board-Hudson Unit, and Rich Spieler, business agent/Executive Board-Southern Unit; elected, Ed Cocliff, business agent/Executive Board-Central Unit, and Joe Lambert, business agent/Executive Board-Raritan Unit.

IBEW and CWA unions on the East Coast recently negotiated with Verizon an enhanced voluntary offer for members to leave the company. The unions recognized that they also needed to take advantage of this incentive package and negotiate language to protect the junior members. This offer provided increased monies, both in lump sums and pensions. This one-time offer also provides language which prevents Verizon from increasing sub-contracting during a one-year period. If 12,000 members in the footprint accept this offer, post Aug. 2, 2003, hires will be protected against layoff until May 1, 2011.

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

Cookout & Pin Presentation

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL—Our April cookout and annual pin presentation was well-attended. We were honored to have former business manager Gary Hill with us; Bro. Hill led us in the pledge to our flag at the union meeting. The cooks fed us a great meal as well as homemade strawberry pie. Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work.

Two members in attendance received 50-year service pins. Congratulations to Bros. James Allums and Phillip Humphrey on their awards.

The 45-year pin recipients were Jack Runckle and Charles Shelton. Receiving 40-year pins were: Kenneth Brewer, Jerry Dye, James Fowler, Victor Moore, Ernest Riske and Jessie Weeks; 35-year pins, Carl Payberg, Mannuel Tamargo and Leon Ward; 30-year pins, Stephen Carter, Billy Keene, Rocky McPheron, Robert Schaefer, John Sours and Clyde Tucker. Congratulations to these and all the other members who received service pins.

Our Brother of the Year Award went to Bro. Jim Becker. Throughout his tenure as an IBEW member and throughout his hardships, he never stopped helping others and serving the sick and needy. Bro. Becker exemplifies the meaning of giving back to those in need and we honor him.

Theresa King, P.S.



Local 915 honors two 50-year service award recipients. From left are: Pres. Randall King, 50-year members James Allums and Phillip Humphrey, and Bus. Mgr. William Dever.

2010 Scholarship Winners

L.U. 965 (em.govt,ptc&u), MADISON, WI—The local is happy to announce recipients of the 2010 IBEW 965 scholarships. The scholarships are available to dependent children of Local 965 members who are currently high school seniors.

The 2010 winners are: Nicholas Braun, son of Brian Braun of the Beaver Dam subunit; Cody Jackson, son of David Jackson, North Area subunit; Miranda Kissinger, daughter of Gloria Kissinger, also of the North Area subunit; and Ashley

Swenson, daughter of Steve Swenson, Village of Mazomanie subunit. Our hearty congratulations go out to the winners and our best wishes go to all the entrants in this year's competition.

We thank all those who attended the Local 965 bowling outing. Everyone had a great time and many said they hoped to see this event continue in the future. The Solidarity Committee is looking to hold this event annually with hopes of participation growing each year.

On Saturday, May 22, the local's Annual Solidarity Picnic along with an Open House for the new union office was held. Activities included tours of the building, games for the kids, a pig roast, prize drawings and other activities. The event was very well-attended and the weather was beautiful. Thanks to all who participated.

Kurt Roberts, P.S.



Local 1015 members attend a CPR/First Aid class.

Skills Development Grant

L.U. 1015 (em&i), WESLACO, TX—Local 1015 has partnered in consortium with our local community, South Texas College, the Texas Workforce Commission, contractors, and the Rio Grande Valley/Laredo Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. Our partnership involvement wasted no time in figuring out what upgrades were needed to train local electricians.

Consequently, the consortium was awarded a Skills Development Fund grant of more than \$844,000 in stimulus money to educate electricians. Our thanks go out to President Obama for his major role in the passage of stimulus legislation providing grants to give citizens an opportunity to train for future jobs and enhance employment options.

Local 1015 is pleased with the dedication and effort workers have put into participating in the Skills Development classes. After performing a hot day's work, participants take care of training at night. The

participation of the contractors who want to enhance worker training has furthered the success of this SDF training and set a great example for other electricians around our area.

The outcome: To be unsurpassed in having all electricians follow OSHA safety procedures and have all workers committed to "safety first." The rumors are true! This is how the IBEW has simply created the best hands in town. We take care of our workers by making sure they are educated in safety and in the line of their duties.

Ray Duran, P.S.

Tribute to Service

L.U. 1049 (lctt,o,u&uow), LONG ISLAND, NY—It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Asst. Bus. Mgr. Joe Herbert. Joe has been a dedicated member of IBEW Local 1049 for 31 years. During his career he has been an integral part of the local. As a steward he was active on numerous committees. In 1998 he joined the staff as a business representative and since 2007 served as assistant business manager. Joe's quiet strength and perseverance served as an example for the entire membership. His leadership and guidance will be missed. On behalf of Bus. Mgr. Robert Shand, the business staff, the officers and Executive Board I wish Joe and his wife, Lisa, all the best in retirement.

National Grid recently announced the sale of its Home Energy Services Division (Keyspan Home Energy Services) to Home Serve Inc. Because of successor language in the collective bargaining agreement, we will continue to represent the members who work in that division. The current CBA expires Sept. 1. As of this writing there have been preliminary discussions about the possibility of a contract extension. We look forward to working with the new owners so that they can become another successful IBEW employer.

We continue to meet with Long Island Power Authority as they prepare to send out proposals for bidding on the new Maintenance

Services Agreement. We are working with LIPA to further enhance our current worker protection language.

Thomas J. Dowling, R.S.

'Victory for Maine Taxpayers'

L.U. 1253 (i), AUGUSTA, ME—Passage by the Maine state legislature in April of the bill LD 1565—"An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Knowing Misclassification of Construction Workers"—is a big victory for Maine taxpayers. The bill allows for stop-work orders and appropriates funding for personnel to enhance enforcement. [See related article, "Cheating Workers Out of Rights, Benefits: Lawmakers Go After Employers Who Misclassify Workers as Contractors," *The Electrical Worker*, June 2010, pg. 3.]

