

# REPORTER THE

SUMMER 2021

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## DEPARTMENTS

**P. 2** Commentary  
**P. 20** Service Pins  
**P. 24** In Memoriam  
**P. 25** A Look Back

# DEPARTMENTS



## COVER STORY

# 10

For decades, Boilermakers have worked with the energy industry to protect our planet.

## FEATURED

# 6



A pandemic pivot: The CSO and ISO conferences go virtual.

# 14



The L-146 CESSCO lockout reaches an unfortunate milestone.

# 16



The "In Depth Series" with Laurence Fishburne is set to feature a Boilermakers union segment.

## THE REPORTER

Vol. 60 No. 2

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**Look for these icons throughout the issue for links to additional online content:**



# Hydrogen energy is poised for extreme growth

As we continue to follow energy-related developments that impact our members, the rapid growth of hydrogen production is of particular interest, with implications for Boilermaker jobs and the continued use of fossil fuels with carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS).

Estimates of hydrogen's growth are staggering. ETC, a coalition of energy industry executives, estimates that nearly \$15 trillion will be needed by mid century to fund expanded hydrogen capacity. The Green Hydrogen Catalyst Initiative, a global consortium of energy developers, predicts a 50-fold increase in green hydrogen over the next six years.

National strategies to get on board with hydrogen are developing quickly. Canada launched its hydrogen strategy in December 2020 and announced its steering committee this past April. In June, the U.S. Department of Energy announced an "Earthshot" initiative for hydrogen advancement. At least nine other nations as well as the European Union have also declared their national strategies.

In many ways, hydrogen is the perfect energy source. It is abundant and can be produced locally using available technology. It can

be readily transported and stored. And when combusted, it emits zero greenhouse gases.

In addition, it is versatile and portable with applications for industrial processes, heating, power generation and transportation (via fuel cells).

As nations decarbonize their economies, hydrogen stands out as a very attractive alternative to other energy sources.

The critical debate over hydrogen development is how best to extract it at scale. Almost all of the hydrogen produced in North America today is separated from natural gas and used in petroleum refining to remove sulfur or in fertilizer production involving ammonia. Hydrogen produced in this manner is referred to as "gray," since the process releases carbon dioxide. Where carbon capture, use and storage technologies have been applied to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, hydrogen is referred to as "blue."

"Green" hydrogen involves a different process altogether—electrolysis. Using water as a feedstock, an electric current is introduced to separate H<sub>2</sub>O molecules into hydrogen and oxygen. The process is considered green





# “ The critical debate over hydrogen development is how best to extract it at scale. ”

when renewable energy sources (principally wind and solar but potentially nuclear) power the electrolysis.

Some proponents of green hydrogen hold that gray and blue alternatives should be abandoned because of their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (although CCUS can reduce emissions by up to 90%) and assert that continued investments in these processes only promote future fossil fuel use.

Some proponents of gray and blue hydrogen decry the massive amounts of electricity required in electrolysis at scale and the high cost of green hydrogen per unit. Not only would vast arrays of wind and solar be required, but those systems would be dedicated solely to hydrogen extraction and not available for other electricity customers.

Still others see the need for both blue and green hydrogen deployment, arguing that blue hydrogen can serve near-term demand until green hydrogen costs reach blue hydrogen levels, around 2030-2035 by some estimates.

While the hydrogen buildout is often discussed in terms of major capital projects, a third approach (aside from fossil fuel extraction or electrolysis) involves small-scale units extracting hydrogen from recycled biomass using plasma burners.

Dubbed the “greener than green” option, this technology, by the firm SGH2, boasts carbon-negative emissions using paper or vegetation refuse that would otherwise release methane if left to decompose.

The first SGH2 unit is scheduled to become operational in 2023 in Lancaster, California.

In whatever manner the hydrogen future unfolds, whether blue, green or greener than green—or likely some combination of competing technologies—one thing is certain: developers and governments are lining up for a step change in global energy.

Billions, perhaps trillions of dollars in investments will be spent on hydrogen extraction and related infrastructure. Many jobs in power generation, heavy industry, manufacturing, transportation and other sectors will be created.

Boilermaker skill sets in welding, fabrication and other areas could play an important role in the coming hydrogen revolution.

In the oil sands region of Alberta and Saskatchewan, where generations of Boilermakers have earned a living, the hydrogen revolution is already at play. An alliance of oil firms there will replace natural gas with hydrogen to produce steam for bitumen processing. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the hydrogen extraction process will be captured and transported by trunk line to permanent underground storage.

With advances in CCUS and large reserves of natural gas in both Canada and the United States, blue hydrogen production could become a major jobs generator as one leg of the projected hydrogen energy buildout.

*[See related article by Richard MacIntosh on pages 4-5 of this issue.]*

  
Newton B. Jones  
International President



*In a guest editorial published in the Edmonton Journal on January 22, IR Richard MacIntosh, International Assistant Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions, explains why the government must invest in innovation and technology to support natural-resource development for the energy industry.*



## Canada needs to support its resource sector

When it comes to Canada's natural resources, I can almost chant the numbers: 909 resource communities, 1.9 million jobs, \$86 billion in investment.

Canada is No. 1 in the world for producing potash, No. 1 for canola, No. 2 for uranium, No. 5 for gold, No. 10 for copper. And No. 3 in the world for the area of forests and for oil reserves.

We now need all our resources to play their role in Canada's recovery from the pandemic slump. In Alberta and other provinces where resources underpin the economy, investments in innovation and technology to support natural-resource development for the energy industry are vital and create a win-win story for people and the environment.

Governments need to support such initiatives, which enable us to be greener when we extract, process, export and use energy resources. We rank No. 2 on the Global Clean-tech Innovation Index and have made real progress in tackling greenhouse-gas emissions from the oilsands and the oil and gas industry. But there's more to be done.

We need to take a good look, for example, at the opportunities hydrogen can bring—in employ-

ment, wages and tax base—along with its zero emissions when used as a fuel.

Around the world, there are more than 1,800 LNG-fueled electricity plants in various stages of construction. There is room to convert these to hydrogen, with small changes to the fuel-delivery system. I am a Boilermaker, and I know. Canada can provide LNG, yes; but we can also provide hydrogen.

We also need to step up carbon capture technology, which can decrease Canada's carbon leakage and at the same time create employment opportunities.

Look at three carbon capture projects we have done in Canada: Boundary Dam in Saskatchewan, Shell Quest in Alberta, and the NWR Sturgeon refinery, also in Alberta. They created 6,121 total jobs, \$1.6 billion in wages and benefits and generated \$2.7 billion in GDP across Canada.

A Canadian white paper on large-scale carbon capture proposes a refundable capital tax credit provided in advance of construction of carbon capture facilities, a tax credit focused on expenditures during the study and design phase of a project and a production tax credit, similar to that of the 45Q incentive in the United States, to address competitiveness issues. Can we move on these?

**3** CARBON CAPTURE  
PROJECTS CREATED

**6,121** JOBS     **\$1.6 BILLION**  
WAGES & BENEFITS

**\$2.7 BILLION**  
GDP ACROSS CANADA



BOUNDARY DAM | Saskatchewan



SHELL QUEST | Alberta



NWR STURGEON REFINERY | Alberta

And let's consider some common sense in efficiencies: Why did we have to send 450,000 barrels of Alberta oil by tanker through the Panama Canal to New Brunswick, a journey of 12,000 kilometers in total? Because we don't have pipeline capacity to do it.

