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Boilermaker Jimmy White is among the 82 members from Local 242 (Spokane, Washington) who build EZ Loader's top-of-the-line boat trailers.

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FREPORTER

SUMMER 2020

Volume 59, Number 2

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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 753 State Avenue, Suite 565 Kansas City, KS 66101 (913) 371-2640; FAX (913) 281-8110

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NEWTON B. JONES International President

The dangerous delusion of 'leave it in the ground' proponents

Fossil resources remain essential to human existence

CLIMATE ADVOCATES WHO agitate for a future without fossil resources fail to appreciate—or choose to ignore—the essential, life-sustaining and life-enhancing value of the fossil-based natural resources humanity has relied upon for well over a century.

We need only to look at the global threat of the COVID-19 pandemic to be reminded that fossil resources are critically important. As the pandemic continues to spread across continents, medical professionals have faced severe shortages of clinical supplies, equipment and personal protective gear that put their lives—and their patients' lives—at risk. The surge in illnesses has led to scarcities in ventilators, gloves, scrubs and masks. Especially in the early stages of the outbreak, extreme measures were taken to locate and transport machines and materials. Companies have switched normal production lines to manufacture medical equipment and supplies.

The pandemic has illustrated just how dependent the human race is on modern medical technology, and that technology is dependent on fossil resources.

Without fossil resources—especially petrochemicals that go into plastics and pharmaceuticals—modern medicine would be severely disabled, and we would all suffer the consequences.

Antibiotics, syringes, heart valves, flexible tubing, monitors, MRI machines, face shields, IVs, bottles, and the plastic packaging that keep materials sterile all require crude oil and natural gas derivatives.

And that is just part of the picture. Fossil resources also provide the reliable baseload electricity (or back-up in the case of renewables) that ensure energy-intensive medical facilities operate reliably and safely. The very buildings themselves are constructed of steel, concrete, glass and aluminum manufactured by industries that depend on reliable, always-on, fossil-based (or nuclear) energy. Nearly all medical transportation from ambulances to life-flight helicopters depend on fossil resources. So do the aircraft, ships and trucks that ensure hospitals are stocked with life-saving materials and equipment.

Indeed, we rely on fossil resources for our health needs and our everyday lives, from food production and distribution to general transportation to heating and cooling our homes. It is inconceivable that fossil resources can simply be left in the ground without horrendous consequences to life as we know it.

The false hope of 100% renewables

MANY WHO PUSH for an end to fossil fuels also believe that renewables (chiefly wind and solar) can supply all of our energy needs. This idea is a fundamental plank in the Green New Deal popularized by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and supported by Sen. Bernie Sanders among other U.S. politicians. Green politicians in Canada, Europe, Australia and other areas of the world also pledge their support to 100% renewable schemes. Dozens of environmental groups lobby governments around the world to support renewables and defund fossil resources.

Moreover, as the world invests trillions of dollars in rebuilding global economies devastated by the pandemic,

many climate activists clamor for a "green recovery" that throws additional billions of dollars in subsidies at wind and solar.

But renewables, like all forms of energy, have limitations and challenges. Wind and solar are far from the idyllic green solution often portrayed by the green movement.

Batteries used in electric cars can release lithium nickel and cobalt ions into the environment, harming beneficial bacteria in landfills, according to the American Chemical Society. Reports of child labor in the Congo, where much of the world's cobalt is mined, raises serious ethical questions.

Gigantic lithium-ion batteries of the type used by some utilities to back up wind and solar energy systems are not the ideal solution some advertise. "These batteries are far too expensive and don't last nearly long enough ..." says the MIT Technology Review in an article titled, "The \$2.5 trillion reason we can't rely on batteries to clean up the grid."

The article goes on to say, "If we plan to rely on them [lithium-ion batteries] for massive amounts of storage as more renewables come online—rather than turning to a broader mix of low-carbon sources like nuclear and natural gas with carbon capture technology—we could be headed down a dangerously unaffordable path."

In the highly controversial documentary "Planet of the Humans," released in April, progressive producer Michael Moore and director Jeff Gibbs challenge the premise that wind and solar are the answer to climate change. The film explores a range of issues associated with wind and solar power: environmental devastation from rare earth mining and manufacturing of renewables-generation components, massive land use requirements, risks to endangered bird species, public opposition to blighted landscapes, dependency on fossil power systems for back-up generation (requiring duplication of energy sources), costly electricity rates, and the inability to recycle damaged or end-of-life solar panels and wind power components.

The film also questions the profit motive of green energy proponents and businesses in light of massive government subsidies.

The green movement's response to the film was largely apoplectic with calls for it to be pulled from YouTube (which it was for a time) and countercharges of censorship.

Whatever faults the film may or may not have, it raises legitimate questions about how we use renewables and whether it is wise to lock in our future on the hope that wind and solar alone will solve climate change — that we can simply leave fossil resources in the ground.

Germany's troubled dive into all-renewables

PERHAPS THE BEST evidence of what 100% renewables might look like as a global climate change solution can be found in Germany. That country's Energiewende (energy transition) program, initiated in 2000, is a colossally expensive and disruptive attempt to power the nation primarily with wind and solar. To date, billions of euros have been poured into an effort to phase out fossil and nuclear power. Results have been mixed at best; some say disastrous.

Writing for Asia Times, Johnathan Tennenbaum notes that Germany has built more than 30,000 wind turbines and 1.7 million solar power installations that together have a rated capacity of more than 100 gigawatts. "Unfortunately," he notes, "most of the time the actual amount of electricity produced is only a fraction of the installed capacity. Worse, on bad days [with little wind or sun] it can fall to nearly zero."

To make up for the intermittent nature of wind and solar power, Germany has had to rely on coal-fired and nuclear power plants, the very energy sources wind and solar are supposed to replace.

Assessing the progress of Germany's renewables program late last year, McKinsey & Company concluded: "Germany has been a leader in the transition toward a low-carbonenergy system, but it will still miss most of its energytransition targets for 2020."

If one of the richest countries in the world cannot achieve intended emission targets through an aggressive renewables program, what does that mean for the rest of the world?

It's time to end the climate change demagoguery

THE WORLD IS simply not meeting the Paris climate accord's global climate target that would limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures.

Clearly, renewables alone cannot get the job done and keeping fossil resources in the ground is not a reasonable alternative for the near future. Globally, we need to consider all options and all technologies that can reduce carbon emissions. That includes fossil resources with carbon capture, use and storage; nuclear energy; renewables and future energy sources such as hydrogen.

Climate demagogues who demand a 100% renewables future are only fooling themselves and standing in the way of progress with other types of technology.



A CONTRACT WITH the U.S. Navy is poised to create at least 1,000 direct jobs at Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Wisconsin. FMM, which employs Boilermakers from Local 696 (Marinette, Wisconsin), will build the first-in-class guided missile frigate, FFG(X), for the U.S. Navy. Local 449 (Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin) Boilermakers, who are employed by Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, will be assisting, building various sections and modules for the FFG(X).

The contract also offers FMM an option to build nine additional ships, as well as post-delivery availability support, engineering and class services, crew familiarization, training equipment and provisioned item orders. According to an FMM press release, if all options are exercised, the cumulative value of the contract will be \$5.5 billion. The potential for steady Boilermaker work could span two decades.

"This is going to be the legacy of Boilermakers Local 696 to not only build the first-in-class FFG(X), but also be awarded the entire contract when, historically, the Navy has split contracts," said International Rep Stephen "JR" Bowen. "But the real excitement for me is watching Local 696 and Local 449 grow. As a result of this project alone, L-696 will be twice its size, and it will add 100-150 more Boilermakers at L-449. We're looking at a guaranteed 10-15 years of work, plus an additional 10-15 years if we're awarded the rest of the contract."

Winning the contract was several years in the making, and FMM was in competition with several other major U.S. shipyards for the work.