Eleven members participated in the Code of Excellence Steward Training Class on April 27. This course was presented by IBEW Int. Reps. Mike D'Amico and Kevin Cash.

We are sorry to report the deaths of retired members Richard Lurette and Frank Lockhart. Dick was a longtime member and signatory contractor. Frank was a past state director of apprenticeship and vice president of the National Apprenticeship Director's Association. Both will be greatly missed.

We offer our prayers and support to 4-year-old Phebe Guido and her family. Phebe, who has diabetes, is making daily progress during an extended stay at a Bangor hospital. She and her three siblings are children of member John Guido and wife Gia, and also grandchildren of Local 99 Treas. James Anderson and wife Ann.



Young Phebe Guido is progressing in her recovery.

William Gifford, P.S.

Local Lines

Kudos to Retirees

L.U. 1307 (u), SALISBURY, MD—Congratulations to four members who retired this year: Jeffery Breasure, Bruce Willey, Jehu “Jay” Justice and Jim Ritchie.

Bro. Breasure began work at Delmarva Power at Indian River Power Plant in 1971.

Over the years he worked as fuel handler, assistant control operator, power plant machinist, and in other posts. He retired as a qualified welder on May 28.

Bro. Willey started at Delmarva Power’s Vienna Power Plant in 1974. Among the positions he held were: fuel handler, auxiliary operator, machinist and control room operator. He retired as lead operator on Jan. 10.

Bro. Justice began work with Delmarva Power in 1976 at Indian River Power Plant. He worked as a power plant machinist and welder. and retired as a qualified machinist on March 31.

Bro. Ritchie started at Indian River Power Plant in 1991. He held the jobs of fuel handler, and assistant plant equipment operator. He retired on Oct. 30.

All four of these brothers retired from NRG Energy, which purchased the power plants from Delmarva Power. May they all enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Until next time; save jobs, limit imports.

Edward D. Sparks, P.S.

Union Night at Baseball Game

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD—Summer came early to Maryland. We went from the snowiest winter on record to record breaking hot in the spring. Spring brings the beloved baseball season and our great Baltimore Orioles. Annually we have AFL-CIO Union Night at Camden Yards. This year it was held June 25. The local had 50 tickets for our members this year. As with years past, it’s always a great time to get together with fellow workers and members from other companies, to root on the greatest ball team ever, the Baltimore Orioles.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.



Local 1501 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie and wife Dianna head to an Orioles game.

OSHA ‘Star Award’

L.U. 1523 (u), WICHITA, KS—Murray Gill Energy Center is the second Local 1523-represented energy center to receive the Voluntary Protection Program prestigious award. This distinguished honor was also presented to Gordon Evans Energy Center in June 2008. The prestigious Star designation from OSHA is the highest level of recognition in the VPP program honoring facilities committed to the health and safety of employees by exceeding OSHA’s national standards. Murray Gill and Gordon Evans power plants join an elite group of approximately 2,300 work sites nationwide labeled as VPP Star sites. Congratulations to all of our members who made this possible.

By the time you read this, Local 1523 will be installing newly elected officers; election results

were not yet available at this writing. Please take the time to congratulate those elected. Please show your support and solidarity to our new officers.

Congratulations to the following on their promotions: James Day Jr., Wichita System Control Center, promoted to junior distribution system operator; Jon Weakley, Wichita Service Building, promoted to cable splicer apprentice; Daniel Craft, Ripley Tech Ops, promoted to relay technician II; Philip Dooley, Murray Gill Energy Center, promoted to operations & maintenance person 04-M4.

Congratulations to former business manager Merv Wiltshire on his retirement. From Merv: “In parting I want to say I have enjoyed working with all [at] Local 1523. ... Keep working together in solidarity; thank you for your trust, support and input.”

Be safe, always.

Candy C. Cruz-Dodd, P.S.

Class of 2010 Graduates

L.U. 1547 (c,em,i,o,t&u), ANCHORAGE, AK—IBEW Local 1547 is proud to announce the following 2010 graduates of the Tom Cashen Electrical Training Facility in Anchorage.

Wireman class graduates: Gwen Beecher, Mike Basargin, Jarred Calcote, Eric Urena, Sabastian Lennon-Rodriguez, Patricia Bravo, Louis Young, James Bysheim, Kyle May, Terrance Trudell, James Calhoun, Allan Rusenstrom, John Wallace, Matt Zabinko, Kalen Glover, Steven Wright, Richard Bekoalok, Dawn Brender, Steven Boyd and Elliott Marlow. [Photo below.]

Communications class graduates: Tim Digan, Jason Huseman, Cassidy Deckert, Shaun Rodgers, Chad Botirius, Shawn Woodhead, Ricky Lusk, Dennis Kananowicz, Bobby Hale and Dave McAllen.

Lineman class graduates: Deb Kelly, Ian Whitmore, Travis Bonnet, Josh Henrick, Garrette Francis, Jacob Soboleff, Steven Johnson, Jeremiah Mullican and Ricky Richardson.

Congratulations and every good wish to all the graduates!

Melinda Taylor, P.S.

Plant Vogtle

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA—As much of the country is aware, Augusta, GA, is getting two new reactors at Plant Vogtle.



Local 1547 Bus. Mgr. Larry Bell (back row, left) and Instructor Dave McAllen (back row, third from right) gather with the graduating wireman class of 2010 for a group photo. Front row, from left, are Gwen Beecher, Mike Basargin, Jarred Calcote, Eric Urena, Sabastian Lennon-Rodriguez; back row, Bus. Mgr. Bell, Patricia Bravo, Louis Young, James Bysheim, Kyle May, Terrance Trudell, James Calhoun, Allan Rusenstrom, John Wallace, Matt Zabinko, Kalen Glover, Steven Wright, Richard Bekoalok, Dawn Brender, Instructor McAllen, Steven Boyd and Elliott Marlow.