Canada needs to support our own industries before we support the industries of other countries. We should build a pipeline across the country to deliver our oil to Canadians. And we can build a power line so Quebec can export its hydroelectricity.

As a union guy, I have to plead with governments to bring unions into the discussion about the future. They understand resource development and economics.

What does labour want to see from governments?

- Ensure job creation: establish a regulatory and policy environment that encourages investment in industry in order to get Canadians back to work.

- Coordinate with industry to address pending labour shortages and the disruption of the natural-resources sector's labour force.
- Work with provinces and territories to modernize Canada's education and training systems to better support lifelong learning.
- Emphasize flexible, affordable training and continued skills development.
- Enhance skilled-workforce mobility.
- Advance Indigenous employment by working with their governments.
- Increase employment retention and readiness for skills development.
- Step up training on the economy. We train people to become great workers in this country, but we do not take the time to explain how the economy works.

There's a prescription for economic recovery and the economic future. 🍷



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IP Newton B. Jones opens the CSO and ISO conferences.

## Virtual CSO/ISO conferences convene leaders, info and ideas

**W**ith a pandemic still raging around the world, Boilermakers enjoyed a semblance of normalcy in May through the return of two of the union's events: the Industrial Sector Operations and Construction Sector Operations conferences. Lodge leaders from each sector met in one-day virtual formats for a much-needed touchpoint after a year-plus of lost connections.

The conferences, which were broadcast through Kelly Companies and Quince Media, utilized the same technology and studios employed for the virtual National Football League draft. The same resources will be used to virtually host the 34th Consolidated Convention, giving CSO and ISO conference participants a chance to explore the format ahead of the convention.

Even delivered virtually, the message was clear during both conferences: Boilermakers remained strong and resilient in a year of unprecedented upheaval.

"We've had a difficult year," acknowledged International President Newton B. Jones in the conference openings. "We've weathered the storm financially very well. The pension is holding steady. It's better news than we thought we'd be having."

During the early days of the pandemic in 2020, jobs were shuttered and workers went home, causing lost man-hours and jobs left undone.

"Coming out of this pandemic, the work will return in force," IP Jones said. "A lot of this work was deferred and it has to be done. We're going to be helping you the best we can to make sure your jobs are properly manned."

Concerning the Industrial Sector, he noted that membership has remained stable. "Almost all of our units went on working through the pandemic. The ISO has been strong and steady."

He highlighted a few bright spots from the past year: Several independent lodges joined forces with the Boilermakers, including Honeywell and SIFCO in Ohio and service workers in New York State.

"We welcome you and will do our level best to represent you going forward and to help you grow as well," IP Jones said.

Full video and presentation materials from both virtual events are available at <https://boilermakers.org/2021-cso-iso/>.

“Coming out of this pandemic, the work will return in force.”

Newton B. Jones  
International President





The virtual CSO and ISO conferences offer members a safe way to gather for union-centric updates and discussions while a worldwide pandemic remains a threat. ED-CSO Mark Vandiver emcees the CSO conference.

Updates on union gains due to the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund took center stage during the CSO conference. Martin Williams, National Coordinator of State Legislative Affairs gave an overview of state legislative activity across the U.S.

Williams said that in California, SB 54 has “transformed the building trades and showed it’s possible to go on offense and win.” Measures like SB 54, requiring a certain percentage of skilled workers who graduated from registered apprenticeship programs, have also passed in Washington State and New Jersey, with similar legislation brewing in Colorado, Arizona, Delaware, Virginia and Minnesota. The Hazardous Workforce Training Act, a bill that just passed the Illinois House in April, is now in the state senate.

In addition, Williams said, there’s an interest in state-level investments and incentives for carbon capture increasing with 22 states considering carbon capture-related legislation.

D-CDS, D-NRS, AIP Tim Simmons gave an overview of the successful M.O.R.E. Work program job targeting. Simmons said the initiative assists local lodges in regaining market share in areas where Boilermaker employers have been unable to maintain a strong presence, allowing them to enter new industries.

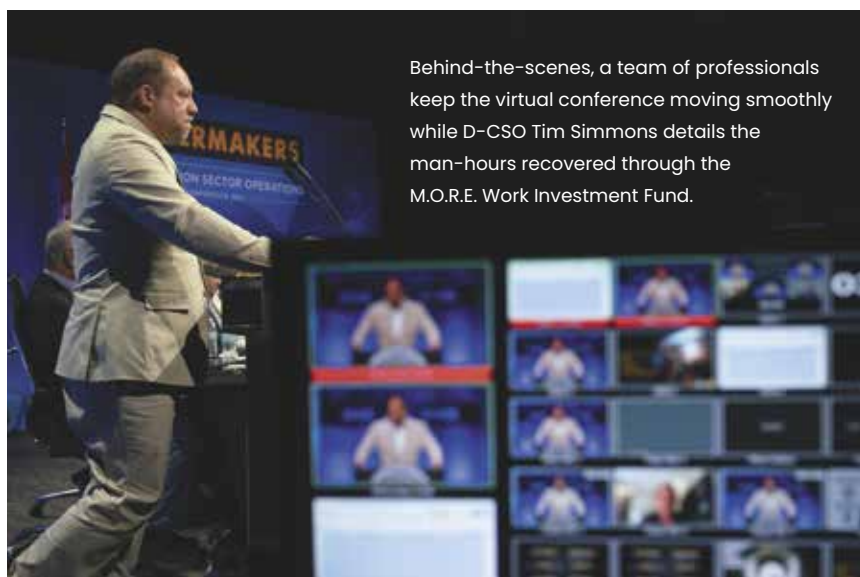
To date, the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund has allowed Boilermaker employers to bid work in 158 facilities, of which 53% are not solely fossil fuel power generation. Job targeting efforts have gained the trade over 365,812.35 man-hours.

“Every man-hour counts toward making certain our members and their families are taken care of and that our Boilermakers National Funds are secure,” Simmons said.

Marketing Manager Johnny Baca presented an overview of the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund state recruiting initiatives. The program brings in recruits to locals when there’s job demand and worker shortage. Baca also gave attendees a peek

at a new recruiting brochure available to construction locals.

IVP-NE John Fultz updated attendees on the Boilermakers National Funds status. He shared the news that since 2013, the BNF team has saved members \$864 million by performing audits to monitor the Fund’s business partners and by negotiating business partner contracts. Efficiencies and cost savings were catalyzed by the reorganization of BNF, particularly the Health and Welfare Fund, as directed by IP Jones in 2011, which has saved between \$30 and \$40 million per year.



Behind-the-scenes, a team of professionals keep the virtual conference moving smoothly while D-CSO Tim Simmons details the man-hours recovered through the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund.

IVP Fultz also gave an overview of numerous ways BNF helped Boilermakers during the pandemic.

Also of special note, Marty Stanton, SAIP, D-JS-CSO, D-NCA, AD-CSO alerted all that the United Association's President Mark McManus inexplicably cancelled INFO-67 and all other jurisdictional agreements between the UA and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers earlier in the year, essentially also ending the relationship between the two unions.

Other speakers included NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler (see article on page 9) and D-NTDS/AD-CSO Mike West, who took attendees through M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund Recovery Agreements. International Secretary-Treasurer Bill Creeden shared financials and membership numbers. He emphasized the importance of organizing and recruiting.