"When we began this journey nearly two years ago, it was with the belief that there was a place for new ideas, new platforms and new partners in an already talented U.S. shipbuilding industry," Fincantieri Marine Group CEO

Dario Deste said in the company's official press release on April 30. "Today's announcement validates that thinking."

The Boilermakers union was a strong advocate alongside FMM in bringing the contract to Marinette Marine. FMM CEO Jan Allman set up opportunities for Boilermakers to position with key decision makers Fincantieri's work quality and the importance of bringing work to the Midwest.

"Many understand how important these ships will be to the Navy, and I want to emphasize that where these ships are built matters so much for so many hard-working Americans," IVP-Great Lakes Larry McManamon wrote in a letter to U.S. President Donald Trump. "We are working hard to keep a skilled and experienced workforce employed here in the Midwest."

McManamon and Bowen met in Washington, D.C. with Dr. Peter Navarro, who is Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, and other Trump Administration staff.

"We explained to them that this is what Boilermakers do—that there are no finer craftsmen than Boilermakers," Bowen said. "We also outlined what it would mean to the Midwest workforce. About 40% of FMM workers are from the Menominee, Michigan, area; so, the work really feeds at least two states."

In addition to boosting the work for Local 696 and Local 449 Boilermakers, the contract also offers potential additional work for industrial and construction sector Boilermakers in neighboring Midwest states.

"This is a very exciting time for the Boilermakers as a whole to get back to our grassroots in shipbuilding," said Bowen.



Visit futurefrigate.com for video and more information.

Philly Shipyard wins U.S. Department of Transportation contract

AN APRIL U.S. DEPARTMENT of Transportation announcement means good news for Local 19 (Philadelphia) Boilermakers at Philly Shipyard: A U.S. DOT contract for up to five national security multi-mission vessels has been awarded to TOTE Services. TOTE has placed an initial order with Philly Shipyard for the first two vessels, with delivery to take place in the spring and winter of 2023.

"When the news hit, my phone started ringing nonstop," said James Hall, president of Local 19. "We're like a family. We all get together and help one another, so everyone's very happy about this. We get our union brothers and sisters back to work, and we'll have a lot more work."

Prior to the new order, Philly Shipyard was, by all accounts, nearing the brink of extinction. Work was scarce. Boilermakers, along with representatives from the Philly Metal Trades, including Philadelphia Metal Trades President Louis Agre and others, diligently lobbied elected officials to bring the work to Philly Shipyard.

"It was a process to lay out what the work would mean for Pennsylvania workers—and what was at stake if it didn't come through," said International Rep David Gaillard. "It was a long time coming, and it's heartening to see all the hard work finally coming to fruition."

Hall, Gaillard and other Boilermakers were among the Pennsylvania industry representatives who travelled multiple times to Washington, D.C., to meet with the likes of Senators Bob Casey, Christine Tartaglione, Pat Toomey, and Charles Schumer; Representatives Dwight Evans, Mary Gay Scanlon, Madeleine Dean, and John Garamendi; and Dr. Peter Navarro, Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy.

"The AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department and its affiliated international unions had one objective and that was to open the shipyard and put 1,200 workers back to work," said AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department President James Hart. "Had we not been successful, the United States would have lost another major shipyard that would have further weakened our national security, not to mention good middle-class jobs, at a time when America needs to get back to work."

Hall said plans currently call for work to begin on the new vessels in the fall. In preparation, Local 13 (also Philadelphia) has welcomed L-19 members to its training center to practice their skills.

"Local 13 has been amazing," said Hall. "They took my call without hesitation and opened their facility to us so our guys can get ready.

"This contract gives everyone hope. Boilermakers will be coming back, with decent pay, doing something they love and that's shipbuilding." ■



L-19 president James Hall takes the mic to advocate for work at Philly Shipyard, joined by James Hart, AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department President (left) and International Rep Erica Stewart (right).



L-19 members, with International Reps David Gaillard and Erica Stewart, meet in Washington, D.C. with Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon.

Victory: Settlement reached from

2014 Terex ruling

THE BOILERMAKERS HAVE finally reached a settlement in a six-year battle against Terex, a construction equipment manufacturer charged with committing unfair labor practices (ULPs) against employees who were trying to organize an assembly unit at its Grand Rapids, Minnesota, plant. Those practices included firing 13 employees who participated in a successful organizing campaign.

"It's been a long road, but we finally won," said Lee Kostal, one of the 13 fired employees. "That's a good thing."

Terex' compliance with the settlement agreement comes after the National Labor Relations Board decision in January to uphold a ruling by an administrative law judge (appointed by the NLRB). That ruling required that the plant recognize the Boilermakers as the assembly unit's sole and exclusive bargaining agent and to enter into contract negotiations with the union.

"Getting the union for the assembly guys was the important part," said Mike Kossow, who also was among the fired employees.

The settlement agreement calls for Terex to make whole the 13 employees who lost their jobs, providing backpay and benefits and offering them full and immediate employment. Backpay and benefits owed to 12 of the employees totals \$791,515.49. (One employee did not respond to communication from the Compliance Officer presiding over the settlement.)

Terex is also required to:

- Post notices of the ruling for 60 consecutive days in a conspicuous place in the Grand Rapids plant
- Post notices of the ruling electronically for 60 consecutive days
- Send notice of the ruling via email to all employees

The original violations occurred in 2014 as assembly unit employees were organizing to vote on Boilermaker union membership—something the plant's paint department had successfully voted on just days earlier. In 2015, the judge found the Terex plant threatened pro-union assembly unit employees with plant closure, termination and unspecified retaliation; and engaged in coercive interrogation, among other egregious violations.

That same year, Terex filed exceptions to the ruling asking that many of the findings be reconsidered. Since then, legal arguments for both sides have continued.



Employees attend a hearing during the six-year battle against Terex, the company charged with committing ULPs against them.

In 2018, the NLRB affirmed the judge's original ruling against Terex; and in 2019, the company requested that the affirmation be reconsidered. In December last year, the NLRB denied the company's request to reconsider the judge's original ruling.

"This settlement agreement and compliance is long overdue. The judge's decision was affirmed multiple times, and it's high time for Terex to finally step up to the plate and comply," said Tyler Brown, Executive Director of the Boilermakers Industrial Sector Operations. "The NLRB's reaffirmation of the administrative law judge's ruling was a testament to the profound impact a union can have on workers' rights." ■



Boilermaker conferences cancelled through August

DURING THE COVID-19 pandemic and out of concern for the safety of participants, speakers, staff and contracted vendors, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has made the difficult decision to cancel all large-scale in-person meetings and conferences hosted by the International (or specific International Vice President areas) through at least August 2020.

Cancelled events include the annual Western States Tripartite Conference set for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; the Industrial Sector Operations Conference in Las Vegas; the Boilermaker Industry Tripartite Conference in St. Andrews, New Brunswick; and the MOST National Tripartite Alliance Conference and Southeast Area Tripartite in Destin, Florida.

The International will continue to monitor the pandemic climate and evaluate risks associated with large gatherings to determine if modified events—which could include virtual events—could take place later in the year. ■

Communications Dept seeks local lodge videos THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD of Boilermakers Communications Department is asking Construction and Industrial operations lodges for help with a video project. In updating several subsidiary websites, there is a need for short videos from Boilermakers talking on camera about what it means to be a union Boilermaker. The department also seeks videos from lodge leaders—especially those that have most recently organized—to share how organizing with the Boilermakers has been beneficial. Videos should be no longer than 1.5 minutes, and they can be shot on a smart phone (see guidelines online). If your local lodge is interested in assisting the Communications Department, visit www.boilermakers.org/MyStory for more information and simple instructions, or call Director of Communications Amy Wiser at 913-281-8125 or email awiser@boilermakers.org.

