Boilermakers revitalize shipbuilding in British Columbia
SAFE.

I AM ALWAYS WORKING SAFELY AND DEMAND THE SAME FROM THOSE AROUND ME.

I AM A BOILERMAKER.

LIVE THE CODE.
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Boilermakers and Utility Workers sign historic agreement

51st annual Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) Conference

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Local 60 veterans receive Quilts of Valor

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The Sir John Franklin is the first Coast Guard ship built at Seaspan. The ship will be delivered to the Coast Guard this summer, following sea trials.

SEE STORY 16

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THE REPORTER APRIL-JUNE 2019
Stronger ties with UWUA, national launch of the M.O.R.E. Work program bring opportunities

TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES involving our Brotherhood are moving our union forward, positioning us for growth and a more secure future. They include an historic affiliation between the Boilermakers and the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) and the national launch of our M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund.

On May 8, the Boilermakers and the Utility Workers signed an affiliation agreement that formally recognizes our intention to work together for the mutual benefit of our two organizations. Essentially, this means that, where it makes sense to do so, we may share resources in the pursuit of our common goals. While the details are still to be worked out, this could involve the sharing of training facilities, programs and staff; working collectively on legislative issues; cross-matching members to fill job vacancies; and other forms of collaboration.

The Utility Workers are similar to the Boilermakers in size and in other respects. They work extensively in the utility industry, operating power plants as well as natural gas and water facilities. UWUA members also work in call centers and in professional technical positions. Many UWUA members have skill sets that are similar to those of construction Boilermakers and have completed apprenticeship training.

Like the Boilermakers, the Utility Workers have a strong legacy of member representation and have developed quality safety programs and healthcare and pension benefits to support workers and their families.

Like the Boilermakers, the Utility Workers have been impacted by coal plant closures and the shift to natural gas plants and renewable forms of energy. Our International leadership and that of the UWUA are taking a close look at how we may secure work in the renewable energy field and in other non-traditional industries where our members’ skills can be applied, as well as expanding our opportunities in industries where we already have a substantial presence.

We also share a belief that carbon capture technologies must be an essential component of any national energy policy so that fossil fuels may continue to be used in a responsible way while preserving jobs in the industries that rely on those fuels.

Our relationship with the Utility Workers has grown strong over the years. UWUA National President Mike Langford and National Executive Vice President Steven VanSlooten both participate in our conferences and both serve on the board of Bank of Labor. Our affiliation with the UWUA is built on mutual trust and an awareness of our mutual goals and needs.

As we pursue our affiliation with the Utility Workers, we are also moving forward with our national roll-out of the M.O.R.E. (Marketing, Organizing, Recruitment, Employment) Work Investment Fund. This effort is gaining strength and producing impressive results.

As previously reported, the M.O.R.E. Work program concept was successfully piloted in California. Together with the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, the Boilermakers helped push through groundbreaking legislation requiring that 60 percent of contractor refinery workers be jour-
“The affiliation between the Boilermakers and the Utility Workers Union of America and the Brotherhood’s M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund are smart, bold strategies for dealing with the realities we face.”

We are also moving forward under the M.O.R.E. Work program with marketing, organizing and recruitment efforts—and these are showing positive results. Through the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, we are now able to more aggressively advertise the Boilemaker advantage and to reach out to more potential customers. More resources allow us to pursue market recovery measures, to identify and seek out owners that may have used Boilermakers in the past but no longer do so. More resources allow us to be more competitive in situations where our contractors might otherwise be discouraged from bidding on projects. More resources allow us to build new training centers to ensure our members maintain a competitive edge. And more resources enable us to hire more organizers to build our membership.

Growing our membership is essential to ensure we can fully staff all available work—and not lose jobs to nonunion workers or other crafts. It is also essential to restore the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust to its full health by increasing the contributions that come with more man-hours.

Without question, we have faced some extraordinary challenges in recent years with the shift away from coal-fired plants, the Great Recession’s impact on our pension, and large numbers of baby boomers retiring. These things have certainly stressed our union, our members and our families.

Challenging times require fresh approaches. The affiliation between the Boilermakers and the Utility Workers Union of America and the Brotherhood’s M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund are smart, bold strategies for dealing with the realities we face. I believe we will continue to see positive, measurable progress as these strategies develop further.

I want to thank our members for supporting these vital initiatives.
Boilermakers and Utility Workers sign historic agreement

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Utility Workers Union of America executed a formal affiliation agreement in Chicago on May 8 that calls for the two unions to join together for mutually beneficial strategies that fully leverage both organizations’ strengths.

While the affiliation agreement is not a merger of the two unions, it calls for the Boilermakers and UWUA to share in areas and opportunities that naturally align, such as special projects, industry programs and infrastructure, resources and other cooperative efforts.

“We have much in common with the UWUA in terms of our structures, our challenges and our opportunities,” said International President Newton B. Jones. “By aligning with one another, we further strengthen our structures, we gain greater economies of scale, and we amplify our collective political voice on state and national levels.”

In the agreement, the two organizations will look for resources they can share; for example, communications and legislative resources and training centers. In addition, when issues of mutual concern or advocacy are identified, IBB and UWUA will work together to create a combined voice, message and strategy to address the issue.

“We are pleased with this strategic affiliation agreement,” said UWUA National President Michael Langford. “It only makes sense for us to work together, to share our strengths and to magnify our reach and impact on important issues affecting our unions. We’re excited about moving forward together and advancing our joint priorities.”

“We look forward to building a bright future for the Boilermakers and UWUA together,” added President Jones.

By aligning with one another, we further strengthen our structures, we gain greater economies of scale, and we amplify our collective political voice on state and national levels.

We look forward to building a bright future for the Boilermakers and UWUA together.

—President Newton B. Jones
Boilermakers CHAMPIONED CARBON Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS) technology at two key energy and climate events in Saskatchewan and British Columbia in May. The Boilermakers union partnered with Saskatchewan Building Trades to host a town hall on CCUS in Estevan, Saskatchewan, and participated in a panel discussion with the International CCS Knowledge Centre during the global CEM10/MI-4 conference in Vancouver.

“Climate change isn’t just a problem regionally or locally,” said Boilermakers International Director for Climate Change Policy Solutions, Cory Channon, who spearheaded the Boilermakers’ involvement in the events. “This is a global problem, and the Boilermakers are a part of the global solution.”

The CCUS Town Hall in Estevan brought in leaders from the Global CCS Institute and International CCS Knowledge Centre on May 23 to share the latest information on CCUS, provide updates on costs and technology and advocate for local opportunities for additional CCUS projects. Estevan has much at stake concerning the future of CCUS: Coal mining is among the largest employers in the town, which is also home to the Shand and Boundary Dam coal-fired power stations. Further, the Boundary Dam station is SaskPower’s largest coal-fired station and was the first of its kind to have one of its units retrofit for CCUS technology.

“This is very important to us in our community,” said Estevan Mayor Roy Ludwig, who works at the Westmoreland Coal Company’s Estevan mines and is a member of the UMW. “I’ve had the privilege to work in a coal mine, and I’m sure all my brothers and sisters will attest that these are great paying jobs and we’d like to keep them going in the community. We want to continue to expand the clean coal technology we’re so proud of, and we’re going to continue to push for it.”

Town hall attendees included trade union members from the Boilermakers, IBEW and United Mine Workers, among other trades; provincial media; provincial-level Member of the Legislative Assembly Lori Carr; and three prominent federal-level leaders, conservative Members of Parliament Robert Kitchen (Saskatchewan), John Barlow (Alberta) and Ed Fast (British Columbia).

“This is a global challenge that requires a global response,” said MP Ed Fast. “I’m so pleased to see the Boilermakers and other trades here.”

Discussions centered around the technology as well as the potential for another CCUS project—either ret-

continued on next page
rofitting another Boundary Dam unit due for retirement or building a CCUS unit at nearby Shand Power Station. Nationwide, Canada has called for a federal coal phase-out and the shuttering of all coal-fired plants by 2030—unless they are retrofitted with CCUS.

“It all comes down to politics and economics,” Ludwig said.

Those arguing against CCUS often focus on the technology’s price.

Robert Mitchell, Senior Client Engagement Lead with the Global CCS Institute noted that as with any new, first-generation technology, costs for CCUS have decreased and will further decrease as the technology scales up, while at the same time, technology improvements continue to develop. He said there are now 43 CCUS projects in operation, under construction or in development around the world, and that many more are needed—along with all other climate-change solutions—to meet the Paris Agreement targets on climate change.

“What you’ve done here [in bringing CCUS to the Boundary Dam station] is spur the next generation [of CCUS technology], which will spur the next generation,” he said. “We need that; and, in order to meet the IPCC targets and reduce emissions to net-zero by mid-century in an effort to prevent dangerous climate changes, we need all solutions to be deployed as soon as possible, including renewables, hydro, nuclear and carbon capture and storage.”

“If you object to CCUS technology, then you object to the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. And that means you are disagreeing with some of the brightest scientists on the planet, who are saying that carbon capture is the pathway to correct the carbon dioxide emissions we are currently throwing into the air globally,” Channon reminded the crowd after sharing the Boilermaker-commissioned film “CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future.”

MP Robert Kitchen lauded the Boilermakers’ advocacy of CCUS. “It’s great to see the Boilermakers putting up this video. That’s the kind of thing we need people to do.”