Additionally, Director of Government Affairs Cecile Conroy spoke on the Biden Administration's energy policy. IR Erica Stewart, also National Coordinator of Women in the Trades Initiative, offered updates on NABTU's Tradeswomen Build Nations. Communications Director Amy Wisner gave an overview of M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund marketing initiatives, and AD-CSO/Canada Cory Channon, also International Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions, discussed balancing jobs and the economies of science in relation to climate change mitigation.

In addition to hearing from keynote speakers during an opening plenary session, ISO lodge leaders connected through "Zoom rooms" dedicated to addressing topics including an NLRB update, arbitration, financial officer training, legislative updates, organizing and safety, among others. Members also broke out into industry-specific sessions.

During the conference plenary session, James "Jimmy" Hart, President of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, offered good news for union members in manufacturing and shipbuilding.

"America is back, and workers have survived thanks to a coalition of unions like the AFL-CIO," Hart said.

The mission to grow the metal trades comes from the affiliates, of which the Boilermakers



James "Jimmy" Hart, President of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, shares great news for the shipbuilding industry.

union is the largest. One recent big win was at the Philly Shipyard, with new shipbuilding contracts leading to more work for Boilermakers.

"A coalition of good hard trade unionists got together and worked their butts off to get that yard reopened, and nobody took 'no' for answer," Hart said. "Philly Shipyard is back." With 65% of the work represented by the Boilermakers, Hart said the contract means 10 years of work on the books and 2,000 jobs.

"Workers belong in the union," Hart said. "It's your job each and every day to knock on someone's door and ask if they're in the union."

Manuel Cortes, General Secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association in the United Kingdom also spoke during the plenary session and called for unity as workers continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. TSSA, an independent trade union in the United Kingdom and Ireland for the transport and travel trade industries, is a partner of the Boilermakers union.

Cortes cited an article in The Economist outlining the fact that unions are necessary for workers' safety and fairness. He said unions "ensure working people won't foot the bill for this pandemic. That's why it's important that we work together."

"It was the efforts of working people that has pulled us out of this pandemic. We need to build a world that's better for working people going forward."

Attendees also heard from Rick Vanderveen, D-ISO/Canada, who offered a comprehensive overview of all the ISO lodges in Canada. 🙌

# Local 13 takes top NACBE national safety award

**N**ortheast Area Local 13 (Philadelphia) earned The John F. Erickson NACBE Safety Award, announced during the 2021 Construction Sector Operations virtual conference on May 26. This year's award recognition looked a bit different than in the past due to the ongoing circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's been an extremely challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the guys in the field having to social distance, wear masks and work in specified work groups," said NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler. "Yet they rose to the occasion and accepted the challenge."

Traxler presented the overall 2020 safety index during the CSO conference. Statistics from 50 NACBE contractor organizations indicated good news, with most reports trending in the right direction. In year-to-year comparison, lost-time injury rates were down from 0.32 in 2019 to zero in 2020. The OSHA recordable rate was down about half in 2020, at .59, from 1 in 2019. Compensable eye injuries were significantly down from 28 in 2019 to 9 in 2020. Meanwhile, the compensable injury rate ticked up slightly from 2.41 in 2019 to 2.74 in 2020.

L-13 BM-ST John Bland accepted the national safety award on the local's behalf. In 2020, L-13 had zero OSHA recordable injuries in 336,581 total man-hours worked.

The National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers recognizes local lodges annually for their members' dedication to making and keeping their workplaces safe. They name one



John Bland, BM-ST of Local 13, received the John F. Erickson NACBE Safety Award on behalf of his lodge.

nationwide winner and one winner from each of the remaining U.S. sections. The awards are determined by the lowest injury rates followed by the highest percentage of Boilermaker man-hours worked for NACBE contractors participating in the NACBE safety index.

Sectional award winners were: Great Lakes—Local 374 (Dale/Hobart, Indiana); Southeast—Local 433 (Tampa, Florida) and Western States—Local 11 (East Helena, Montana). 🙌

“It’s been an extremely challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the guys in the field having to social distance, wear masks and work in specified work groups. Yet they rose to the occasion and accepted the challenge.”

Ron Traxler  
Executive Director, NACBE





# Boilermakers: Ahead of the green curve

**W**ith increasing polarization over the climate debate, not just in the United States and Canada but around the globe, the “leave it in the ground” voices clammer louder than all the others. They’d have people believe either the world cuts fossil fuels cold turkey and switches to purported “green” technology or the planet is damned.

In the discussion about reducing the effects of climate change there seems little room for middle ground. But the solution isn’t as simple as some environmental extremists claim.

While Boilermakers have traditionally worked in the oil and gas industry, the union’s members have also been at the forefront of mitigating climate change dating back decades. And as early as 2008 the Boilermakers were the union leaders shining a spotlight on the latest mitigation

technology: carbon capture, use and storage.

Boilermakers have never been climate change deniers. As President Newton B. Jones stated clearly: “While climate change has its skeptics, the Boilermakers union is not one of them. The body of evidence is too large not to be convincing.”

Yet, the measured voice of compromise has gotten lost amid the chorus of voices vilifying fossil fuels.

In a recent radio interview, L-13 BM-ST John Bland questioned when collaboration ended and extremism began.

“When did environmentalists, engineers and unions stop working together?” he asked. “In the late ’70s we had acid rain and we got together and we fixed it. Now we’re in the 2000s and one side is saying ‘shut it down’ and another is backing them up.”

In 1970, with air pollution increasing, Congress passed

the Clean Air Act, which set into motion a cascade of efforts to improve U.S. air quality. With environmentalists, scientists and unions working together, air quality improved.

International Vice President J. Tom Baca raised the question: “Where in the public dialogue is the middle ground? Where are climate change solutions that mitigate emissions contributing to climate change while preserving millions of middle-class union jobs?”

The union has done both. Over the last 30-plus years, thousands of Boilermakers across the United States and Canada have been instrumental in alleviating the effects of climate change on the environment while earning a living wage with benefits and a pension. Members have spent decades installing bag houses, scrubbers, dry and wet precipitators, and other emission controls. All these measures vastly reduced particulate

“While climate change has its skeptics, the Boilermakers union is not one of them. The body of evidence is too large not to be convincing.”

Newton B. Jones  
International President

matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, mercury and other emissions.

Retrofits throughout the 1970s and into the 2000s measurably cleaned the environment. Data from the Environmental Protection Agency show a sharp decrease in noxious emissions. For example, from 1995 to 2020, the annual emissions of sulfur oxides fell by 93%, annual emissions of nitrogen oxides from power plants fell 87% with carbon dioxide dropping 27%.

Some examples of Boilermaker retrofits and new builds include a billion-dollar wet scrubber on the West Coast at Valero's Benicia Refinery in Benicia, California, in 2010. ARB, Inc. & Primoris Electric Inc. was one of the contractors on the retrofit. Vice President Larry Jansen said that many of their projects with Boilermakers are for "environmental improvement." Most of these are SCRs or selective catalytic reduction, which is like putting a catalytic converter on your car to reduce emissions.

"It's the most common retrofit," Jansen said.

And it's effective. According to the EPA, SCRs are capable of a reduction in sulfur dioxide in the range of 50% to 98% with the highest removal efficiencies achieved by wet scrubbers. Those have a greater than 90% efficiency.

In addition to retrofits, Boilermakers have been the workforce behind innovative green technologies such as

the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, which uses focused sunlight to turn water to steam and steam to electricity.