Union Plus offers Hardship Help programs

UNITED STATES BOILERMAKERS may be eligible to participate in Union Plus programs that can ease financial stress during times of uncertainty, like the current COVID-19 pandemic. Known as Union Plus Hardship Help, benefits include financial, homeowner and healthcare assistance programs, and many can be accessed by Boilermakers and their families free

Financial assistance programs include debt management, credit counseling, legal help and bankruptcy counseling (with a fee waiver), as well as assistance for Union Plus credit card and personal loan holders.

Homeowner assistance programs include mortgage assistance for outof-work members with a Union Plus mortgage, a "Save My Home" hotline and disaster relief grants. Through the "Save My Home" hotline, which is provided through non-profit Money Management International, participants can speak—confidentially and free of charge—to a HUD-certified housing counselor.

Healthcare assistance programs offer a medical bill negotiating service, disability benefits and hospital grants for mortgage and supplemental insurance participants and for Union Plus credit card holders.

For detailed information on Union Plus Hardship Help, visit the Union Plus website, www.unionplus.org.■

UNIONPLUS

Union Plus is a benefits program that was created by the AFL-CIO and is available exclusively and free of charge—to United States union members, retired members and their families. In addition to Hardship Help, Union Plus offers special discounts, educational opportunities, two mortgage financing providers, a credit card and more. To learn more and to sign up for Union Plus benefits, visit www.unionplus.org.

Online info center offers COVID-19 resources



INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 has changed almost daily since the disease took root in North America in early March. In an effort to seek and make the latest information available to members, the International set up a webpage at www.boilermakers.org/COVID-19 to post materials and resources relevant to Boilermakers.

The page, also accessible from the union's homepage, includes everything from financial and mortgage resources to unemployment navigation information and tips to stay healthy. The page also hosts resources that are specific to Canadian and United States labor legislation and health and wellness guidelines. Plus, there are direct links to the Boilermakers National Fund, AFL-CIO and North America's Building Trades Union resources, and Union Plus assistance programs, as well as solidarity and inspirational messages from union leaders.

The page is updated frequently. As the pandemic situation continues to evolve, Boilermakers are encouraged to check often for updates and send any information that would be useful to assist other Boilermakers to awiser@boilermakers.org.

For the latest information, please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

Family business builds from innovation, improvement and Boilermaker quality

ake, ocean, river or pond, ✓when you're on the water zipping around on a jet ski, kicked back for a gentle evening cruise on a pontoon, hot-dogging on a wake board behind a ski boat or fly fishing down a crystal river on a drift boat, it's leisure time. The last thing you want to do is worry about how to safely get your watercraft to and from your aquatic getaway or any tricky, cumbersome maneuvers to unload and launch it. That's EZ Loader's job to worry about—and why their boat trailer company is "How the World Gets to the Water."

Producing arguably the best boat trailers in the business, EZ Loader has been around since 1953. The company holds 13 patents (and counting) and sells millions of dollars in trailers annually—nationally and internationally. And those fine boat trailers they sell? They're made by Boilermakers from Local 242 (Spokane, Washington).

"We're a high-end trailer. There's a lot of pride in what we do, and many of the Boilermakers who are building our trailers have been building

them for years—they know what they're doing," says Christina LaFleur, EZ Loader Office Manager.

LaFleur is a third-generation employee of the company. Her late grandfather, Larry Johnson, founded the company, and her father, Randy Johnson, is the current owner and President.



Boilermakers Maria Zuniga and Thomas Kinn assemble a trailer frame.

"My grandfather had a great mechanical mind," LaFeur says. "He had an auto shop in the late 40s/ early 50s, and there was a trailer manufacturer in the Midwest that would send knock-down (ready to assemble) trailers for the end user to put together. A customer came into his shop, and there was a problem with the way the trailer was put together. Grandpa said, 'Gosh, I could do better than this.' He always wanted to make things work better."

Johnson held many patents during his life, including the first "all roller" trailer, where a series of small rollers make it easier to load and unload the trailer. While he continued to improve the product and processes and expanded the business, his son, Randy Johnson (who has worked for the company in one capacity or another since he was in seventh grade) discovered a passion and talent for sales.

"My father, in conjunction with Grandpa, made EZ Loader a household name in the boating industry," LaFleur says. "They made a good team with Grandpa as an engineer and dad as a great sales person."

Johnson points to the constant desire to innovate and improve—with a focus on making boat trailers that are easy for everyone to use—as the keys to EZ Loader's success, "along with service after the sale and keeping customers first."

"Our family is very proud of EZ Loader and thankful we've kept it as a family-owned business for over 67 years," he says.

For the 82 Boilermakers who work there, it's also somewhat of a family business. It's not uncommon for multiple generations to work for the company.

Ron Hays is a Boilermaker at EZ Loader, as was his late father David Hays. Ron Hays, who's worked there for 19 years, hopes his 22-year-old son will join him as the third generation of Hays men to build EZ Loaders.

"People come here, and they stay," Hays says. "It's a really good atmosphere, and they've been really good to me. We have our moments, but we get through it; and for the most part everybody gets along with everybody. We have a good relationship."

LaFleur agrees, noting the loyalty and longevity of employees. Thirty-year service awards aren't uncommon there.

"So it's a compliment when employees want to have their sons or daughters come work for us," she says.

"They treated my dad really well. I always thought that when I grew up, it's where I wanted to work—and that's turned out great," says Hays, who started as a builder, moved on to the aluminum shop and recently changed to a role in delivery and repairs. "I wouldn't want to work anywhere else really."

Adds Johnson, "[The Boilermakers] have been fair to us, and we have worked together well over the years. We work as a partnership and communicate very well."

Hays likes the company, the work environment, the work itself and the pride of the finished products. EZ Loader turns out about 25,000 trailers a year. Boilermakers work in everything from fabrication to

"

I always thought that when I grew up, it's where I wanted to work—and that's turned out great.

- Ron Hays, L-242 Boilermaker

"



EZ Loader founder Larry Johnson patented the first "all roller" trailer. The 96RT 17-20 3100 Roller Trailer is one of the many innovations in boat trailers to evolve over 67 years of improvements.



Ron Hays pulls a piece for an EZ Loader trailer. Hays is a secondgeneration Boilermaker at EZ Loader.

assembly. Aside from tires and just a few other pieces, everything is fabricated in house. The most prized final product is an adjustable trailer. Hays says it's what sets EZ Loader apart as the best.

"Most other trailers out there are welded—one size fits most," he explains. "Ours, we can adjust and fit."

The company offers just about any combination of adjustable options, including rollers, bunks, pontoon, aluminum and watercraft. The options are mindboggling (visit www.ezloader.com). And they continue to come out with new innovations and new design patents. The latest is an I-Tube/Beam Aluminum design that conceals brake line and wiring and adds additional strength and durability in EZ Loader aluminum trailers.

"We manufacture our trailers to last and be the safest and most reliable on the road," Johnson says. "We have been fortunate to have loyal employees who share our passion in building quality boat trailers."

While Hays doesn't own a boat, he appreciates the product watercraft owners count on. He's proud of the work he and the Boilermakers do at EZ Loader.

"It makes me feel really good when I see boat trailers out on the road, because I think, 'I made that. I put that out on the road to be safe and help people enjoy life."■



Sherman Birdtail, Brandon Best, Matt Ma'ae and Karl Jannson make components for EZ Loader's top-of-the-line boat trailers.



Boilermaker voices shape legislation through LEAP

OLITICAL ACTION IS a vital component of the work unions do to advocate not only for their members' interests but often also for the interests of *all* working people. The Boilermakers' history of involvement in political action goes back to the earliest days of the union, beginning largely with efforts to support candidates who would, in turn, support the positions and concerns of Boilermakers.

While supporting candidates who support Boilermaker initiatives is still a part of political action, through the Legislative Education Action Program, Boilermakers are better equipped to raise their collective voices—sometimes with other unions—as effective lobbyists at the local, state and even national levels.