Added Dion Malakoff, executive director of Saskatchewan Building Trades and a member of Local 555 (Winnipeg, Manitoba), “We need people to understand how this technology works. We need to debunk the myths.”

“CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future” was also featured during a special screening at the CEM10/M1-4 conference in Vancouver. The International CCS Knowledge Centre hosted the film in its conference event space.

CEM10/M1-4 is the Clean Energy Ministerial, a high-level global forum that promotes policies and programs to advance clean energy technology, coupled with Mission Innovation, a global initiative of 23 countries and the European Commission working together to accelerate clean energy innovation and address climate change. The
Boundary Dam CCUS retrofit paves the way for next-generation technology

The conference brings together the most prominent leaders in government, private sector and international organizations to promote progress toward a clean energy future.

In addition to the film screening, the Boilermakers served on a panel discussion on CCUS co-hosted and moderated by both the Knowledge Centre’s President and CEO Mike Monea and ClearPath’s Executive Director, Rich Powell. This was also held in the Knowledge Centre’s event space. Director of Government Affairs Cecile Conroy represented the Boilermakers on the panel, joining Michal Kurtyka, Poland’s Minister of Energy and Environment and COP24 President; Steve Winberg, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Associate Secretary for Fossil Energy; Tim Thomas, Mitsubishi’s Vice President of Heavy Industries; Hang Wang, Deputy Director-General of the 21 Agenda Administrative Centre, Ministry of Science and Technology, China; Mechthild Wörsdörfer, Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks for the International Energy Agency, France; and, Richard Jackson, President of Occidental Low Carbon Ventures and SVP of Operations.

Amid discussions about CCUS technology, costs, different applications for CCUS (such as in manufacturing) and timelines for continued development and scale-up, Conroy was specifically asked to address the impact of CCUS on jobs and the economy.

“The Boilermakers have spent decades modernizing the power sector with effective pollution controls, and we see CCUS as the natural progression of that for the future of our craft,” she said. “CCUS is a win-win for jobs and the environment. This is a global issue, and CCUS is a solution, not just to preserve jobs and our communities, but to truly ensure our planet survives.”

“CCS technology is proven, it’s continually improving and now it can be done much cheaper too,” said Monea. “As global citizens concerned about sustainability and climate, we need action more than just conversations about CCS. And when the Boilermakers come in, it’s not just talk. These guys—the Boilermakers—are ready to do it.”

“It’s critical,” said Beth Hardy, Vice President of Strategy and Stakeholder Relations of the International CCS Knowledge Centre, headquartered in nearby Regina. “We can now take the model of Boundary Dam and reduce the costs for future projects (currently estimated at a 67 percent reduction in cost). And we can now look for other ways to drive future opportunities—such as putting this technology on other things, like cement plants or an iron or steel plant.”

As an early adopter of CCUS, Boundary Dam is a draw for energy and industrial companies and leaders from around the world to tour as they explore the possibilities of CCUS technology.

SaskPower, which also owns the full fleet of power stations in the province, is considering using CCUS on one of its 300 MW units. Based on a recent second-generation CCUS feasibility study, the neighboring Shand coal-fired power station is one of the candidates for the retrofit. With effectively double the total emissions of Boundary Dam Unit 3, a 90% capture plant on a 300MW unit would have a capture capacity of 2Mt per year.

More than three kilometers away from the power station, the CO2 is injected 3.4 kilometers underground to be safely and permanently stored in porous rock.
Second California Refinery Tripartite spotlights manpower, skillsets and safety

BUILDING ON DISCUSSIONS begun during the first-ever California Refinery Tripartite conference in 2018, more than 125 refiners, contractors and Boilermakers convened March 26 in Napa for the 2019 California Refinery Tripartite meeting.

“Everything here is about what our owners need, so we’re here for your feedback,” International Vice President-Western States J. Tom Baca told attendees. “We want to work with our owners—and with our contractors—to make sure we’re getting the right people to man their jobs properly. We want to make sure everyone has the right plan, the right tools and safe projects to put us to work.

“We’ll take care of the rest—because the Boilermaker expectation is that we show up on time every time ready to work, to get the job done and to take pride in our work.”

The full-day tripartite meeting focused on three key areas: manpower, skillsets and safety. Addressing the issue of manpower and skillsets, International Vice President-Southeast Warren Fairley gave a brief update on the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, which was piloted in the Western States.

“The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund promises to become a powerhouse of advanced opportunities,” he said. “This initiative has already been good for the Boilermakers’ work opportunities. It’s good for our contractors, and it’s good for our owners. It’s focusing us as Boilermakers on critical areas of recruiting and training. It’s good for you—contractors and owners—because it’s giving you access to more Boilermakers who are safe and highly trained, which will result in higher quality work. It’s giving us an even greater ability to properly man your work.”

Peter Philips, Ph.D., professor and economic chairman at the University of Utah, who has studied the construction industry for more than 40 years, detailed the ebb and flow of manpower demand in construction relative to job relevance and the economy. He pointed to the Boilermakers’ ability to bring in qualified members from other areas to fill manpower needs as a unique benefit and solution.

“What the Boilermakers union does is seek to mitigate the problem of a constant contradiction between the number of Boilermakers they have and the number of Boilermakers you need by integrating the Boilermaker labor market across the entire United States and Canada,” he explained. “It mitigates the problem by moving people around to balance the peaks and troughs in different areas.
You’ve come close to solving a Gordian knot problem in the American labor market: how you allocate and preserve highly skilled and safe workers across the vast expanse of North American in ways that work for your members, your signatories and your customers.

Homing in on the issue of safety, Larry Jansen, ARB vice president and contractor chairman for the Western States Tripartite Alliance, outlined “actual potential severity,” as a strategy for incident root-cause analysis. He credited Exxon Mobile with sharing the strategy, which he likened to “mining the diamond” to examine incidents and determine, based on the severity of the incident, how much time and finances will be invested in preventive measures.

“It’s looking at your resources and using them in the best place possible,” he said, after showing an analysis matrix, sharing a surveillance video of an incident involving a fall from a pick-up truck and then walking through how the analysis is applied to the incident.

“The owners, ultimately, are driving safety,” Jansen said. “And the owners in oil and gas and petrochemical, the refineries, have historically done more about safety than anybody else. They’re sharing what they know, and we’re grateful. They’re driving safety, because that’s a corporate initiative. It’s required by the contractors, and at the end of the day, it’s up to us to make sure everyone goes home safely.”

Of course, climate change and the future of fossil fuels was also top of mind for all Refinery Tripartite participants. Special guest speaker Alex Epstein, founder of the Center for Industrial Progress, offered his insight through his presentation of “The Moral Argument for Fossil Fuels.”

The crux of his remarks was that the positive impacts of using fossil fuels far outweigh the negative impacts. As an example, he noted the wrong thinking in the ramp-up of unreliable renewables. He pointed to renewables’ reliance on expensive infrastructure and non-renewable “back up” sources as inefficient and wasteful.

“If we were really concerned about CO2, we would be focused on building more nuclear. But what are we doing in California? We’re shutting down very affordable nuclear plants,” he said. “The green movement is not about improving human life by lowering CO2. It’s about opposing every effective industry.

“Energy and industry make our environment better. Energy and industry aren’t the thorns of our environment, they’re necessary for a good environment.”

He also posited that trades can play a leading role in positioning fossil fuels in a positive light.

“Those in the [fossil fuel] industry need to have pride and to believe they are producing something good and demand justice [rather than being vilified]. The trades historically are actually very good at PR. And one reason they’re good at it is because they have a very strong belief that they’re producing a good product in a good way and should be treated fairly. What would be really powerful is if the trades could take that general confidence and apply it to fossil fuels.”

Other conference discussions centered on recent political advocacy in California through the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, quality control and state and federal apprenticeship programs.

With the success of two annual California Refinery Tripartite conferences and growth in the Boilermakers role in the industry, IVP Baca said plans are for the event to continue, alternating locations in Northern and Southern California.
Southeast Area Tripartite homes in on ‘industrial evolution’

SAFETY, THE FUTURE and updates on the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund and MOST were topical issues during the 2019 Southeast Area Tripartite March 27-29 in Destin, Florida. Seventy-five company representatives, contractors and Boilermakers met for the 12th year to discuss common issues and challenges to enhance collaboration across the industry.

“Boilermakers are committed to working together to solve the problems with your industries and organizations,” said Warren Fairley, International Vice President for the Southeast Section. “We must listen to each other so we can improve our ability to work together and increase our successes together.”

Fairley also touched on the M.O.R.E. Work Investment fund, noting that the Southeast Section has raised almost $434,000 this year to deploy toward marketing, organizing, recruitment and employment.

“The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund is good for the Boilermakers, because it focuses us on the critical areas of recruiting and training,” he said. “It’s good for contractors and owners, because it gives you access to more safe, highly trained members, which will result in higher quality work.”

More highly trained Boilermakers means safer job-sites. Mark Garrett, Director of Health and Safety Services and MOST programs, discussed the importance of communication to developing and maintaining a safe working environment.

Business owners, contractors and workers build trust and respect with each other by communicating clear expectations about what they need to do a job safely and by encouraging active participation in the process, he said. “One of the key points to creating a culture of safety is to give people permission to think and contribute. It creates ownership of the safety program. When people feel like they’re part of something, they’re more apt to reach goals and help it succeed.