Newer supercritical and ultra-supercritical plants are burning coal at higher temperatures and pressures, reducing the amount of coal needed to produce the same energy output as comparable older units. Boilermakers

helped to build the \$4 billion, 1,600-MW Prairie State Energy Campus. The campus has twin 800 MW supercritical power generation units and an on-site coal mine with 200 million tons of recoverable coal—enough to fuel the plant for 30 years.

Moving into the future, no one can predict what new technologies will be invented, but a realistic mix of reliable

## REDUCTION OF NOXIOUS EMISSIONS FROM 1995–2020

SO<sub>x</sub> 93%

NO<sub>x</sub> 87%

CO<sub>2</sub> 27%

energy sources that meet demand, preserve the environment and maintain union jobs is necessary.

“We’re going to have to keep a certain amount of our fossil fuels as we transition—until the next energy source,” said IVP Baca. “And we don’t know what that’s going to look like in 20 years. As energy changes and needs change, we’re going to be able to transition into that.”

While the technology is still costly, data on CCUS demonstrate that carbon capture technology will significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while putting excess CO<sub>2</sub> back in the ground, aiding in enhanced oil recovery. But positive change that both maintains a middle-class standard of living and cleans up the environment won’t happen unless extremists drop the political hot potato.

According to AD-CSO/Canada Cory Channon, who is also International Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions, it’s time to get people working on climate change mitigation to stop the rhetoric and political pandering and look at the facts: Fossil fuels power the nation—not just to fuel homes but to power the manufacturing of many of the goods and services that make life possible. In addition, as nations move further into “green” technology, climate extremists don’t want to admit that fossil fuels are needed to build it.

As Jansen said, the U.S. needs comprehensive policy that’s balanced as the nation heads into a clean energy future.

“It’s concerning to me that people forget it takes lithium to make a battery,” he said. “Or what happens to the solar panels when they wear out. I don’t think it’s a well-informed way to progress into the future. There needs to be a balance in all of the above.”

As a Boilermaker who has carefully studied energy needs, climate change and solutions over the past years, Channon understands the need to clean up the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change across the globe. He also knows it can’t happen without a bridge of fossil fuels.

“The narrative that’s been created, that we’ve been led to believe, is that hydro, wind and solar are green and will live forever. That’s wrong. You’ve been misled,” Channon said. “We’re out there promoting a solution—carbon capture. Through that we preserve well-paid, meaningful jobs and increase job opportunities while we are mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.” 🙌

*Editor’s Note: This is the first in a series of three articles about energy production and climate change mitigation. Watch for an article in the Fall issue of The Boilermaker Reporter outlining the problems with green technologies.*

## POLLUTION CONTROL TERMS



**Bag houses:** This method involves long, narrow bags suspended in a large enclosure. Fans blow the particulates upward, and they’re trapped inside the bag.



**Scrubbers:** These can remove gasses, mists and solids simultaneously. They’re used to remove particles and gases from industrial exhaust streams as they pass through the duct network.



**Precipitators:** These remove particles from gas streams using an electricity to charge particles, which then attach to collector plates carrying an opposite charge.



**Carbon Capture Use and Storage:** This method captures carbon dioxide emissions then stores it deep in the ground. It can also be used for enhanced oil recovery and manufacturing of products.





“ Maintaining the high standards of registered apprenticeships is vital to the success of our trade, as well as many others. ”

Mark Wertz  
BNAP Coordinator

## Biden administration ends proposed IRAPs

The building trades' two-year fight against the Trump Administration Department of Labor's Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Program, also known as IRAPs, ended in February when the Biden Administration eliminated the program. Unions across the board were against these pseudo apprenticeships that were nothing more than an attempt at allowing nonunion companies in the construction trades to shortcut training to increase their profits. If enacted, they would have lowered the standards of industry-specific testing and proven union apprenticeships, all which have high standards and demonstrated safety.

The construction industry relies on the proven union apprenticeship model to train workers, because union apprenticeships produce workers who have more safety

awareness, higher skill levels and greater productivity. In a statement praising the rescinding of IRAPs, NABTU, North America's Building Trades Unions, stressed the importance of upholding the registered apprenticeship model used successfully for generations.

"The construction industry's integrity relies on the well-structured and regulated format of registered apprenticeships to help recruit and retain workers through progressive wage increases, appropriate apprentice-to-journey worker ratios, quality assurance assessments, and instructor eligibility prerequisites."

Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Wertz also hailed the decision to end IRAPs.

"The BNAP commends the Biden Administration's suspension of the IRAP. The Boiler-

maker trade, like many others, requires a highly skilled workforce. Maintaining the high standards of registered apprenticeships is vital to the success of our trade, as well as many others."

In addition to ending IRAPs, the current administration also brought back the DOL's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships, which provides needed input from industry experts.

"We applaud the decisions by the Biden-Harris Administration to both eliminate Industry Recognized Apprenticeships and bring back the Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, which provides much needed industry-based input on policy, quality assurance standards and equitable enforcement," said NABTU's President Sean McGarvey. 🙌

# L-146 lockout at CESSCO passes one-year mark

**L**ocal 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) Boilermakers hit an unfortunate milestone, June 28, 2021: the one-year anniversary of Boilermakers' lockout from CESSCO Fabrication and Engineering Ltd. For over a year, a dedicated group of L-146 members have manned a picket line in all manner of weather, calling for CESSCO to put them back to work under their old contract and rejoin them for continued bargaining.

While there have been changes in CESSCO management that at times appeared

promising, indications now are that the company may be struggling and is planning at least a temporary halt in operations.

"This is obviously not good news for those who have spent decades working for CESSCO, and the state of the company is its own doing," said L-146 BM-ST Hugh MacDonald. "Rather than continuing negotiations or bringing the dedicated workers back, CESSCO chose to hire scabs—whose training and understanding of CESSCO's equipment and product we can safely surmise is quite

different from that of employees who have worked for the company for many years; regularly used, understood and maintained its equipment; and took personal pride in the product they created."

Throughout the past year, L-146 Boilermakers, MacDonald, IVP-Canada Arnie Stadnick and International President Newton B. Jones have reached out to CESSCO and to Amanda Hawkins, CEO of CESSCO's parent company, Canerector Inc. Hawkins has yet to return a call or respond to written communication.



A digital billboard near CESSCO calls for action.

The workers, who had been bargaining with CESSCO for over two and a half years and had not seen a pay raise in over five years, were locked out after the company served up “last, best and final” con-

tract demands that would have reduced wages and pension contributions and gutted critical seniority language.

“We were just asking for fair wages for an honest day’s work,” said L-146 assis-

tant steward Jeff Burns. “We would gladly, at any time, go back to work under the old contract and continue working toward a solution.”

Under Alberta labor laws, the union is permitted to maintain its affiliation with CESSCO for two years after a lockout occurs. While the outcome for the company appears grim, Boilermakers and their allies aren’t giving up. Other provincial and national unions have continued their support on the picket line and with other actions. Several days of action have taken place, rallying support at the picket line and engaging Boilermakers and their friends throughout the U.S. and Canada to flood the phones and emails of CESSCO and Canarector leadership with demands to end the lockout. And the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has continued billboard and digital geofence campaigns targeting the locations of those leaders.

