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New Welding Boot Camp equips workers for field construction

Jim Phillips amasses 60-year antler collection

Mark Campbell, fabrication TIG welder, inspects his work after TIG welding a convection oven outer door skin that will hold window glass.

Profile: L-92’s Oscar Davila
Working for a dream in America

The Boilermaker Reporter ISSN No. 1078-4101 is the official publication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO/CLC. It is published quarterly to disseminate information of use and interest to its members. Submissions from members, local lodges, and subordinate or affiliated bodies are welcomed and encouraged. This publication is mailed free of charge to active members and retired members holding a Retired Members Card. Others may subscribe for the price of $10 for three years. Standard Mail (A) postage paid at Kansas City, Kan., and additional mailing offices.

Web site: www.boilermakers.org

CanadaPost Agreement: PM 41892512

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
change.address@boilermakers.org
The Boilermaker Reporter
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No deal for Green New Deal

“The time has come to put our best minds at work and finally address the challenges of climate change responsibly and rationally.”

Plan would ruin U.S. economy, fail to mitigate climate change

THE GREEN NEW Deal, introduced in the U.S. House as a non-binding resolution Feb. 7, is a wildly unrealistic and unworkable proposal for mitigating climate change by radically remaking America’s economy and society.

The proposal calls for a transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030, abruptly ending the use of traditional energy sources including coal, natural gas and petroleum. It ignores promising technologies that could help decarbonize major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. And, despite its great cost ($51 trillion to $93 trillion by some estimates), it would fail to achieve any significant impact on global climate change.

The plan, which also includes an extraordinary amount of social re-engineering, would devastate the U.S. economy, weaken the nation’s ability to compete globally, and destroy American jobs.

Surprisingly, the resolution, sponsored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY 14th) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA), has received substantial political support, with 67 co-sponsors in the House and 11 in the Senate. Seven presidential candidates have also endorsed it.

Abandoning fossil fuels would have far-reaching consequences

CONSIDER THE RAMIFICATIONS of shifting completely away from fossil fuels in 10 years as proposed under the Green New Deal:

No more natural gas, oil or coal. No cars, trucks, SUVs or farm equipment that run on gasoline or diesel. No diesel-powered trains. No aircraft that use jet fuel. No outboard motors for fishing or leisure boats. No gas stoves, gas hot water heaters or gas furnaces. No products derived from or that use petroleum: asphalt for roads, coke for steel-making, hundreds of pharmaceutical products, kerosene for portable heaters, propane for backyard barbecues or home heating, golf balls, refrigerators, paint or hundreds of other products used in our everyday lives.

Imagine the impact on the U.S. economy and society:

• Closing all coal mines, oil fields and refineries
• Shutting down or retooling factories
• Scrapping planes, ships, locomotives, semis and other vehicles that run on fossil fuels or reconfiguring them to run on an alternate fuel
• Shuttering U.S. power plants that run on natural gas, coal and oil (63 percent of all power generation)

Such an upheaval would throw millions out of work or push them into retraining for other jobs envisioned by the proposal — assuming those jobs existed in sufficient quantity. And those new jobs may not pay as much or offer the same level of benefits. Based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, it is estimated that up to 9.2 million direct and indirect jobs in just 14 energy-intensive industries would be severely at risk if the plan were implemented.

While the Green New Deal promotes programs for “just transition,” which essentially look to offset job losses with retraining or financial assistance, such programs have never been demonstrated on such a national scale. They cannot guarantee that working families will be left economically sound. Green New Deal jobs may not be available where workers currently live, requiring them to relocate. Workers may not want to give up their careers, especially after years of training and experience that have positioned them to own a home and help put their kids through college. And those who are near the end of their careers would have difficulty transitioning to something much different than their current occupations.
Just transition may be “just” to those whose jobs are not at risk, but for those facing major industry upheavals, the path to a new career is often unclear, the outcome uncertain. Workers who have completed an apprentice program or otherwise dedicated years of their lives in a craft don’t want to see their skill sets devalued or be thrown into junior positions in a new occupation.

And communities impacted by the loss of power plants, refineries and manufacturing facilities — often a major source of tax revenue for basic services — would also face major economic challenges. Where will the money come from to support towns and small cities impacted by the Green New Deal?

Whether nuclear power remains in the energy mix remains unclear. Although nuclear energy is not mentioned in the resolution put before Congress, other documents — including an FAQ from the office of Ocasio-Cortez (later retracted) and a January 10 letter to Congress from environmental groups — clearly call for an end to new nuclear power plants.

**Green New Deal ignores essential technologies like CCUS**

THE UNITED NATIONS Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world’s leading authority on the subject, recognizes that carbon capture, use and storage must play a key role in decarbonizing the world’s electric power generation and other industry. Without CCUS, meeting climate goals could be twice as costly.

Yet, the Green New Deal ignores the advice of the IPCC and other organizations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and instead adopts the “leave it in the ground” position often promoted by radical environmentalists.

Technologies that can achieve high levels of carbon capture, up to 100 percent of emissions, must not be summarily dismissed. In fact, CCUS is the only workable approach to decarbonize non-power-generation industrial processes that release greenhouse gases, such as cement making and aluminum smelting.

(See www.CleanerFutureCCS.org for more information on carbon capture.)

**Reconstructing the United States won’t solve climate change**

**EVEN IF** THE United States were to remake its society, industry and economy as required by the Green New Deal, and **even if** the nation achieved 100 percent decarbonization, it would not accomplish the goal of limiting global warming to targets of 1.5C or 2C proposed by the Paris climate accord. Recent estimates using EPA-approved climate models suggest that the Green New Deal would reduce future warming by at most 0.14 degree C by 2100.

Of course, the United States does not control the emissions of other nations. Some 1,500 coal-fired power plants are even now being built or are planned around the world. Nothing America does alone will slow these developments. New coal-fired and gas-fired capacity by other countries would likely offset any carbon emission reductions achieved though the Green New Deal. Shutting down carbon emissions in the U.S. merely invites a proportional increase in emissions abroad.

Moreover, should the United States keep fossil fuels in the ground, it would give up billions of dollars in annual oil and gas exports along with related jobs and tax revenue. Dozens of states from Appalachia to the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountain region are critically dependent on fossil energy for jobs and for state and local tax revenues.

Going it alone may seem like a noble undertaking to Green New Deal proponents who argue that the United States should abandon fossil fuel use to set the example for other nations to follow. But is that realistic? Would other countries remake their economies and their society because the United States chose to do so — or would they take advantage of America’s absence in the fossil fuel markets to even more quickly expand their use of those fuels to our disadvantage?

Globally, 80 percent of the world’s energy is derived from fossil fuels. In recent years, nations with developing economies have invested heavily in power plants, mines, refineries, ports and pipelines to expand their access to coal and petroleum. These countries are not likely to strand their investments because the United States chooses to do so.

If we are to really make a difference, we should prioritize, invest in and scale up carbon capture, use and storage technologies to slash emissions from fossil fuel use and industrial processes, and we should export those technologies far and wide. Such an effort would create substantial high-wage jobs using skills that Boilermakers and other union trades already possess.

The Green New Deal is fraught with uncertainty, extreme risks and trillions of dollars of costs that would be borne by consumers and government alike. Even so, the plan has captured the imagination of a significant slice of society. This should be a wake-up call for the federal government to develop a wise national energy policy, one that fully embraces CCUS technologies and an “all of the above” approach to energy that includes fossil fuels, renewables, nuclear and other sources.

The time has come to put our best minds at work to finally address the challenges of climate change responsibly and rationally.
CSO Conference highlights solutions for stronger future

Leaders focus on membership and M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund

WESTERN STATES SECTION membership has climbed to 2,550, up from 1,983 in 2017. That was good news shared during the 2019 Construction Sector Operations Conference March 4-7, where membership numbers, man-hours, safety and the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund were key topics.

While numbers in the Western States are encouraging, membership and man-hour trends in other areas, however, make it clear that more needs to be done. The 2019 conference focused on updates and solutions to recruit new members, organize new local lodges, build employment opportunities and grow man-hours.