Many are not aware that getting an agreement on this project was not easy. It started a couple of years ago when it was announced that Shaw was awarded the project. Ken Ward, IBEW Local 1579 business manager and Augusta Building Trades president, immediately went to work, contacting Shaw officials.

The Bush administration was still in office and the possibilities were not looking good. Bus. Mgr. Ward started looking toward the national Building & Construction Trades and the IBEW International Office and asked for their help.

With the Obama administration entering into office and with the help of IBEW Int. Pres. Edwin D. Hill and BCTD Pres. Mark Ayers, the agreement was negotiated. Over the next few months, we should put some of our Book I members to work.

The work on the new reactors at Plant Vogtle will fall under the strict guidelines, the same as nuclear outages. There will be strict background checks, drug tests and several days of job-related education classes before physically going to work.

The new contract will expire in 2015 for all work on Vogtle and upcoming nuclear reactors across the country. Everybody is watching Vogtle. We are aware that this project will be a test run and may have an impact on union agreements on future work.

Other jobs in our jurisdiction look promising. Of course, it is very hard to predict when we will get into Book II, but I would encourage brothers and sisters to call our job line at (706) 724-6586 or visit our Web site at www.ibew1579.org for future details.

Will Salters, A.B.M.

Code of Excellence Training

L.U. 1701 (catv,ees,i,o&u), OWENSBORO, KY—The Examining Board gave the journeyman wireman exam to our fifth-year apprentices recently. Chmn. Joe Fulkerson reports all passed. Graduates are: Robert Pillow, Adam Gish, Jeremy Anderson, James Benningfield, Joe Brown, Thomas Brown, Jacob Brown, James Humphrey, Montez Mayfield and Jeff Barr. JATC Sec. Larry Boswell reports most of the fifth-year graduates have taken the Kentucky State Electrical Licensing exam and they passed as well. Congratulations, brothers and sisters.

We thank Int. Reps. Ed Hill Jr. and Don Vidourek for conducting a Code of Excellence class and a Code of Excellence steward training class in

April for our local union officers and NECA contractors. The training was well-attended and we will implement the Code of Excellence on future projects.

The Owensboro Council of Labor held a Workers Memorial Ceremony at the Owensboro Daviess County court house lawn on April 23. Local 1701 member and council Pres. Donna Haynes organized and conducted the event. We had a good turnout.

Thanks, Donna, for a job well-done.

In sadness we report the passing of retired Bro. Frank Hancock. May he rest in peace.

Remember the union meetings, held the third Monday of each month.

Tim Blandford, R.S.

Congratulations & Welcome

L.U. 1749 (u), NEW JOHNSONVILLE, TN—Congratulations and welcome aboard to the latest class of “student generating plant operators” at the New Johnsonville, TN, generating station: Shane Morris, Kyle Sanders, Steven Sweazea, Brian Horner, Brian Gunn, Neal Thorne, Matthew Frady, Holly Holmes, Patrick Payton and Adam Watts. Randy Russell is the instructor.

Ask your steward about the benefits of becoming an “A” member—death benefit fund, IBEW retirement, and for anyone with a construction background, the NEBF fund. It’s well worth the difference in dues, and also complies with the resolution that passed at the last International Convention.

The stewards and officers need to pass this on to their new members.

Some updates in the statewide Tennessee elections:

- At this writing, gubernatorial candidate Mike McWherter is unopposed in this year’s Democratic primary.
- State Sen. Roy Herron is running for the U.S. Congress in the 8th Congressional District.
- Dr. Greg Rabidoux is a candidate for the U.S. Congress in the 7th Congressional District.

And we need to work hard in capturing three Tennessee state house seats to regain control of the state house! If not, we could set the party of the working folks back 20 years.

Mark J. DeJulius, E-Board/P.S.

Support for WGME-TV Workers

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME—All of the Democratic gubernatorial candidates in Maine’s June 8 primary election decided not to purchase campaign advertising on WGME-TV in Portland, in order to demonstrate their support for members of IBEW Local 1837.

The refusal of the five candidates to buy ads there came in response to a request from the IBEW local that represents more than 40 workers at the station. That request came after WGME-TV and parent company Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. unilaterally declared an impasse in contract talks, cut wages, and implemented parts of their last contract offer that forced concessions on the workers.

While the full financial impact of the candidates’ decision is difficult to estimate, it is likely to lead to the loss of tens of thousands of dollars in ad revenue for the local CBS affiliate.

“We’re grateful to the candidates for their support,” said Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Cynthia Phinney. “We think it sends a strong message that Mainers don’t like the unfair treatment of workers at WGME. They think that Maine workers deserve good jobs to help support their families and communities.”

The company admitted that the pay cuts were not because of any financial crisis, but simply because the company felt that its workers were overpaid.

