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The MOST National Tripartite Alliance conference regrouped to discuss recruiting, new work, the future of energy and more.

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Learn how L-146 is using its training center to help Ukrainian newcomers adjust to life in Alberta.
Why ‘green’ energy zealots are unhappy with $369 billion climate package

One would think that even the most fanatical “green” energy advocates would be ecstatic about the $740 billion Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) signed into law by President Biden Aug. 16.

After all, half of that enormous sum—$369 billion—is targeted to fighting climate change. Wisely, those billions will support a portfolio of emissions-lowering technologies: renewables; electric vehicles; hydrogen fuel; nuclear; fossil fuels with carbon capture, use and storage and direct air capture.

This broad, inclusive approach to slashing carbon emissions makes sense. Every option that contributes to combatting global warming should be employed where feasible.

But here’s the rub for climate zealots: The “leave-it-in-the-ground” crowd abhors fossil fuels. They viscerally hate them. They refuse to accept the reality that oil, gas and coal make modern life possible.

And they refuse to accept the obvious limitations of weather-dependent wind and solar energy, fervently holding on to the misguided belief that an all-renewable future is workable.

Their position is delusional and dangerous. Excluding or restricting fossil-based natural resources carries serious risks to economies and people.

Evidence of fossil fuel dependency abounds. In Europe, where energy prices have spiraled out of control, governments are warning of severe natural gas shortages that could leave their citizens unable to obtain, or afford, heating fuel for their homes. Certainly, Russia’s war on Ukraine has worsened Europe’s energy situation, but years of anti-fossil fuel and anti-nuclear policies were already driving up energy costs.

Germany, long an industrial and manufacturing powerhouse, has backed itself into a corner by abandoning virtually all of its coal-fired and nuclear energy plants and investing half a trillion euros in a failed “green” energy revolution. Today, German citizens fear they will not have enough energy, primarily gas, to heat homes or power industry as winter approaches.
In Sri Lanka, the government’s ban on fossil-based fertilizers has led to extreme food shortages and runaway inflation as crop yields have dramatically fallen. (Synthetic, nitrogen-based fertilizers derived from natural gas today help feed about half the global population.)

Across many U.S. states, especially in the West, heat waves have led to warnings of rolling blackouts as a result, at least in part, of policies that favor intermittent wind and solar installations over more reliable baseload fossil and nuclear energy plants.

Recently, to deal with soaring energy use due to the extreme heat, California Governor Gavin Newsome asked residents of that state to raise their thermostats to 78 and avoid plugging in electric vehicles between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m., along with other lifestyle changes.

It is an unpleasant irony that in a state that has banned the sale of new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035, leaders are urging people to cut back on charging their EVs. If there is insufficient electricity now, imagine the shortfall in the future when California mandates that all vehicles be electric and another 30 million plus EVs are plugged into the electric grid.

Things will only get worse for humanity if the premature shift away from fossil fuels and nuclear power continues. We are already seeing a reversal of policies as some governments, particularly in Europe, try to salvage the few baseload coal and nuclear plants still remaining. In Great Britain, incoming Prime Minister Liz Truss promptly canceled that government’s ban on fracking.

All of this points to what should be an apparent, if uncomfortable (for some) truth: We cannot abruptly stop using fossil fuels and nuclear energy without destroying economies and harming people. On its face, the Inflation Reduction Act recognizes this fact—even if the environmental extremist crowd does not.

Key provisions of the law dramatically enhance and expand tax credits to incentivize the deployment of emissions-reducing technologies.

Especially important to Boilermakers are improvements to the federal 45Q tax credit program supporting CCUS. The act raises credits for capturing and permanently sequestering carbon dioxide from $50 per metric ton to $85 and, for using captured CO2 for enhanced oil recovery, from $35 per metric ton to $60. These changes are designed to make CCUS more attractive and spur greater investment across energy and industrial processing sectors.

Importantly, for entities to receive the full tax credits, they must comply with prevailing wage and apprenticeship provisions. That means a more level playing field for union members and better wages for all workers on these projects.

In addition, the act includes domestic sourcing requirements for materials and products, supporting North American economies and jobs.

The Inflation Reduction Act promises to be a green light for the U.S. to scale up and advance multiple clean energy technologies.

Climate zealots have voiced their disappointment that fossil fuels get a boost under the act. But wiser heads understand that promoting all emissions-reducing options is the best path forward.

Newton B. Jones
International President
BACK after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the 35th MOST National Tripartite Alliance conference opened Aug. 23 in Destin, Florida, with a focus on increased work on the horizon and new initiatives and strategies to boost work opportunities for Boilermakers, contractors and owners.

“We have to keep our shoulder to the wheel with the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, and we have to evolve to keep our craft alive and ready for what’s coming,” said Conference Chairman and Boilermakers International President Newton B. Jones in his opening remarks.

Strategies within the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund are setting the foundation for Boilermakers, contractors and owners to take advantage of new work projected to come online as a result of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, transition energy landscape and other factors, he said.

IP Jones reminded attendees about the success of the precursor to the formal M.O.R.E. Work program, in which the Western States Section initially invested less than $1 million in the California state legislation (SB 54) campaign. That campaign resulted in 3 million additional man-hours for Boilermakers with millions more in man-hours for other crafts.

“That was an over 1,000% return on investment,” he said.

“And we signed on 31 new contractors and brought in at least 1,800 new members in two California locals.”

Now formally and fully running since 2019, the M.O.R.E. Work program has expanded. In addition to the four core focus areas (marketing, organizing, recruitment and employment), work recovery and job targeting initiatives are investing in tactics to reclaim lost work, gain work in new industries and allow contractors to generate more competitive bids.

“All of these strategies are tools for surviving this unprecedented transformation. It’s going to be ongoing and a long process,” said IP Jones.

He pointed to developments in recruiting strategies, including the launch of a new centralized online application system and boot camp style training. He called attention to a new boot camp training program being built out at the U.S. Army’s Fort Benning, Georgia, base where the army is providing a building for the Boilermakers’ training, aimed
at soldiers who are preparing to leave the service.

IP Jones also called attention to the Boilermaker Women at Work program, focused on recruiting and retaining female members and fostering leadership development paths for female Boilermakers.

“The Women at Work initiative is a very important strategy, because there are a lot of women who want to go to work and can do this work,” he said. “And who do you think built the Liberty ships during World War II?”

Another strategy, Climate Change Solution Initiatives, was a major topic of the conference and was identified by several key presenters as critical to a healthy future for Boilermakers, contractors and owners.

Spencer Schecht, Senior Client Engagement Lead for the Global CCS Institute, outlined several points in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act that will have a direct impact on accelerating carbon capture deployment in the United States. Of note, $12 billion has been earmarked for CCUS enhancements to the 45Q tax credit that make CCUS more attractive as an option.

“This creates a market with economic certainty,” Schecht said. “What this means is that [carbon capture technology] is going to be a big part of climate conversations going forward.”