"Union political action has historically been a major force that has driven critical changes in United States labor laws that protect workers, such as child labor laws, anti-discrimination laws, the 40-hour workweek, federal minimum wage, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, and many health and safety laws," says Cecile Conroy, Director of Government Affairs. "It's imperative that our work includes advocating for political decisions that protect our union, our members and our work.

"And when the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers chooses to endorse a political candidate, it is



It's imperative that our work includes advocating for political decisions that protect our union, our members and our work.

—Cecile Conroy, Director of Government Affairs

because that candidate has a history of supporting measures that are beneficial to the labor movement and the work our members do. Our political action is aimed to benefit Boilermakers."

Director Conroy represents Boilermaker interests and national political relationships, and she leads LEAP efforts to ensure Boilermakers are plugged into key political issues and policy makers.

Traditionally, an annual LEAP conference in Washington, D.C. convenes Boilermaker delegates to learn the latest legislative issues on the table and how to advocate to support the union's position on those issues. Delegates also gain insight from influential political analysts and other

political movers and shakers during plenary sessions. A workshop is available for Boilermakers who want a crash course in the political process, best practices in lobbying and how bills become law. The



I'm 'just' some hard-hat guy, but the vast majority of the legislators want to hear what we have to say—even if they might not agree with us.

—Tom Ryan, president of Local 5, Zone 5

conference culminates with many of the delegates going to Capitol Hill to meet face-to-face with legislators representing their states and districts.

"All things are political—that's the reality in most of America, and LEAP is about building relationships with legislators so they're more receptive to hearing us," says Tom Ryan, president of Local 5, Zone 5 (Floral Park, New York), who has been going to LEAP conferences for at least 11 years and looks forward to meeting with his elected representatives. "To be there on Capitol Hill and to actually sit in the offices that a member of congress sits in—and speak directly to a member of congress as a representative of my union, it's really incredible.

"I'm 'just' some hard-hat guy, but the vast majority of the legislators want to hear what we have to say—even if they might not agree with us."

Conroy stresses that while the COVID-19 pandemic forced LEAP to cancel this year, it is perhaps more important than ever for Boilermakers to stay tuned in to legislative issues—as well as political allies and opponents—and to represent Boilermaker positions wherever possible.

"Having those face-to-face meetings with elected officials—whether that's in the House and Senate offices on Capitol Hill, in a statehouse or in a local municipal office are such a valuable way to communicate Boilermaker positions and build relationships with legislators, but that

What we do as Boilermakers participating in shaping legislation is the culmination of more than a century of brothers and sisters watching out for one another and raising our voices together for what's right.

-Newton B. Jones, International President

doesn't mean there aren't other ways we should be communicating with them and advocating," Conroy says. "Phone calls, emails and letters—especially when they're done as a collective effort among a large group of people—can be effective in getting a legislator's attention."

Ryan says that in addition to participating in formal LEAP activities, another way to advocate is by participating in rallies and efforts that reflect Boilermaker positions, led by other organizations.

"No matter how insignificant you think you are, there's always something you can do," he says. "Just to be a person at a rally clapping and offering encouragement and support is something. And of course, educating others on Boilermaker issues—wither it's the guy you're eating lunch with, your carpool partner or your neighbor."

The Boilermakers Government Affairs office curates and maintains resources to keep Boilermakers in touch with issues important to labor and Boilermaker interests, including links to political toolkits, voter registration, information about the political process and more to assist Boilermakers' advocacy work. Much of that information is available online in the Members section of the Boilermakers website (directly at www.boilermakers.org/LEAP).

"What we do as Boilermakers participating in shaping legislation is the culmination of more than a century of brothers and sisters watching out for one another and raising our voices together for what's right," says International President Newton B. Jones. "We have more than a century invested in hard-earned labor protections we must continue to fight for, preserve and build upon, as well as issues, such as those that impact the energy industry, that our livelihoods as Boilermakers depend upon.

"When Boilermakers sit down with, call, write and advocate to elected representatives, our voice is mighty, and when Boilermakers use our voice and vote to educate others, it makes a difference."

Quick history of LEAP and Boilermaker political involvement

In 1920, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers appointed its first legislative representative, Jasper N. Davis, and sent him to Washington, D.C. to track legislation and lobby members of congress. Brother Davis began a regular "Your Washington Reporter" column in the Boilermaker "journal" to publish his D.C. observations, share information on upcoming legislation and offer specific action for members to consider at the ballot box. The column continued long after Davis' role ended and was an important convener for collective Boilermaker legislative work.

After World War II, the International established what was called the "Non-Partisan Political League" to educate members and move them to political action. Efforts went on for several decades to engage more members to "get out the vote," but, according to the history book Grace Under Pressure, there was a big problem: Workers simply didn't register to vote.

In 1965, delegates from the Iron Ship Builders Marine Council Conference proposed a resolution to the 22nd Consolidated Convention calling for a Boilermaker-Blacksmith Political Education and Legislative Committee to "direct and coordinate an effective, continuing program of political action activities"—the beginning of what is now known as LEAP, the Legislative Education Action Program.

The first LEAP conference was held in Washington, D.C. in 1969 with more than 100 attendees, and since then, barring unforeseen circumstances such as a global pandemic, Boilermakers have met there each year to take the union's agenda to Capitol Hill, meeting with and lobbying decision makers literally in their offices.

In 2018, LEAP celebrated its 50th anniversary in Washington, D.C. with over 175 Boilermaker delegates and top-notch speakers such as AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and political analyst Charlie Cook.



YOUR LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

OT SURE WHO your current elected officials are or how to reach them? Following are some websites that can point you in the right direction:

https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials This website is maintained by the United States Government and is a wealth of information for finding and reaching policy makers as local as town officials on up to U.S. Senators, Representatives and even the President.

https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm This website, maintained by the United States Senate, includes contact information for U.S. senators as well as historical information, committees, bios, current legislative activity and records, and more.

https://www.house.gov/representatives Similar to the Senate website, this site is maintained by the U.S. House of Representatives. You can search for your Representatives by state and district, by last name or by typing your ZIP code into a search. Like the Senate site, this also includes information on the latest legislative activity, committees and history.

https://ballotpedia.org/Who_represents_me Ballotpedia.org is a site that includes information on everything from where to vote to what's on your ballot (local ballot initiatives as well as national). The site is sponsored by the Lucy Burns Institute, a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization headquartered in Middleton, Wisconsin. Not only can you find information about your representatives there, but it's a great site to visit before you hit the polls to understand what's on your ballot and research the issues ahead of time.

www.ncsl.org The National Conference of State Legislatures has a mission to "advance the effectiveness." independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures." Their website includes information about policy makers, research, training and more.

YOU HAVE A VOICE

Register to vote, visit https://vote.gov/



Best practices for connecting with legislators

OR SOME BOILERMAKERS, engaging with elected officials and advocating for Boilermaker interests is comfortable—almost second nature. For others, even the *idea* of sitting down with a legislator is daunting. Or downright scary. It doesn't have to be. Following are 10 tips to put your best face forward and make sure the Boilermaker voice is heard on important political issues.

Use resources provided by the Boilermakers Department of Government Affairs.

The Department of Government affairs has its office in Washington, D.C., and staff there work hard to keep up with issues and build relationships with policy makers—as well as with allies who share Boilermaker concerns. Not only do they ensure Boilermakers leadership is informed about and well connected to important issues, but they curate resources for all members, including fact sheets outlining key points, toolkits, information on political leaders and more. Resources are available online at www.boilermakers.org/LEAP (located within the Members section of the website).

Review the issues ahead of time.

Whether it's energy, the Jones Act, pensions or a local issue, before you pick up the phone to set up a meeting

or fire off an email to an elected official, make sure you understand the issue well—and the Boilermakers' official position on it. Don't go in cold and expect to read the info from your smartphone on the fly! The Department of Government Affairs creates fact sheets each year on key issues impacting Boilermakers on the national level. Use those to prepare. (Three current issues are included in this Reporter on pages 18,19 and 20.)

Keep it simple.