Matthew D. Beck, Organizer

In Memoriam

Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in May 2010

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Kemp, A. M.	4/24/2010	44	Taylor, G. W.	3/31/2010	130	Kolb, F. W.	3/15/2010	349	Hollaman, R. S.	4/15/2010	595	Green, F. R.	11/17/2009
1	Lindsey, C. G.	4/16/2010	46	Baskin, D. C.	3/27/2010	130	Raines, A. W.	3/21/2010	349	McFaddin, C. W.	12/17/2009	595	Guerrero, D. E.	4/15/2010
1	Sebacher, D. J.	4/13/2010	46	Morris, J. R.	3/14/2010	134	Balling, R. J.	3/15/2010	349	Skillman, J. B.	4/18/2010	595	Hallett, E. J.	3/25/2010
1	Specker, D. J.	3/31/2010	46	Scrafford, W. G.	1/30/2010	134	Brandon, S. E.	4/29/2010	349	Tlumacki, A.	3/29/2010	596	Long, A. J.	4/8/2010
1	Underwood, R. D.	2/21/2010	46	Ward, J. R.	3/15/2010	134	Cepynsky, L.	3/15/2010	353	Brennick, S. L.	4/17/2010	596	Moore, P.	4/19/2010
3	Birdsall, R. C.	4/6/2010	48	Bloomfield, R. D.	4/28/2010	134	Coughlin, J. J.	4/9/2010	354	Rappleve, M. J.	4/4/2010	602	Hill, J. L.	4/10/2010
3	Corbo, F.	4/21/2010	48	Holcombe, C. J.	5/3/2010	134	Desmaretz, L. G.	3/17/2010	357	Buntjer, R. L.	4/9/2010	605	Sebren, R. R.	1/10/2010
3	Dejak, M.	3/17/2010	48	Young, H. F.	4/4/2010	134	Hand, B. J.	4/8/2010	357	Harrison, R. A.	4/7/2010	606	Matson, B. A.	3/27/2010
3	Franzitta, T. E.	3/26/2010	51	Harris, G. R.	3/8/2010	134	Jaskolski, D. V.	4/16/2010	359	Skinner, T. R.	1/10/2010	606	Thompson, J. C.	3/2/2010
3	Fuentes, M. A.	2/9/2010	56	Kubiak, E.	4/14/2010	134	Jensen, T. P.	4/18/2010	363	Binotto, F.	3/18/2010	606	Watson, W. M.	4/4/2010
3	Gold, B.	1/21/2010	57	Austin, A. L.	2/18/2010	134	McCallum, R. V.	4/5/2010	364	Ciine, W. P.	3/9/2010	611	Garcia, G. V.	2/1/2010
3	Lavalle, A. P.	3/17/2010	58	Block, W. F.	4/7/2010	134	Perrino, V. P.	2/26/2010	364	Vondriska, E.	3/10/2010	617	Gugel, E. W.	2/22/2010
3	Lopresti, S.	4/28/2010	58	Bochinski, W.	3/19/2010	134	Simmons, W. D.	4/21/2010	366	Anderson, R. D.	4/11/2010	625	Fougere, J. W.	2/11/2010
3	Meyers, G.	3/18/2010	58	Carlisle, M. E.	4/25/2010	134	Sturm, E. W.	1/20/2010	369	Blake, E. J.	4/4/2010	625	Macdougall, I. F.	4/3/2010
3	O'Donnell, J. T.	3/19/2010	58	Cowhy, E. W.	3/21/2010	134	Zwierzhowski, S. T.	11/14/2009	369	Davenport, W. S.	7/28/2009	640	Burns, R. A.	3/12/2010
3	Opoliner, J.	2/5/2010	58	Heifner, G. A.	4/2/2010	136	Buchanan, C. B.	12/27/2009	369	Lynch, E. J.	4/20/2010	640	Hubbs, J. E.	1/24/2010
3	Powell, E. J.	1/15/2010	58	Kremkow, T. A.	4/8/2010	136	Todd, C. I.	4/8/2010	369	Murphy, L. D.	3/26/2010	648	Fields, A. D.	4/12/2010
3	Thomas, G. J.	4/6/2010	58	Martin, H. W.	9/28/2009	139	Worley, J.	2/27/2010	369	Truman, S. L.	4/6/2010	654	Beebe, G. E.	2/13/2010
3	Wolkin, G.	2/25/2010	58	Merritt, G. G.	4/19/2010	145	Archer, M. W.	3/18/2010	375	Duran, A. J.	4/29/2010	654	Williams, J. J.	4/2/2010
4	Fischer, N. A.	3/24/2010	58	Neiryneck, H. V.	3/21/2010	150	Harwell, A. C.	3/24/2010	375	Schaffer, R. F.	2/14/2010	659	Barnes, J. A.	3/22/2010
5	Caven, C. E.	12/6/2009	58	Sharick, E. D.	4/14/2010	150	Meyers, K. P.	3/28/2010	379	Black, J. C.	1/7/2005	663	Kasza, C. G.	12/5/2009
5	Farmer, J. D.	2/16/2010	58	Warsinski, M. A.	4/13/2010	153	Andert, R. M.	5/3/2010	402	Northcott, L. H.	2/23/2010	665	Colthorp, V. I.	12/2/2009
5	Farmer, R. E.	4/15/2010	58	Wojcik, G. S.	3/19/2010	158	Hynek, G. L.	4/7/2010	405	Miskimen, C. K.	3/25/2010	665	Spalding, B. C.	3/16/2010
5	Ingole, M. J.	3/15/2010	66	Eckerman, R. O.	12/27/2009	159	Camren, H. O.	4/6/2010	413	Perez, A.	4/15/2010	665	Withers, T. L.	1/21/2010
5	Knavish, J. G.	3/28/2010	66	Llewellyn, R. J.	3/24/2010	159	Marvin, G. A.	4/8/2010	424	Churchill, D. H.	3/31/2010	666	Mize, E. G.	4/25/2010
5	McFarlane, D.	4/23/2010	66	Paul, A. E.	11/25/2009	163	Shannon, M. J.	10/24/2009	424	Curran, J. J.	9/8/2009	682	Fleisher, H. M.	4/30/2010
5	Thomas, R. W.	1/28/2010	66	Ross, O. W.	2/19/2009	164	Debouter, J. A.	11/8/2009	424	Rhodes, E. R.	5/31/2009	683	Kennedy, B. R.	3/25/2010
5	Werner, M. E.	3/17/2010	66	Stewart, A. O.	2/5/2010	164	Vasnelis, J. A.	4/1/2010	428	Logan, C. C.	1/1/2010	683	Stiverson, D. E.	2/20/2010
5	Wirth, H. G.	3/16/2010	66	Tyler, J. E.	9/8/2009	175	Colbaugh, H. L.	4/6/2010	429	Brown, L. C.	4/10/2010	688	Brewer, L. Q.	3/17/2010
7	Kubacki, R. S.	10/18/2009	68	Cory, D. W.	3/27/2010	175	Smith, B. E.	4/8/2010	429	Winfrey, K. R.	2/25/2010	692	Campbell, P. H.	4/9/2010
8	Stender, J. I.	4/15/2010	68	Elfeld, C.	3/31/2010	176	Frye, D. E.	4/28/2010	441	Hunter, R. N.	4/7/2010	692	Clements, R. J.	4/2/2010
9	Schumann, S. E.	3/29/2010	68	Haney, R. K.	3/12/2010	177	Cooper, W. L.	3/30/2010	441	Marczeski, W. D.	1/29/2010	697	Loman, J. R.	4/28/2010
11	Gilbertson, R. E.	2/18/2010	68	Hickman, P. F.	4/10/2010	177	Higginbotham, D. W.	2/17/2010	441	Maschetta, N. J.	3/17/2010	701	Streid, J. C.	3/27/2010
11	Gurcinas, I.	3/8/2010	68	Robertson, M.	3/10/2010	180	Polk, L. S.	3/19/2010	449	Chadwick, R. D.	4/11/2010	702	Linson, J. W.	4/12/2010