He reported that in the U.S., Houston, Texas, and the Gulf Coast, the Northern Plains, Midwest, Appalachia and California are CCUS hotspots, and in Canada, Alberta and Saskatchewan are CCUS leaders. There are currently 18 commercial projects operating or in construction in North America, and 74-plus commercial projects in development.

Schecht said that to further enable carbon capture deployment, there needs to be incentivization through government, significant capital through investment and a policy framework put in place that gives investors confidence in the business case for positive return on investment.

Boilermakers International Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions Cory Channon said the Boilermakers’ message about CCUS and other solutions is finally taking root. He stressed the importance of collaborating, advocating for an “all of the above” energy and carbon dioxide mitigation strategy and combating misinformation from environmental extremists.

“The world is in our hands now,” he said. “We need to shift the mind of the people to shift the government. The villain is CO2.”

Two entrepreneurs and visionaries who presented at earlier Boilermakers’ conferences showcased their plans for carbon-negative hydrogen projects that utilize unique feedstock and incorporate carbon capture.

Ian MacGregor, founder of Hydrogen Naturally, Inc., laid out his plans for a project that will produce what he describes as “bright green hydrogen” at hydrogen “hubs” in Canada and the U.S. The hubs will use scrap wood fiber—that otherwise is left to rot—as feedstock. The hubs’ Natural Air Capture Facility will make and sequester CO2 and will manufacture renewable fuels.

“What we’re focusing on is the full carbon cycle, and we will be negative in the hydrogen we make,” MacGregor said. “We’re not zero, we’re less than zero, because the tree took the carbon out of the air.”

The hubs will be built in identical train processes akin to an assembly line process so they can be continuously built. MacGregor estimates thousands of jobs will result from building and maintaining the hubs, as well as the forestry aspect required.
Dr. Evan Blumer’s proposed project, which uses a unique pressurized, fluidized bed combustion system, is a finalist in the U.S. Department of Energy’s 21st Century Power Plant Program—a competitive search for the “power plant of the future.” He plans to burn coal waste and co-fire with biomass from Pennsylvania forests, spurring critical forest management. (Read more at “Northeast Area Tripartite looks to the future” on page 16.)

Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, made a special appearance via Zoom to address the conference on the urgency of meeting climate goals and deploying projects relative to funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act.

“We have a big gap to close in just under a decade, and the Boilermakers in Canada and the U.S. have helped lead the charge among unions to ensure that we meet this challenge,” he said.

Crabtree lauded the magnitude of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which provides $62 billion over five years to the DOE for “all things involving energy and climate,” $12 billion-plus of which is for carbon management technology and infrastructure. He said this represents the world’s largest investment to date by a government for carbon management.

“It’s an historic accomplishment—not just in the amount of money, but because the law extends beyond traditional research and development,” he said. “We now have the tools and resources to invest in real world technology that brings innovation to the marketplace.”

He noted the law is a “once in generation opportunity” and that the department is working overtime to implement the provisions.

Said IP Jones: “[The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act] will bring us—all of us—a whole lot of work. We’re seeing the focus shift to carbon capture, use and storage; hydrogen and nuclear—and manpower for new projects is going to be an issue for all crafts.
We have to work to recruit and train people.”

In addition to the Boilermakers’ M.O.R.E. Work program strategies and tactics, IP Jones announced that discussions had begun with the Ironworkers union to create an alliance that would ensure the glut of near and longer-term jobs opportune to both unions could be adequately manned.

“We want to get to a solution and put Ironworkers and Boilermakers to work and make sure the contractors and owners have the skilled workforce they need,” said Ironworkers President Eric Dean.

Both Dean and IP Jones emphasized that discussions about a strategic alliance are still in early stages.

“We might fight sometimes, but like brothers, when we put our backs together, everyone else stands a losing chance,” Dean said. “When we have each other’s backs, we’re unstoppable.”

As with past MOST NTA conferences, Boilermakers, contractors and owners met separately in caucuses and then reported out to the conference to address issues together. Top concerns among all three groups were: maintaining safety on the job and, in light of the recent legislation and funding, recruiting, retaining and training skilled manpower.

“There’s a whole lot of work on the horizon,” IP Jones said. “There’s a whole lot of money being invested by our government on things that are good for building trades and workers. We all need to understand: We need to build our workforce back.”
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The Charles W. Jones Award, which honors the local lodge demonstrating the highest use of specified MOST programs during the preceding year, was awarded during the 2022 MOST National Tripartite Alliance Conference in Destin, Florida, to Local 237 (Hartford, Connecticut) for 2020 and Local 363 (Bellville, Illinois) for 2021. MOST programs considered for the honor include OSHA 10/30, Common Arc, Substance Abuse, Scaffolding, Steel Erection, Rigging, Leadership and the Boilermaker Code.

Boilermakers International President Newton B. Jones presented the awards to (former) L-237 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Chris O’Neill and L-363 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer William Mulconnery.

Accepting the 2020 Charles W. Jones Award for L-237 are, l. to r., MOST programs administrator Mark Garrett, IVP-NE John Fultz, L-237 BM-ST and IR Chris O’Neill (former L-237 BM-ST) and IP Newton Jones.

Accepting the 2021 Charles W. Jones Award for L-363 are, l. to r., MOST programs administrator Mark Garrett, IVP-GL Lawrence McManamon, L-363 BM-ST William Mulconnery and IP Newton Jones.
Owners, contractors, and members were happy to be back in person at the 2022 Boilermaker Industry Tripartite Conference in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick, Aug. 9-11. The Canadian conference offered a wide range of topics including opioid use, indigenous recruiting, harassment in the workplace, the rise in small modular nuclear reactors and more. Provincial ministers Monte McNaughton and Arlene Dunn addressed the tripartite, and there were breakout sessions on carbon capture, SMRs and safety.

International Vice President of Canada Arnie Stadnick welcomed the group after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. “It’s really good to be here together in person,” he said. “We’ve been virtual for the better part of two years, and we are very happy to have you here.”

Executive Director of the Boilermaker Contractors’ Association of Canada Sara Scott and Point Aconi Generating Station Plant Manager Milton Howley also welcomed attendees to the tripartite.

Samantha King, PhD, research and policy analyst at the Canadian Centre of Substance Use and Addiction spoke about drug use in the workplace, which needs attention. Chronic substance use, she explained, is habitual and impulsive. That could occur with people using alcohol, opioids or other drugs like fentanyl. She said one out of five workers in construction in Ontario and British
Columbia deal with substance use disorder.

King said that chronic substance use results in loss of productivity. A study from 2017 showed an estimated $20 billion in employer losses. “The cost is high to employees and employers,” she said.

Yet shaming and stigmatizing those with substance use disorder is counterproductive and won’t help those affected find the help they need. “We can overcome stigma through language,” King said, emphasizing education and training.

Substance use isn’t the only social issue plaguing the workplace. As consultant Sally Wells illustrated, harassment is also a problem.