Most often, legislators aren't trying *not* to understand an issue or point of view. They're simply bombarded multiple ways by multiple people who have multiple agendas on multiple topics. Your best bet to get your message through all that clutter, says Shawn Steffee, an assistant business manager for Local 154, (Pittsburgh) who speaks often about the complex topic of carbon capture, use and storage: "You've got to keep it simple. They don't know what we know; so, explain the basics, and when you get their attention, *then* hit them with more information or technical information." He advises leaving behind an information piece that has more details—for example, the CCUS video brochure "CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future."

Do your research.

Before you meet with a policy maker, check out his or her bio on their website to find out a little about them. Find out what committees they're on. Not only will you find their positions on certain issues, but you might also discover some personal connections you can refer to when you meet. Tom Ryan, president of Local 5, Zone 5 (Floral Park, New York) notes that even the waiting areas in congressional offices provide insight. He advises looking at maps to understand exactly the geographic areas they cover and to look for other clues you can use to connect personally with them. "If you can find out if they're married, have kids, have been in a branch of the military, those are things that can get the conversation going, and maybe you can relate to them on a personal level. Those connections grab their attention and help our messages stick more," says Ryan.

Find personal connections.

Use those personal connections to break the ice and begin building a personal relationship with the legislator. "Many representatives are in office for decades and decades," says Ryan. "So the better relationship you can build with them, the more they'll remember you and your message. There's a benefit when you walk into their office and they know who you are and remember things about you—they're more receptive and their ears open up. Remember: They're working long, hard hours and meeting with hundreds of people, so to capture their attention for that short time you have with them is very important."

Find common ground.

In addition to personal connections, find common ground on issues you know they agree with you on. Ryan notes that he has spoken to several "vehemently anti-union" representatives, so he opens the conversation to talk about the energy industry—an important issue for Boilermakers and one which he knows the representatives share the Boilermaker's position on fossil fuels. "Being Boilermakers, we can beat the energy drum and the national defense drum," he notes. "They're sometimes surprised that you're union, and suddenly they're more attentive. When we find common ground on issues, we can talk about things we're at odds about, and they're more receptive."

Don't go alone.

"In the Boilermakers, you're learning in the field while you're 'doing," Ryan says. "It's the same for political action. I was blessed to learn from those who went before me. It's a team effort." If you're a Boilermaker who's passionate



about and comfortable meeting with politicians, invite the next generation to learn; and if you're interested in getting involved, seek out a mentor to follow. Plus, in addition to preparing the next Boilermaker advocates, having two people in the meeting provides relief to both and adds another interesting voice to the mix.

Practice.

Start conversations about your political issues with allies you're comfortable with, as well as with friends who may have differing viewpoints. Make sure you're solid on your knowledge about the issues, and practice your messages on them to see what works best for your style and what doesn't.

Attend LEAP and other prep opportunities.

Although LEAP was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference is the perfect place to learn about Boilermaker issues, lobby legislators and even get a crash course on the political process if needed. Look for other opportunities to learn about topics pertinent to Boilermakers.

Remember: Your vote counts.

"There are two things that drive politics: Money and votes," Ryan says. "We don't have a lot of money at the local level, but we have a lot of votes. Our members are the constituents, and that's how we get meetings with policy makers." Of course, in order for those constituents' votes to count, they have to, well, vote. Make sure you are registered, promote registration and voting to your Boilermaker brothers and sisters, understand the issues and politicians that impact the union and Boilermaker work, and then make sure you *get out and vote*! ■



T SHOULD COME as no surprise that energy is an L important issue for Boilermakers. As environmental concerns grow, so too grows a misguided movement to focus solely on renewable energy—which is not only not a feasible solution to mitigate climate change but also seeks to halt work many Boilermakers depend on in the fossil fuel industry. While opposing resolutions like the Green New Deal, it is imperative for Boilermakers to champion the solutions that do work to mitigate climate change while preserving jobs and the economy—such as carbon capture, use and storage.

America can create solid jobs by investing in a clean energy future, growing high-quality jobs that put Americans to work while also reducing our dependence on imported energy and protecting the environment from the risks of climate change. The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers supports an "all of the above" energy policy, but it must include advanced carbon-reducing technologies as part of the nation's emerging policy framework, as well as a mix of renewables, nuclear, fossil fuels and hydro power. It is imperative that regulations established to address climate change and other environmental concerns do not have the unintended consequences of prohibiting the construction of new, state-of-the-art fossil fuel generating capacity or contribute to job losses

across the broad range of construction, manufacturing and transportation sectors.

CCUS technology will ensure responsible use of America's fossil energy resources. The deployment of CCUS will create millions of good paying jobs for Boilermakers and other union craftspeople, while ensuring a future for affordable, reliable energy from coal. Fossil fuel power generation remains among the most labor-intensive energy technologies, supporting good jobs in construction, mining, transportation and other sectors. The U.S. must also invest in workforce development to provide the training and skills necessary to deploy new low-carbon energy technology.

In addition, CCUS is the only solution to decarbonize the industrial sector—including cement, refineries and others where many Boilermakers work—and will be vital to the future of those industries as well.

Boilermakers applaud Congress for enacting S. 1535, the FUTURE Act, as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The FUTURE Act strengthened and expanded the Section 45Q tax credit for carbon sequestration, which will be a useful tool for project developers to finance CCUS projects. The nation now awaits full guidance on and implementation of 45Q to realize an increase in those projects.

Key Boilermakers Messages to Senators and Representatives:

- Support increased funding for all fossil energy research and development programs, including carbon capture and carbon utilization and storage programs.
- Support increased funding beyond basic research and development of these technologies.

CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future

Video brochures containing the film "CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future" are available for Boilermakers to give to state and Federal policy makers or other key influencers.

Please contact Director of Communications Amy Wiser at awiser@boilermakers.org.



MERICAN SHIPBUILDING IS a key issue A Boilermakers continue to regularly champion, as ship building and affiliated employment is integral to the Boilermaker work portfolio. Boilermaker advocacy has recently helped secure U.S. Government contracts at Fincantieri Marinette Marine and Philly Shipyards—both major Boilermaker employers.

In addition to continued advocacy for budgeting to include U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard fleet work and government contracts that would employ union Boilermakers, the Jones Act is another shipbuilding issue important to the union.

The Jones Act is a federal law that regulates maritime commerce in the United States and requires goods shipped between U.S. ports to be transported on ships that are built, owned and operated by U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The Jones Act is essential to American economic, national and security interests, and the U.S. Navy has made it clear: Repeal of the Jones Act would harm the U.S. ability to meet strategic sealift requirements and military shipbuilding needs.

America's domestic shipping industry is responsible for nearly 500,000 jobs and more than \$100 billion in annual economic output, according to a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers for the Transportation Institute. Labor compensation associated with the domestic fleet exceeds \$29 billion annually with those wages spent in virtually every corner of the U.S. Every job in a domestic shipyard results in four additional jobs elsewhere in the U.S. economy.

So what is the concern? A small number of individuals and organizations support repeal of the Jones Act, which would allow foreign-built, foreign-operated, foreign-manned and foreign-owned vessels to operate on American waters. The result would be to take a core American industry, like shipbuilding, and transfer it overseas to nations like China and South Korea, which heavily subsidize their shipyards and play by their own set of rules. Additional losses would occur from the outsourcing of American shipping jobs to foreign nations. Particularly at a time of severe economic dislocation in the U.S., it makes little, if any sense to send American jobs overseas and undermine an essential American industry.

Key Boilermakers Messages to Senators and Representatives:

- Oppose any effort to repeal or weaken the domestic-build requirements of the Jones Act, including rejecting efforts to exempt Puerto Rico from the Jones Act in any financial relief legislation.
- Support budget requests for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard shipbuilding, and champion for work to be awarded where union workers are employed.