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11	Mc Dermott, B. K.	1/7/2010	76	Sanders, H.	11/4/2009	191	Crandall, E. R.	2/17/2010	456	Lockie, J. D.	3/9/2006	716	Roland, E. J.	12/17/2009
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11	Roadruck, D. H.	8/29/2008	77	Mead, H. L.	3/26/2010	197	Kraft, W. J.	3/20/2010	459	Nagy, S. J.	3/28/2010	725	Carr, L.	3/31/2010
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11	Walburn, F. S.	1/26/2010	80	Okeefe, J. F.	3/26/2010	212	Rennegarbe, J. G.	3/23/2010	474	Crawford, M. R.	3/10/2010	733	Tallent, L. O.	3/6/2010
11	Wise, R. J.	12/21/2009	80	Ruppe, R. D.	5/29/2009	212	Rush, V. J.	3/26/2010	474	Green, R. T.	4/26/2010	738	Ramsted, G. E.	4/14/2010
11	Yale, N. D.	3/6/2010	86	Adams, J. M.	3/28/2010	213	Gardiner, J. B.	4/3/2010	474	Murry, D. C.	2/22/2010	747	Russ, C. F.	4/23/2010
16	Tucker, R. E.	1/21/2010	86	Blend, J. M.	3/1/2010	213	Kelly, R. M.	1/12/2010	474	O'Donnell, T. M.	1/29/2010	760	Moore, L. W.	2/27/2008
17	Armstrong, E. D.	2/10/2010	86	Mordaci, J.	1/14/2010	213	Lewis, R. L.	4/6/2010	477	Dufour, J. J.	1/17/2010	763	Samson, C. B.	2/13/2010
17	Francis, V. R.	3/28/2010	86	Sneckenburg, C. J.	3/28/2010	219	Pernaski, C. F.	3/31/2010	477	Dusablon, P. M.	8/23/2009	767	Covington, W. T.	2/14/2010
18	Dawes, L. H.	4/15/2010	89	White, R. L.	4/10/2010	222	Couch, F. H.	3/30/2010	479	Ainsworth, J. L.	4/9/2010	767	Sanchez, E. A.	12/12/2009
18	Lopez, J. O.	3/11/2010	90	Bohan, E. W.	2/27/2010	222	Hancock, B. G.	3/7/2010	479	Larocca, V. T.	4/8/2010	768	Brady, J. J.	3/30/2010
20	Davis, W. W.	3/16/2010	96	Rock, W. A.	5/5/2010	226	Spears, S. E.	4/30/2010	479	Scott, R. P.	8/3/2009	769	Morris, L. H.	4/5/2010
20	Holbrook, R. L.	4/12/2010	97	Segal, J. P.	4/6/2010	229	Mason, C. A.	3/24/2010	480	Walley, E. N.	12/17/2009	774	Cutter, C. E.	2/22/2010
20	Merriman, R. W.	5/2/2010	98	Brusch, P.	1/25/2010	230	Ingram, B. R.	2/26/2010	483	Marx, S. D.	3/26/2010	804	Brown, G. R.	6/1/2009
20	Warren, W. W.	4/16/2010	98	Carney, A. J.	3/7/2010	230	Pynn, J. F.	3/30/2010	483	Miller, J. C.	2/22/2010	841	Daugherty, A. D.	3/24/2010
20	Williamson, T. W.	4/26/2010	98	Culp, E. G.	4/6/2010	236	Joyce, J. F.	3/24/2010	486	Cronin, J.	4/14/2010	855	Gaw, R. A.	3/12/2010
20	Wilson, L. G.	4/19/2010	98	Shisler, J. R.	4/20/2010	236	Kraznopoliski, S.	4/27/2010	490	Hickox, L. K.	4/2/2010	861	Johnson, C. P.	3/4/2010
22	Hazelton, A.	4/18/2010	98	Young, R.	3/13/2010	246	Taylor, C. D.	12/10/2009	494	Frankwick, E. S.	3/12/2010	876	Weger, K. J.	4/7/2010
22	Lindley, J. F.	3/13/2010	102	Monico, L.	3/24/2010	254	Fahrner, J. C.	4/21/2009	494	James, E. E.	4/8/2010	890	Lalonde, D. D.	3/21/2010
24	Balbo, S. A.	4/12/2010	102	Scarpelli, M. P.	11/21/2009	254	Johnston, E. A.	1/25/2010	494	Nehls, D. A.	2/28/2010	903	Joyner, W. H.	4/14/2010
24	Franzoni, H. M.	3/27/2010	103	Bowie, P. E.	11/30/2009	266	Boehme, R. W.	4/2/2010	499	Heuer, J. J.	4/3/2010	910	Steller, J. R.	5/1/2010
24	Shepherd, R. G.	3/4/2010	103	Desmond, A. F.	4/23/2010	278	McMillin, D. J.	4/29/2010	508	Cox, R. S.	11/8/2009	915	Haskett, R. E.	4/29/2010
25	Davidson, R. W.	1/20/2010	103	Jones, J. R.	3/17/2010	280	Becker, J. G.	7/6/2008	508	Hope, R.	1/22/2010	948	Hoover, N. L.	3/29/2010
25	Flores, E.	1/31/2010	103	Kearney, W. T.	3/29/2010	291	Montgomery, D. J.	4/17/2010	527	Durio, J. A.	12/9/2007	952	Fox, F. P.	1/22/2010
25	Schreiber, T. H.	4/17/2009	103	Maioli, A. R.	4/6/2010	302	Brackenbury, B. B.	4/5/2010	527	Leboeuf, J. L.	4/8/2010	952	Tetreault, E. L.	4/13/2010
26	Kelly, C. R.	4/24/2010	103	Nostrom, W. D.	3/23/2010	302	Nelson, F. E.	8/30/2009	527	Smith, G. R.	4/2/2010	953	Prieur, R. F.	4/16/2010
26	Tomczak, A. L.	4/21/2010	105	Kavanagh, P. W.	4/1/2010	304	Morgan, C. P.	12/30/2009	530	Tayles, D. E.	3/10/2010	969	Brennan, J. E.	4/16/2010
26	Vincent, R. G.	4/1/2010	109	Fluegel, R. J.	2/25/2010	305	Schweyer, C. W.	4/15/2010	532	McKay, J. E.	2/18/2010	970	Sanders, F. J.	12/26/2009
32	Knupp, R. E.	4/4/2010	110	Barnes, L. J.	4/1/2010	307	Diehl, D. D.	1/29/2010	540	Escott, A. A.	2/9/2010	985	Rochelle, R. L.	3/12/2010
34	Moschel, W. A.	4/12/2010	110	Hinrichs, T. J.	3/1/2010	309	Stewart, H. H.	1/3/2010	553	Cozart, J. W.	3/15/2010	993	Burgart, E. L.	2/20/2010
34	Shipley, R. E.	4/4/2010	110	Voight, K. D.	4/1/2010	327	Bradley, W. C.	4/22/2010	553	Enloe, E.	2/28/2010	995	Moses, H. W.	4/9/2010
35	Arendt, R. L.	4/5/2010	111	Vezakis, G.	4/27/2010	332	Fajardo, P. J.	3/12/2010	567	Fayle, E. R.	4/28/2010	1141	Dunlap, C.	3/1/2010
35	Bane, D. T.	3/1/2010	112	Dillon, D. C.	6/2/2009	332	Haney, R.	3/24/2010	568	Rancourt, J.	1/3/2010	1200	Plowman, R. P.	2/23/2010
35	Berube, E. W.	5/31/2008	117	Witthuhn, G. J.	3/16/2010	332	Howell, W. A.	4/1/2010	569	Hughey, D. L.	3/19/2010	1205	Pittman, R. L.	4/5/2010
35	London, J.	3/7/2010	120	Stewart, D. R.	3/14/2010	332	Rozak, W. W.	3/18/2010	569	Rodarte, E.	3/21/2010	1212	Sabo, E. G.	5/1/2010
38	O'Donnell, P. J.	4/7/2010	120	Williams, M. J.	4/8/2010	332	Vonraesfield, V.	4/6/2010	569	Ullom, J. S.	12/16/2009	1245	Beall, W. B.	7/16/2009
38	Shaw, P. D.	3/												