“There have been a lot of legislative changes around workplace violence. In most workplaces, violence isn’t sexual violence,” she said, noting it’s most often disrespectful behavior and bullying of those considered “others” at work. “Are we holding space for people to be different than we are?”

She said if you see something, don’t be afraid to intervene. “We’re never going to be free of conflict. We need to learn to ask clarifying questions and understand the concept of respect and accept responsibility of conduct.

Ron Oberth, PhD, special advisor to the president and CEO at the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries, gave an overview of small modular reactors.

“Canada is leading the way in introducing SMRs,” Oberth said.

Canada is a successful nuclear pioneer with over 60 years of nuclear technology development. It’s a $7 billion industry with 19 operating CANDU reactors. CANDU is a Canadian pressurized heavy-water reactor designed to be used to generate electric power.

With more than $1 billion a year in exports, Canada is the world’s second largest uranium producer. Energy

The Honorable Arlene Dunn addressed the tripartite saying Boilermakers and the building trades “do it right” because men and women get paid the same.

Ron Oberth, PhD, special advisor to the president and CEO at the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries, gives an overview of small modular reactors.
needs are changing and new SMRs are a solution. Provincial governments are hoping to see enhanced economic activity with SMR global exports.

“Modular means you build them when you need them. With smaller units you build them as you need the power,” Oberth said. “It’s also easier for a smaller province with a smaller grid to add them. And it’s also lower risk.”

Boilermakers took to the stage to update attendees about Helmets to Hardhats, recruitment, inclusion, indigenous recruiting and training. Former IVP-Canada Joe Maloney, founder and national executive director of Helmets to Hardhats, Canada, said H2H only works with the 14 unionized construction trades when recruiting former military. Since 2012, they’ve been successful in recruiting 134 men and women into the Boilermakers.

With more on recruitment, IR Jonathan White gave an overview of L-128’s (Toronto) recruitment initiatives and the importance of forecasting. White said that any job forecasting involves an ever evolving and endless set of variables that impact the accuracy of those projections.

“The further you go out in any projection, the less accurate you’ll be because the greater the variables,” he said. “The trends are true, though. That’s what we can use to plan for manpower going forward.”

He said the union is using a three-pronged approach to manpower: outreach, assessment and development.

“This plan has resulted in a 25% increase in available manpower. It’s a number we’re proud of,” White said.

Director of National Training j’Amey Bevan also discussed fulfilling manpower needs through apprentice development and the National Pressure Welder Program. Bevan took over as director in the spring of 2020, just as
the world got wonky with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The pandemic, as tough as it was, allowed us to focus on other things, and we updated our [apprenticeship] program,” she said. “It’s on a new [learning management system].”

Bevin also talked about the National Pressure Welder Program, funded with $6 million for the next five years. That money covers costs for teachers and students (including childcare). The goal is 1,800 new qualified pressure welders by the end of year five.

Inclusion was another factor emphasized as important to the union’s growth and health. With more and more women becoming Boilermakers, the L-128 women’s committee discussed inclusion at length. Genevieve Ellis, Christine Hahn and Leah McIntyre gave an overview of the range of human differences: race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class and physical abilities.

“Diversity isn’t just about numbers and filling quotas,” Hahn said.

Inclusion is about involvement and empowerment of all members of these classifications and creating an environment where everyone is heard. The group went on to define the consequences of exclusion, which affects productivity and revenue and can cause mental health problems, job dissatisfaction and absenteeism. They stressed the need across the trades to educate members about inclusion and create a safer more equitable environment for all workers.

Also discussing inclusion was National Indigenous Recruiter and IR Emile Gareau. He said the union has thus far recruited between 30 and 36 candidates from indigenous communities.

“What we offer together—owners, contractors and Boilermakers—has had such an impact,” he said. “I’ve received so many positive reports.”

For an overview of Boilermaker training across Canada, Director of National Training j’Amey Bevan details the union’s push to add more pressure welders.

Sara Scott, executive director of the Boilermaker Contractors’ Association of Canada welcomes attendees to the tripartite.

Consultant Sally Wells says learning how to handle conflict is one way to help end workplace harassment.
**Member mental health takes spotlight at Canadian conference**

Canadian Boilermakers are leading the way in encouraging members to care for and protect their mental health in addition to keeping fit and focusing on job safety. During an afternoon session at the 2022 Boilermaker Industry Tripartite Conference, Alison Butler, chief wellness officer and owner of her own consulting company, gave a high-level overview on how to identify depression, anxiety and burnout, and tips for maintaining mental wellness in the workplace.

“We’re all impacted in some way, shape or form by mental health,” Butler said. “It doesn’t have to be that we’re in crisis, although we might be. Sometimes we’re going through the stuff of life.”

The COVID-19 pandemic changed some of the mental health markers in the workplace with nearly 25% of Canadians currently presenting with depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder.

In one study nearly 9 in 10 employees reported that workplace stress affects their mental health and that they’re experiencing the early signs of burnout, according to Butler. “Nearly 83 percent of respondents felt emotionally drained from their work.”

Burnout, stress and the way they are experienced are entwined with mental health. The World Health Organization has identified burnout as an issue that can occur in the workplace. Burnout is chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed and may include feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion, increased mental distance from one’s job, feeling job cynicism and having reduced professional efficacy.

Depression and burnout can mimic symptoms such as: numbness, anger frustration/irritability, worry, feeling tired, impaired memory/concentration and body aches or not feeling well because “body and mind are so integrally connected,” Butler said.

According to Butler, awareness is important on a personal level, but it’s just as vital to providing support to co-workers. She said there is still stigma around mental health in the workplace. Half of adults are concerned about even discussing it.

Colleagues can watch out for one another and reach out and help if they see someone struggling. Butler noted signs can include changes in work habits and behavior, increased absence from work and physical symptoms.

National Director of Health and Safety Jason McInnis and Health and Safety Representative Blair Allen are working with locals to raise awareness that mental health is just as important as physical health and safety. Boilermakers use the Working Mind program from the Mental Health Commission of Canada to raise awareness of mental health issues. Working Mind seeks to reduce the stigma of mental illness. And through evidence-based teaching, help find solution-focused answers for people experiencing mental health challenges in the workplace.

“The uptake of the program and the feedback has been great,” McInnis said. “None of this would be possible without the support of the lodge leadership. It matters how we talk about mental health.”

About 600 members have taken the Working Mind program. “It’s been well-received,” McInnis said. “People are opening up.” He said it’s even been delivered to contractors. “The more people we can get trained around mental health, the better.”

![Alison Butler discusses mental health at the Canadian Tripartite in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick.](image)
Ohio Valley Tripartite focuses on manpower needs

The Boilermakers’ longest-running meeting of its kind, dating back to the 1980’s, met in Lexington, Kentucky, for the Ohio Valley Tripartite Aug. 8-10 with owners, contractors and guests. The event focused on manpower projections; and attendees heard updates on MOST Programs, The Boilermaker National Apprenticeship Program and the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund.