“We have a lot to do in this organization, and we’re going to have to change how we do some things,” International President Newton B. Jones challenged the audience of CSO business managers and guests “We can change the way we think about our work. We can change the way we think about our jurisdiction.”

“It’s going to take all of us doing the right thing for this organization, for our pension and for the families we represent. We’re the stewards of a 138-year-old union.”

IP Jones cited the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund as the strategic plan to activate that change. He reminded attendees that M.O.R.E. (marketing, organizing, recruitment and employment) is an investment in programs to increase membership and man-hours. It plans to achieve that by:

- Reaching out to potential Boilermaker employers through new marketing efforts.
- Restarting the “Fight Back” construction organizing campaigns and additional organizing programs.
- Recruiting skilled craft workers to replace those who have left or retired, allowing projects to be fully staffed and increasing man-hours.
- Implementing work recovery programs and new employment initiatives.

Another way to bring more work to Boilermakers is through legislation. IP Jones explained that membership and man-hour gains in the Western States are largely due to the passage of refinery safety legislation Senate Bill 54, enacted into California law in 2014. Championed by

Boilermakers, the law requires at least 60 percent of journeymen working in refineries to have graduated from an approved apprenticeship training program. International Vice President-Western States, J. Tom Baca, noted that SB 54 has brought in about 3 million more Boilermaker man-hours in California.

Following on that success, the International is supporting comparable legislation in Washington State and is looking at similar opportunities in additional states.

“The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund provides us the resources we need to be able to do that,” said IP Jones, noting support required for lobbying and outreach activities similar to those used to pass SB 54.

The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund will also focus on job targeting and recovery agreements: unionizing companies and industries where there has never been a Boilermaker presence and reestablishing the union at companies and industries where the Boilermakers have lost ground. IP Jones said that beyond relying on the large-scale refinery and power generation industries for work, new opportunities will be sought in any capacity, including cement and steel mill industries, garbage burners and more.

“It isn’t just power generation — the big players. It’s the little players too,” he said. “It’s any place where someone needs a Boilermaker to weld whatever they need welded, or rig whatever they need rigged, or fit whatever they need fitted in place. All the tanks out there? We’re getting a fraction of those hours. Those are Boilermaker man-hours.”
In addition to progress with the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, President Jones announced another initiative to increase membership by recruiting prospective Boilermakers through a National Transient District Lodge based in Hendersonville, Tennessee. President Jones explained there will be four National Transient Local Lodges established—one in each U.S. Vice Presidential section, and all under a district “umbrella” in Hendersonville. Each section will have a training center associated with its new National Transient Local Lodge.

“We’ll do everything we can to help you,” said President Jones. “We’re here with you and for you. Let’s get this organization built back up.”

Marketing materials, revamped website underway

CSO PARTICIPANTS GOT a sneak preview of an updated Boilermakers website in development and new marketing materials. The new website is scheduled to launch in time for the National Tripartite Alliance meeting in August. Using new technology and industry visual standards, the overall website will be easier to navigate and optimized for mobile.

“The current site has a lot of great content. In updating the site, our primary goal is to make it easy for users to find what they need,” said Director of Communications, Amy Wiser. “That also gives us the opportunity to update the overall look and create some new features.”

Among the new features planned will be industry-specific pages and an online marketing toolkit. The marketing toolkit will include ads, brochures and promotional materials that are ready to use “as is,” materials that can be customized for a specific local or project, an array of social media graphics, a new PowerPoint template, many other marketing resources and a form to request materials not available in the toolkit.

“As business managers and other leaders think about marketing the Boilermakers to owners, contractors, prospective members, apprentices and others, we want to make it as easy as possible for them to have the materials they need to be successful,” Wiser said.

Marketing materials are in development and will be loaded into the new marketing toolkit when it launches.

Two new OSHA standards set

MARK GARRETT, DIRECTOR of Health and Safety Services, updated attendees on two new Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards that will protect Boilermakers and others from potentially fatal disease.

The first pertains to crystalline silica — a known carcinogen found in sand, stone and artificial stone. It’s a key raw material that has been used for thousands of years and can be found in millions of products, from concrete to paint, cosmetics to medication, computers to cars. Breathing silica dust can trigger silicosis, a chronic disease that involves scarring of the lungs.

The new OSHA silica standard lowers the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica for all industries to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged during an 8-hour shift — down from 250 micrograms. OSHA estimates that 2.3 million workers are exposed to the dust, including 2 million in construction. The standard is especially critical for members in the cement industry or who perform sandblasting as part of their job. General industry and maritime workplaces have until June 23, 2019, to comply with the new rule.

The second standard applies to beryllium, a strong, light-weight chemical element commonly used as an alloy with other metals to make them more resilient. Classified as a strategic and critical material by the U.S. Department
of Defense, beryllium exposure can cause potentially life-threatening immunological lung disease.

The new standard establishes a PEL of 0.2 micrograms of beryllium per cubic meter of air averaged over eight hours. According to OSHA, about 62,000 workers are exposed to beryllium in their workplaces. Of those, approximately 11,500 construction and shipyard workers may conduct abrasive blasting operations using slags that contain trace amounts of beryllium. OSHA began enforcing all provisions of the beryllium standard for general industry on December 12, 2018.

“Considering that it can take 15-plus years to get one safety standard through OSHA, we’re extremely pleased to see the silica and beryllium standards finally set in stone,” Garrett said. “They’re essential to protecting the health and safety of our members and all workers.”

Updates coming to MBDS

THE MOST BOILERMAKER Delivery System (MBDS) is being updated to make it easier for members and business managers to use. Changes include:

- Email and dashboard notifications 30 days prior to drug test expiration date.
- Email and dashboard notifications 60 days prior OSHA 10 safety training expiration date.
- Ability to add or modify email addresses.
- Business managers will have the ability to track the number of welders by skill level.

The CSO office is working with the Local Lodge Business Managers and their Local Joint Referral Rules Committees to make certain the Local Lodge Referral Rules are consistent with the recently updated Model Uniform Referral Standards and Joint Referral Rules. In addition, Business Managers and their designated representatives were reminded of key sections of the URSJRR to make certain that all referral applicants are treated in a fair, equitable and nondiscriminatory manner, including Article 5.12.2.2 which reads:

Said posting shall serve as notice to all referral agents operating an exclusive referral procedure, pursuant to these Uniform Referral Standards and Joint Referral Rules, that the applicant shall not be referred for the duration of the penalty.
Quadriplegic ranch owner delvers message on change, problem solving, purposeful living

NACBE GUEST SPEAKER Chad Hymas brought a message of “legacy” to business managers and guests attending the CSO Conference. He wasn’t talking about leaving a monetary legacy but a personal one — a legacy of purpose. He learned the hard way.

In 2001, when Hymas was 27, the young husband and father was crushed by a 2,000-pound hay bale on his Utah ranch. He was in a hurry and ignored his tractor’s hydraulic indicator light — as he had many times before. When the hydraulics failed, the bale crashed down, shattering his neck. In an instant, Hymas went from an athletic and robust elk ranch owner to a quadriplegic with no idea how he was going to provide for his family — financially or emotionally.

Bringing the Boilermaker audience through both laughter and tears, Hymas shared his story of then and now — how, with help and not-so-gentle prodding from his family, he reclaimed his dream to develop 600 acres of wilderness into an elk and pheasant hunting paradise.

He credits his father with helping him understand the need to reframe his approach to life so he could be the father, husband and business man his family and colleagues deserved. As a result, Hymas is intentional about living his life with purpose and putting others first.

“Watch what happens when you stop saying ’I, me and my’ and start replacing those words with ‘you, we and our,’” he told the audience.

In relating his story, he also shared tips for solving problems and overcoming obstacles: think creatively, be proactive and engaged, take pride in yourself and what you do, celebrate others’ victories and “do more than the contract requires.”

“The problem is that some people just choose to ‘show up’; they change nothing,” he said. “People who refuse to change how they’ve done things in the past will find themselves paralyzed by their own patterns.