THE ISSUE OF PENSION and retirement security has been an especially hot topic during the COVID-19 pandemic as the House and Senate work on relief packages to ease financial stress for the mass unemployed and for strapped businesses. While the following information is correct as of the Reporter print date, further action by the House and Senate may occur over the course of the next several months.

Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act

The multiemployer pension system has for many decades been an essential foundation for providing financial security comfortability in retirement for millions of Americans and their families. However, of the 1,400 plans currently covering 10 million workers and retirees, approximately 130 plans are now in a "critical and declining" status—projected to run out of money within the next 10-20 years. Many of these plans have funding problems resulting from the financial crises of 2000-2002 and 2008, deregulation of certain industries and the offshore flight of U.S.-based companies.

Through no fault of their own, the earned pension benefits of millions of retirees are being threatened due to these impending insolvencies. To make matters worse, the government agency that insures a portion of these pensions, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), is likely to simultaneously become insolvent as well if a small portion of these "critical and declining" pension plans fail.

In 2019, the U.S. House passed the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act—H.R. 397—which addressed these threats. The act, informally known as the Butch-Lewis Act, seeks to provide long-term, low-interest loans to help shore up pension funds and allow beneficiaries to continue to receive their benefits without cuts. The bill creates a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of Treasury to administer qualified underfunded plans and allow those plans 30 years to regain healthy status to repay the loan. The U.S. Senate has yet to vote on this bill.

The U.S. House also passed the HEROES Act in May, 2020 in further response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill included a provision, the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2020 (EPPRA), that offers temporary relief for multiemployer plans to help them weather the financial swings many are experiencing presently and assistance for deeply distressed plans. This provision has wide support among labor unions.

New Plan Designs

Unfortunately, the HEROES Act also included a new pension plan design, the Give Retirement Options to Workers (GROW) Act. Originally introduced in in the U.S. House in March 2018, this new pension plan is designed to offer an "innovative" alternative to traditional multiemployer, defined benefit plans. However, these new "composite" pension plan designs will instead add *more* risk to our current pension system.

The Boilermakers, along with twelve other labor unions, AARP and the Pension Rights Center have consistently opposed the GROW Act and continue to do so. Composite pension plan designs are set up in such a way that they are vulnerable to market volatility. Further, these composite pension plans make it easier for employers to withdraw from multiemployer pension plans altogether with no liability and have no PBGC insurance backstop, leaving pension participants to twist in the wind.

Key Boilermakers Messages to Senators and Representatives:

- Advocate for Senate members to include the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2020 in any future pandemic relief legislation.
- Encourage both House and Senate members to oppose the inclusion of "composite" pension plan designs in any future legislation, whether related to pandemic relief or otherwise.

ROUTINE PREVENTIVE CARE It's Essential and FREE!



Local 146 supports essential workers through donations, awareness campaign

BOILERMAKERS FROM LOCAL 146 (serving Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta) stepped up fast when they saw essential workers in need. After conducting a successful mask drive to provide greatly-needed personal protective equipment to medical professionals, they realized those front-line workers also needed something else: moral support from their community.

But it all started with a mask drive—an idea suggested by Boilermaker Meeka Faucher to L-146 BM-ST Hugh MacDonald in March. In the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, PPE (especially masks), was in short supply. And when the call went out that the mask drive was "on," despite struggling at the time with an estimated 85% drop in work as a result of the pandemic, the local swung into action, focusing their energy on finding masks for Alberta Health Services and workers at essential retail stores.

To the delight of MacDonald and Faucher, contractors and workers came through, and the local received dozens of N-95, 3M and North masks right away, which were distributed to, among others, a rural

physician who was doing house calls with no PPE. They also spread the word through the province's nurses' union—the United Nurses of Alberta—that they had masks available, as well as a machine to sanitize them.

Even with a successful mask program in the works, it wasn't enough. There were other needs the Boilermakers knew they could address. So, in mid-April, they launched Supporting COVID-19 Essential Workers: Purple Ribbon Campaign.

With COVID-19 causing uncertainty and suffering, the campaign was a way to thank those risking their lives to help their communities and also to support local food banks. For a monetary donation to a local food bank, participants received a purple ribbon printed with "Support Essential Workers" to wear in support of front-line workers.

"We are fortunate to be positioned to support those in need," Assistant Business Manager Mackenzie Walker said. "The Purple Ribbon Campaign is a way to involve our communities and visually show our essential workers we are thankful for their devotion."



Calgary Health Workers proudly wear their purple ribbons to support one another—and the fundraising efforts of the campaign.



Boilermakers Calgary Rep Steve Warren and Pre-Apprentice Instructor Kayla Vander Molen collect non-perishable donations at the L-146 Calgary hall for a local Calgary food bank.

The campaign soon got the attention of media, which promoted it through stories in several news outlets—and elected officials took notice.

"I know these are difficult times, and I truly want to thank all the hardworking Albertans who continue to work and provide services during these unprecedented times," said Minister of Labour and Immigration Jason Copping. "These ribbons honor our essential workers while symbolizing their dedication and strength. It's important to support each other and our communities."

It wasn't long before the Purple Ribbon Campaign expanded—beyond Alberta and beyond ribbons. Local 146 added purple ribbon car decals, yard signs and hard hat stickers to the mix—available in exchange for non-perishable food donations—as well as sales of purple non-medical masks made by local artisan seamstresses, all of whom have ties to Local 146.

They also added a contest to encourage everyone to get in on the action and spread the love for essential workers. Participants were entered into a monthly prize drawing by submitting a photo of themselves wearing their purple ribbon.

And for kids and grandkids of Local 146 members to show their support, they added a children's purple ribbon coloring contest. Children under age 12 were invited to download a coloring page and submit their best work, with one winner drawn from the submissions each month.

BM-ST MacDonald stressed that the local is first and foremost a community organization whose purpose is to support its members and also its neighbors.

"Essential workers are daily performing critical work to keep us safe; and in these times of need with many Albertans laid off, we are happy we can and will do our part. Wearing a purple ribbon while also donating to the Edmonton Food Bank is one way for us to fulfill our mandate."

Enthusiasm for trucks leads to meaningful Memorial Day



Fred Karol, with his son Silas and daughter Rorie, walk through Wood National Cemetery on Memorial Day.

COVID-19 MAY HAVE changed the way people mourn, commemorate and celebrate in 2020, but for Boilermaker Fred Karol from L-1509 (Cudahy, Wisconsin), that doesn't mean life stops—not when the Wisconsin Truck Takeover Enthusiasts are around.

The Wisconsin Truck Takeover Enthusiasts is an informal group that convened on Facebook over a shared love of... you guessed it... trucks. But as social distancing and limitations on gatherings became necessary to slow the virus spread—putting the kibosh on group activities—they found another way to leverage their trucks and their enthusiasm.

"They were doing birthday drive-by parades for kids. A friend showed it to me (on Facebook), and I wanted to help out," says Karol, who drives a 2018 Ford F-150. "All of us with big pickup trucks put flags on the back of our trucks and would drive by the kid's house. It was a lot of fun."

Karol says the smallest birthday drive-by parade they had included around 25 trucks; the biggest had over 100—from pickups to family vehicles and even an old military transport vehicle.

Then came Memorial Day.

Normally on Memorial Day, to honor fallen military servicemen and women buried at Wood National Cemetery near Milwaukee, Boy Scouts and cemetery staff work together for a public ceremony and to place flags on the 38,000 gravesites. But with COVID-19 restrictions, that activity was cancelled.

Wisconsin Truck Takeover Enthusiasts decided they'd take the task on, and the word went out via Facebook for volunteers. Karol, his wife, and two of their five kids answered the call to help. Karol even personally purchased 1,500 flags.

"It just needed to be done," he says of his decision to donate flags. "They were having problems generating donations to get the flags. Of the 38,000 plots, we said, 'let's just get as many as we can.' They only had 250 flags, so I called a local company in town that does flags and asked them to give me \$500-worth."