“The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund is one of the best manpower generating tools our organization has,” said IVP-Great Lakes Lawrence McManamon.

McManamon stressed that the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund has increased man-hours, which in return benefits the Boilermakers National Funds programs. It has given Boilermakers opportunities and put Boilermakers in places they’ve never been before, he said.

And based on manpower reports from many of the local lodges, numbers are moving in the right direction with work this fall increasing. These future estimates give business managers the opportunity to find work, fulfill their agreements to contractors and keep Boilermakers on the job.

MOST Programs Jay Brophy spoke to business managers and agents about recruiting and the benefits of the MOST recruiting website for Boilermakers. He also gave an update on the past few years on OSHA 10/30, rigging, project management, field leadership, Common Arc certification and drug testing.

BNAP Coordinator Mark Wertz followed with an update on the Boilermaker apprenticeship program and recruiting efforts. He advised locals and contractors to start at the state level and get involved in SkillsUSA competitions.

“We are at the national level, we’re recruiting members at this level—and it’s difficult, but before they go to national, they need to go to regional and state...that’s where we grab them,” he said.

Along with updates, attendees also heard from guest speaker Dr. Evan Blumer from CONSOL Energy, who spoke on the 21st Century Power Plant program, a multi-phase initiative that will lead to the development of the power plant of the future. This project uses an advanced pressurized, fluidized bed power plant, essentially, bringing a unique combustion system to the U.S. that can burn unusual things like coal waste.

“We are going to have the world’s first coal-based, carbon-negative power plant that will take more CO2 out of the atmosphere than it produces,” he said.

“Lawrence McManamon
IVP–Great Lakes

The M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund is one of the best manpower generating tools our organization has.
Boilermakers and guests met in Plymouth, Massachusetts, July 18-20, for the Northeast Area Tripartite, cautiously celebrating a temporary pause in Pennsylvania’s Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and looking toward the future with innovative ways to build carbon-negative power plants. In addition, attendees heard updates on the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, Welding Boot Camp, Apprenticeship and Northeast-specific government affairs.

“It’s been several long, hard years so I’m happy to be back,” said IVP-NE John Fultz as he welcomed the group.

Fultz is also a trustee for the Boilermaker National Funds and said that in 2022, the Funds “hit the green zone, and that’s due to pension plan changes. And we certified green three years in advance. It’s good news for now.”

Guest speaker Dr. Evan Blumer from CONSOL Energy is traveling around the country getting the word out on alternative energy solutions using pressurized, fluidized beds which will produce a net zero to net negative combustion system.

“We’re going to build a power plant that’s going to clean up carbon and take power plants carbon negative,” Blumer said.

He stressed that the new generation of power plants need to have the ability to ramp up and down quickly to meet energy demands, be modular and cost effective. CONSOL Energy is building such a plant through the U.S. Department of Energy’s 21st Century Power Plant Program, a multi-phase program that will lead to development of the power plant of the future that provides power-grid reliability and resilience with near-zero emissions and includes carbon capture, use and storage technology.

The project has already advanced through phases one and two of the DOE’s competitive process, conceptual design and pre-feed, and was recently selected for the third stage (design, development and feed) funding.

A pressurized, fluidized bed has greater than 40% efficiency and several other advantages. It allows for fuel flexibility, combustion efficiency and low emissions. Its design improves total plant efficiency and utilizes lower BTU and wet fuels.

“The CO2 we capture is a critical part of this project,” Blumer said. “The most valuable thing this plant will do is not producing energy but capturing CO2. There’s a massive system that needs to be built [across the U.S.]. You can’t decarbonize steel, manufacturing, hydrogen unless you have a place to store CO2.”

International Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions Cory Channon talked about removing the rhetoric and fear from the discussion of mitigating climate change.

“There’s a lot of fear that’s being spread out there and there doesn’t need to be. We have solutions to the climate crisis,” he said. “Every country will take its own path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Rather than divest, we need to invest. We need to build up larger alliances.”

Channon said that advocacy is critical. “We have to educate people. We have a lot of work to do to convince politicians. There’s a lot of funding and research going on out there. It’s going to take time,” he said. “We don’t have the infrastructure for the electric vehicle market. These are the types of things we need to pay attention to.”

He said the narrative that’s been created suggests the world is going to burn up overnight. But there are solutions. “We need to push realistic narratives.”

In a small win supporting realistic narratives, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, in effect in 11 states, is now on hold in Pennsylvania, thanks in part to the Boilermakers and their activism. In Pennsylvania, Boilermakers and other unions and utilities filed suit against the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection. These groups have been instrumental in fighting against the system of carbon credits, which are proven to shut down jobs without significantly lowering emissions. Director of Government Affairs Cecile Conroy discussed RGGI at length.

“The good news is that on July 8, a preliminary injunction was granted to prevent RGGI's implementation,” she said. “The Commonwealth is expected to appeal the decision to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.”

Conroy gave updates on other political news including the need to pass the PRO Act. She said that the infrastructure bill, passed late last year, is good news for the union as the bill includes $1.2 trillion in spending on traditional infrastructure such as roads, bridges, etc., plus other new programs including significant funding for the Department of Energy for demonstration projects such as CCUS, direct air capture, nuclear, hydrogen and other clean technologies.

In other news, Executive Director of Construction Sector Operations Tim Simmons gave a detailed account of jobs created and money going into members’ pockets through work obtained through the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund. The program has produced excellent results for the union across all sectors as well as in the Northeast where 67,546 man-hours have been gained through the M.O.R.E. Work program.

“The Northeast has taken ownership of this fund,” Simmons said. “It’s apparent in what’s been done. These are not just numbers on paper. You’re putting people to work that would not have otherwise worked.”

Director of National Training Services Jeff Hughes gave an update on Welding Boot Camp. He said 2,000 welders have graduated from Boot Camp with 200 in the Northeast. Contractors are seeing the benefit of the program and are coming to the boot camp to test welders. He encouraged business managers to contact him if they have a large project or turnaround coming up.

“We need to talk about it. In the spring we had 84 manpower requests,” he said. “If you have upcoming manpower needs, we can help. We can set up extra camps. We can get journeymen up to speed. As an organization, we need to communicate. We’re a team. If one suffers, we all suffer.”

BNAP Coordinator Mark Wertz and NEAAC Administrator Jason Dupuis discussed various training for union members, including Boot Camp, the National Instructor Conference and EPRI training.

“We’re really ramping up the EPRI training,” Wertz said, noting the number of people going through EPRI needs to increase. “And that’s possible since all the locals have the certification to teach.”

“Every one of our apprentices is enrolled in EPRI torquing,” Dupuis said. “There’s no reason at all why we can’t get all of our apprentices and journeymen in it.”

Wertz discussed SkillsUSA and his desire to see lodges enter apprentices into the competition to garner boilermaker exposure.