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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

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FROM THE OFFICERS

Charting a Course Toward Cleaner Energy



Edwin D. Hill
International President

Following BP's Deepwater Horizon explosion in April, the national mood is souring more each day as the toll of the damage grows and ironclad solutions remain elusive. In the meantime, economies in the Gulf States continue to suffer.

I've seen a lot of economic carnage in my decades in the labor movement—and I've also heard some corporate elites make some statements that they probably regret. But nothing beats BP CEO Tony Hayward telling a reporter he was eager for the situation to get resolved. The reason? "I'd like my life back," Hayward said.

Guess what, Tony? There's a rising chorus of regular Americans out there who will say, "We'd like our lives back, too." We'd like a renaissance of good-paying energy jobs that don't risk the lives of the workers. And we'd like to leave the future of America's energy companies in the hands of responsible people who understand the

dual need for inexpensive electricity and a reduced ecological footprint.

There's no magic bullet solution. But there is a path forward that can put us on the right track for a clean and green energy economy: nuclear power.

The facts, as reported in our cover story in this issue, speak for themselves. Nuclear plants produce zero carbon emissions. If we go this route, thousands upon thousands of middle-class careers await our members—high-skilled jobs that can't be outsourced. And these plants become lifelines for hard-working union families in places like Moline, Ill.; Davenport, Iowa; Berwick, Pa.; and across the country.

I told attendees to the Nuclear Energy Institute Executive Conference in May that all signs point to the nuclear industry as the only proven, viable alternative energy source—one that is already heavily integrated into the grid system to supply a reliable dose of clean, baseload power.

We've proven our mettle in the fight for good union jobs in renewable industries, and we'll continue to report on new developments in the revamped nuclear sector in future issues.

It's time to move the ball forward—for the industry, for our union, for our families and for our nation. ■

Chinese Workers Stand Up

The chain of pain suffered by our members whose employers have shifted production to plants in China has been a too frequent topic in *The Electrical Worker* and on www.ibew.org.

Iconic U.S. brand name products, especially electronics and appliances, which sustained generations of union families, are now being produced in Chinese factories. Workers around the globe are forced to underbid one another—lowering wages and benefits to feed our families. That's life, we are told. It's the price we pay for our iPods, iPads and iPhones and cheaper consumer goods.