Karol, who is a vacuum press operator at ATI Forged Products, adds that he feels it's an important responsibility to give back—that others who may want to do so aren't in a position to afford it. "Being a Boilermaker, I have a good job and good wages," he says.

About sixty people from Wisconsin Truck Takeover Enthusiasts participated and ultimately placed 5,000-some flags. Karol says his wife had always wanted to place flags on Memorial Day, and his 13-year-old son, Silas, and 12-year-old daughter, Rorie, enjoyed the day. Rorie added an especially moving touch.

"Sometimes people who have special needs get 'latched onto' things, and Rorie's thing is that she loves the National Anthem," he explains. The Karols' five children are all adopted from the Ukraine and all have Down syndrome.

"Every time she placed a flag, she stopped, put her hand over her heart and sang the National Anthem."

"Veterans and the fallen servicemen and women are the reason we're free to do what we do—they gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can live and work and play," he adds. "I don't want them to go forgotten. Memorial Day is not just another barbecuing day." ■



See more photos of Karol and his family placing flags to honor fallen soldiers, as well as a news clip. Visit www.boilermakers.org/news

Boilermaker donates masks via Nooter to

New Jersey hospitals

In the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, proper personal protective equipment was especially hard to come by—even for the front-line medical workers who were dealing daily, hands-on and face-to-face, with infected patients.

So, when Boilermaker John Lacovara, Local 28 (Newark, New Jersey), heard that Nooter Construction had N-95 masks and was offering them to workers to donate, he leapt at the chance to get a stash to Cooper Hospital in Camden, New Jersey.

Lacovara has a very special interest in the safety of medical workers at Cooper Hospital: His daughter, Lauren Lacovara, is a physician's assistant in that hospital's emergency department.

"Nooter Construction had a bunch of N-95 masks, so they asked if we had any family who were working in the medical field who needed the masks," Lacovara says. "They knew there were a couple of us who have sisters and daughters who are nurses, and other relatives working in medicine."

Lacovara says they delivered masks to about four hospitals, including two cases of masks to Cooper Hospital.

"The hospitals were really happy—this was when it was really hard to get PPE," he says. "This was Nooter's idea, and it feels good to help people." ■



John Lacovara, L-28, delivers three cases of N-95 masks to Cooper Hospital in Camden, New Jersey, where his daughter Lauren Lacovara (pictured) works.

Retired shipbuilder's topiary talent delights for decades

YOU CAN'T MISS John and Annette Bemis' house. Theirs is the one with the hedge neatly shaped into a 150-foot multi-car train that stretches around the corner lot. It's a Canby, Oregon, landmark John Bemis planted and has grown, sculpted and tended since 1978.

"When we purchased our home, my first thought was that the corner was perfect for a train, so I planted one," Bemis says. "It took three years before it was big enough to trim, but over the years, my train has caught the eyes of many people."

Bemis, who retired from shipbuilding as a member of Local 72 (Portland, Oregon, now consolidated into L-104, Seattle) has just always liked trains. He grew up in a train town: Wellsville, Ohio, a little west of Pittsburgh, where he admired the town's large roundhouse and the steam engines that ran up and down the Ohio River.

"I would always hear the whistles blow, and it just became fascinating," he says. The idea for a hedge train took root in his mind's eye when, as a young adult on a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints mission trip to Uruguay, he spotted a hedge shaped into a circus train, complete with animals. It made an impression on him, and an idea was born.

Fast-forward a few years as John and Annette Bemis prepared to move into their then-new house in a thennew housing development: The lot was a dirt, barren, blank slate. The perfect place to bring his topiary train vision to life.

"We planted these little bushes—only 12 to 18 inches high and 12 inches apart. People asked what I was doing, and I told them I was making a train," Bemis recalls. "They thought I was drunk or crazy!"

And what did Annette Bemis think about it? "I was all for it; but, let me tell you those sticks looked pretty bad for a while," she laughs.

But her husband, who had years earlier taken botany classes, had sketched out his plan; and after three years, the hedge was ready for transformation. It's grown and delighted neighbors and visitors ever since.

"I always get a lot of people coming by and giving me a thumbs-up. They're excited to see it," Bemis says, noting he's heard comments from as far away as Texas, due to newswire pick-ups from local press coverage.



Amur River Privet Hedge is the plant that makes the train.



When John and Annette Bemis moved into the brand-new subdivision in 1978, John had a vision for landscaping the barren corner lot.



"People tell me it was their favorite thing growing up, and they always come by to see it when they're in town. A lot of people remember it—it's kind of a landmark."

To add to the experience, Bemis even bought a whistle that mimics real-deal trains. He blows the whistle near the hedge when kids go by (but admits he enjoys entertaining the adults just as much).

Over the years, the hedge has sometimes taken a beating, from the five Bemis boys and their friends' backyard activities—soccer balls kicked through, kids attempting to hurdle over it and the like—to, most recently, vandalism. But it's always grown and been shaped back.

"Mother Nature is very forgiving," Bemis says. "If you cut too deep or a soccer ball makes a hole, you give it time and it eventually grows back. Nature is nice that way."

Caring for and shaping the train hedge to look its best has also helped Bemis look and feel his best. During the summer when the hedge is in active growth (it's an Amur River Privet Hedge, by the way), he has to trim it about every 10 days, which is a four-hour job each time from cut to cleanup.

"It's a good source of exercise—lots of deep knee bends and shoulder movements," he says. In four decades, he's gone through about five trimmers—the last two have been professional grade. "My wife and I debate what to do, because the hedge is getting bigger, and I'm getting smaller. I keep threatening to put a fence in, but she says 'no."

"I'm it's biggest defender," Annette Bemis agrees. "Too many people love it."

Adds John Bemis: "Today it's 41 years old, and it hasn't traveled a single mile—but people have come from miles to see it." ■

11

It hasn't traveled a single mile—but people have come from miles to see it.

— John Bemis, retired, Local 72

"



John Bemis keeps his train looking sharp. During the growing season, Bemis spends about four hours with trim and clean-up every 10 days to keep his topiary train in tip-top shape.

Local D351 teamwork, calm heads and training save life



THE URGENT CALL came over the Lafarge Presque Isle Quarry radio system for someone to dial 9-1-1. In the pilot house of a vessel that was being loaded at one of the docks, a man had collapsed and was unresponsive. Boilermakers from Local D351 (Stoneport, Michigan), who work for Lafarge, immediately swung into action—the beginning of unsung heroic teamwork that would save a man's life that day.

"Luckily, I had my cell phone on me," recalls loader operator Wayne Ciarkowski, who made the call and asked that someone else also call just in case his was dropped. "I've been out there 25 years, and that's the first time something like this has happened. But you have to train yourself to listen for stuff like that."

As first responders were dispatched and made their way to the site, Boilermakers and two supervisors got in place to clear the way and direct the emergency vehicles' route. The quarry, explains Ciarkowski, who remained on the line with 9-1-1 dispatchers and continued monitoring the radio, is about four miles off the road. They also assessed that they might need a crane, teleforker and stokes rescue basket to ultimately reach the man. There would be no time to waste.

When the emergency medical team arrived, they agreed: a crane would be needed. Enter crane operator Don Johnson, also a Boilermaker.

"I was working on the belt that loads the boat," Johnson says. "I had heard they might need assistance since the patient was higher up on the vessel. It was pretty windy—20 to 25 mile-an-hour wind—not ideal, especially with 90-foot of stick-out. We wouldn't have done a pick for any other reason than an emergency."

With people on taglines, lots of communication, calm heads and teamwork, the patient was safely retrieved and delivered to the waiting emergency team. "With the avid and experienced people on the ground and working together, it went really well," Johnson says. "We try to keep good safety practices, and everyone looks out for one another. And that really showed. It really came together, and everyone did what they needed to do."

It was later confirmed that the patient had suffered a heart attack. Defibrillation was required three times prior to removing him from the vessel. As of publication, the patient was recovering in stable condition.