“My understanding is that every local can compete and be a part of SkillsUSA,” Wertz said. “Our goal is to get membership in SkillsUSA and get every local to enroll in team competition for apprentices where we would compete against colleges.”

Dr. Even Blumer from CONSOL Energy travels the country getting the word out on alternative energy solutions.

BNAP Coordinator Mark Wertz, right, and NEAAC Administrator Jason Dupuis discussed various training for union members.
Boilermakers keep Washington’s ferry fleet afloat

Seattle is well known for its coffee, its Space Needle, its hipster scene and cool vibes, world class sports teams, great music and the city’s stunning natural backdrops of the Olympic and Cascade mountains and iconic Mt. Rainier.

Seattle is also known for Puget Sound, the Pacific waterway that separates the city from popular islands and other land area destinations—which is why the Washington State Ferries system is imperative to life and travel in the area.

With all that it has to offer, Seattle attracts a lot of people—residents and tourists alike—who depend on ferries. According to the Washington State Department of Transportation, 17.3 million people used the ferry system in 2021 (about 75% of the ridership from pre-pandemic times).

And at the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility on Bainbridge Island some six miles across the water from Seattle, Boilermakers from Local 104 (Seattle) make sure the ferry fleet is in top shape to shuttle passengers on schedule across Elliott Bay, from Bremerton to Bainbridge Island, to Whidbey Island and many other destinations across Puget Sound all the way up to the San Juan Islands.

“The Washington State Ferries system is a huge tourism attraction, and for our guys to be part of that and keep it running, we’re proud of that,” says L-104 BM-ST Steve Behling.

Moreover, for residents and commerce, the system is a way of life.

“This is the lifeblood for getting products and people back and forth across the Puget Sound,” says Bill Michael, Operations Manager at Eagle Harbor. “The work [Boilermakers] do here is so important to the State of Washington, getting people back and forth safely—they don’t take this stuff lightly.”

A crew of about a dozen Boilermakers take care of 20-plus vessels that need constant care and maintenance. They do everything from testing to steel repair; work on handrails on the sundecks, maintain car hatches for the steering gears and work in the engine rooms; fabricate deck inserts and handle piping modifications. You name it, Boilermakers do it.
The work [Boilermakers] do here is so important to the state of Washington, getting people back and forth safely—they don’t take this stuff lightly.

Bill Michael
Operations Manager
Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility

Boilermakers at L-104 are responsible for keeping the 21-vessel Washington State Ferries fleet afloat. It takes a lot of maintenance and welding to keep ferry commuters on schedule.
“We’re out there continually responsible for everything staying up to par and being operational,” says L-104 Boilermaker and shop foreman Nathan Andrews. “Just in our weld shop alone, we fabricate parts because, you know, you don’t have a parts store for ferries.”

Boilermaker Wendy Bradford describes the ferry system like a freeway system that needs to keep commuters moving. With the toll the salt water and outdoor elements take on the vessels, there’s no end to maintenance to keep things running.

“You’re cutting, you’re fitting, you’re calculating, you’re welding,” she says. “You’re doing everything.”

Michael concurs: “Our workload is constant [at Eagle Harbor]. And then we have all the terminals. There’s welding needed every day, everywhere...It’s full time for all of them. We’re never out of work for those folks.”

In addition to ongoing regular maintenance, updating and reconfiguring vessels, there’s also emergency repair work. Behling says it’s not unheard of for a Boilermaker to get the call for an emergency.

“They might need to set their dinner fork down and drive 90 miles to fix a vessel that has to be ready for service by 5 a.m. the next day,” he says. Residents and tourists are counting on them.

“Even though the public doesn’t see [the Boilermakers’ role] in that, it’s our folks who keep it all running.”

That’s a point of pride for L-104 Boilermakers who work at Eagle Harbor.

“Being a Boilermaker, everything I do, I can visually see it, and I can see how it affects the community,” Andrews says. “And I can say, man, I was part of those projects.”

Boilermaker Sarah Hlynosky echoes that: “I feel like I’m helping my community. I’m building something that’s going to be a permanent fixture in history.”

Other L-104 brothers and sisters join the sentiment:

“We take our time and do it right the first time,” says Miguel Rosario.

“We are better than everybody else,” Bradford adds. “We are better.”

And, according to Michael, the Boilermakers’ pride manifests in work well done.

“You understand the pride that goes into what they’re doing,” he says. “And you can’t replace that with anything else.”

Watch a short film on L-104’s work at Eagle Harbor at vimeo.com/boilermakers/washington-state-ferries
Several union leaders attended an April SkillsUSA competition in Houston, Texas, to get the word out about the Boilermaker National Apprentice Program. The post-secondary competition hosted young men and women from across Texas to vie for prizes using a wide variety of skills, including welding fabrication and team welding.

SkillsUSA is fertile ground to seed information about BNAP’s four-year program, where apprentices earn money working while they gain skills needed to work as a Boilermaker.

BNAP Coordinator Mark Wertz along with IR-CSO Anthony Howell, AD-CSO, Director of Recruiting Monte Causey and IR/CSO and L-2060 business agent James Cain met in person with students to discuss their possible future and job opportunities with the Boilermakers. Lone Star State District Manager Clay Herford also attended SkillsUSA and convinced a few students to sign up the next day at his local lodge.

Wertz encourages all locals to send apprentices to the competition.

“My understanding is that every local can compete and be a part of SkillsUSA,” Wertz said. “Our goal is to get membership in SkillsUSA and get every local to enroll in team competition for apprentices.”

Wertz said apprentices would compete against colleges in teams of four, “It’s a great way to get the Boilermaker Apprenticeship Program front and center at these events,” he said, not just with potential members but also with schools and instructors.
Eight years ago, when Latasha Dixon was hired on at Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding and joined Local 693 (Pascagoula, Mississippi), she admits she didn’t know much about unions. She initially hesitated about participating in union activities. But, when union leadership approached her about getting involved as the apprentice coordinator four years ago, she was intrigued.

Previously, Dixon had worked as an elementary school aide. She felt drawn to teaching and encouraging students. So, assisting apprentices through the apprentice-ship program was an opportunity to tap back into what she loves: education. It was also a way to connect her passion for education with her union.

“I don’t feel like I’m at work at the apprenticeship. I would do it for free if I could afford to,” she said. “I want to encourage [apprentices] in some kind of way. Working with the union helps me get back to my teaching passion.”

Dixon’s career path has positioned her perfectly for her role. After an eight-year stint in the army reserves, she was hired as a helper at the shipyard. She came in with no

As an apprentice coordinator, Latasha Dixon, L–693, taps into her past experience and passion for teaching.

I don’t feel like I’m at work at the apprenticeship ...
...Working with the union helps me get back to my teaching passion.

Latasha Dixon
Local 693
Apprentices who are women need to walk tall and be proud that they’re a Boilermaker.

Latasha Dixon
Local 693

experience, but her keen observation skills helped her catch on quickly. Looking back, she says she wishes she had gone through the apprenticeship herself. Her role as apprenticeship coordinator allows her to provide that support to the apprentices.