“We will continue to support L-146 in any way we can,” International President Newton Jones told attendees at the virtual ISO Conference in May. 🙌

*Editor’s note: Information in this article is correct as of the publication date. Announcements, changes and details about the lockout will be reported online as they develop.*



Boilermakers from other locals, as well as union workers from other provincial and national unions, rally with L-146 during a day of action.



Every day for a year, locked out L-146 members have marched the picket line.



For more information visit  
[www.EndOurLockout.org](http://www.EndOurLockout.org)





## Boilermakers union to be featured on Laurence Fishburne series

**D**uring the summer of 2020, producers from “In Depth Series with Laurence Fishburne” contacted the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in their search for a trade union to feature for a segment that explores the need in the U.S. for more skilled tradesmen and women—and the importance of attracting more young adults into union apprenticeship programs.

Hosted by acclaimed actor Laurence Fishburne, the “In Depth Series” is an award-winning educational television series underscoring the evolution of education, medicine, sci-

ence, technology and industry through inspiring stories.

“Considering the Boilermakers’ unique history, proven track record and depth of work—in shipyards, the energy sector and beyond—in addition to the Boilermakers’ high caliber training and safety programs, we saw this as an ideal opportunity to highlight what we offer to prospective apprentices and to prospective contractors and owners,” said International President Newton B. Jones.

The Boilermakers signed on to ultimately produce a mini “documentary” (about 7 minutes) that will be available online and distributed through the pro-

ducer’s digital communications channels; a 3-minute “interstitial” educational segment to air between public broadcasting programming; and a 60-second TV commercial to air on popular cable networks (such as HGTV and the History Channel). All three film pieces will become the property of the Boilermakers to use further at the discretion of the union.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic halted plans to begin the project in 2020, filming finally took place in March 2021 at Local 169 in Detroit, Michigan.

“We were eager to begin, but we also wanted to be sure we could be as safe as possible and



*Top:* Local 169 apprentice Shelby Kavanaugh describes how she got involved with the union after graduating with a bachelor's degree in science.

*Below left:* Journeyman Michael Dodson, talks about his career and the benefits of being a union Boilermaker.

*Below right:* Martin Williams, L-13 member and National Coordinator of State Legislative Initiatives, M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, shares how he came to become a union Boilermaker.



mindful of the state and local COVID-19 status and protocols,” said Amy Wiser, director of communication. “In addition to scenes that would require multiple apprentices together, we needed to also accommodate on-site interviews with several people from outside of Michigan.”

L-169 BM-ST Bob Hutsell set safety measures for the facility, including temperature checks, and all participants were required to wear masks and observe distancing unless being interviewed or in a scene.

“Bob Hutsell and his team did a fantastic job preparing the

building and working to keep everyone as safe as possible, as well as making sure the facility was camera ready,” Wiser said. “The day went smoothly. We were able to keep things moving efficiently, and the training center was exactly the right setting the production crew needed.”

To provide a variety of perspectives, the crew interviewed L-169 apprentice Shelby Kavanaugh and journeyman Michael Dodson as well as NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler and Martin Williams, National Coordinator of State Legislative Initiatives, M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund.

“Our ultimate goal is to show prospective apprentices, owners and contractors what we already know: that the Boilermakers is the best union to join and to work with,” said IP Jones. “The message of this project should be a great help in advancing our union’s outreach.”

The ads and mini-documentary are currently in editing and are expected to be available within the summer of 2021. Watch for more information and availability through the IBB Update, Boilermakers app and social media. 🙌



To see other “In Depth Series with Laurence Fishburne” segments, visit <https://indepthseries.com>.





# COS Brown sworn into Missouri State Bar

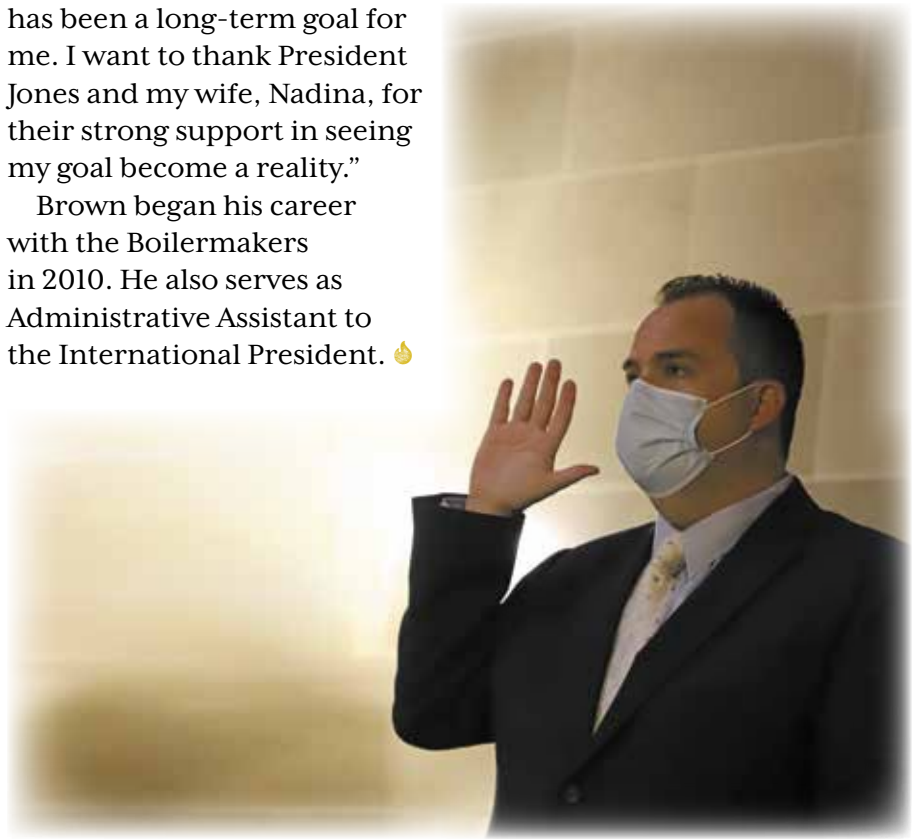
**T**yler Brown, Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Industrial Sector Operations, reached a career milestone April 23 when he was sworn into the Missouri State Bar at the state capitol in Jefferson City. He was also enrolled in the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

Brown received his Juris Doctor in 2009 from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

“My labor law education has helped me tremendously over the years in representing our members and coordinating with the law firms our union relies upon,” said Brown. “Sitting for the bar exam and becoming a licensed attorney

has been a long-term goal for me. I want to thank President Jones and my wife, Nadina, for their strong support in seeing my goal become a reality.”

Brown began his career with the Boilermakers in 2010. He also serves as Administrative Assistant to the International President. 🙌



COS Tyler Brown is sworn into the Missouri State Bar.