“See something, say something,” Garrett concluded. “It doesn’t make you a rat or a snitch if you see somebody doing something unsafe and take the time to tell them how to perform the task in a safe manner. This could save a life—their life or someone else’s.”

In addition to the common goal of jobsite safety, tripartite speakers covered disaster relief, social media and industry evolution. Of special interest were dynamic keynote presentations by Tennessee Valley Authority’s Senior Program Manager for Industrial Relations and member of the MOST Owners Advisory Committee Jerry Payton and TVA Executive Vice President and Chief External Relations Officer Van Wardlaw.

Payton reported on MOST’s approach to teaching and learning based on human performance, noting the results-based method begins with a specific set of goals and then determines how teams and individuals work to satisfy those
goals. “The Boilermakers MOST program was the first program of its type in the industry, and now several other crafts have adopted the same approach,” he said.

As it relates to safety, Payton said, the human performance technique has resulted in every member of the Owners Advisory Committee encouraging anyone on their property—whether that’s a utility, refinery or paper mill—to stop work to prevent a hazardous safety event.

“However, there is still work to do to change the culture of the workforce,” he said. He advised that MOST programs should continue to encourage workers to point out safety issues on the job and “get the right people involved to execute a change in plans so people don’t get hurt.”

Also from TVA, Wardlaw discussed the electricity industry’s resource evolution over the last 120 years from hydro, to coal, to nuclear, to natural gas, to the latest progression toward renewable and distributed energy resources (DER). DER is a resource generated near the point of use instead of at a centralized source such as a power plant. It can provide all or some of a regions’ immediate electric and power needs and includes solar, wind, combined heat and power, energy storage and demand response.

DER is just the next piece,” Wardlaw said. “So, don’t let that shake you into thinking that suddenly everything that proceeded it will go away.”

His take on recent energy evolutions: The industry continues to morph as it’s always done, and while traditional energy supplies are impacted, they are still very viable. To deal with this rapidly changing landscape, Wardlaw advocates focusing on the “Three Ts:"

Talent—Acknowledge the reality of the evolution and hire workers who have expertise in new technologies.

Training—Maintain workers who have skills in traditional energy sources and commit to investing in their growth.

Trust—Continue to build a reputation as a trustworthy partner.

“The Boilermakers Creed says exactly what those Three Ts say,” Wardlaw concluded. “If we want to continue to be known as high-quality craftsmen and be good at what we do, then we’re going to keep our people trained to make sure we’re successful for years to come.”
Boilermakers, partners win awards for campaign against lockout

THE BOILERMAKERS COMMUNICATIONS department and partners Wide Awake Films and Creative Marketing Programs, Kansas City, have won two industry awards for campaign materials supporting an end to last year’s 90-day Local D239 lockout in Three Forks, Montana.

Film partner, Wide Awake Films, won a Bronze Telly award for the video “IBB Local D239 – Locked Out,” which tells the story of the 35 Boilermakers locked out of their talc mill jobs. The film focuses on the lockout’s impact on workers, their families and the tight-knit Three Forks community and implores the mill owner to end the lockout. It was featured in “end the lockout” campaign strategies, including a campaign website, social media and advertising. The film earned the Telly honor in the category “General Documentary: Individual for Non-Broadcast.”

The Boilermakers communications department also won a Public Relations Society of America Bronze Anvil commendation for the website, www.WeWantToWork.org. The website was built as an anchor to share the stories of locked out workers and up-to-date information on the lockout, as well as to gather signatures of L-D239 supporters and direct people toward ways to help the locked-out Boilermakers. The site also served as the base for advertising, including traditional advertising, social media and a digital ad campaign set by Creative Marketing Programs, Kansas City.

“We’re certainly proud to win awards for our work and to have such excellent, talented partners like Wide Awake Films and CMPkc,” said Communications Director Amy Wiser. “But far and above those awards, we’re proud to have supported our brothers and sisters at L-D239 and to have at least played a small part in raising awareness of the situation in Three Forks.”

Bank of Labor receives USA Diamond Life Corporate Achievement Award

THE UNION SPORTSMEN’S Alliance honored Bank of Labor with the Diamond Life Corporate Achievement Award this past June. The award is presented to USA’s industry partners that have surpassed the $1 million mark in supporting the organization’s mission.

“Bank of Labor is involved in all aspects of the USA,” said USA CEO and Executive Director Scott Vance. “Be it in the field at our numerous regional events, as a valuable television broadcast partner, in the office supporting the financial needs and strategy of this organization or working behind the scenes to engage more unions and more union members in our mission.”

Bank of Labor has been a longtime sponsor of the USA’s Brotherhood Outdoors television program, the USA Shooting Tour and USAs annual fundraising gala and conservation dinner program.

“We are extremely honored to receive the Diamond Life Corporate Achievement Award,” said Bank of Labor President Robert McCall. “It’s a milestone on the long path our organization has taken with the USA—a path we look forward to following for years to come.”

The USA’s mission is to unite the union community through conservation to preserve North America’s outdoor heritage. Bank of Labor and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers are among the organization’s longtime partners. More information about the USA can be found at www.unionsportsmen.org.
SPEND A DAY SHOOTING CLAYS

and connecting with your union brothers and sisters while showing your support for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting and conservation.

You will help fuel the USA’s mission and preserve America’s outdoor heritage — while having a heck of a lot of fun!

Contact Chris Piltz at 203-767-0745 or chris@unionsportsmen.org for more information.

WHEN: Saturday, September 21, 2019
Registration – 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Shotgun start – 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Powder Creek Shooting Park
8601 Monticello Rd.
Lenexa, KS 66227 • 913-422-5063

DETAILS: Shooter registrations include lunch & drinks, 12- or 20-gauge shotgun shells and clay targets.
There will also be awards, door prizes and premium drawings.

USA’S 11TH ANNUAL BOILERMAKERS KANSAS CITY SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT
WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL REQUIRING REFINERY WORKERS BE APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATES

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of Boilermakers and Washington State Building Trades scored a big win May 8, when Governor Jay Inslee signed ESHB 1817, requiring outside contractors and subcontractors in Washington State refineries and chemical plants to employ journey-level workers who have graduated from state-approved apprenticeship programs. The bill has the potential to increase annual Boilermaker hours on the West Coast by up to 1 to 2 million a year.

Boilermaker members began actively advocating for the passage of ESHB 1817 beginning in early February. Advocacy efforts were powered by Boilermakers Western States M.O.R.E. Work Investment Funds through a joint effort with the Washington State Building Trades and sponsored by the Washington State House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

Citing a “skilled and trained workforce” as necessary to perform onsite work, the new law also requires workers to complete advanced safety training and to be paid accordingly.

The bill was modeled after SB 54, which was passed in California in 2013. House bill 1817 passed overwhelmingly: 58-36 in the state House and 29-16 in the state Senate.

“By ensuring that workers employed in the dangerous work at refineries have a skill standard through recognized apprenticeship programs, the state is guaranteeing a safer workforce,” said Mark Riker, Executive Secretary of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council. “Union journey-level workers come with a superior skill set that goes beyond a reduced chance of error and increases their ability to prevent accidents from happening.”

“Our apprenticeship program has been recognized as first-rate by owners and contractors alike, and this legislation ensures Washington State refineries will have the best educated workers to perform the job, and that those workers are performing at the highest level of safety,” said International Vice President-Western States J. Tom Baca. “ESHB 1817 is about more than just apprenticeship opportunities, it’s about the products of that union apprenticeship system: skill and safety.”

Training and safety requirements will be phased in between now and 2024 with increasing percentages of skilled and trained workers required by January of each year: 20 percent by 2021, 35 percent by 2022, 45 percent by 2023 and 60 percent by 2024.

PHOTO: Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed ESHB 1817 into law on May 8. Attending the signing were State Rep. Mike Sells, primary sponsor of the bill and chair of the Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards. Also attending were state senators Rebecca Saldaña, Jesse Salomon and Steve Conway; Washington State AFL-CIO President Larry Brown; WBCTD Legislative Director Neil Hartman; WBCTD Executive Secretary Mark Riker and Luke Esser, government affairs. The Western States Boilermakers attending were IVP-WS J. Tom Baca; IR-CSO Mark Keffeler; WS M.O.R.E.-WO/IR Erik Seaberg; WS M.O.R.E.-WO/IR Trent Sorensen; WS M.O.R.E.-WO Mircha Vorobets; L-242 BM-ST Luke Lafley and L-502 BM-ST Tracey Eixenberger.
Williams, Stewart appointed to new M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund roles

MARTIN WILLIAMS AND Erica Stewart have been appointed to new roles that will further catalyze the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund on the state and national levels. Williams has been appointed to serve as the National Coordinator of State Legislative Affairs for the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, and Stewart has been appointed to serve as the National Coordinator of Women in the Trades Initiatives for the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund.

In their new roles, both Williams and Stewart will lead political and educational strategies to target state and local governments, increase work opportunities for Boilermaker members and strengthen Boilermaker membership.

Williams will concentrate on identifying and coordinating outreach advocating for state legislation that supports “skilled and trained” workforce initiatives, such as the recently passed and signed ESHB 1817 in Washington State. (See related article on ESHB 1817, previous page).

Stewart will seek and develop initiatives that empower more women Boilermakers to attain leadership roles at all levels, organize local communities and recruit more women into the trade. She will continue to also serve as an International Rep for the Industrial Sector Operations.