Dixon is a part of an apprentices’ educational journey from start to finish: the interviews and selection process, orientation and assistance through their 18-month to two-year program. Recently, the company reconstructed the program. Dixon, with the help of Local 693 President Martina Taite, played a fundamental role in creating an effective company standard. It wasn’t always easy to motivate the company towards certain ideas, she notes, but she remained resilient in her pursuit to see positive changes made for the apprentices.

“I pushed back,” Dixon says. “The union has the right to help them become journeymen. I had to organize a solid structure to make it work. I had to help develop a standard with the company to get a program that would suffice and create journeymen. I was able to get through [to the company] those valid points.”

Dixon stays busy with her fulltime job, her union positions as apprenticeship coordinator and recording secretary, and being a wife and a mother. Dixon has two sons. She also serves on the communications committee at her local United Way and is in the last year of completing her bachelor’s degree at the University of Alabama starting this fall. Yet, Dixon is hungry for more. Her latest endeavor is advocating for women coming into the trade.

“I’ve started to notice how many opportunities there are for advancement now,” she says. “I’m watching the women who’ve risen in leadership and what they are doing. I definitely want to be in a position where I can motivate and organize women. They need encouragement.”

Dixon believes there is always a bit more that can be pulled out of any individual, and sometimes it takes the right person or opportunity to motivate that individual to become their best self.

When encouraging women in the trades, she says, “Apprentices who are women need to walk tall and be proud that they’re a Boilermaker. It’s not for the weak. You have to have discipline and strength to be in the trades. At all times, walk with your head high, flaunt what you know how to do, show the fact that you’re eager and show them what you’re made of.”

Dixon looks to a fellow Mississippian and hero from the past for inspiration and encouragement.

“There are so many women before us who paved the way for advancement,” she says. “The most iconic for me is Fannie Lou Hamer. She is from Mississippi and helped organize voters rights and registration in 1964. She was an unbreakable leader. If she were here today, I think she would be a Boilermaker!”
'Jill of all trades’ finds solid career path in Boilermakers

Life wasn’t easy for Tra’Shunda McNair. Raised in rural Alabama, the oldest of eight children born to a teen mother, she found herself often caring for her siblings—sometimes living in a car. But she was also a hard worker willing to put in the time and effort. She loved working with her hands, and she was curious about a career in the trades.

“I wanted to do something they said most women couldn’t. I like to challenge myself,” says McNair. “I wanted to do something that would make money and be different.”

Turns out she had the perfect connection to find that exact career path: Her godfather is a relative-by-marriage to Boilermakers International Rep Erica Stewart, who was then president of Local 693 at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. He reached out to Stewart, knowing that as a female welder she might have advice for McNair and guidance on getting in at the shipyard—the area’s largest employer.

“At the time, applications weren’t open,” recalls Stewart, who now also serves as the unions’ National Coordinator for Women’s Initiatives, M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund.

Never let people tell you what you can’t do and can’t achieve as a woman. If you put your mind to it, you can do it.

Tra’Shunda McNair L-693
I talked to her about what it would take to get a job at Ingalls, and I encouraged her to take classes so that when applications opened again, she would be ready. I gave her a little sister-to-sister information.

McNair took Stewart’s advice and completed classes at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama. Then, she began working anywhere she could find work, becoming a sort of “Jill of all trades.”

“I was working at metal roofing, building houses, building and fitting up beams and going all over,” McNair says. “I’d had a good teacher [at Wallace], and I went on the road with him. He’d call me because he knew I was a good welder, and I like to fix and build things.”

She even worked maintenance at a chicken processing plant.

And after five years, when applications opened at Ingalls, McNair was, indeed, ready. She credits Stewart.

“She gave me encouraging words and was such a good influence,” McNair says, adding that she joined Local 693 right away.

She hopes to pay that kindness forward.

“I had to have help,” she says. “Now I want to help other people who are coming up. I grew up seeing people helping us. I want to be a voice to those who don’t feel like they can say anything. That’s my goal.”

McNair aspires to eventually become a job steward so that she can be a support to her sisters and brothers on the job. She also hopes to inspire others who see what she’s achieved.

“Never let people tell you what you can’t do and can’t achieve as a woman,” she says. “If you put your mind to it, you can do it. My little brother wants to be a welder like me, and I say do it! It’s going to pay the bills, make you stronger, feed your family, and the benefits behind you are worth it.”

Plus, she finds the work rewarding, satisfying some of her wish to help others.

“I feel like me working at the shipyard is helping America. I go to work, and I build something good. I know the Navy is going to need it. I feel like I’m helping everyone. That’s what I get out of it. I’m helping America.”

In her spare time, McNair enjoys the outdoors and farming.

“Tra’Shunda McNair
L-693

I grew up seeing people helping us. I want to be a voice to those who don’t feel like they can say anything. That’s my goal.”
As World War II’s grip tightened in Europe and the war’s global reach and threat increased, James “Hicksey” Banford volunteered for the army for the same reason many young men did back then: He knew America needed men to go and fight.

Banford ended up serving as one of the famed Merrill’s Marauders, the long-range penetration special ops jungle warfare unit that fought in the Southeast Asian theater (China-Burma-India Theater). The unit famously marched over 1,000 miles through dense jungle into Burma with no tanks or heavy artillery.

“My dad was a scout,” says his son, Jim Banford, Jr., who is a retired Local 13 (Philadelphia) BM-ST. “He was only five-foot-five and weighed about 130 pounds and carried a Thompson machine gun. The scout is the man out front. Anything that moved, he took care of with the machine gun.”

Nearly 80 years later, at age 99, James Banford, Sr., who is also a retired L-13 Boilermaker, has been honored for his service with a Congressional Gold Medal. Pennsylvania Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick presented Banford with the award and a flag flown over the United States Capitol Building in his honor.

“My dad felt really surprised and shocked—and he’s still in shock,” says the younger Banford. “He didn’t believe he was going to get the medal until he had it in his hands. He’s very thankful for everyone who helped him get it.”

That’s because his honor was delayed and almost didn’t happen.

A year earlier, Congressional Gold Medals were minted and presented to the handful of surviving Merrill’s Marauders. All of them except Banford. Due to a fire in 1973 in the St. Louis facility that stored military records, Banford’s service records were destroyed, and he was accidentally left out. Banford, Jr. read about the medal presentation in a newspaper.

“My dad felt hurt and forgotten,” Banford, Jr. says. “He thought they assumed he was dead because of his age.”

So Banford, Jr. set out to prove his father’s service and ensure he was properly recognized among his Merrill’s Marauders brothers. A friend connected him to a retired Bucks County, Pennsylvania, veteran’s affairs director, and Banford, Jr. found a copy of his father’s honorary discharge. Fitzpatrick’s office helped secure the medal, which was

Congressional Gold Medals were minted to pay tribute to the surviving Merrill’s Marauders from World War II.
presented in late July in an informal ceremony. A bigger ceremony is planned for later at Bucks County Community College.