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## Two Boilermakers named NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes

This spring, two Boilermaker women were named “heroes” in the building trades. L-693 (Pascagoula, Mississippi) President Martina Taite and L-83 (Kansas City, Missouri) apprentice Cristina Redbear were both named North America’s Building Trades Unions’ Tradeswomen Heroes. This award was created in a joint effort between NABTU’s Tradeswomen’s Committee and Apprenticeship and Training Committee to congratulate and spotlight the dedicated tradeswomen within NABTU’s affiliate unions. 🙌



Read more about them on [boilermakers.org/womenatwork](http://boilermakers.org/womenatwork)



## Kansas City Business Journal honors Bank of Labor

In its annual bank rankings report, the Kansas City Business Journal awarded Bank of Labor in Kansas City, Kansas, an honorable mention in the category of strong, mid-size banks with between \$250 million to \$1 billion in assets. The Business Journal stated: “Bank of Labor was founded in 1924 by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and established deep roots with working people. It’s being a good steward for that trust: The bank had 0.36% problem loans in a \$256.7 million loan portfolio and a core-capital ratio of 7.42%.” (Previously unranked in 2019) 🙌

## Komatsu includes Boilermakers in billboard

Komatsu gave a nod to its employees from Local 158 (Peoria, Illinois) and included the Boilermakers seal in a billboard honoring local Peoria charity ART, Inc. ([artincpeoria.org](http://artincpeoria.org)). As part of the company’s Tons of Support program, Komatsu uses billboards to recognize and raise awareness of a different Central Illinois non-profit or an occasion, such as Veteran’s Day, each month.

“Our union members give every week toward these charities through the United Way, and members bring forward requests for charities to sponsor,” said L-158 president Kevin Reatherford.

Komatsu celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020, and Boilermakers have had a presence there for about 80 years. L-158 Boilermakers make Komatsu heavy haul trucks. 🙌



See a video here: [vimeo.com/189695285](https://vimeo.com/189695285)



# 50-year pin marks milestone for Elrod

Brother Bill Elrod, Local 263 (Memphis, Tennessee), marked half a century as a Boilermaker by receiving his 50-year pin from International President Newton B. Jones in April 2021.

Elrod, who retired in 2013, became a journeyman in 1974 and worked on the tools as well as holding local lodge offices before being appointed as an International Rep, Construction Division Rep and later Special Assistant to the International President. After retiring, Elrod enjoyed judging apprenticeship competitions in the Southeast Area and serving as a test administrator for the National Apprenticeship Program.

He describes as a career highlight: “When I got my advancement from apprentice to journeyman and my classification changed—when I got my book.”

Another highlight he notes is the work he did in the 1980s alongside (now) International President Jones and (now)



Bill Elrod (center), Local 263 (Memphis, Tennessee), who retired as an International Rep, Construction Division Rep and Special Assistant to the International President, receives his 50-year pin from International President Newton B. Jones (right). Elrod worked with IP Jones and IST Bill Creeden (left) as part of the original Fight Back strategy in the 1980s.

International Secretary-Treasurer Bill Creeden as part one of the original Fight Back program organizers.

“We made a lot of progress and got the Boilermakers decades of viable existence through our work,” he recalls.

The Fight Back strategy, which placed union organizers on jobs run by nonunion contractors, is credited with winning back mil-

lions of dollars for union Boilermakers and cementing future work.

“It was a great experience to work with Brother Elrod in the Fight Back program and throughout his career as a Boilermaker,” says International President Jones. “His retirement was well earned, and it was a personal honor to visit with him and present his 50-year pin.” 🙌

## SERVICE PINS

*The following pins have been presented in recognition of continuous years of service in the Boilermakers union as reported by local lodge leadership.*

### NTL • Hendersonville TN

45 YEARS	Leroy D. Hutchings
-------------	--------------------

### Local 1 • Chicago IL

50 YEARS	Charles Lyles, Merrill Lynn
45 YEARS	William Hafner
30 YEARS	Reyes Mirabel, Ken Nading
20 YEARS	David Antunez

## Local 83 • Kansas City MO

<b>55 YEARS</b>	Larry Elder, Mike Plowman, James Potter Jr.
<b>50 YEARS</b>	James Burris, Roger Hensler, Salvatore Hernandez, Randy Johnson, David Lawson, Cecil Miller, Kenneth Stufflebean
<b>45 YEARS</b>	Leonard Benfield, Mike Bonner, Joseph Fasone, Mike Gentry, Timothy Goldsmith, Roelof Gorham, Patrick Joyce, Claude Lackey, Rick Little, Donald McGhghy, James Owen Sr., Lambert Rolfzen, Robert Tubbs, Nathan Welch, Jon Wilson
<b>40 YEARS</b>	Roy Bennett, John Stratton
<b>35 YEARS</b>	Joseph Miller Jr., James Pflugrad
<b>30 YEARS</b>	Harley Douglas Jr., John Malone
<b>25 YEARS</b>	Gerald Walters, Dwight Wilson
<b>20 YEARS</b>	William Bunyard, Randle Darnell, Charles Hunt, Gavin Lang Sr., Anthony McKinley, Steve Vaughn, Bennett West

## Local 549 • Pittsburg CA

<b>45 YEARS</b>	Timothy Eagle
<b>40 YEARS</b>	Bruyn Dixey, James G. Kennedy, Benjamin Upchurch
<b>25 YEARS</b>	Gregory Frazier



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## Local 647 • Ramsey MN

<b>65 YEARS</b>	Robert G. Peterson
<b>60 YEARS</b>	Richard G. Kurash, Robert L. Nesseim, Jack D. Tucek
<b>55 YEARS</b>	Robert E Beckman, Clarence D. Lafontaine, Dayle P. Paulson, Alvin A. Savela, Thomas S. Stempson, Gary D. Stevenson
<b>50 YEARS</b>	Roger L. Cook, Leonard A. Flikke Jr., Jerome D. Kitzmann, Robert M. Larson, Richard L. Meyer, Ronald L. Staskivige, Kenneth E. Strusz
<b>45 YEARS</b>	Mark G. Borgeson, Richard L. Carroll, Stephen L. Craine, Randall J. Eudy, Scott R. Fritz, John D. Gergen, Leonard L. Graham, Roger Gully, Richard J. Heck, Lee D. Hickman, Duane Iverson, Leslie A. Klemetson, Lonny R. Koster, Robert H. Lange, Brian L. Longhenry, Gene A. Miller, James D. Peitz, Allen J. Perry, Allan F. Pietsch, Randy L. Tate, Dennis W. Torgerson, David W. Voigt, Randall Vosberg, Gerald R. Zehren
<b>40 YEARS</b>	Ronald Aschenbrenner, Lawrence P. Bill Jr., Robert W. Bistodeau, Charles T. Drenth, Kenneth Gross, Douglas J. Helwick, Edwin Landeis, Steve Lodermeier, Jack A. Nelson, Gerald L. Rabideaux, Paul D. Rasmussen, Kevin Stein, Thomas R. Westbury, Ronald R. Zack
<b>35 YEARS</b>	Roy M. Hietalati, Thomas H. Klein, Wesley Konsor, Robert L. Mckay, Roger L. Olofson, David M. Pilarski, Joseph L. Powers, Michael A. Reisinger, Richard A. Rice, Carlyle W. Sailer, Steven Schiller, Dale H. Wallner
<b>30 YEARS</b>	Kory A. Olson, Jackson W. Stahlberg, Gregory D. Staton, John R. Steckler, Gary G. Szczur, Ferris A. Wiens
<b>25 YEARS</b>	Chris Chouinard, Jason R. Cook, Dale C. Gill, Joseph T. Mittelsteadt, Kirk P. Nelson, Thomas K. Wichmann
<b>20 YEARS</b>	Brent L. Abrahamson, Scott A. Baker, Matthew J. Bignell, Chad A. Blonigen, David M. Borner, Douglas A. Brown, Ludwig C. Carlson III, Brennan L. Fayerweather, Timothy J. Fuller, Todd M. Hawkins, Todd C. Hoffman, Gary J. Holter, John N. Lindquist, Brady Marsolais, Robert P. Mike, Louis P. Morneau, John C. Murray, Bryan J. Springer, John A. Vieths, Richard J. Wappula
<b>15 YEARS</b>	Randy L. Bailey, Jesse R. Bearinger, Chad M. Bengtson, Scott P. Ebner, John Glenn Eubanks, Chris J. Folk, Anthony P. Fox, Jon J. Geiger, Dennis Gomez, Steven W. Haas, Chad J. Jenson, Ashley R. Keepers, William J. Kisner, Michael I. Mikrot Jr., Matthew G. Pliml, Cristopher R. Sanderson, Jason M. Shuster, Wendell S. White Eyes