“This new role dovetails perfectly with the work Erica has done with the North American Building Trades Unions’ Women Build Nations conference to further the work of women in trades,” said International President Newton B. Jones.

As the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers’ plan to build membership and work opportunities, the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund focuses on four core strategies: Marketing, Organizing, Recruitment and Employment.

“This is an investment in our members and in our future as a craft organization,” said President Jones. “We needed an innovative approach to finding solutions and seizing opportunities that benefit all Boilermakers for the long term. The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund is exactly that approach.”

The M.O.R.E. Work program was successfully piloted in the Western States Section, before being rolled out across all United States sections in 2018. Some M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund actions include:

- Reaching out to potential employers through new marketing efforts.
- Restarting the “Fight Back” construction organizing campaigns and additional organizing campaigns.
- Recruiting skilled craft workers to replace those who have retired or left the union, in order to fully staff projects and increase man-hours.
- Implementing work recovery programs through employment initiatives and legislation that grows Boilermaker jobs.

In addition to supporting Boilermakers’ advocacy efforts to pass EHSB 1817, in the first months of 2019, M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund activities have also resulted in wins for Boilermaker work to take place later this year in the Great Lakes Section in Nekoosa, Wisconsin, and in 2020 at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh.

“This is just the beginning,” said President Jones. “As we continue to build out the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund and its structure, we can expect to reap additional gains for Boilermaker members and for our future together as a union.”
IT’S NO SURPRISE that Local 83 dispatcher Tatum Keister turned to the trades for her livelihood when she indentured in 2003. There were only five women in the Kansas City-based local at the time, but that didn’t faze her. She’d grown up with a family who thrived on manual labor.

Keister’s Arkansas upbringing had her roaming the woods and helping her lumberjack uncles with their work. They would cut trees on their land, then sell the logs to local sawmills. The family also hauled around firewood to local residents and businesses on the weekends.

In addition, she had another uncle who worked as a diesel mechanic. She’d haunt his shop. That uncle taught her and her brother to use tools, and in doing so Keister realized she was mechanically inclined.

“I really had five dads instead of just one,” Keister says. “As a kid, I spent all my spare time on firewood.” She’d haul it on the weekends with her uncles and they’d pay her cash—$40 for a day’s work.

She, her brother and her cousins loved the woods and logging so much they’d hike out with a hand saw and cut down small trees. Then, pretending to be logging haulers, they’d drag their load back home on their bikes.

Keister said she grew up learning to work hard. It stuck with her.

That work ethic has taken her places. As a young adult, she started college in Sedalia, Missouri. College wasn’t the right path for her so she moved a bit north to Brookfield to work in a welding shop. One night, a supervisor called her over and asked a simple question: “Do you want to make more money?”

After an exuberant “Yes!” he told her about the Boilermakers. He knew a guy in Local 83—Jeff Burns—and he connected the two.

“I didn’t know what a Boilermaker was, but I did want to make more money,” says Keister with a quick smile. She applied and indentured about six months later.

On her first job she was dispatched to Mason City, Iowa, to build two HRSGs. When she arrived, the HRSGs were skeletons. Nothing else. Earl “Short Dog” Rainy, the foreman on her first day, welcomed her before taking her up to the top of what would become a HRSG.

“He helped me put on my harness, then we walked around,” Keister says. “There was nothing up there but open metal framing. In the end he said he was testing me.”

But walking around an empty frame 10 stories high didn’t bother her one bit. She wasn’t scared. And apparently, Short Dog approved.

Keister went on to embody fearlessness, work ethic and tenacity as a Boilermaker. Well after she became a jour-
neyman, she worked as a rigging foreman on the night shift while pregnant—often pulling 14-hour shifts. She'd arrive home exhausted, park, and be too tired to get out of her truck. So she'd fall asleep in the front seat, taking a two-hour nap in the cab before grabbing a few more hours inside and starting all over again.

Keister worked her entire pregnancy, only stopping three weeks before her son, Maverick, was born. And only quitting then because she'd torn her meniscus on the job. Those three weeks are a bit of a blur, she admits, because of the pain caused by the injury. She declined pain meds because she didn't know how they might affect the baby.

In 2017, after she'd worked 14 years in the field, L-83 BM-ST Scot Albertson asked Keister if she'd be the local's dispatcher.

“When I chose Tatum as dispatcher, it wasn’t so I could be politically correct or trendy,” Albertson says. “It’s because she is a talented Boilermaker with a huge heart and truly cares for her brothers, sisters and the organization. I’m proud to call her friend.”

She's the local's first female dispatcher—a fact she shrugs at in the same way she always has. Women in the trades are scarce now, but in the early 2000s, they were nearly non-existent. Keister said she’d rarely see a woman on a job site when she started. That never intimidated her.

“I never had it in my head that I wouldn’t fit in,” she says. “It was never even a thought that crossed my mind.”

Keister also advocated for herself. When she’d show up on a job site and the foreman would ask her to watch the hole, she’d say, “I’ll watch it today; but I came here to work, not just watch the hole.”

As with most Boilermakers, Keister had mentors who helped her along the way: L-83’s Steve Myers and Dave Logan, along with Dennis “Dink” Ferris, who, Keister said, is “more of a god-figure.” She said he was a hard-ass and people knew it. “He pushed really hard, but worked really hard, too.” He’d earned a lot of respect over the years.

They still call to see how she’s getting on. “And I call them and ask them to go to work when we’re short, even though they’re retired.”

Transitioning to dispatcher took adjustment. She said that first year dispatching was the loneliest year of her life. She missed the field. She missed being outside. Missed friends she’d worked with.

“When you’re in the field, that’s your family,” Keister says. “And to not have that—it was very hard.”

And then there’s facing outage season as the dispatcher.

“When outage season starts, it’s crazy,” Keister says. “I’d much rather put my hood on in the field and weld.”

But she’s grateful for the new role, and she’s come to realize that even if her tools are her phone and computer now, she’s still part of the local. It includes the men and women in the field as much as the people in the office. “I don’t feel I’m more or less entitled than anyone else, because we’re all part of the same team.”

Keister doesn’t sit behind a desk all day. During slow times, she takes Local 83 on the road (along with her cell phone to field calls) and speaks to schools about the union. She’s passionate about recruiting, and it shows. She and Tom Burgess, the local’s apprentice instructor, recently hosted a Boilermaker booth at the trades expo, iBuild, held at the Kansas City Convention Center. Hundreds of high school students stopped by asking about the union, grabbing swag and testing their skills on a virtual reality welding machine. Keister stood for hours talking to the high schoolers, encouraging them to consider the Boilermakers as a career. She simply looks at that as part of the job.

“We’re all a team, and we have to work together. That’s what union is. That’s why I’m so passionate about recruiting.”
Boilermakers revitalize shipbuilding in British Columbia

ON PICTURESQUE VANCOUVER Island, down a quiet street near the water in the capitol city of Victoria, Local 191 Boilermakers (Victoria, B.C.), along with travelers, are doing their part in bringing Canadian shipbuilding back from the dead. This rebirth is taking place, in part, at Seaspan Victoria Shipyards, which operates within the federally-owned Esquimalt Graving Dock, the largest solid bottom commercial drydock on the West Coast of the Americas.

Local 191 is the signatory union, with about one-fifth of the employees at Victoria Shipyards from the Brotherhood and the rest from other unions. IR Richard MacIntosh said work started ramping up near the end of 2017 when Victoria Shipyards secured federal contracts through the Canadian Navy and also New Zealand.

Boilermakers are currently working on frigate upgrades for Australia and New Zealand as well as a submarine retrofit for the Canadian Navy, in addition to other projects.

This renaissance is not without its challenges. The main issue is an abundance of work and high demand for qualified workers.

“Around 25 years ago, the Canadian Navy and Coast Guard stopped building ships,” said Joe O’Rourke, vice president and general manager of Victoria Shipyards, which currently employs around 1,100 trades men and women.

“With that, the supplier and the knowledge-base of workers shifted away.”

Local 191 BM-ST Rob Taylor worked at the shipyard before his election to lodge leadership last year. He said there are only about a dozen older Boilermakers who have a complete shipbuilding skillset.

“One thing I’ve noticed with those who are coming up on retirement: There’s going to be a large discrepancy in knowledge between older members and newer ones,” he said.

That’s something Taylor is addressing with the local’s first-ever apprenticeship program, which will help train qualified workers for the shipyard.

One of the apprentices, Tori Cockerill, is a steel fabricator, making parts for the submarine refit. She’s been at the shipyard two months. O’Rourke said it can take up to five years to fully train a new hire, a path Cockerill is just beginning, and one she also enjoys.

“I absolutely love it here,” she said. “Everyone is so kind. It’s the best environment I’ve ever worked in.”

O’Rourke said that every person is giving his or her best on a daily basis, but finding qualified people with the skills needed to finish projects is the biggest challenge at the shipyard. Seaspan submitted bids for several jobs, not expecting to be awarded all of them—and now these projects are putting a time crunch on the labor force.
“When you bid a bunch of things you’re not supposed to win all the bids and they’re not supposed to start at the same time. This is an oddity,” O’Rourke said with a shake of his head. “We’re asking a lot, and we’re going to get there as a team with a promise that in the next growth period, we’ll catch up.”

And while the cost associated with rebuilding the labor force is high right now, O’Rourke looks at the cost as good for Canada, because the money spent on labor is going back into Canada.