“Just because you’re breathing doesn’t make you alive. Showing up to a meeting doesn’t mean you’re present. You’ve got to make yourself irreplaceable in a replaceable world; indispensable in a very disposable world.”
Local 11 clinches NACBE’s top safety honor

WESTERN STATES LOCAL 11 (Helena, Montana) earned The John F. Erickson NACBE Safety Award presented during the Construction Sector Operations conference in Marco Island, Florida, March 4-7.

L-11 Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer Clinton Penny accepted the national honor, which reflects the local’s 2018 stats: zero OSHA recordable injuries, 441,690 total man-hours worked, and the highest number of man-hour percentage by contractors who contribute to the safety index (72 percent or 318,283 man-hours).

“It’s all about being part of the Western States and the whole union,” Penny said. “We get guys who come from all over to work jobs here in this little hall in Montana. They come together to do a job, do it right and, most importantly, do it safely. That’s what Boilermakers do.”

The National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers recognizes local lodges annually for their members’ dedication to making and keeping their workplaces safe. They name one nationwide winner and one winner from each of the remaining U.S. sections. To qualify, locals must have a zero OSHA recordable injury rate for the year, have worked over 100,000 man-hours and have had at least one-third of their man-hours worked for the NACBE member contractors, who submit their injuries to NACBE. Local 11 has won the top honor in the past and received a section-level award in 2018.

The three lodges honored for top safety in their sections were: Northeast Local 45 (Richmond, Virginia), accepted by BM-ST Danny Watson; Southeast Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Kentucky), accepted by BM-ST Michael Autry; and Great Lakes Local 1 (Chicago), accepted by BM-ST Eric Davis.

NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler presented overall 2018 safety index data gathered from 43 reporting contractors, which revealed that the lost time injury rate decreased to .12 from .22 in 2017 — the lowest since 2013. OSHA recordable eye injuries decreased to 12 from 15 in 2017, and four locals had zero recordable injuries.

A few index measurements showed upticks: OSHA compensable injury rates came in at 5.29 up from 3.38 in 2017; OSHA recordable injury rates drifted up to 1.23, from 1.20 in 2017; and compensable eye injuries came in at 102 compared to 66 in 2017. Traxler said they are exploring reasons and solutions to address the injury increases.

Traxler noted there were zero fatalities in 2018. “You guys are helping the contractors to work safe, and we want everyone to come home safe,” he said.
IVP-Canada Maloney retires

Stadnick elected to fill position

AFTER NEARLY FIVE years as International Vice President of Canada, in addition to nine years as IVP of Western Canada, Joe Maloney retired Feb. 1 from a distinguished career in the Boilermakers. The International Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, elected Arnie Stadnick, Director of Canadian Industrial Sector Operation Lodge Services and Assistant Director – ISO, as Maloney’s replacement.

In 2005, the IEC unanimously elected Maloney as IVP Western Canada, and he was re-elected at the last three Consolidated Conventions, in 2006, 2011 and 2016.

Maloney began his career as a Boilermaker in 1974 when he joined Local 128 (Toronto). As a graduate apprentice, Maloney worked as a fitter and rigger. He then served Local 128 in numerous capacities from steward to president and finally as business manager.

In 1992, he was appointed to serve as a general organizer for the union. A year later, he left the Brotherhood to work for the Canadian Building & Construction Trades Department (CBTU), the Canadian office of North America’s Building Trades Unions, as assistant to the executive secretary. In 1998, Maloney became CBTU’s director of Canadian affairs, and in 2000 he was elected to serve as its secretary-treasurer.

While working for CBTU, Maloney helped spearhead the U.S. Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) program, which transitions military veterans to civilian jobs in the construction trades. Engineering News-Record magazine named Maloney “2005 Man of the Year” for his work in creating an “innovative and outstanding program.”

When he left CBTU to take the position as IVP for Western Canada, he also led the effort to launch the H2H program in Canada.

After the retirement of Eastern Canada Vice President Ed Powers in 2014, Maloney assumed the IVP position for all of Canada.

During his nearly 14 years as an IVP in Canada, Maloney worked tirelessly for the Brotherhood. He was a vocal opponent of CETA, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, between Canada and the European Union, which lacked protections for workers and wages. In addition, he acted as a proponent for the union through written editorials, political action and strong leadership.

In 2016, Maloney received the Meritorious Service Cross for his work in forming H2H the program in Canada. Created by Queen Elizabeth II, Meritorious Service Decorations recognize Canadians for exceptional deeds that bring honor to the country and also highlights remarkable achievements.

Maloney also served on the Boilermakers International Board of Trustees.

Stadnick has long history in Brotherhood

STADNICK, THE NEW IVP for Canada, joined Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) in 1982. After his apprenticeship, he secured a journeyman ticket in 1986. Stadnick worked in both the ISO and CSO divisions serving as an apprentice, journeyman, job steward, foreman, general foreman and superintendent on various job sites.

In 2005, he began working for his local as a business rep and assistant business manager. Local 146 members elected him business manager/secre-tary-treasurer in 2011 and again in 2013.

In 2015, Stadnick joined the staff as an International Rep and soon after, in 2017, he was appointed as the Canadian Director of ISO and Assistant Director – ISO.

Stadnick said he’s excited to move into this new role but will miss working with Maloney.

“In my time working with Joe he taught me a great deal,” said Stadnick. “His commitment to family and his dedication to the members has been inspirational. Joe is a forward thinker who leads by example with an ability to motivate people to do their best. He is a great leader who will be missed. I’ve been proud to work with him.”
BANK OF LABOR has announced that D. Michael Langford, National President of the Utility Workers Union of America, has been elected to the bank’s board of directors.

Langford began his career in 1978 with the Detroit Edison Company and is a graduate of Wayne State University Labor School. He held a variety of union offices before his election in 2006 as the UWUA’s National President. He was re-elected to that office in 2011 and 2015.

“Mike is a superb addition to Bank of Labor’s board of directors,” said International President Newton B. Jones (who serves as the bank’s CEO and Chairman of the Board). “He is not only a proven union leader, but he is adept at building relationships and working across the table for the benefit of all parties. His integrity, vision and communication skills match well with the mission of our bank and its service to the labor community.”

Langford sits on the AFL-CIO Executive Council; the Executive Committee for the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO; the Advisory Board of American Income Life; the Executive Board of the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance; the Executive Board of the Blue-Green Alliance; and the National Carbon Capture Leadership Council.

Bank of Labor film receives International recognition

A DOCUMENTARY FILM produced by Bank of Labor called “Lobstermen” received a special award from Società Cattolica di Assicurazione – Società Cooperativa in Verona, Italy, this past November during the organization’s annual film festival highlighting the Catholic Church’s social doctrine. “Lobstermen” tells the story of how Bank of Labor helped lobster fishermen in Maine finance the purchase of wholesale operations to secure their livelihoods after nonunion banks had turned them down. Films by other organizations recognized at the festival also addressed the struggle of working people and the quest for social justice.
Flux core, stick and TIG welding equipment attract prospective Boilermakers

TIM SIMMONS, DIRECTOR of National Recruitment Services, took inventory of the contents of his truck bed: Brochures and handouts? Check. Stands for the welding equipment? Check. Backdrop? Check. Table cover? Check. He needed to make sure he packed everything for the 350-mile trek to attend an annual invitation-only career expo at Greenville Technical College’s Center for Manufacturing Innovation (CMI) in Greenville, South Carolina.

During National Apprenticeship Week, Nov. 12-18, Simmons had reached out via email to regional vocational, technical and career colleges in the Southeast to tout the benefits of becoming a Boilermaker. He was invited to present to a welding class at the Greenville Technical College and, after an enthusiastic reception from the students and instructor, he was the only union representative asked to participate in the career expo in December.

CMI is known for its high-quality hands-on training and high-quality students. Simmons knew the career expo was just the place to yield a significant number of students who might be interested in what the Boilermakers have to offer.