## Local 667 • Winfield WV

*Note: The following reflects pin recognitions of retirees from L-667. Due to space constraints, L-667 active member pins will be recognized in the next issue of the Reporter.*

<b>70 YEARS</b>	Wilbur L. Rhodes, Walter L. Thomas
<b>65 YEARS</b>	John H. Sauer
<b>55 YEARS</b>	Emanuel M. Ailstock, James W. Boswell, John M. Boswell, Michael P. Cottrill, Charles F. Eddy, Bobby E. Hyatt, Garrel Le Johnson Jr., Patrick E. McDavid, Marklin A. Padilla, Danny E. Rickard, Lowell T. Templeton, Theodore R. Wright, William H. Young
<b>50 YEARS</b>	David L. Bomboy, Allen R. Brotherton, Ronald J. Bush, Franklin W. Cogar, William J. Coiner, Kevin B. Cutright, William D. Dew, Charles M. Durfee, James S. Gibson, Darrius L. Hall, Keith A. Hall, Charles R. Hamilton, Charles E. Hays, Douglas E. Jacobs, Jerry A. Jeffers, Larry E. Jones, Ronald W. Koontz, Ralph E. Lee, Carl W. Lemley, Orden M. May, Thomas C. McCormick, Stephen S. McGraw, Franklin E. Moffett, Raymond D. Morris, James F. Poling, William E. Poling, Larry B. Priddy, Ronald L. Salser, Byron D. Sampson, Philip G. Sampson, Shelburn E. Smith, Shelve G. Smith, Gary W. Swisher, Herman A. Taylor, Delmus N. Tustin, Thomas S. Vance, Everett E. Watterson, Earl S. Yost, Russell J. Young
<b>45 YEARS</b>	John D. Ammons, James M. Bell, Charles E. Berry, John F. Boardman, Charles E. Bradley, Gregory B. Bush, Samuel L. Canterbury, Stephen C. Carpenter, Gary W. Casto, Kenneth C. Cheuvront, Dana V. Clay, Earl F. Cunningham, Steven D. Deem, Gerald W. Drenner, James R. Gerlach, John E. Hall, Donald R. Headley, Paul F. Hedrick, Larry A. Johnson, Kenneth E. Kelley, Paul J. Kibbe, Robert L. Mattingly, Donald G. Mosteller, Terry G. Parsons, Kenneth W. Rice, Dwight W. Sayre, Bruce W. Sexton, Gary O. Smith, James R. Smith, Robert W. Smith, James R. Somerville, Roger K. Stewart, Daniel T. Stout, Ronald D. Tucker, Garrett R. Walker, Donald L. Young, Niles M. Young

<b>35 YEARS</b>	David A. Casto, James W. Eggers, Garland R. White
<b>30 YEARS</b>	Curtis A. Ball, James M. Bradley, Robert Cook Jr., Edwin L. Dulaney, Ricky A. Farley, Donald O. Hudson, Mark D. Hurlow, Ricky D. Kesterson, Oscar M. Kirk, Jackie R. Lee, Timothy M. McVicker, Bill W. Murphy, Eugene R. Pahl, Glenn E. Taylor, Lee I. Thompson, John W. Watterson Jr.
<b>25 YEARS</b>	Michael L. Bareswilt, Michael D. Cheauvront, Philip J. Defade, Gregory McClung
<b>20 YEARS</b>	Tony L. Baker, James Boardman, Larry E. Boley, Jerry R. Brightwell, Paul S. Burford, Michael E. Cleek, John Clonch, Ronald E. Cody, Dave Cunningham, Kevin E. Dennis, Dale E. Deweese, John H. Dunlap, James Ennos, Ronny H. Etheridge, Okey B. Eye, James W. Gillenwater, Bradford V. Highley, Warren A. Joy, Melinda A. King, Otto K. Koch, Steven L. Lancaster, Allen R. Laugh, Mario P. Marinucci, James C. Moore, James T. Moore, Keith K. Mullins, Jimmy L. Ostrander, James W. Owens, Rodney K. Perkins, George A. Rawson, Michael I. Richards, David L. Sheets, Dale R. Smith, Gary L. Southall, Raymond E. Squires, Timothy C. Stover, John P. Taylor III
<b>15 YEARS</b>	Tom Abbott, Bradford D. Alford, Timothy G. Bogard, Randall E. Cheuvront, David A. Cox, Carl L. Cyrus, Michael A. Deeds, Richard S. Gatto, Dennis M. Hackett, Joshua D. Holley, Estel R. Lavender, Vallie Jim West, Michael C. Wolfe

**DON'T SEE YOUR LODGE?** We publish all 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.

Lodge leaders can send a list of pin recipients by email to [reporter@boilermakers.org](mailto:reporter@boilermakers.org).



Change your address online at  
[www.boilermakers.org/changemyaddress](http://www.boilermakers.org/changemyaddress)

# Trailblazer for path to Black leadership in the trades dies

It is with great sadness that the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has learned about the death of Edward Powers, who, in addition to his dedication as a shipyard Boilermaker, rose as a leader and worked to create pathways to advance Black Boilermakers into leadership roles. Brother Powers was 88 years old.

Powers, who retired from Electric Boat in 1992 after 40 years of service, began his career working on the USS Nautilus and quickly proved himself as a visionary leader on the job. He was a steward and lodge officer at Local 614 (Groton, Connecticut) and attracted the interest of the Metal Trades Council for his forward thinking and tenacity. The Metal Trades Council supported Powers' efforts to establish a biracial committee to create opportunities and mentoring programs to position Black Boilermakers for supervisory roles in the trades.

As his tribute reads:

*"Edward applied his desire to think 'outside of the box' and belief that all things are possible, to strengthen his administrative skills to affect change and provide voice and opportunity for men and women of color. Edward was perhaps himself the best example of a mentor, rising through the ranks from welder to methods analyst to engineer to senior engineer. Earning engineering certification from the University of New Haven, he designed complex product prototypes for naval projects in the Washington, D.C., Newport News and San Diego shipyards and all the while, continued looking behind him, eager to help lift the proteges of color who admired him."*



Edward Powers created pathways to advance Black Boilermakers into leadership roles. Flanking Powers are his daughters, Lynn Powers (left) and Lisa Powers (right).



Powers was a delegate at the Fifth Constitutional Convention for the Connecticut State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Powers' membership application shows he was just 23 years old when he signed on to become a Boilermaker with Local 614 in 1955.