A torrent of information is swarming over the Internet and major newspapers describing defiant Chinese workers standing up and striking for pay increases and a ratcheting down of the inhumane shop floor stress. The *New York Times* reports 10 suicides this year alone at Foxconn, an employer of 800,000 workers who manufacture computer components for Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Apple.

Stung by negative publicity, the company's chairman raised salaries by 33 percent. Meanwhile, at a Honda Motor plant in southern China, workers won a 24 percent pay raise after a two-week strike.

Ten years ago, labor shortages in a population giant like China would have been inconceivable. But the massive flow of capital investment, coupled with low birth rates, now means that many Chinese workers are forced into overtime hours while the prices of food and property peak upward, eroding their buying power. So they are doing what workers have done throughout history—fighting back for better conditions.

I take heart in the struggle of the Chinese factory hands because I support the right of workers everywhere to win a better life. But the additional upside is that these first steps toward fairness and free unions in China means a more level playing field for workers in the United States and Canada as well as other traditional industrial powers. And maybe it's the first step in reducing our trade deficit with China and creating more jobs on this continent. Keep an eye on the progress of Chinese workers; it may be good news for all of us. ■



Lindell K. Lee
International Secretary-Treasurer

**HOW TO REACH US**

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

Send letters to:

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

American Pie's Sliver

Everybody expects America to take care of the world. The business culture only takes care of themselves and their agenda. Nor do they take care of their workers who fuel the economy by buying their products. Our whole economy is being blackmailed by our treasury note national debt. The only way out for America is to either have a consumption tax or raise taxes, cut programs and lower spending or default on our treasury notes.

The president and Congress have made no attempt in 234 years to pay off our national debt. It seems the biggest crybabies get their wheels greased in this country. Take Wall Street, our banks, the defense industry and special interests, all well paid by our American workers. They got the biggest slice of the American pie. All we get is sweet talked and poorer.

George O. Curry
Local 126 member, Philadelphia, Pa.

Thanks for the Prayers

My husband, John Baker, has been a member of Local 415 in Cheyenne, Wyo., for over 20 years. John was in a serious accident on May 30, 2009, and has a severe brain injury. He is at our home as we await a miracle.

The brothers and sisters of Local 415 have been so supportive with cards, prayers and well wishes to John. They have paid his dues for a year now and have prepaid his dues for the coming year. This is such a blessing to us in these tough times.

I really would like them to know just how much they have touched our hearts and lives.

Joan Baker
Wife of Local 415 member John Baker, Cheyenne, Wyo.

NAFTA Repeal?

I think it's time for a change, and that change is NAFTA. Believe it or not, repealing NAFTA is very much a possibility. In the last two major elections, 14 Senate and 66 House seats in Washington were flipped from pro- to anti-free trade. This could mean that what Reagan, Bush, and Clinton forced upon us years ago could be repealed. They're all politicians, so let's not kid ourselves, they'd sell their souls for a vote. So if we make enough noise, threaten not to re-elect them, or support any other candidate who does not support American manufacturing, maybe we can get rid of NAFTA!

Kevin Calkins
Local 134 member, Chicago

No Lineman Listed?

As a retired Houston Local 66 lineman for 40 years, I would like to know why you do not have lineman listed under trade classifications in the Electrical Worker. We feel left out and not part of the team. I realize there are many classifications to list, but a lineman is the granddad of them all.

Ray J. Tuttoilmondo
Local 66 retiree, Houston, Texas

[Editor's note: Technically, linemen are included in the "u" (utility) classification. If they work for outside line contractors, they are under the "o" (outside) designation. Linemen are an integral part of the IBEW, steeped in a tradition that goes back to the union's first days in 1891. Lineman Henry Miller's tireless efforts to found and organize a national union of electrical workers is key to our storied heritage. A union that is so grounded in history and our collective legacy strives to honor all of its members.]

We Want to Hear From You

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. We reserve the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

Who We Are

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

Musician Promotes Union Values on Stage and CD

Folk hero Woody Guthrie raised eyebrows more than 70 years ago when he scrawled the phrase "this machine kills fascists" on the body of his ratty acoustic guitar, forever endearing himself to patriotic and progressive working Americans.

A similar gesture by Wilmington, N.C., Local 495 member David Gwinn would be fitting—but Gwinn's guitar would likely boast: "This machine rebuilds America."

By day, the 24-year member works as a supervisor at Philip Sporn Powerhouse in New Haven, WVa. But several nights a week and most weekends, his band Neon Nickel lights up regional venues with a crowd-pleasing blend of country and white-knuckled classic rock. The hearty-voiced frontman peppers his songs with lyrics about workers' rights, the importance of a home-grown economy and the erosion of the middle class.

The title track of Neon Nickel's new CD, "Made in the USA," finds Gwinn sharpening his knives against what he sees as poor trade policies that have decimated the American manufacturing sector:

*Another bad day on the market
Another factory closin' down.
Another day of bad excuses why
They're killin' another town.
Between the lawyers and politicians
Tellin' all the same old lies
I think it's time we rearrange things
And give us back our way of life.*

"In the area I grew up in West Virginia, there were always manufacturing jobs—now they're gone," said Gwinn, 47. "So that song came out of frustration. I felt like those in power who were making decisions over the past several decades were out of touch with the working class and the people who've made this country what it is. We need to bring back manufacturing and make our own products. That creates work for everybody."

While some well-heeled folk revivalists could be criticized for appropriating the discontent of



Above, Wilmington, N.C., Local 495 member David Gwinn, second from right, crafts poignant lyrics and crowd-pleasing music with his band Neon Nickel.

struggling Americans, Gwinn and his bandmates know firsthand about the trials and tribulations of trying to get by in a rocky economic climate. Four of the five players in Neon Nickel have been union members in various trades, and all have been touched by the recession.

"I know people who worked for 20 years just to see their jobs get sent overseas," Gwinn said. "The work picture here is bad. There are lots of folks on the books. So we try to make music to connect with people in this area who are trying hard to get by."