“Once the medal came in, I told Congressman Fitzpatrick my dad was going to be 99 and there was no sense in keeping it. We could have a bigger ceremony later down the road,” Banford, Jr. says. “My dad is one of the nicest guys you would ever want to meet. He’s a hard worker, dependable, happy and likes to have a cold beer. But don’t get him mad.”

He relates a story about his father encountering a child who needed medical aid in Burma. Banford, Sr. had been out on patrol and came across a bamboo hut. Inside was woman with a child laying on a cot.

“My dad saw that the child’s foot was full of puss. So, he hand-signaled the woman that he was going to take the child to get his foot worked on at the aid station and then bring him back. He carried the boy several miles to the aid station with the help of the other Marauders where the child was tended to. They then took him back home. When they got to the hut, the Burmese people were so happy they gave the Marauders so many bananas they didn’t know what to do with them.”

Banford, Sr. was later hit by an artillery shell, injured and discharged.

When he returned home, his son says he went dancing in the dance halls of Philadelphia. “He met my mother walking down the street in Philadelphia, married her and had six children,” Banford, Jr. says, noting that his parents were married 76 years before his mother’s recent death. “He knows she would be very proud of him.”

In addition to the Congressional Gold Medal, Banford, Sr. was previously honored with the Asiatic-Pacific Theater medal, a Combat Infantry badge, the World War II Victory medal, two Bronze Stars, a Distinguished Unit badge, a Purple Heart and an American Campaign medal.

“Like all veterans, he says it’s just nice to hear the words ‘thank you’ from fellow Americans,” Banford, Jr. says. 📷
When Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) put the call out in April for donations to aid Ukrainian relief efforts, supplies immediately began amassing into the local's training center. It wasn’t long before the floor resembled more of a furniture and household goods warehouse than a training center.

“We’ve been operating since April, and it’s pretty much been nonstop,” says Orysia Boychuk, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council.

L-146 Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer Hugh MacDonald says that in one single morning alone, over 40 pallets of new clothing arrived. And the donations—and need—have continued to grow.

Some 375,000 Ukrainians live in Alberta, Boychuk explains. That’s due to Ukrainians who fled Russia for Alberta settlement 130 years ago weary of oppression and war.

So, when Russia inflicted war on Ukraine in March, Alberta became a natural place of refuge.

“Over 8,000 and closer to 9,000 people have arrived in Alberta now because of the war,” Boychuk says.

The UCC-APC organizes 60 different organizations to advocate and coordinate for the needs of Ukrainians in Alberta, and when refugees began arriving this past spring, the organization swung into action collecting supplies and funding to provide for the unsettled newcomers. Boilermakers at Local 146 were among the first to connect with UCC-APC. They delivered a check to support the efforts.
“It was a very humbling experience. They asked if we needed a warehouse for supplies, but at the time, we already had a warehouse where we were collecting medical supplies and storing and sending emergency response equipment,” Boychuk says. “So, we parked that information.”

But as more and more Ukrainians began arriving, she saw the need for furniture and basic housing supplies increase. She needed a place to store incoming items and where newly arriving Ukrainians could select things to help them settle in Alberta.

“We were fortunate the Boilermakers’ space was still available, and we were able to begin collecting more furniture and serving more newcomers.”

The training-center-turned-warehouse has been operating ever since, 12 hours a week—four hours Saturdays, four hours Sundays, and two hours each Tuesdays and Thursdays. Boychuk says 20 shifts have 20 volunteers working organizing and processing donations, supporting families and loading and unloading furniture from donor vehicles and onto vans for delivery. As quickly as items vanish to their new owners they are replenished by incoming donations.

“We’ve served thousands of people already,” Boychuk says. “Our priority is to ensure we have mattresses available and the core basics to setting up a home: a kitchen table, chairs, a couch, some drawers or a dresser.

“We anticipate the need will continue at least another four to six months. We’re looking possibly to Christmas or March.”

Boychuk notes that incoming furniture donations are reviewed and that their request is for only new or gently used items that are in good shape. She says the community has been supportive and generous. And, in addition to providing warehouse space, the L-146 Boilermakers also field phone calls about donations, volunteer in the warehouse and personally donate.

“This is a difficult time for Ukrainian people,” Boychuk says. “An extraordinary thank you goes out to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Lodge 146 for donating this warehouse and allowing our Ukrainian community to collect and distribute furniture from their warehouse.”

Mack Walker, an assistant business manager for L-146, says that in addition to the warehouse, volunteering and donations, the local is also trying to find work opportunities for refugees.

“We’re trying to connect those who have welding experience or even those looking to start a trade,” he says. “One of the refugees completed his Job Ready training, and I believe he may have pulled a slip to work in one of our shops!”

A sign directs traffic and lists items needed at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress donation site at L-146’s training center.

For information on how to support the UCC-APC’s relief efforts, visit www.UCCAB.ca
Three Boilermakers named Tradeswomen Heroes

Three women join the growing ranks of Boilermakers recognized by North America’s Building Trades Unions as Tradeswomen Heroes. Kayla Vander Molen, L-146 (Calgary, Alberta) was recognized this past May; Angel Greer, L-549 (Pittsburg, California) in June; and Rennae Ross, L-549 in August.

NABTU’s Tradeswomen Heroes represent a “who’s who” of tradeswomen who have gone above and beyond in their trades and as mentors and leaders for other tradeswomen. The program was created in a joint effort between NABTU’s Tradeswomen’s Committee and Apprenticeship and Training Committee to spotlight the dedicated female journeymen and apprentices within NABTU’s affiliate unions.

Boilermakers represented at energy round table

L-13 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) BM-ST John Bland met with labor and energy officials to discuss renewable identification numbers, renewable fuel standards and the need for change, as well as future work in hydrogen hubs. L. to r. are Delaware Building Trades John Poeta, Al Green, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, White House Deputy National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi, Delaware Building Trades Mike Hackendorn, Boilermakers L-13 BM-ST John Bland, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Senator Tom Carper, Delaware Building Trades Bob Murrian, Sam Noel, Delaware Building Trades president James Maravelias, Senator Chris Coons, Delaware Governor John Carney, and Delaware Building Trades Vince Ascione.
The following pins have been presented in recognition of continuous years of service in the Boilermakers union as reported by local lodge leadership.

Local 1 • Chicago IL

65 YEARS
Wayne Daniel

40 YEARS
John Riordan

25 YEARS
Adam Taylor

Local 363 • East St. Louis IL

55 YEARS

50 YEARS

45 YEARS

40 YEARS
Michael E. Boos

35 YEARS
Thomas M. Edwards

30 YEARS
Lawrence Critchfield, Mark A. Jarman, James A. Mikulait, Tony G. Pierce, Mike Schulte, Thomas E. Spore, Michael E. Wallace, Jeff J. Whalin

25 YEARS
James B. Block, Jason M. Cook, Brian D. Farley, Stoney Hayes, Angela Holder (Bass), Raymond A. Michl, Shawn D. Morris, Steve Padgett, Michael Erick Turner

20 YEARS

15 YEARS

MOVING?