"It makes me feel really good to know I played a part in that," says Ciarkowski. "The guys I work with, we can pretty much read each other's minds in what we're doing. And when it came to that incident, everyone did a phenomenal job."

In a company newsletter article about the incident, Lafarge says the Presque Isle Quarry conducts annual First Aid and emergency preparedness exercises, which include local emergency responders.

"This training was put to the test, and the results were ideal," the article states. The article lists as deserving special recognition, Boilermakers Chad Brege, Wayne Ciarkowski, Andrew Fournier, Brett Gapske, Billy Himes, Don Johnson, Casey Orban, Drew Sample, Mitchell Skiba, Josh Talaska, Steve Talaske, Matt Timrick and Pete Zaborney, in addition to the two supervisors, Charlie Hilla and Terry Szott.

Said Nate Chesebro, Ships Chairman for the vessel, in a letter to the Lafarge crew: "Our crew is profoundly grateful to know that in critical situations, we can count on your team of professionals to ensure the safety of everyone at Lafarge Presque Isle Quarry is the priority. While our daily routines involve providing our customers with industry-leading service, our most important delivery is to our families back home, ensuring we all return home safely."

TIW Steel Platework Inc. donates tank to Humber College apprentices



Humber College's apprenticeship class of January 2020 with representatives from TIW Steel Platework Inc.

APPRENTICES GOT HANDS-ON tank experience in Toronto, thanks to a partnership between Local 128 (Toronto), TIW Steel Platework Inc. and Humber College. TIW donated a scaled-down, high-cone tank to the Humber College apprenticeship class of January 2020 after learning about the need from Humber College instructor Nathan Guthrie. Guthrie had approached TIW for a cost quote on an eight-foot tank for his advanced training apprenticeship class.

"I was expecting a quote and then making it a budget item for the next year." said Guthrie, "TIW ended up saying they've got that kind of material laying around and would like to donate it. It was awesome to see the contractors wanting to help out."

Guthrie and two other instructors at Humber College led the class in assembling the tank, which arrived with a set of blueprints. The process allowed students to apply critical thinking and problemsolving methods while working together as a team, as well as use a variety of tools.

"We have around 20 hours of tank theory that we could talk about, but this way, they actually get to lay it out on the floor of the shop and build it—which is 100 times better," said Guthrie. "They get to learn how to fit plates, what works and what doesn't work."

Donating the tank material was a win-win for TIW.

"The struggle we have in Ontario right now is there aren't that many new tank builds out there," said Glenn Alloway, General Manager at TIW, "So, it's hard for these guys to get much practical experience out in the field. Donating was an easy decision to make. Any time we can help out trade colleges like that and help out the Boilermakers, it makes sense."

The January 2020 class assembled the tank but did not weld the fully-formed tank completely, so that it could be taken apart and reassembled.

The program is planning to use the tank to educate future apprentices, and it will stay at the Humber College program until it is no longer usable. ■

HISTORY PRESERVATION DIRECTOR CHARLES JONES LEGACY

LIVES ON IN ART

THE RICH HISTORY of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers will be known long into the future, because Boilermaker and artist Charles Jones brought it to life through his work as Director of the Boilermakers History Preservation Department. Jones passed away April 3, 2020 after a sudden and brief battle with cancer.

"Charles well lived and loved the Boilermaker trade. He epitomized what it means to be a craftsman," said International President

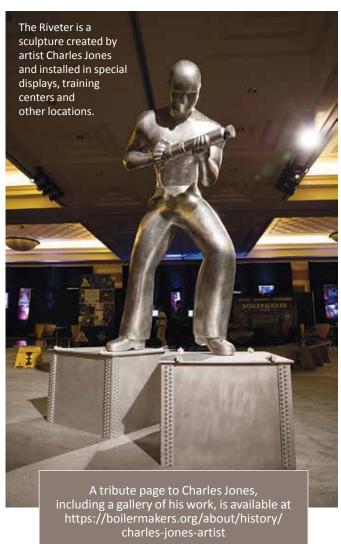
Newton B. Jones, who is Charles Jones' brother. "He had a unique combination of hands-on skill as a tradesman blended into his talent as an artist. He was a master at bringing our history to life and transforming Boilermaker pride into incredible works of art."

Charles Jones began working in field construction on permit in 1969 and was a member of Local 29 (Boston). He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Western Carolina State University in 1973.

As Director of the Boilermakers History Preservation Department, he successfully undertook the massive project to collect, organize and safeguard tens of thousands of artifacts, documents, photos and other items from the Brotherhood's deep history—some of the items dating back to 1880. Under his leadership, the department designed a museum at International headquarters, created an online museum (https://www.boilermakermuseum. org/), created—and made by hand—uniquely stunning awards and sculptures, designed striking visual displays for Boilermaker conventions and conferences, and shepherded the poignant films that so powerfully tell the Boilermaker story.

"Those who knew Charles or experienced the gift of his work understand well the indelible impact of his infinite infectious kindness, as well as his artistic skill and passion," said President Newton Jones. "His legacy, and that of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, will live long into the future because of the beautiful original artwork he created and the great care he took to preserve and curate the history of our organization."





ith 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 Capps, Julice P. NTL Clonts, Melvin L. NTL Crumb, Percy J. NTL Driver, Robert F. NTL Frady, Ronald F. NTL Howell, Gerald F. NTL Jones, Kenneth B. NTL Lopez, Felix M. NTL Lowery, David NTL McHaffie, Nash NTL Miller, Allen R. NTL Peter, Frederick L. NTL Simmons, Andrew NTL Turnbaugh, Jon M. NTL Vail, Jacob B. NTL Wall, Ernest L. NTL Wallace. Curtis L. NTL Wheeler, Clinton M. NTL Williams, Dennis N. 1 Alvarado, Salvardor 1 Berg, Daniel J. 1 Flores, G. 1 Rub, Fredric J. 4 Cruz, Nathan T. 4 Dougi, Leo Y. 4 Lane, Richard 5 Ross, Trevor 5 Theodoropoulos, Andrew 6 Aguirre, Juan 6 Alvarado, Jesse G. 6 Anderson, Steven G. 6 Brooks, Guy D. 6 Chapman, Harold D. 6 Collins, Neal H. 6 Cummins, George R. 6 Koscinski, Lee 6 Miller, John H. 6 Neal, Henry H. 6 Portillo, Mario N. 6 Roque, Ysidro 6 Schmall, Pete

26 Dugger Jr., George H. Yanner, Richard A. 27 Canady, Doyle W. Ditch, David P. 27 27 Hargrove, Paul Morgan, Alfred O. 27 Ratcliffe, Ryan 28 Christopher, John J. 28 Costa, Chancey 28 Cucolo, Angelo N. 28 Engle, Robert F. 28 Gibson, John V. 28 Karkovice, Jason A. 28 Segalla, Frank Brewer, Scott A. 29 29 Drake, Gregory C. 29 Hume, Russell C. 29 Jones, Charles A. McDonald, Bernard J. 29 Russell, Dwight D. Hensley, Marcus W. 30 Renegar, James L. Shealy, Melvin P. 30 Broadhead, O. B. 37 Bryan, Anthony V. 37 Garrity, Carol E. Heintz, Joseph F. Henry, Walter L. 37 37 Jones Jr., Grant L. Lambert, Henry R. 37 Oliphant, Larry J. Posey, Lynn W. 37 37 Riley Jr., Ernest Sims, Fred A. 37 Taylor, Junior Tibbs Jr., Harris W. 37 White, Frank J. 40 Boyken, Robert 40 Harrison, James M. 40 Schroader, Larry 40 Sims Jr., Jesse L. 40 Smith, Timothy R. 40 Wade, Kenneth D. Campbell Jr., Bernard D. 45 Kight, Norman R. 50 Powell, Richard I. 60 Irvin, Willie R. 60 Latello, John V. 60 Luncsford, Richard C.

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19 Hilliard Jr., Edward C.

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