“These students are looking for a career where they can see what they’ve built, be proud of their contributions to society and take good care of their families,” Simmons said. “It’s important to foster a learning environment where students can touch and feel the equipment, ask questions and get the word from someone who has lived and worked the Boilermaker brotherhood.”

So, to complement his promotional table display at the event, Simmons meticulously built stands to show off flux core, stick and TIG welding equipment, allowing the students hands-on interaction.

Kelvin Byrd, associate dean of industrial technologies at CMI and a 25-year alumnus of the college, was impressed with Simmons’ interactive style and presentation.

“Tim did a really great job engaging the students,” he said. “He talked about the Boilermakers union and what it stands for, opportunities in the skilled trade and how students could pursue a career as a Boilermaker. And his equipment display was the most impressive part of the exhibit. Students love getting hands-on opportunities.”

The 2 1/2-hour career expo ushered in about 280 students — the majority of whom stopped by Simmons’ exhibit. “There was a line waiting to see and hear what Tim’s exhibit was all about,” Byrd said. “In the last 10 years — and especially the last four — students, parents and individuals are really understanding that the skills a Boilermaker apprenticeship can teach can put them in a situation to have a really good career and provide for their families.”

“I want to share the satisfaction, joy and stability that being a Boilermaker has provided me and my family with others who are willing to work hard and smart. It’s a great career opportunity that I never get tired of promoting,” Simmons said.
ONE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM’S largest unions — the Global, Municipal, Boilermaker and Allied Trade Union (GMB) — and the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI) met with Boilermaker leadership in January to discuss the important role carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) plays in mitigating global climate change.

Cory Channon, AD-CSO/Canada, was instrumental in bringing together Stuart Fegan, GMB National Officer; and GCCSI leadership, including Brad Page, CEO; Jamie Burrows, Client Engagement Manager; and Guloren Turan, Advocacy and Communications General Manager. Their discussion focused on how CCUS technology can help grow a new energy economy that builds and maintains stable, skilled jobs and how the three groups can work to promote global adoption of CCUS.

Founded in 1889 and based in London, GMB has more than 620,000 members in the commercial, manufacturing and public service sectors, with up to 200,000 of them affected by evolving climate change technology.

The UK is striving for “net-zero” emissions, which means that in addition to cleaning carbon from emissions prior to release, additional carbon that currently exists in the atmosphere must be captured as well. The UK’s Energy and Clean Growth Minister announced development of the world’s first “net-zero carbon” cluster of heavy industry by 2040. And designs are being developed for a zero-emissions hydrogen train for use on British railways that could be operating as soon as 2022.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Melbourne-headquartered Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute’s mission is to “…accelerate the deployment and commercial viability of carbon capture and storage globally, and advocate for CCS as a crucial component in a portfolio of technologies required to reduce greenhouse gases.” The IBB is one of over 50 members of the institute, which also includes governments, global corporations, private companies, research bodies and non-governmental organizations.

“Organized, skilled labor is an important part of the CCUS story,” said Channon. “Continuing to share challenges and best practices with other organizations helps build the charge to implement CCUS wherever possible and put skilled Boilermaker labor to work.”
BOILERMAKERS WIN 10 ILCA AWARDS

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR Communications Association has announced that creative work produced by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has won 10 awards of excellence in its annual international labor communications competition.

The Boilermakers Communications Department received one first place award for Best Photograph – Visual Communications and one second place award for Best Design – Magazines (print). The department garnered three third place Visual Communications (design) awards for Best Front Page/Cover – Magazines (print); Best Photo Essay or Gallery and Best Collateral in Political Action/Organizing; and a third place award for writing, the Saul Miller award in Political Action. The department also won an honorable mention for Best Informational Graphic.

In addition, the Boilermakers won first place for Best Promotional Video (Bank of Labor) and for Best Longform Video, as well as a second place award for Best Education and Training Video.

Founded in 1955, the ILCA is the professional organization of labor communicators in North America. The organization’s several hundred members produce publications with a total circulation in the tens of millions.

INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES IBB UPDATE

THE INTERNATIONAL HAS launched the inaugural issues of a new e-news service, the IBB Update. The first issue hit subscriber inboxes Jan. 22.

The IBB Update is a simple, monthly e-newsletter sent directly to subscribers – delivering news about the Boilermakers and its members.

The IBB Update includes news briefs, union resources, links to videos, member profiles, job stories and more.

The IBB Update doesn’t replace the Boilermaker Reporter or other communications.

It’s not too late to subscribe! Sign up at

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Fabrication grinder/polisher John McFarlane blends the grain on a convection oven door skin.
What’s cooking at Vulcan? Perfection.

Local S50 makes the equipment that serves up quality

IN A HIGH-END restaurant known for its steaks, a customer anticipates the juicy porterhouse he’s ordered. He’s hungry, and as he sips a nice cabernet and chats over the appetizers, he thinks about the melt-in-your-mouth, warm-red-centered, savory-seared goodness that’s to come. It’s the most expensive item on the menu. So, the steak stakes are high: If the chef misses the mark, chances are the customer won’t be back.

But there’s no worry, because when it arrives, the meat is perfect — just as it always is.

So what does that have to do with Boilermakers? A lot, it turns out.

You see, the perfect steak doesn’t happen by accident. Getting the heat and timing right to consistently please the diverse palates of customers who like their strips, sirloins, filets and T-bones bloody, burnt and everything in between takes two things: practice and the best equipment.

And the top-of-the-line Vulcan equipment used by many top chefs in top restaurants is made by the top craftsmen and women: Boilermakers at Local S50 (Baltimore).

For L-S50, getting the Vulcan products right also doesn’t happen by accident. It takes practiced craftsmanship and the best team environment.

“The craftsmanship in this facility is instrumental to what we do. There’s not a lot of automation—most of these products are getting built by hand and put together by hand,” says plant manager Darrin Furgason. “People who pay a lot of money for a piece of equipment expect it to be perfect.”

So, whether L-S50 members are making a range, convection oven, upright over-fired broilers or heated holding equipment; operating a forklift; tuning up a temperature control board; cutting, welding or grinding pieces in the fabrication process; or packaging the final product (L-S50 does all of that and more), perfection is the goal.

“I was so proud when I came to Vulcan — it’s the world’s finest cooking equipment,” says Danny McCartney, assem-

continued on next page
bly technician. “It’s a little pride thing going there, you know — that you’re making the best.”

“When I go to a restaurant or facility, I always look to see if they have a Vulcan product in there, just so I can feel a little more pride. I might have done that one!” adds L-S50 President Wilton Barnett, who also is an assembly technician.

And since practice makes perfect, it also makes sense that many of the workers, like Barnett, are well-practiced long-time Vulcan employees. Working decades for the company is pretty standard. Barnett has worked there for 40 years, McCartney for 46. That’s the norm at Vulcan’s Baltimore facility. Many, like McCartney and Sandy Smith, started work right out of high school and plan to retire from the company. Smith, a fabrication equipment setup operator, has been there 40 years. (Of note: The Boilermakers union has been there for 65 years.)

The secret to retaining skilled craftspeople and workers? Beyond working as a union to ensure their voices are heard, members of L-S50 consistently describe the atmosphere they’ve developed at Vulcan the same way: It’s a family. And a big one at that — with about 100 Boilermakers at the facility.

“I think the main reason people like to work here is the other people,” Furgason says. “The people they work with, well, it’s like a family. You end up spending a lot of time with these people — almost more time than you do with your family at home! So, you get to form relationships with your co-workers and the management.”

“We’re one big family, we’re a union, we stick together,” affirms material specialist Vernon Jackson, L-S50’s Secretary/Treasurer and a 31-year Vulcan employee.

“Everybody just wants to be together,” Barnett adds. “It’s a camaraderie sort of thing, and everybody is always concerned about one another. Family is a strong word, and it’s a true word. That’s how we are here at Vulcan.”

Looking out for one another as a family; pride in their work. That’s what leads to Vulcan equipment that’s well-made, well-used and well-worth the price tag. It’s what motivates perfection. It’s what puts the right tools in chefs’ hands.