“You should always be building your own vessels because you’re reinvesting in yourself,” he said. “It’s good for Canada and good for Seaspan.”

Submarine work at the shipyard has also required an uplift in skillset over the last five years. The need for specialty and high-pressure welding, as well as steel fabrication, is in demand.

Canada has four submarines they rotate, with one sub parked in the shop for repairs. The subs require high-level maintenance work as well as computer upgrades.

And it requires a lot of welding to repair hull pitting—where salt water has gotten under the absorbing tiles and has corroded the hull. To fix the damage, absorbing tiles are removed before Boilermakers clad the outside of the sub.

Cladding, a process generally used to address corrosion, fits welded metal over the surface of the work as opposed to joining two pieces of material. After the welding is done, workers grind down the weld, creating what looks like an entirely new surface.

“We had three tons of cladding on the hull,” O’Rourke said of a recent retrofit. “That’s a lot of weld.” In some instances, Boilermakers working on subs are welding “blind with a mirror,” using the reflection on the glass to guide them to lay the bead.

O’Rourke said that Boilermakers at the shipyard have had to evolve, but have risen to the challenge, with the quality improving with more training and more focus on weld procedures. “Boilermakers know what they’re doing and train their workforce to do it. We continue to build our workforce to attain the highest standard of weld quality,” O’Rourke said. “We’ve put millions of dollars into training in the last three or four years. Now, we have some of the finest welders in Canada.”

Apprentice Jasmine Holmes, L-191, welds in the Victoria Shipyard’s fabrication shop.
For Boilermakers working at Seaspan Victoria Shipyards, it’s more than just a job.

Drew Hansen has worked at the shipyard since 2006, but as a Laborer. From 2006 to 2011, the year he indentured into the Boilermakers, he had the opportunity to look around at the other trades in the shipyard before he settled on Local 191.

“I got a good chance to see how things work in all the different trades to find out what I wanted to do. I thought this looked pretty cool. I’ve always wanted to do a little welding and fitting and work with steel. I had the opportunity to do an apprenticeship so I took it. I haven’t regretted it.”

He’s currently working on the submarines as a field department charge-hand, supervising union members and running the crew for jobs.
Derek Miller has been a Boilermaker for 10 years. He works as a welding supervisor in the submarine project. He likes the variety of working at the shipyard.

“Every day presents a new challenge, and it’s interesting to see how we can overcome it.”

17-year Boilermaker Cory Haakonson has been at Victoria Shipyards for a year and a half and is currently working on the New Zealand frigates. He said he likes coming to work because he sees it as his contribution to world peace and freedom.

“We’re doing such a service to the free world and NATO, and building things that help guarantee our freedom.”
With the upcoming 2020 elections gathering steam, Boilermaker delegates assembled in Washington, D.C., April 14-17 for the 51st annual Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) Conference. Prior to lobbying their legislators on Capitol Hill, almost 140 attendees representing 45 Locals—including both the Construction and Industrial Sector Operations—listened to a range of presentations by significant mainstage speakers from the Economic Policy Institute, The Cook Political Report, the AFL-CIO and the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI).

John T. Fultz, International Vice President of the Northeast Section, gave opening remarks on behalf of International President Newton B. Jones who was unable to attend.

“One of the most essential things we do as a union is to come together to make our voices heard,” Fultz read from remarks prepared by President Jones. “And making our voices heard in Washington, D.C.’s epicenter of political action is critical. This is our opportunity to educate the lawmaker leaders about the issues that affect us as union Boilermakers and to gain their support to activate positive change and legislative action that will benefit our livelihoods and our future.”

In addition to several ongoing legislative issues, such as the need for a strong Jones Act, the elimination of the health care “Cadillac Tax” and pension reform, Jones’ remarks addressed the frenzied public debate over renewable energy vs. coal and other fossil fuels.

Calling the Green New Deal “myopic,” he stressed the Boilermakers’ stance that climate change must be addressed using a mix of renewables and clean fossil fuels to save the planet and American jobs. He emphasized that a critical part of that mix is carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), and he called for delegates to advocate for additional tax credits through the Carbon Capture Modernization Act and passage of the USE IT Act to help speed widespread implementation of the technology.

“Boilermakers are currently involved in several CCUS projects in Canada and in the United States, but we’re not yet scratching the surface on the scale needed,” Fultz said. “CCUS is a climate-change solution we must continue to promote to not only our legislators, but also our friends, family and neighbors who can advocate along with us.”

Fultz then introduced the Boilermaker-produced film “CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future,” which was packaged into small, easy-to-use video brochures for delegates to give their representatives and senators. At the conclusion of the video, International Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions Cory Channon took the stage to discuss the International’s larger, 10-year collaborative effort with other countries and organizations to promote CCUS.

Beck tackles CCUS hurdles

GCCSI’S SENIOR ADVISOR Lee Beck agreed with the assessment of CCUS scale needed. “We’re not on track to mitigate climate change,” she said. “And all options are needed to limit global warming. [Carbon capture] is essential if we’re serious about climate change.”
Studies show that 32 percent of emissions reductions can be delivered by CCUS. “But to do that, we need lawmakers to commit,” Beck said.

The biggest hurdles to global use of CCUS are cost and government awareness. As Beck pointed out, if nations don’t invest now, the costs skyrocket. “If we don’t deploy [carbon capture] today, the mitigation cost for climate change will be twice as high.”

The good news is that costs are declining. The price tag of the second power plant where CCUS was deployed cost 30 percent less than the first. And those numbers don’t even take into account the jobs created through CCUS.

Government awareness, Beck added, is imperative, because 70 percent of energy transition will be driven by government policy. “Right now there’s no business case to invest in [carbon capture],” she said. “Companies won’t invest until government takes the lead.” That’s why an updated Carbon Capture Modernization Act and passage of the USE IT Act are essential to help drive global climate change.

Lee tackles wage inequality

THEA LEE, PRESIDENT of the Economic Policy Institute, discussed the state of the U.S. economy, especially as it relates to working people. And it’s not great.

Ten years into a recovery from the Great Recession, “we should be in a healthier place,” she said. “People have only recovered their pre-crash income last year. We’ve been experiencing 30 to 40 years of wage stagnation with all the wealth going to the top.”

There’s been a 348 percent growth in earnings for the wealthiest Americans, compared to a 10 to 12 percent growth for the rest of the population, she noted.

“Even looking at the big picture of dramatic inequality, we’ve become hardened to how bad it is,” Lee said. “Inequality, on top of stagnant wages, makes it harder for people to make ends meet.”

Lee emphasized that this disparity is not simply due to current administration policies but a decades-long trend in which working people have been marginalized through a series of deliberate policy decisions made by both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Results of this disregard for the social and economic contributions made by working people include a chipping away at union power, poor trade policies and a stagnant minimum wage, to name a few. Lee said the “time is now” for unions to get involved to reverse poor policies from the past and fight for worker power, fair wages and income equality.

“I hope you’re ready to roll up your sleeves, because we have a lot to do,” she said. “Your commitment to the principles of the labor movement are what we need right now.”

Walter talks 2020

AMY WALTER, NATIONAL editor for The Cook Political Report, considered indications about the 2020 presidential race, including the many Democratic candidates and the current political environment’s impact on the sitting president.

One indicator she explored was how—or if—presidential approval ratings are an effective predictor.

“It’s hard to beat a president when the economy is doing well,” she said. “All but five presidents in good economies have been reelected.”

Walter noted that while currently 50 percent of people think the economy is doing well, that doesn’t appear to be influencing the current president’s popularity.

She also pointed out that independent voters continue to be a wild card. “They’re not as engaged in politics,” she said.

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**LEAP CONFERENCE**

*continued from page 19*

They just don’t spend a lot of time thinking about politics. Right now independents give [Trump] a 38 percent approval rating. It’s Trump’s base that has kept the [Republican] party together.”

She stressed that voters are tired and are basically “looking for a soothing bubble bath.”

**AFL-CIO’s Greene offers actionable steps for election wins**

JULIE GREENE, DIRECTOR of political/electoral issues for the AFL-CIO, took delegates through the back-end of wins from the 2018 mid-term elections before giving them a tool-kit on how to get their fellow brothers and sisters excited and involved in issues that matter to unions.

In the mid-terms, Democrats (who historically have favored union-friendly legislation) gained 40 seats in the House. Greene said unions “won where we weren't supposed to win.” Such as in the case of Iowa’s third district winner Cindy Axne, who won because AFL-CIO affiliated union members knocked on 32,000 doors and “got out the vote.”

Which is what, according to Greene, needs to be done to see union members vote in favor of union-backed issues and candidates. “Only we can reach our members,” she said. “Persuadable members trust their union more than any other source.”

Greene said there’s power in the labor movement. Not just elections but issues in general. But, she cautioned, it’s important to understand that members don’t like to be told how to vote.

“Members want info on all of the candidates,” she said. “They don’t like biased info. It’s clear they don’t want to be told what to do. They want the opportunity to make up their own minds.”

She advised that to reach members, unions need to provide information on union-endorsed candidates, including past voting records. Offer members information on debates and town halls. Also, get job stewards involved, because data shows that people who receive a personal contact from someone within their local lodge tend to vote more often and support union issues.

“Many union members feel as if they’re participating simply because they’re paying dues,” Green said, adding it’s going to take an extra nudge to get members involved through the voting booth.