**Read Brother Powers' full tribute here:**

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theday/obituary.aspx?n=edward-farnsworth-powers&pid=198371726&fhid=6910>



# IN MEMORIAM

With deepest sorrow, the Boilermakers union records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer's office and extends heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

1 Bonafacchi, Larry A.	73 Macchesney, James A.	154 Bagalini, Joseph J.	549 Peoples Jr., William L.
1 Kavanaugh, Kevin	73 Richard, Joseph L.	154 Bronowicz, Martin F.	614 Miller, Paul G.
1 Williams Jr., Robert W.	73 Robichaud, Orvil	154 Bunkley Jr., Gilbert S.	614 Powers, Edward F.
4 Bitsoie Jr., Tully	73 Saccary, Daniel F.	154 Buszinski, William S.	614 Taylor, Robert A.
4 Tso, Elton	73 Wall, Stephen F.	154 Cancro, Richard A.	627 Yazzie, Darrell L.
5 Bryant Jr., George L.	83 Arroyo, Luanne K.	154 Ciccone Jr., James J.	647 O'Flaherty, Richard
5 Hornberger, Philip	83 Gravett, Marty A.	154 Fascetti, Charles A.	647 Wiech, James A.
5 Shaughnessy Jr., Steven	83 Newport, James F.	154 Gaff, Bernard E.	667 Kelley, Romie E.
5 Smith, LaVar	83 Noland, Jerry L.	154 Levkulich, Michael E.	667 Mounts, Jerry W.
7 Brown, Thomas M.	83 Reeves Jr., Everett H.	154 Pflugh, David B.	667 Newcome, Dale E.
13 Dillmore, Larry W.	83 Reynolds, John D.	154 Shaw, Richard K.	667 Roush, Robert E.
13 Fink, Theodore J.	83 Shaddox, Geary W.	154 Sinicropi, Armando	667 Stepp Jr., Rule D.
13 Fisher, Dale E.	83 Sheppard, John E.	154 Smerdel, Joseph J.	667 Vanscoy, Danny
13 Frederick, Thomas W.	83 Stonebarger, Gary L.	154 Totodo, James R.	667 Wolf, Kermit C.
13 Mallon, Richard E.	85 Rice, Richard E.	154 Volino, Dominic A.	684 Jones Jr., Robert L.
13 Martinovich Jr., Daniel	92 Bewsee, Robin	154 Wargo, Paul	684 Tarkenton, Steve
13 McKenna Jr., Thomas	92 Bonaventure, Ron W.	169 Acocks, Timothy P.	696 Lingelbach, Kerry L.
13 Mitchell, William J.	92 Lara, Paul J.	169 Hoagland, Harold E.	900 Adamson, Dave L.
13 Purin, James D.	101 Bennett, Donald	169 Montie Jr., Floyd L.	900 Miller, Clifford A.
13 Rowe, Elmer	101 Plett, Rodney D.	175 Gentile, Thomas J.	1240 Graf, Thomas E.
13 Sacchetti, John	101 Yeager, Claxton L.	191 Hansen, Kenneth W.	1247 Bonilla, Baltazar
13 Sieklicki, David J.	104 Mayes, Oscar	193 Hann Jr., William L.	1247 Ramirez, Fernando M.
13 Stinsman, Leroy J.	104 Raymond, Dale	203 Morrissey, Ronald J.	1509 Green Jr., Casper T.
13 Storz III, Harry T.	104 Turk, Corey	242 Rumsey, Clair W.	1622 Richards, Albert C.
13 Watkins, Edgar S.	105 Eads, Todd D.	359 Anderson, Ivan B.	D331 Arsenault, Nicholas P.
27 Marler, Donald	108 Blevins, George L.	359 Gustitus, Andrew W.	D331 Wharton, James C.
29 Chludenski, Mark J.	108 Cook, Matthew T.	359 Kehler, William	D345 Maurice, Scott
29 McHugh, Robert E.	108 Garrard, Teddy W.	359 Lebel, Arthur B.	D351 Schuler, Gary L.
29 Patriarca, Steven	108 Morie, Justin J.	359 Legreeley, James	D366 Harmel, Reinhol
29 Wadsworth, Robert L.	128 Babinski, T. A.	359 Mayer, James P.	D366 Minino, Benito
29 Withem, Johnnie R.	128 Bull, Edwin J.	359 Olver, James R.	D366 Stone, Fredric J.
40 Allison, John M.	128 Cormier, Alfred J.	359 Schoening, Victor	D381 Grajeda, Luis D.
40 Story, John M.	128 Currie, Thomas	363 Atchison, William B.	D387 Ferguson, Jamie N.
40 Sturgeon, James M.	128 Gallant, Dale R.	363 Grafton, Bud	D397 Jez, Freddy
45 Howell, Joseph D.	128 Gutoski Jr., John	363 Hoskins, Michael R.	D400 Black, Jason W.
45 Ottney, Thomas N.	128 Knapman, Andrew	455 Chandler, Alan R.	S50 Crowner, Curtis P.
45 Rutoskey Jr., Mario A.	128 Laird, Hugh	455 Clemons, Billy K.	S82 Rynkowski, Barbara A.
73 Chiasson, Andre	128 Quinn, Keiran	455 Sisco, Terry B.	S251 Clark, Richard L.
73 Glenn, Shawn W.	128 Shuart, Daniel A.	549 Burrow, Brian S.	S1978 Farnam, Gary L.



# Boilermakers Convention moves from tavern to computer



With the COVID-19 pandemic still a threat, the 34th Consolidated Convention will convene in a virtual format. Pulling up a chair and logging on is an easy and safe way to meet. But what did Boilermakers do over a century ago? How did they go about forming an international union without the wide use of telephones or automobiles? Today, with just about everyone carrying a phone in their pocket, that seems impossible. But back then, the urgency and drive to form a union was an issue of life or death, so workers found a way.

Back in the late 1800s, local unions were organized as individual branches with no direct connections to Boilermakers in other cities, or even to other railroad shops located in the same town. Yet workers realized the problems they faced were bigger than their own local branch. With owners holding all the cards, death on the job and long workdays for low wages were common. An extensive list of horrible working conditions and practices pushed separate branches to organize together for power.

On Oct. 1, 1880, a group of Boilermakers met in Chicago, but the records are vague on how they communicated or on how they discovered other lodges tucked away in various cities. In the late 1880s, telephones had just been invented, letters were slow and telegrams were expensive.

In whatever way the message got out, representatives from nine local branches (now called local lodges) found a way to meet in Chicago. According to union lore, the men met secretly in the back of a tavern while the sympathetic owner watched for police and private detectives, who sometimes violently broke up meetings of workers hoping to form a union. By the end of the evening, the nine branches had become the National Boiler Makers Protec-



Delegates to a Chicago Group convention, year unknown. William Gilthorpe, future grand secretary-treasurer for the merged Brotherhood, is seated third from right; to his right is Andrew Keir, president of the Chicago Group.

tive and Benevolent Union. The group incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, with newly organized branches chartered as sub-branches.

Other groups of Boilermaker branches that had formed in Ohio and San Francisco joined the Chicago group, causing the union's rapid growth. In August of 1881, 23 delegates attended the first annual convention. A year later, 68 delegates convened, representing over 30 unified branches.

The first Boilermaker lodge in Canada—Branch 21—was organized August 6, 1884 in Hamilton, Ontario, on the same day the third national convention opened in Cincinnati with 82 delegates from more than 40 branches.

It may always remain a mystery just how separate branches from across North America found other branches for that fateful meeting in the back of a Chicago tavern. Even so, this summer the Boilermakers union carries on the tradition started 140 years ago. And by doing so, workers continue to defend the power of the labor movement. 🍷

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