“It makes me proud to know I can go to a restaurant, and say, ‘Oh, I made that’ — and some of the (equipment) is 30 years old or more. So, I know I made that stove,” Smith says.

“I can honestly say, we do make a quality product. “Most of the people here go over and beyond.” And that just might be one reason the steaks taste so good.”
(Submitted to the Boilermaker Reporter by Tobe Schmidt, Kiewit Project Safety Manager – Huntington Beach and Gabriel “Lucky” Martinez Vasquez, craft safety adviser, Local 92.)

SAFETY AND HARD work — and having the right Boilermaker craftsmen on the job — were the keys to success for Local 92 (Los Angeles) on two recent Kiewit projects: AES Corp.’s Huntington Beach Energy Center and Alamitos Energy Center.

The Huntington Beach Energy Center is a “2x1” combined cycle power plant consisting of two combustion turbine generators (CTG), two heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), one steam turbine generator (STG), and a 30-cell air-cooled condenser (ACC).

The project broke ground in June of 2017 and began going vertical in March of 2018. Even with a restricted schedule, Boilermakers accomplished what some would call impossible. They built two 150-foot stacks in eight weeks and erected two HRSGs in 18 days. Those builds consisted of setting 16 modules, 10 floor panels, 36 wall panels, spool duct panels and a steam catalytic reaction system. They also removed all shipping steel, then assembled and installed the carbon monoxide frames, eight roof sections and drum support steel, and set the two HP steam drums.

The ACC was also completed ahead of schedule. Hazards were eliminated through planning and design. Workers fabricated the fan decks for the ACC on the ground level in modular sections and flew them into position. This method made the project safer and more productive.

The project’s success was due to the craftsmen and women who performed the work. Local 92 was outstanding in safety, quality, production and scheduling.

As with any large construction project, there were some struggles along the way. With the Boilermakers restricted schedule, they were only able to work a single shift until the modules for the HRSG arrived, and even then, restrictions of night shift permitting did not allow for any light or sound pollution due to the proximity of neighborhoods in the area.

The amount and type of work was limited, but it was crucial for the goals the team had set. There wasn’t a single challenge presented to the Boilermakers that they didn’t knock out of the park. Pride in themselves and their local, paired with their skill, really drove their success.

A sister project, Alamitos Energy Center, located just 15 miles away, proceeded at a near parallel schedule. The projects entered peak workforce about a month apart during a time of high craft demand in Southern California. Even though shorthanded at times, Boilermakers performed safe and productive work while producing a quality product that substantially contributed to the overall project performance.

With every Kiewit project, the lessons learned from previous projects is key to continued success. Each project presents new and interesting challenges. With the team Huntington Beach Energy Center brought to the table, coupled with local unions, the success was second to none.

Safety was incorporated into every aspect of the work through planning, design, and construction, and Boilermakers bought into and ran with the safety program. Kiewit utilized a Craft Voice in Safety (CVIS) program that allowed each craft to have a leader/spokesperson meet with the management team weekly to communicate and resolve issues. The program resulted in a million man-hours worked with a total recordable incident rate of 0.21.

A special thanks to all the Boilermakers who were part of the overall success of the projects. Some of the key Boilermakers included: Area Safety Manager III Robert Stormo; Construction Manager Dan Campos; superintendents Marco Torres and Justin Miller; general foremen Thomas Reed Blevins and Zeke Campos; craft safety advisor “Lucky” Gabriel Martinez Vasquez; CVIS members Fernando Saenz, Chuck Speiser and Dominic Campos; steward Sal Perez; foremen David Rodriguez, Ryan Martin, Zeke Campos, Pedro Flores, Joe Abetta, Dominic Campos, Roman Soto, Lalo Cervantex and John Clark. ■
NINETEEN YEARS AGO — just four years after emigrating to the U.S. from Mexico — Oscar Davila was working a job to nowhere in the Los Angeles area when he heard about the Boilermakers from an unlikely source — an ironworker. That conversation changed the direction of his life. Since then, Davila, president and acting business manager of Los Angeles Local 92, has worked hard and smart, with both determination and ingenuity.

The work ethic that motivated Davila through 19 successful years in Local 92 began in Mexico, before he’d even turned 10. He started working for the family business in Guadalajara, Mexico, where his middle-class parents owned and operated a grocery store. On the weekends, they served up food in the family’s restaurant.

“The whole family worked together under the leadership of my parents,” Davila says. “I started working with them at the age of 7 as the errand boy. I mainly helped them clean and also helped around the store. I always enjoyed working with my parents.”

That ended when he turned 15 and moved to the U.S. on a student visa. He wasn’t keen on leaving Mexico, where he worked hard in school and in the family businesses and had a comfortable and happy life. But the Davilas wanted all six of their children to get a U.S. education and then return to Guadalajara. They believed that was the way to success. The family’s oldest son had already moved to the states to attend school, so Davila and his brother, Juan, joined him.

After six months into Davila’s high school education, he and Juan moved out of their older brother’s place to live on their own. Davila continued to attend high school while working full time at night and on the weekends in manufacturing and welding jobs.

“It was my main priority to have a job and take pride in my education,” Davila remembers.
Balancing work and studies sometimes forced him to skip school — the first two classes of the day — in order to catch some sleep. But he finally graduated and continued to work in California. Originally, he’d planned to move back to Mexico after graduation. But then he met Irma, now his wife, who derailed that plan. So at 20 he married his sweetheart and began studies to become a U.S. citizen. He became a naturalized citizen a year later.

**Phone book points to Local 92**

At 20, Davila worked in a shop that manufactured trailers. During that job he met an ironworker who boasted about his union to anyone who’d listen. The man also told Davila that on other jobs, he’d seen men going into tunnels clean at the beginning of the shift and emerging at the end of the shift covered in dark grime.

“He told me they were Boilermakers, and he wondered what they were doing. His story sparked my curiosity — and his, too,” Davila says. “So, when I went home that night, I looked up the Boilermakers union in the phone book and shortly after, headed down to the hall.”

Davila indentured into Local 92 in 2000. He worked in the field for 10 years before joining the local’s staff as a welding instructor. The job was a perfect fit considering he’d been teaching welding to adults through the San Bernardino school district’s adult education program since he was 19.

“When the guys at the office found out, they brought me in as a welding instructor,” Davila says.

**Mentors help shape Davila**

Moving to California at 15, not knowing the language and not having parents close by, proved challenging to Davila. He had to learn everything over again in a new language. He had to be autonomous as a teenager in a different country.

When he entered the Boilermaker apprenticeship, he finally had a career path. Even so, money continued to be an issue for Davila. He had to learn to budget inconsistent income to make it stretch all year.

“When you start as an apprentice, you must learn to manage your money,” Davila says. “When you are just starting out, you don’t have a lot of opportunities since you are still learning and trying to gain experience in your new field. So it made it difficult to adapt to this new way of living.”

But he found Boilermaker mentors. And they helped him learn and grow his skills, because they could see that Davila worked hard, worked smart and did his best. One of his first mentors was Local 92’s Johnny Bernal.

Oscar Davila speaks at a rally in 2013 in support of Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa’s 30/10 Initiative, an infrastructure and jobs plan.

“He was one of the first Boilermaker foreman I had,” Davila remembers. “We were about 20 years apart. He was a very knowledgeable, respectful and professional foreman. He taught me to make sure that every job I do is done right the first time. And, when it comes to rigging, there are no second chances.”

Bernal also saw something special in Davila.

“I met him when he was an apprentice. He was aggressive as far as learning the trade. He listened to my directions. He got the job done,” Bernal says. “In everything, he went beyond my expectations. He not only kept up with me and jumped right on the rigging, but sometimes he pushed me out of the way so he could do the job himself.”

There were others as well, like Dan Campos, who Davila describes as “one of the toughest Boilermakers I have ever met.” Davila also named a former L-92 business manager, Eddy Marquez, who first brought him into the office at the hall to teach apprentices.

“He was a great Boilermaker politician,” Davila says. “He taught me how to interact with business professionals and also how to show respect to the rank and file.”