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*Voluntary donations from members*

**Top LEF Contributions**

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LEAP DELEGATES FROM across the United States brought Boilermaker issues to Capitol Hill April 15-17, scoring valuable face time in lawmakers’ offices. This year, in addition to leave-behind fact sheets, delegates presented a video brochure containing the film “CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future,” which explains the urgent need for increased funding for the development of carbon, capture, use and storage (CCUS). The video, which automatically plays when the brochure is opened, proved popular on the Hill.

IVP-NE John Fultz emphasized to delegates in the speech he delivered the first day of LEAP that, “Your voice on Capitol Hill matters. And while even one voice might be mighty, take courage knowing that your voice is magnified by the Boilermaker brothers and sisters in this room. What we are doing today is the culmination of more than a century of hard-earned labor protections we must continue to fight for, preserve and build upon.”

Delegates visiting Capitol Hill sought action from lawmakers in four major areas:

- A balanced energy policy that supports the research and development of carbon capture, use and storage.
- Providing more equitable outcomes to working families in NAFTA 2.0, not more profits for multinational corporations.
- The preservation of the Jones Act (a law designed to protect domestic shipbuilding).
- Pension security and the repeal of the onerous healthcare Cadillac Tax.

A contingent of three Local 627 (Phoenix) delegates took to the Senate on Monday to visit the offices of Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), as well as others.

In their first stop of the day they spoke with Sylvia Lee, a policy advisor to Sen. Sinema, to discuss state issues affecting Boilermakers and advocate for increasing work in power plants across Arizona, where some plants are shutting and others are using a non-union work force.

“We’re looking to get into the nuclear plants,” said L-627 BM-ST Jacob Evenson, who described to Lee the extensive training Boilermaker apprentices undergo, so they’re prepared to work in the energy sector.

Wesley Dale, one of the L-627 delegates, went to LEAP to represent Native Americans on Capitol Hill.

“Arizona is our region. We want to keep working within our region,” he told Lee.
At Sen. Hirono’s office, the big topic was the Jones Act and Hawaii’s shipyards. Shane “Kalai” Ferreira, a delegate from L-627 who lives in Hawaii and works for BAE Systems, said that the Jones Act needs to be strong. “It’s a ‘must have’ for us.”

The group also discussed the national issues facing the Boilermakers, including CCUS. “We’re strongly in support of carbon capture, use and storage,” Evenson said. “We need to increase funding, because it will help us clean up the environment. It will also help us keep our jobs.”

Members from Local 5 Zone 5 (Floral Park, New York) dove into three full days trekking around the House and Senate in a tightly choreographed schedule, speaking with expertise on issues affecting their local and unions in general. On Tuesday they visited the House offices of Tom Reed (R-NY 23rd), Kathleen Rice (D-NY 4th) and Max Rose (D-NY 11th), to name a few of their stops. In addition to discussing national issues, their local’s concerns centered on the energy sector.

“The big thing we want to convey concerns the powerhouses and energy,” said Tom Ryan, the local’s president who has been visiting the Hill during LEAP for decades. “We’ve run into a lot of issues with the governor, who wants to bring in power from out of state and out of the country. New York State should generate its own electricity in New York State by New Yorkers for New Yorkers.”

His statement brought nods from the other L-5 Z-5 delegates: Christopher Donahue and Andy Labeck.

The local’s vice president, Kevin O’Brien, joined the group for a visit to Rep. Max Rose’s office, meeting with legislative assistant Asher Zlotnik to discuss nationwide energy issues, including CCUS.

“Solar and windmills are fantastic, but that won’t meet our energy needs,” said O’Brien while advocating for the Carbon Capture Modernization Act and the USE IT Act. “We need to bring down the cost for CCUS.”

Zlotnik agreed that having several different approaches to energy production, while also helping to mitigate climate change, is needed.

Staffers in long-time senator and friend-of-labor Bob Menendez’s (D-NJ) office met with Boilermakers from Local 28 (Newark, New Jersey), and the Jones Act was high on the delegation’s agenda. Led by L-28’s BM-ST Jim Chew, the group expressed grave concern over talk of repealing the 99-year-old law that says ships transporting goods between U.S. ports must be built in the U.S. and operated primarily by Americans.

In the wake of Hurricane Maria’s destruction in Puerto Rico, some individuals and organizations asserted that slow relief efforts there were due to a lack of ships to deliver supplies. The problem wasn’t that the ships weren’t getting there fast enough, the problem was that the infrastructure of the island was so devastated supplies could not be efficiently distributed.

“If the Jones Act is permanently repealed, it could open up the door for our military ships to be built by possible enemies,” Chew said. “We know the security problem that could pose.”

Repealing the Jones Act would also threaten Boilermaker shipyard jobs.

Menendez’s staff agreed, noting their appreciation for the Boilermakers’ support of the law.

The delegation also discussed CCUS as a viable technology to help mitigate climate change. After being given a

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Members of Local 154 (Pittsburgh), Local 900 (Barberton, Ohio) and Local 13 (Philadelphia), among others, as well as International staff, met with fair trade advocate Sen. Sherrod Brown’s (D-OH) staff. The group discussed energy policy and CCUS, as well as pension and retirement security, among other topics.

Their hottest topic, however, was the new proposed NAFTA trade agreement. When AD-ISO Don Hamric introduced the issue, a Brown aide went into great detail about the senator’s zeal for getting the trade agreement correct. “Labor enforcement is the number-one thing the senator cares about, and he’s fighting for a better agreement for workers,” Senior Policy Advisor Nora Todd said. “Just because the Trump administration said they renegotiated the policy, that doesn’t mean it’s good enough for you guys.”

Todd indicated that Brown believes the key to rethinking NAFTA is raising workers’ wages in Mexico and making it easier for them to collectively bargain. Todd said that if the labor and environmental standards in other countries aren’t up to par, the senator can’t support the new NAFTA, because it undermines U.S. labor and environmental laws.

The delegation expressed appreciation for Brown’s understanding and support of organized workers to be treated fairly in all trade agreements negotiated with other countries.
LOCAL 627 (Phoenix) BM-ST Jacob Evenson had an inspiration when he returned home in April from the Boilermakers annual LEAP conference: Political action shouldn’t happen just once a year in Washington, D.C.—it needs to take place year-round on state and local levels. So, he brought Boilermaker lobbying home with L-627’s first Day of Action. Forty members, along with retirees, showed up at the local on May 22, ready to lobby.

“It’s time to make a difference for our local and for our members,” Evenson said to members gathered at the hall before heading to the capitol. “It’s time to make a change. Time for Boilermakers to get noticed.”

In preparation for the day, Evenson stuffed over 100 packets to hand off to decision-makers in the state capitol. The branded folders included information about the Boilermakers, the local and issues affecting its members. He had helped planning and executing the day from AFSCME union brother, Mark Cardenas, a former state rep who is currently running for a seat on the Phoenix city council.

Evenson and Cardenas formed an ambitious plan to connect with all 90 House and Senate representatives. Their biggest ask was for language to be included in the upcoming budget that would allow project labor agreements for government ventures on the city and county level. Currently, union contractors are not allowed to bid on city and county projects—not since the 1980s when the state froze unions out of government-run construction.

In addition to seeking support for PLAs, they also carried the message “We power Arizona” regarding the need for increased support for carbon capture. They also asked lawmakers for their support in legislation to convert the Cholla Power Plant to biomass—similar to the eucalyptus-fueled biomass power plant L-627 members (and travelers) recently completed on the island of Hawaii.

The coal-fired Cholla plant, scheduled to shutter in 2025, employs Boilermakers. Converting the plant to carbon-neutral, environmentally-friendly biomass would not only save jobs but also produce much-needed energy for Arizona.

Second-generation Boilermaker Daniel Anaya participated in the Day of Action because he wants to keep working as a Boilermaker—doing what he loves.

“This has been my livelihood for 21 years,” Anaya said. “I’ve raised my own family working for the union. And the union is my family, too. This is what I trained for, and I’d really like to help keep the union going for as long as I can.”

He echoes what other Local 627 members said as they spoke with state representatives about the need for reasonable policies to support working families.

To make certain they connected with every lawmaker, the local sponsored a pizza party at the capitol. Legislators stopped by, shook hands and grabbed lunch while talking with constituents about issues impacting their lives. Legislators and senators from both sides of the aisle visited members, with many showing support for union-friendly legislation.

Evenson deemed the local’s first Day of Action a success.

“We got our faces before the legislators, so it will be much easier to approach them about sponsoring a bill in the future.”
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Two L-60 veterans awarded Quilts of Valor for military service

Due to negative public sentiment surrounding the Vietnam War, many in the nation stood by with crossed arms and disapproving frowns when U.S. troops returned from Vietnam.

Decades later, one national organization has taken steps to flip that attitude and show appreciation for veterans from Vietnam and other conflicts. Quilts of Valor, a national organization that gives comfort to veterans via handmade quilts, honored two L-60 (Peoria, Illinois) retirees by presenting each with a Quilt of Valor in honor of their military service. Veterans Jack Cooper and John C. Williams were celebrated at the local’s regular union meeting Jan. 6.

Recent Local 60 retiree Scotty Miller heard about Quilts of Valor through his volunteer work with Flags of Freedom. That group sponsors four, 30- by- 60-foot flags on 153-foot poles, flying at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Route 26 in Princeton, Illinois, to honor past, current and future military.