Developing a regional following means packing the gear in the van and constantly hitting the road. But Gwinn's lengthy stretches behind the wheel aren't confined to band activities. He lives in southern Crown City, Ohio; works out of Huntington, WVa., Local 317's jurisdiction; and spends about two-and-a-half hours each workday commuting to and from his job.

"The drive to work can actually be kind of nice," he said. "It lets me think about musical ideas, and it's a good chance to try out some new lyrics."

The band's regional fan base is growing since the release of "Made in the USA," and union brothers are taking note.

"I've been to several shows, and they're dynamite live," said Winston-Salem, N.C., Local 342 member Eddie Clark. "I'm not blowing smoke here, but if this band doesn't get to Nashville before long, I'll be surprised."

Gwinn is currently putting finishing touches on a new song called "You Can Hear the Mountains Cry," about the 29 coal miners who died April 5 in an explosion at Upper Big Branch mine in West Virginia. Both of Gwinn's grandfathers logged time as miners in the state.

"I wanted to pay tribute to those who lost their lives just trying to do their jobs," Gwinn said. The band has been playing a working arrangement of the track at shows and went into the studio in recent weeks to lay down a recorded version.

Check out the band's Web site at <http://neonnickel.com> to hear samples from "Made in the USA" or to order a CD. ■

In Memoriam
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Local	Surname	Date of Death
1249	Winterhalt, J. C.	3/16/2010
1253	Lockhart, F. L.	4/10/2010
1260	Perry, E.	4/1/2010
1316	Ryals, G. F.	12/23/2009
1319	Stanislow, S. W.	4/3/2010
1340	Brooks, R. W.	3/17/2010
1426	Vonbank, G. H.	4/18/2010
1464	O'Hare, C. A.	3/3/2010
1516	Late, G. K.	3/27/2010
1523	Unruh, M. A.	3/31/2010
1547	Allen, L.	3/30/2010
1547	Mellard, M. D.	11/27/2009
1547	Pears, R. J.	1/16/2010
1650	Reed, C. F.	3/29/2010
1703	McWhirter, G. J.	1/16/2010
2129	Dossett, J. R.	2/15/2010
I.O. (134)	Ellis, R. W.	1/3/2010
I.O. (134)	Patrick, D.	4/8/2010
I.O. (238)	Woody, S. J.	4/2/2010
I.O. (424)	Pullock, R.	4/10/2010
I.O. (441)	Mowery, R. A.	4/23/2010
I.O. (1007)	Kelly, L.	3/28/2010
I.O. (1788)	Begovic, B.	4/3/2010
Pens. (1)	Heidemann, H. R.	3/26/2010
Pens. (323)	Metz, H. K.	11/26/2009
Pens. (637)	Rowland, C. L.	4/5/2010
Pens. (637)	Smith, A. L.	11/30/2009
Pens. (840)	Canale, J.	3/1/2010
Pens. (1253)	Lerette, R. E.	4/17/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Baseman, B.	2/25/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Besser, N. E.	4/13/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Capehart, H. E.	3/1/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Chernobieff, N.	12/14/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Clayton, C.	4/17/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Clinger, W. F.	3/23/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Conroy, T. J.	4/4/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Day, R. J.	4/1/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Dorn, D. J.	10/19/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Doyle, W. K.	10/21/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Erickson, J. E.	3/19/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Erpenbach, M.	4/3/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Ewert, F. C.	3/25/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Gordon, C. L.	3/14/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Hansen, H. E.	4/20/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Haxton, R. W.	4/15/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Herman, E. R.	3/18/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Hewett, J. L.	12/12/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Holl, F. I.	10/6/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Holley, W. H.	3/31/2008
Pens. (I.O.)	Howell, D. H.	1/24/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Hulme, G. R.	4/16/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Kacirek, J. R.	4/5/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Landsperger, P. E.	4/2/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Mathews, F. T.	9/28/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Nibbe, L. J.	4/4/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Page, R. L.	4/5/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Palmer, G. J.	1/7/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Pappas, J. M.	3/24/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Pickett, W. H.	4/16/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Pikal, G. K.	3/11/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Piper, D. C.	2/15/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Poirier, R. F.	2/15/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Rafferty, C. A.	4/16/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Richmond, F. W.	11/17/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Robinson, D. E.	10/5/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Robinson, W. E.	3/11/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Roocke, F. J.	4/8/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Rossi, A. L.	3/29/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Schalow, D. A.	3/17/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Schmutz, E. P.	3/5/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Singleton, R. P.	12/2/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Smith, N. B.	12/28/2009
Pens. (I.O.)	Townsend, P. K.	4/6/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Vennix, J. D.	3/19/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Weaver, D. L.	1/12/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Whitefoot, D. A.	4/20/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Wilson, P. J.	3/23/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Wittmeyer, H. L.	3/27/2010
Pens. (I.O.)	Young, P. E.	6/11/2009



2010 IBEW PHOTO CONTEST

Grab your camera. We challenge you to capture a scene, a portrait, a moment, in pursuit of the soul and spirit of the IBEW. It's time for the IBEW's annual photo contest.

We received hundreds of submissions last year, thanks to the online tool that allows members to upload entries electronically, with a limit of five. As always, you can also send in your prints via the mail.

At the contest's close, we will narrow the entries down to 15 finalists, which we'll place on the IBEW Web site for the final judging by members and the public.

Keep in mind what our judges look for in a good photo: technical quality, clarity and composition. As for subjects, we're looking for pictures as diverse as our unique and varied membership.

Future issues of the Electrical Worker and the Web site will announce when the judging will begin.

PRIZES

- First Place**
\$200
- Second Place**
\$150
- Third Place**
\$100
- Honorable Mentions**
\$50

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City and state _____

Zip code _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Local union number _____ IBEW card number _____

Photo description _____

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2010

PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

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