**Passion for the union’s future**

Before Davila was elected president, then appointed acting business manager for L-92, he was the local’s training instructor. He also logged thousands of steps and hundreds of handshakes as he worked with union brothers and sisters from several of the building trades to advocate for the 2013 passage of SB 54, the California state law requiring that at least 60 percent of work-
ers in the state’s refineries be graduates of an apprenticeship program certified by the state.

“My role was to go into every office at the capitol in the state senate and state house. We knocked on doors and sold the idea to lawmakers,” Davila says.

The law went into effect in 2014, and that gave Davila a sense of hope.

“As we lobbied for its passage, we worked together with all the building trades in California and accomplished our goal. Through the process, we made sacrifices but we also gained new partnerships.”

But Davila isn’t one to sit back and rest on his achievements. SB 54 has already increased the need for trained workers, and Local 92 has plans to meet that need. They bought a larger building in fall of 2018 — about four-times the size of the current building — with an eye toward doubling the size of their membership. And they’re well on the way.

During Davila’s off hours, he spends time with Irma and their three children, ranging in age from 3 to 18. He said the hardest part of being a Boilermaker was when he worked in the field and had to be away from home.

Now that he’s not working in the field, he’s found the time to build a house for his family. He hired some of the work out, but he supervised the entire project from the footings to the roof. Due to delays in permitting, the project took him two years. He finally finished and he and his family moved in the fall of 2018.

“It felt good. I built it the way I wanted to, but I overspent my budget,” he says with a laugh.

Even with a bright future ahead, he won’t slow down.

“I don’t believe that I will ever have enough knowledge in my field, and I will never want to stop working for something more.”

He says the union has played a “good and strong role” in his life, and he’d recommend the Boilermakers to anyone.

“They always say Boilermakers is a lifestyle. And it’s my lifestyle,” Davila says. “It’s what I like to do. Be whatever you want to be, but join the union. The union will help you get places you’ve never dreamed of.”

Oscar Davila with his wife, Irma, and sons, l. to r., Oscar, Octavio and Omar.

DAVILA
continued from page 19

Through the process, we made sacrifices but we also gained new partnerships.”
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New Welding Boot Camp equips workers for field construction

Training benefits recruits, apprentices and journeymen

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES OPERATIONS, along with the National Transient Division and the Boilermaker National Apprenticeship Program launched Welding Boot Camp — a detailed, structured training program to teach welding to recruits, apprentices and journeymen. Since the initial boot camp in July of 2018, over a dozen local lodges have hosted the program throughout the United States. It’s new, and it’s promising — with an 88 percent pass rate on testing for welding certifications given at the end of each program.

Jeff Hughes, CSO’s Director of Training Services, created the new training program as a way for the union to produce additional well-trained workers for field construction.

“If we’ve got the skilled manpower, we’ll get the work,” he says. “If we can generate more welders, then when other crafts are short, we can man their work.”

The boot camp is also a recruiting and retention tool. When a person applies to become an apprentice, the applicant is slotted into one of four groups: group four – no experience; group three – went to school for welding; group two – passed a structural welding test with a contractor; and group one – passed a tube test.

According to Director of National Recruitment Services Tim Simmons, most applicants fall into groups three and four — but local lodges prefer to indenture apprentices from groups one and two. In addition, Hughes says that occasionally an applicant lands in group one or two but there’s no room in the local to indenture them at the time of application.

“Sometimes you have a good candidate and can’t fit them into a local’s apprenticeship program. Boot camp is an effort to keep promising talent,” Hughes says. “There are also intermediate welders who are current members but need to be groomed for productivity on the job site.”

That’s where the boot camp comes in. The program is set up like a job site. Students in small class sizes work 10 hours a day, six days a week training. They continuously progress over three weeks, learning test-ready techniques in SMAW and FCAW. If they qualify during boot camp, they’ll work through another three weeks of tube training, both individual and buddy. The majority of participants travel from out of town, so they’re housed in a hotel with a roommate. They receive $25 a day for food. BNAP and area apprenticeship programs split the cost for the boot camps.

At the end of boot camp, contractors test the students. “We put them through the basic conditions they’d experience on the road,” Hughes says.

The boot camp also gives apprentices an avenue to get through the four-year apprenticeship program in a shorter...
amount of time “because they gain the skillset to work more
hours,” Hughes says.

Jim Chew, BM-ST at Local 28 (Newark, New Jersey),
recently held a boot camp at the lodge. Chew said the train-
ing was the best thing they’ve done in recent memory. “In
this local alone we’ve picked up about 25 certified welders
through the boot camp.”

Chew also noted that if attendees make it through the
contractor’s testing, they earn Common Arc certification.

“This program is a good way to add more welders to the
membership,” he says.

As for the recruits, if they pass testing, Simmons adds
them to the Boilermaker Delivery System and puts them
to work.

“Welding boot camp gives recruits the opportunity to be
evaluated for skill level and enhance their skills to be more
employable as a union Boilermaker,” says Simmons, who’s
pleased with the program and how it dovetails with his
recruiting efforts.

So is Hughes.

“This program is a win for everybody: the apprentice, the
local and the union,” Hughes says. “Since Aug. 1, we’ve had
over 200-man power requests and we’re short everywhere.
Mostly we’re short welders. Welding Boot Camp is one of
the tools in the toolbox we’re using to fix that.”
MOST hosts project management training

SIXTEEN CONSTRUCTION BOILERS completed the MOST project management course in Kansas City, Missouri, January 7-10. Pictured above front row, l. to r., Richard Ulbrich, L-647 (Minneapolis); Chris Linneweber, L-374 (Hammond, Indiana); Michael Dawson, L-433 (Tampa, Florida); Thomas Paul Clark, L-627 (Phoenix); Jaramie Hillard, L-85 (Toledo, Ohio); Adam Fabian, L-29 (Boston); Rose Lerini, L-154 (Pittsburgh); Glenn Undereiner, L-154; Tony Smarra, MOST; Marty Stanton, D-JS-CSO; and Bridget Connors, MOST. Back row, l. to r., Daniel Eastwood, L-83 (Kansas City, Missouri); Gerry Klimo, instructor, L-154; Mike Suplizio, instructor, CB&I (retired); Aaron Wallach, L-27 (St. Louis); Shane Duffy, L-28 (Newark, New Jersey); Fred Keith III, L-85; Troy Smith, L-374; Jesse Yourich, L-154; Thomas Donnelly, L-154; Steve Sampson, L-29; and Skipper Branscum, instructor, MOST Administrator (retired).

Boilermakers learn Code at TVA Gallatin Fossil Plant

NINETEEN MEMBERS FROM seven locals received paid time off for Boilermaker Code training at the Gallatin Fossil Plant in Sumner County, Tennessee, December 13. Chattanooga Boiler’s senior vice president of operations, Myron Richardson, welcomed members to the training. Teaching the class were Jay Brophy, MOST mobilization and training rep and Ray Parrott, MOST Boilermaker Code trainer. Also attending were Chris Rose, Chattanooga Boiler’s assistant construction manager; AD-NTD Shon Almond; IR Monte Causey; Local 455 (Muscle Shoals, Alabama), BM-ST Tres Howard and D-NTD Mike West.

Completing the training were, from Local 45 (Richmond, Virginia), Wesley S. Cale, Jr; Local 105 (Piketon, Ohio), Steven R. Cremeans; Local 433 (Tampa, Florida), Jarrod Langford; Local 454 (Chattanooga, Tennessee), Bobby Bishop, Steve Bishop, Danny Davis, Kevin E. Howe, Nick Kile, Chris Owens, Jason Smith, Chad E. Walker and Josh Wampler; Local 455, Michael Roberts; Local 456 (Rock Hill, South Carolina) Daryl W. Dixon and Ethan Ormsby; and Local 592 (Tulsa, Oklahoma) Nathan Gilmore, Kenneth Hastings, Brandon Mitchell and Jackie Morris.
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What happens in Vegas conference...makes ISO leaders stronger

WHAT HAPPENS AT the annual Industrial Sector Operations Conference in Las Vegas definitely doesn’t stay in Vegas. It goes home with participants and makes Boilermaker leaders — and their lodges — smarter and stronger. And registration is open for the 2019 ISO Conference, which will take place July 9-11 at the Mirage Hotel & Casino (visit www.boilermakers.org/ISO2019).