“You never know what’s going on with an individual that fought in a war,” says Miller, who nominated both Cooper and Williams for Quilts of Valor recognition. “A lot of vets came home and got kicked and spit at when they returned. This was my way of saying thank you.”

There was no recognition for Williams when he returned after serving in the Navy during Vietnam. He says he’d like to see all service members receive a quilt.

“It was very tear-jerking,” Williams says. “It hit home. They did a wonderful job on it. I kindly appreciated it.”

Cooper, a former U.S. Marine, served in Korea and Vietnam. “I believe wholeheartedly in serving your country,” says Cooper, who was honored to receive his quilt. “Especially the way things are in the world today.”

Terry Johnson, who heads up Quilts of Valor in the Illinois Valley, says the organization, founded in 2003 in Iowa, quickly grew to all 50 states. After making and giving away dozens of quilts, she sees the difference it makes in the lives of veterans, many of whom have never received acknowledgment or thanks for their sacrifice.

“These people served and sacrificed for our country,” she says. “So we wrap quilts of hope and healing around them. They open up after receiving the quilt.”

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a nonprofit that aims to honor, comfort and cover veterans and service members with handmade quilts. The group estimates the cost of completing each quilt is around $200.

Contributions may be sent to:
Quilts of Valor Foundation
P.O. Box 191
Winterset, IA 50273

To learn more about Quilts of Valor visit www.qovf.org
Broken back and road to recovery lead to fresh perspective

SCOTT TANSEY HAS always been a man of faith. More or less. Probably less lately, he admits. But one foggy, rainy morning last year, he says, “God gave me a good, ole shaking and said ‘Hey, enough already!’”

Before dawn that day, Tansey, who is a member of Local 667 (Charleston, West Virginia), got in his truck and left a campground in Paxico, Kansas, to do some work for Local 83 (Kansas City, Missouri) at Jeffrey Energy in St. Mary’s, Kansas. It was around 4:30 a.m., and he was thinking about some welding inspections he needed to do. That’s when he missed a turn and hit an embankment at 65 miles-per-hour. His truck careened between a guidewire and a telephone pole and crashed through a sign before coming to rest on all four tires in a cornfield.

Stunned but still conscious, Tansey immediately felt like his tailbone and lower body were on fire. “I thought maybe the heated seats in the truck had shorted out and caught on fire,” he says.

He had to climb into the back-passenger seat to get out because none of the other doors would open. When he finally got out of his truck, he walked around it and inspected the damage while calling 911 and his wife, Jennifer, back in their hometown of Bates City, Missouri. He then settled into the back seat to wait for the EMTs to arrive.

“My adrenaline was pumping. It seemed like forever but was probably only 15 or 20 minutes before they got there,” he recalls. “And boy, was I glad to see them!”

After assessing Tansey’s injuries and noting he had gone into shock, the attendants hurriedly immobilized him on a backboard and rushed him to a local hospital, where Jennifer met them at the emergency room. He doesn’t remember much of the 15-minute ambulance ride except the creak of the ambulance door opening and rain hitting him in the face as he was whisked into the hospital and then into an assessment bay.

Much later, Tansey awoke to a doctor telling Jennifer that they needed to get him to a trauma center ASAP because his injuries were more serious than the hospital was prepared to handle.

The stormy weather made it too dangerous for a life flight helicopter to take him to the nearest trauma center so, once again, Tansey was completely restrained, gingerly loaded into an ambulance and rushed 30 minutes away to Stormont Vale Hospital in Topeka, Kansas.

After an extensive examination and multiple tests, doctors explained to Tansey and his wife that his first lumbar vertebrae (L1) was fractured, that he had literally “broken his back in half.” He needed surgery immediately to remove a bone fragment resting against his spinal cord that could easily shift and cause, at best, complete paralysis of his lower body, and at worst, death. The fact that he had walked around the truck right after the crash and hadn’t caused further damage was, they said, “a miracle.”

By this time, Tansey’s dad had made the 14-hour drive from Parkersburg, West Virginia, to Topeka to be with his son and family during the long hours of his grueling surgery. As Jennifer paced the sterile waiting room and hospital hallways with other family members, their 11-year-old son, Zachery, was at home with relatives.

Tansey’s surgery was a complete success. The floating fragment was removed, and doctors inserted two steel rods
in Tansey’s spine to fuse the L1 vertebrae with the two above it and the two below it.

The prognosis: Tansey would have to learn how to walk again and was expected to spend two to three weeks in the hospital and one to two months in an in-patient rehabilitation facility.

The reality: Tansey left the hospital in just eight days, using only a walker and wearing a shoulder-to-waist turtle shell body brace.

“"It was largely due to my wife," he says. "Jennifer pushed me very hard. She and the nurse would walk me up and down the hallway on my walker, and then I started doing loops of the wing I was in. It was painful, but she pushed me." And the medical staff was amazed.

Tansey continued his recovery at home with the help of Jennifer and Zachery, who took charge of helping Tansey put on and take off his brace. He was back to work in three months.

And that sign his truck hit? It was for a church. “I took that as my ‘sign.’ Something was telling me that I needed to straighten up and get my life right," he says. "It was definitely a wakeup call. I had an angel riding with me that day.”

Tansey says he was raised in the church and that his accident was the push he needed to reevaluate his priorities. “It really hit home,” he says. “It had to start with me first. I needed to really decide what was important to me. Now, when I’m not working, I spend as much time with my family as I can.”

He also recalls how this experience opened his eyes to give a little more freely when jobsite collections are taken up for those in need. “You never know how bad the person really needs it and how much it means to them until you’ve been in that position. If someone is on a collection, they really need it.

“This whole instance has taught me why we call this union a brotherhood. The prayers, the phone calls, the texts, the collections, the love that was shown—we were overwhelmed,” he says. “I don’t know where we’d be without it. There’s a very good chance we would have lost everything we owned if it hadn’t been for all the financial assistance from my union brothers and sisters from both Jeffrey Energy and Local 83.”

“"This whole instance has taught me why we call this union a brotherhood. The prayers, the phone calls, the texts, the collections, the love that was shown—we were overwhelmed. I don’t know where we’d be without it.”"
LOCAL NEWS

LOCALS AWARD SERVICE PINS

Local 1 • Chicago
ERIC S. DAVIS, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, reports presentation of a membership pin to the following:
25 YEARS Kurt Pecsenye.

Local 4 • Page, Arizona
LOUIS DODSON, BM-ST of Local 4, Page, Arizona, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
50 YEARS Merlin Bundy;
45 YEARS Lorenzo Lucero, Gary Tibbs;
40 YEARS Felix Cenaruzabeitia, Frank Maes;
35 YEARS Monte Beeson;
25 YEARS Burke Gehrig, Kirk Stoneking;
20 YEARS Tully Bitsoie, Louis Dodson Jr., Bert Little, Alfred Yazzie, Lorado Yazzie;
15 YEARS Lolita Nez, Ronnie Terwilleger.

Local 11 • Helena, Montana
CLINTON PENNY, BM-ST of Local 11, Helena, Montana, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
20 YEARS Cody Ceartin, Jeramy Wageman.

Local 647 • Minneapolis
LUKE VOIGT, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
65 YEARS Glen A. Shilts, Robert H. Wittsack;
55 YEARS Luis E. Malek, Jerome L. Olander, Lowell E. Warnholz;
50 YEARS Michael E. Flynn, Richard L. Foster, Elvin E. Stewart;
40 YEARS Timothy J. Carey, Ronald J. Leeman, William J. Smith;
35 YEARS Mark Nathan;
30 YEARS William J. Smith;
25 YEARS David R. Gerads, Timothy J. Sauter, Anthony J. Sonneman;
20 YEARS Wayde Reinhart, Thomas S. Rohr, Patrick J. Schmidt, Anthony W. Schoonmaker;

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
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.