The conference includes large plenary sessions with informative and inspirational speakers, as well as break-out workshops that cover industry- and position-specific topics and a variety of general subjects. For example, participants in 2018 learned about everything from law to collective bargaining best practices to organizing and social media, and they heard from award-winning author Dan Clark. Plus, there’s also the opportunity to meet other Boilermaker leaders from across the United States and Canada. (Read a recap from the 2018 ISO at www.boilermakers.org/news/headlines/ISO-conference-stresses-organizing-recruiting)

“I was amazed at how organized and well planned it was,” says Gary Parrish, a Local 1073 (Cleveland) steward who attended ISO for the first time in 2018. “It was a great experience. The classes were great, and people paid attention and asked questions.

“I’ve been a union man all my life, and the guys would come back from ISO talking about everything they had learned. My advice: If you want to be part of a union, you’ve got to get involved. If I have the chance, I’d go back [to the ISO Conference].”

WEB EXCLUSIVE “EXTRA”

THEY FOUND THEIR “kitsch” on Route 66, took the dam tour and had their vows renewed by Elvis.

Read about the cross-country road trip that brought L-1073 (Cleveland) steward Gary Parrish and his wife Christine to the 2018 ISO Conference.

www.boilermakers.org/Parrish
Retired D239 member finds bony treasure in Montana’s back country

IF THERE WERE a world record for most antlers collected by an individual, Jim Phillips would certainly be in the running. A retired member of Local D239 (Three Forks, Montana), Phillips has acquired more than 16,000 antlers over six decades of scouring the back country surrounding his home. His passion to collect has earned him the nickname Antlerman.

Most of the elk, deer and moose racks in his collection are displayed in a 30-foot x 64-foot room he built specifically for them and has dubbed Jim’s Horn House. There, the racks are not just piled up in a heap — they are carefully arranged, as in tribute, laid out on tables, attached to the walls and posts, and affixed to the ceiling.

A 2012 Field and Stream magazine article calls the room “a cathedral of bone,” www.fieldandstream.com/photos/gallery/hunting/2012/12/biggest-shed-collection-world-15000-antler-cathedral-bone, an apt description given Phillips’ reverence for the animals that once wore the antlers he has found. Sometimes there is a small piece of the animal’s history: a bullet hole through a mule deer’s antler; a broken piece of skull from a bull elk’s fight. Scattered among the antler collection are skulls of American bison he estimates date back to the late 1800s.

Phillips hasn’t bought even a single antler in his collection. Though he sometimes trades for antlers, most of his collection has come from days or weeks spent hiking alone though the foothills, mountains and valleys surrounding the headwaters of the Missouri River. (The Three Forks – the Gallatin, Jefferson and Madison Rivers – merge to form the Missouri River near his home.) Those trips bring him in close contact with nature — sometimes uncomfortably close. He’s had run-ins with grizzlies and black bears as well as moose.

Finding sheds is only part of the challenge. Phillips says hauling them out can be physically grueling. A successful trip may involve backpacking more than 100 pounds of antlers over miles of rugged terrain.

“Pound for pound, I’ve packed them all, except the ones given to me,” he says.

Phillips’ passion for collecting antlers began at age 10 during a family camping trip, when he found his first elk shed. (Elk, deer and moose shed their antlers each year and regrow them). While Phillips doesn’t collect antlers for the money they can provide, he notes he was able to help with his three daughters’ college expenses during the 1980s, supplementing their scholarships and part-time job earnings by selling some of his finds.

Nearly 60 years after spying that first elk shed, Phillips is still at it. If time has slowed him down, it hasn’t depleted his passion for finding the bony treasures. There’s still a twinkle in his eye when he talks of heading back out. There are still a few open spaces in Jim’s Horn House to fill. And he’s always happy to open the door for anyone who wants a tour.

For more information about Phillips and photos of his collection, visit www.antlerman.com.

PHOTO: Jim Phillips stands inside “Jim’s Horn House.”
Ed McCormack designs artwork for his community

EVERY CRAFTSMAN IS an artist. In retirement, Ed McCormack, Local 592 (Tulsa, Oklahoma), has turned his welding art to crafting metal sculpture and furniture. Over the years, his artwork has ranged from an extraordinary public bench to bells of all sizes.

His most recent bell is enormous. It hangs on property east of his hometown of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. McCormack, also a member of the Salt Fork Blacksmith Association, welded about 180 pounds of 5/16-inch iron rod in a circular pattern to shape the 30-inch diameter body of the bell. It took 30 hours to craft. “I couldn’t do it all in one setting,” he said.

While he may be most known for his bells, one of McCormack’s most cherished creations is a bench that sits on the east side of the Okmulgee County Courthouse. To create the bench, he welded together antique brass pipe wrenches and claw hammers, among other tools, and odds and ends. The bench has a brass plaque inscribed with “Made in the USA by Ed McCormack for the citizens of Okmulgee County.”

If the county decides to move the bench, he has an agreement that it will be returned to him or his family. “I feel good about doing this,” he said. “I hope this bench is here forever.”

McCormack enjoys spending hours in his shop working under a sign he created emblazoned with his motto: “Somebody’s got to do it.” And for him, that “it” is a contribution to the community — and to his legacy.

— adapted from an article originally written by Patrick Ford, editor of the Okmulgee Oklahoma Times Newspaper
‘Fight Back’ gives back to Navajo Nation

Local 4 forms as a direct result of recruiting Navajos

DURING A CHILLY, windy week in mid-October, retired IR Gary Evenson spent his time volunteering with Adopt-A-Native Elder to deliver food, clothing and supplies to elderly Navajos living on the reservation near Winslow, Arizona. Boilermakers began supporting 40 native elders through Adopt-A-Native Elder in 2017, but the union’s relationship with members of the Navajo Nation began long before that.

Both Evenson and International Secretary-Treasurer Bill Creeden are members of Local 627 (Phoenix) and in the 1990s, both were also Fight Back organizers. They’d been assigned to California with a mission to get hired onto job sites as “regular Joes” then recruit the non-union workers into the Boilermakers. The contractor they signed on with had hired a large number of non-union Navajo workers.

“There were a lot more non-union than we originally believed,” Evenson says. “Upwards of 3,000.”

They also discovered they already had connections to some of them.

“I recognized a lot of names,” Creeden says. “They were brothers and uncles and cousins of some of the members from L-627.”

Evenson and Creeden signed hundreds of people into the union. “We had a lot of people,” said Creeden. “Several went into Local 627 for Common Arc testing.” He said most passed but at the time, L-627 wanted to “cherry pick” their members “because of the country club attitude.”

Evenson slotted some of the new recruits into Local 92 (Los Angeles); but for the Navajo members, that union hall was too far from Arizona.

So, several Navajo members petitioned to start their own local. And they had the members to do it. In 1999, the Navajos were granted a lodge. They asked for the lodge number to be four. It’s a sacred number because of the four sacred mountains (in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah—the boundaries of the Dinétah), four compass points and four colors (jet black, white shell, turquoise and abalone).

Local 4 (Page, Arizona) was born April 1999 with over 100 members. By June, that number had risen to 300. Current BM-ST Louis Dodson recalls the growth of Local 4 after they received their charter.

“In just three short years the ‘Navajo Nation Lodge’ had grown to over 1,300 members, approximately 98 percent of whom were Navajo,” he says. “I was very happy that each of our members were receiving a pension, annuity, vacation, along with health and welfare. The Boilermakers union is the best thing that’s happened near Navajo land.”

For Evenson and Creeden, helping elderly Navajo living on the reservation is a continuation of their work unionizing and forming a lodge two decades ago.