NTL Baird, Edward
NTL Degrange, Alvin R.
NTL Duncan, Buddy L.
NTL Gastencord, Richard E.
NTL Hammonds, Billy H.
NTL Hood, Tommy E.
NTL Lafontaine, Raphael
NTL Lashbrook, Donald N.
NTL Majchrowicz, Albert A.
NTL Morris, Neil D.
NTL Muncus, Arttis L.
NTL Nesper, Lavon C.
NTL Pennington, Nial F.
NTL Popp, Donald L.
NTL Rose, David R.
NTL Sconce, Lawrence R.
NTL Simmons, Richard W.
NTL Spears, James M.
NTL Stanley, J. R.
NTL Vasile, David J.
  5 Fleming, Kerry
  6 Bartsch, Walter
  6 Bostick, William A.
  6 Bruce, Edward A.
  6 Delahoussaye, Steve E.
  6 Ethridge, John H.
  6 Mariscal, Fernando
  6 McCartney, Halton R.
  6 Michaelsen, Peter C.
  6 Romero, Maximus E.
  6 Tiran, Renato V.
  6 Webster, James L.
  6 Wentworth, Robert O.
  7 Shea, Paul H.
  7 Witkowski, Michael F.
  11 Mantei, James A.
  13 Montross, Roy D.
  13 Smith, Joseph A.
  27 Flowers, Thomas C.
  27 Smith, Glen
  29 Adams III, Bernard M.
  29 Draheim, John J.
  40 Peterson, James L.
  45 Carr, Alonza J.
  45 Williams, Eugene
  72 Cook, Delmer L.
  72 Springer, Darryl
  72 Yarrington, E.C.
  79 Fontenot, Calvin W.
  83 Baptista, Tony R.
  83 Nunez Jr., Ted A.
  85 Dolan, James C.
  85 Horner, Wesley L.
  85 Rubel, James L.
  90 Akutagawa, Dietrich E.
  92 Davis, Arthur G.
  92 Rojo, Thomas
  104 Higgins, Eddie C.
  104 Weil, Otto
  105 Blevins, Newton
  109 Saye, Ricky D.
  112 Hughes, James W.
  124 Crape, Jerry R.
  128 Bouffard, Gerald
  128 Dewey, Allan D.
  128 Power, Edward W.
  128 Sharpe, Donald F.
  146 Arseneault, Teddy
  146 Hansen, Peter C.
  146 Lowe, Michael D.
  146 Reilly, Patricia J.
  146 Wipf, George
  154 Bingle, Robert J.
  154 Cunningham, Joshua J.
  154 Dyer, Gregory S.
  154 Kelly, William M.
  154 Sage Jr., Robert J.
  154 Smith, James D.
  154 Taiclet, James D.
  169 Valentine, Jonathan H.
  174 Drews, Donald
  182 Benson, Reed H.
  182 Edwards, David D.
  182 Winn, Craig R.
  193 Goodman, Jerry W.
  195 Libby, Robert R.
  196 Fiske, Jeromy R.
  199 Gossage, Jack M.
  202 Kent, Alvin
  271 Langlois, Raymond
  359 Diplock, Michael
  359 Hodel, Jayson B.
  359 Markin, Walter
  359 Nickless, Cyril J.
  359 Rode, Bervin K.
  359 Salmond, Garry W.
  359 Tomsic, Frimen
  359 Watson, Ralph
  363 Hartung Jr., Robert L.
  363 Matt Jr., Fred H.
  433 Clark, Thomas R.
  443 Kanugh Jr., Joseph
  452 McCarroll, Eddie D.
  453 Savage, Wm D.
  453 Taylor, Kenneth E.
  500 Lahy, James E.
  500 Vieke, Donald A.
  531 Carney, William G.
  531 Farrow, Raymond W.
  568 Mendoza, Israel M.
  582 Easley Sr., Donald B.
  582 Moak, Alvin A.
  582 Preston, Curtis
  582 Sonnier, Floyd J.
  582 White, Leroy
  583 Box, Jerry M.
  587 Modisette, Leonard E.
  587 Murrah, Hubert L.
  590 Jett, Janie S.
  599 Ellenburg, Herbert J.
  614 Green, Richard W.
  647 Perry, John V.
  656 Barger, Clinton A.
  656 Moller, Brian P.
  656 Thomas, George L.
  656 Troxel, Lloyd E.
  661 Rysak, Robert M.
  667 Mahaffey Jr., Howard M.
  667 Slone, Paul E.
  671 Garbacz, Jan
  687 Jerrell, Royce S.
  687 Jones, John R.
  729 Slaton Jr., Thomas
  744 Davis, Brad
  1191 Little, Gloria J.
  1603 Mcabier, James F.
  1666 Pettit, Robert H.
  1668 Hill, George
  1702 Armstrong, Harold F.
  1999 Fowler, Charles M.
  D124 Cervantes, Ignacio L.
  D129 Sperl, Woodrow
  D140 Messer, Ralph
  D174 Erhart, Douglas R.
  D179 Linebaugh, William C.
  D239 Emerson, David J.
  D367 Klotz, Alexand
  D375 Snodgrass, Robert
  D414 Dixon, Jesse B.
  D421 Deckard, Ted R.
  D455 Gurlin, David A.
  M13 Crawford, Darrell
  S50 Schultz Jr., John P.
  M13 Crawford, Darrell
  S50 Schultz Jr., John P.

RETRACTION
Robert G. Peterson of Local 647 was mistakenly listed as deceased in the In Memoriam section of the January-March 2019 issue of the Boilermaker Reporter. Brother Peterson is very much alive. We regret the error and any confusion or concern that may have resulted from this incorrect information.
RETIRED IVP-WESTERN CANADA Richard “Rick” Albright was well-known for his fun-loving sense of humor, his energy, his gritty determination and his devotion to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers—a dedication that extended well beyond his retirement in 2005. The Boilermakers lost a loyal Brother and tenacious champion for Boilermakers in Canada when Albright passed away last summer at his home in Phoenix, Arizona, after a lengthy battle with multiple myeloma.

Albright began what became a full and fruitful career with the Boilermakers union in 1967 at Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta. He served L-146 as a Business Agent before being appointed as an International Rep in 1976; and, in 1986, he was elected as International Vice President of Western Canada—a position he was re-elected to at the next three Consolidated Conventions.

“Rick always worked hard on behalf of Boilermakers in Canada,” says retired IVP-Canada Joe Maloney. “He was very strong in apprenticeship development and building our pension plan. He worked tirelessly to improve working conditions, and he improved health and safety for Boilermakers across the country.”

With an eye toward constant improvement as a leader and for the Boilermakers, Albright was a graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program. He served in a variety of leadership roles for the union, including as Chairman of the Building and Construction Trades Department’s Canadian Executive Board; President of the Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories Allied Council and of the Western Conference of International Representatives; Director of Growth Works; Co-chair of the National Construction Bargaining Committee; and as a Trustee for the Boilermakers’ National Pension Trust, National Training Trust and Local 555 Apprenticeships and Training Trust.

Honoring his dedication to the apprenticeship program, in 2008, the Canadian Boilermakers Apprenticeship Competition Award of Excellence was renamed for Albright and his friend and colleague Retired IVP-Eastern Canada Sandy MacDonald. Each year, the “Richard Albright – Sandy MacDonald Industry Award of Excellence,” is presented to a person who has substantially contributed to advancing Boilermaker apprentices and the apprenticeship training program in Canada.

“The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers is stronger today—not only in Canada but everywhere—because of the work Rick accomplished throughout his career,” says International President Newton B. Jones. “His advocacy for the apprenticeship program, for safety and for elevating Boilermakers in Canada has left a lasting legacy that touches each local lodge and will forever benefit his Boilermaker Brothers and Sisters.

“As we honor the life and work of IVP Rick Albright, we think of his family and friends, and we are grateful his life was shared so richly with our Brotherhood.”
Ed Power will long be remembered for his signature smile and the indelible impact he left on the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. After a brief illness, Power died May 11, 2019.

“Ed dedicated himself to making our Brotherhood better up to the very last days of his life,” said International President Newton B. Jones. “One of his great strengths was his ability to develop strong working relationships with other International officers, with International staff, with local lodges, with members, and with our contractors and owners. It was clear that Ed loved the Boilermakers—not just the job and the union, but his Brothers and Sisters.”

Power began his Boilermaker career in 1975 at Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) as an apprentice construction Boilermaker, and he held a variety of local lodge offices before being elected business manager in 1992. He remained as business manager for 11 years before being appointed as an International Rep in 2003.

He was instrumental in setting up the first-ever tripartite conference in Canada in 2004. Committed to safeguarding benefits and securing work for members, he twice chaired the Canadian Board of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, an educational body for pension plan trustees.

In 2006, the Executive Council elected Power as IVP-Eastern Canada after Sandy MacDonald retired. He was re-elected by acclamation during the 2006 and 2011 Boilermakers’ Consolidated Conventions. Even after his retirement in 2014, Power continued to dedicate much of his time working to make the Boilermakers better for all members.

“Back in the early 1970s, we started our apprenticeship programs around the same time,” said retired IVP-Canada Joe Maloney. “Ed always showed an interest in supporting and defending the union and the membership, both on and off the job site. As he advanced his career, he always remembered where he came from and had the organization’s and the members’ interest at the forefront of every decision.”

“Ed not only served Boilermakers with distinction, but he was also a trusted colleague and friend,” said President Jones. “We will miss his steady hand, his keen sense of humor and his inimitable style.”

Boilermaker and former State Building Trades President Chuck Westphal

THE BOILERMAKERS LOST a champion and committed unionist when Charles “Chuck” Westphal, former president of the Michigan Tri-County Building Trades and member of Local 169 (Detroit), died April 11.

Westphal’s family is deeply-rooted in the Boilermakers union: His father, two brothers, his son and a nephew all are, or were, Boilermakers. He began his Boilermaker career in 1970 and eventually became a business agent, supporting four business managers until his retirement in 2006. He served as President of the Michigan Tri-County Building Trades during much of his career, negotiating an all-union project labor agreement to build and maintain the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel—which became a major project in Michigan.

“It is easy for us to forget what individuals bring to the table to help one another,” said John Marek, retired L-169 Business Manager-Secretary Treasurer. “Chuck brought much aid to our organization by his efforts, his influence and his persistence. Those who knew Chuck will miss many things about him—his knowledge, wit and pride for his organization the most.”

Westphal was a key player in the success of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers’ Fight Back program, proactively strategizing and organizing campaigns to reclaim Boilermaker work and regain union ground in his area.

“Chuck was absolutely committed to doing whatever it took to make the Fight Back program work,” said International President Newton B. Jones, who led the program. “His Fight Back representation of L-169 was a model for others, and L-169 certainly benefitted from his leadership in that role.”
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.

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