“In Local 627 and Local 4, we work with a lot of Navajos,” Creeden says. “Sponsoring these native elders is an opportunity to do something to preserve their culture and to care for those in need.”

And for Evenson, he says that “while we didn’t serve any centenarians this trip, the eldest was close at 98 years of age. And some of these remarkable women are still weaving beautiful rugs into their 90s.” He says volunteering with Adopt-A-Native-Elder has been a rewarding transition from “Fight Back” to “give back.”

ADOPT-A-NATIVE-ELDER PRESERVES CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Through Boilermaker donations, Navajo elders living in remote tribal areas in the Southwest receive food packages, grocery certificates and firewood as part of Adopt-A-Native-Elder. The assistance program helps elders who live in isolated areas of the reservation.

“We have an opportunity to touch the lives of these traditional people to show them that despite the many abuses they’ve suffered, there are people who care for them; people who respect them and their way of life,” says Adopt-A-Native-Elder Director Linda Myers.

She says that donations from the Boilermakers have made a positive impact on the comfort, security and survival of these men and women.

Find out more about the program and their ongoing needs at www.anelder.org
TERRENCE NELLUM, LOCAL 693 (Pascagoula, Mississippi), personifies the word “hustle,” at least according to the United Way. Nellum, who works at Ingalls Shipbuilding, signed up over 180 new United Way donors, earning himself the non-profit’s first Hustle Award.

Early in 2018, Nellum began speaking with new Ingalls recruits about supporting the United Way in Jackson and George Counties, which funds 19 health and human services organizations in Mississippi. His recruitment efforts exceeded all others; so the local United Way created the award to honor his hard work in the community.

Local 693’s Terrence Nellum, left, receives the Hustle Award from Tee McCovey, public relations director for the Mississippi United Way for Jackson and George Counties.

SCOUTS FROM TROOP 1028 in Platte City, Missouri, spent a few evenings this past winter at Local 83 (Kansas City, Missouri) learning about welding and cutting processes and tool identification, as well as watching demonstrations of welding and torch and plasma cutting. To cap off their week, the scouts worked with Boilermakers to make a popcorn popper for the troop’s next camping trip, and they earned a merit badge.

From left to right: L-83’s Kevin Coones, Michael Stephenson, Jaron Morgan, Aiden Bowen, Clinton Coones, Brody Corbin, Casey Snodgrass Jr., L-83 instructor Zachariah Hayes; Mason Millerd and Gerald Calvert, L-83’s Western Missouri business agent.
LOCALS AWARD SERVICE PINS

Lone Star District Lodge

CLAY S. HERFORD, DM-ES, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

LOCAL 74
45 YEARS  Kenneth Reed, Thomas Reed;
35 YEARS  Ronald Keck, Hector Lozano;
LOCAL 587
50 YEARS  Dwayne Boyd, Terry Oliver;
35 YEARS  Clay Herford.

Local 1 • Chicago

ERIC S. DAVIS, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

50 YEARS  Gerald Crandall;
45 YEARS  Richard Bartos;
35 YEARS  Bryan Webb;
30 YEARS  William Lambert, Joseph Natzke;
25 YEARS  Kevin Burkamper;
20 YEARS  Steven Baltsen, Michael Brousil, Thomas Donegan, Edward Downs, Patrick Summers, Joseph Wilhelm.

Local 83 • Kansas City, Missouri

SCOT ALBERTSON, BM-ST of Local 83, Kansas City, Missouri, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

40 YEARS  John Musser;
35 YEARS  Stan Olsen;
30 YEARS  Rodney Hale, Ronnie Strickland, Monte Tubbs;
25 YEARS  Michael Lewis, Richard McArtor;
20 YEARS  Jeffrey Burns, Rodney Burns, Daniel Czaplewski, Walt Forman, Jeffrey Jackson, Dustin Kitchen, Gordon Shuey, Danilo Vasquez, Mark Walker, Aaron Wood;
15 YEARS  Adam Lake, Rodney McFarlin.

DON'T SEE YOUR LODGE? We publish only those lists sent to The Reporter from local lodge officers for pins received in the current year. If you don't see your lodge here, please ask one of your lodge officers to send us the list.

MAIL:
The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Ave., Suite 570
Kansas City, KS 66101

EMAIL: reporter@boilermakers.org

FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT

The Union Plus Free College Benefit offers working families an accessible, debt-free and convenient higher education opportunity. You, your spouse, children, financial dependents and grandchildren, can all take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Eastern Gateway Community College
1-888-590-9009
unionplusfreecollege.org

Free College is possible thanks to the early support and enthusiasm of AFSCME, who entered into a collaboration with Eastern Gateway Community College in 2016.
With deep sorrow, the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer’s office and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

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JOHN CAMMUSO, WHOSE lengthy career in the construction industry included serving as Babcock Power’s manager of power plant construction nationwide, died in Worcester, Massachusetts Jan. 2. He was 87.

Cammuso was a familiar face to Boilermakers. He served on the boards of the union’s pension, annuity and health and welfare trusts and on the Northeast Area Boilermaker Apprenticeship Committee (NEAAC) board for many years. He was also a longtime rigging judge for area and the national Boilermaker apprenticeship competitions.

Cammuso started his career in construction in 1956 after military service in U.S. naval aviation during the Korean War. He began work as a draftsman for Riley Stoker Corp. (later Riley Power, Inc., a subsidiary of Babcock Power, Inc.). After retiring from Babcock Power, he continued to serve the organization as a consultant for more than 15 years. A nationally recognized heavy rigging expert for power plant construction, Cammuso lent his expertise to many Boilermaker graduate apprentices during competitions. In 2013, NEAAC honored him by creating the John Cammuso Excellence in Rigging Award.

“I knew John for 30 years,” said Northeast Section IVP John Fultz. “He was not only an expert in rigging, he held patents for things he invented in the construction industry. He was a great friend, a mentor and an ally of the Boilermakers. He generously shared his knowledge with others, and a part of him will live on in the careers of Boilermakers across this country.

“I know I speak for our entire organization in extending our condolences to Carol Cammuso, John’s wife of 62 years, his three sons and other members of the Cammuso family, and his many associates at Babcock Power.”
Don’t Jeopardize Your Pension!

Plan language and government regulations determine whether you can work and receive your pension benefit.

Jeff plans to retire July 1, 2019 but he thinks he may want to work after retirement. Jeff believes he can collect his pension and work too.

The Pension Plan or government regulations may prohibit Jeff from returning to work and receiving his pension too.

Jeff should contact the Fund Office before taking any action!

Telephone calls to the Fund Office are strongly encouraged if there are any questions about future employment. A phone call may prevent an overpayment or suspension of your pension.

A representative is available to answer your questions 8am to 5pm CT Monday through Friday (866) 342-6555.

To see a full description of your Plan’s benefits and limits, please refer to the Pension Summary Plan Description (SPD). You may access the SPD and Plan Document at www.bnf-kc.com.

Boilermakers National Funds
"always protecting our Boilermaker Family"
In Memoriam

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## DEATH BENEFITS

The death benefit plan under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the beneficiaries of the following deceased members who were covered by the plan since the last issue of our publication. If you have not yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information, and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101, at the earliest possible date.

**NOTE:** These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BNF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNF</td>
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<td>$6,000.00</td>
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<td>INTL</td>
<td>Holaday, John D.</td>
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<td>NTL</td>
<td>Booth, Gary D.</td>
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<td>Bunchek, Frank</td>
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<td>Celestine, Wesley</td>
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<td>Cerep, Edward A.</td>
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<td>Click, Elmer</td>
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<td>Green, Jimmy D.</td>
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<td>Hannah, Jack C.</td>
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<td>Housley, Doyle F.</td>
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<td>Kilpatrick, John C.</td>
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<td>Lytle, Terry R.</td>
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<td>Robbins, Anthony W.</td>
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<td>Tracey, Lawrence L.</td>
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<td>Buehler, William R.</td>
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<td>McNamara, Thomas P.</td>
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<td>Aguilar, Jim S.</td>
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<td>Bond, Charles E.</td>
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