Change your address online at www.boilermakers.org or call us at (913) 371-2640

Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.
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.

NTL Blevins, Fred P.
NTL Coker, Franklin E.
NTL Cook, Walter L.
NTL Dunaway, Douglas C.
NTL Garig, William E.
NTL Hunter, Anthony M.
NTL Loveland, David E.
NTL Mulligan, Jack G.
NTL Murphy, Hugh G.
1 Fannin, Larry R.
1 Gonzalez, Jorge
4 Osborn Sr., David P.
6 Grieco, Vito J.
6 Morales, Thomas
6 Peterson, Kenneth C.
7 Vogt, David G.
11 Arthur, John C.
13 Murray, Charles R.
13 Seiverd, F. J.
19 Dawson, Daniel W.
26 Cowart, Bobby C.
26 Strickland, John A.
28 Gallen Jr., Charles
28 Gerardi, Richard
37 Jones, Michael
37 Matthews, Randy L.
37 Niehaus, Kevin W.
40 Gay, Robert E.
40 Stone, Phillip R.
45 Mitters, Danny C.
60 Sennett, David L.
72 Churchill, Robert E
72 Page, Monty R.
72 Rigsby, Jimmy F.
74 Foster, R. T.
83 Clardy, Paul E.
83 Johnson, Glenn K.
83 Manly, Marion C.
85 Cogswell, David S.
85 Cole, Daniel D.
85 Dehmel, Douglas D.
92 Hatcher, Roy A.
92 Rose, David E.
92 Tyler, Cedric H.
92 Vargas, Armando
101 Steele, Tom D.
104 Kershaw, John V.
104 Lewicki, Arnold J.
104 Needham, Patrick C.
105 Kreiger, Steven A.
105 Lacey, Jeffery B.
105 Rinhearts, Glenn E.
107 Anderson, Richard D.
110 Foster, Maxie E.
110 Malone, Melbern L.
112 King, Dennis H.
112 Kittrell, Richard M.
112 Stagner, Jerry E.
128 Stilson, Greg
132 Foit, Lawrence J.
132 Freeman Sr., Deonza
132 Thomas, Reginald L.
146 Fous, Josef
146 Kos, Rudolf
146 Kostasheen, Raymond J.
146 Ramjohn, Kenneth
146 Seery, Thomas E.
154 Petrie, William
154 Ponticel, Daniel J.
154 Worthy, Michael
169 Hughes, Jackie D.
169 Martin, John D.
169 Rhodes, Michael D.
175 Greenlay, Donald H.
177 Harkins, Joseph C.
182 Meyer, James M.
182 Nicholes, Steven E.
193 Archer, Paul E.
193 Welzel, Howard J.
199 Honea, David E.
199 Mixon, Joseph E.
237 Glidden, Murlin R.
237 Martino, Anthony
242 Arnold, Terry D.
242 Postlethwait, Bert D.
242 Whipple, Darrell D.
359 Meyer, Samantha E.
359 Spink, John R.
363 Gibbs III, T. E.
363 Kaylor, James P.
363 Lowery, Don C.
363 Smith, Sidney C.
374 Clark, Claude G.
374 Hudson, Robert B.
374 Murphy, Clarence E.
374 Phelps, Lawrence C.
433 Aragon Jr., Leonedes E.
433 Parry, John E.
453 Hudson, Brady M.
453 Satterfield, Roger B.
454 Gilley, Darrell R.
454 Granger, Paul E.
454 Granger, Richard
454 Martin, Odell E.
454 Willis, Wm V.
455 Atkinson, Robert K.
455 Cunningham, Jack D.
500 Fiocchi Jr., Robert J.
500 Harris, Bobby G.
500 Irwin, Michael M.
502 Peterson, Bob L.
549 Guerin, Rene D.
549 Martens, Gary L.
549 Mohr, Milo J.
555 Connelly, Andrew J.
582 Roberts, Donald G.
582 Smith, Terry D.
583 Coker, Monty
587 Dillard, P.
627 Slim, Melvin
627 Slowtalker, William
656 Whittenbarger, Sherman A.
667 Casto, Ardath E.
667 McClure, Gary W.
684 Lee, Robert E.
684 Ward, Charles W.
687 Bruce, James B.
696 Larmay, Allen L.
696 Pleshek, Mark
696 Ruatti, Anthony C.
696 Thoune, Keith M.
729 Mitchell Jr., Lonnie R.
744 Dulan, Jerome J.
744 McCarty, William T.
744 Weigman, Joseph W.
744 Wilson, Randall E.
802 Lacey, Richard J.
807 Williams, Jerry A.
900 Reinhart, Philip C.
1086 Gorman, Raymond C.
1086 Lindsey, Thomas H.
1234 Morrow, Margree
1509 Kavecki, Carl R.
1600 Mendoza, Jesus
1637 Darden III, James R.
2000 Gans, Marvin L.
2000 Godwin, William L.
2000 Sharpe, Lloyd
2000 Williams, Fred
2000 Williams, Fred
2000 Williams, Fred
2000 Williams, Fred
2000 Williams, Fred
2000 Williams, Fred
Employers’ war on unions is nothing new

During World War I, the government’s labor board, while recognizing the rights of workers to strike, convinced employers and employees to halt the practice of striking until the war ended. But when the war was over, strikes became frequent and hostility between labor unions and employers ran high.

Employers used tactics to stop strikes and break unions, with their goal to end worker power altogether. With yellow-dog contracts, company “unions” and court injunctions, they were successful for a time quashing collective worker power.

A long-term goal of business, and one advocated by the Chamber of Commerce, was to ban unions and have open shops. An open shop is a term used to describe any business that doesn’t recognize unions and doesn’t allow its employees to join one. Unions had grown during the war when shipbuilding and railroads were nationalized.

But as soon as the war ended and those industries were again privatized, the open shop concept grew rapidly through yellow-dog contracts—a pledge workers had to take promising they weren’t a current union member and wouldn’t join a union during employment.

In 1922, The Boilermaker Journal reported on an article from a steel-industry publication that taught managers how to create an open shop, instructing it was never safe to hire a “considerable sprinkling of union men” because they were likely to try to organize other workers.

Of course, employers would rather not deal with a union: but during this period, many workers were also fine in an open shop, largely because of the barrage of anti-union propaganda in the press. The government and media often portrayed union workers as violent or communist. In the two years Warren G. Harding was president, he did a lot of damage to unions. And his successor, Calvin Coolidge, continued to hobble unions.

Because some people did want unions, employers tried another workaround by creating their own company “unions.” They mimicked unions using bylaws and charters, but dues were paid to the company. These “unions” were used to control workers, wages and stamp out dissent. Some of these in-house unions benefited workers with pensions and the ability to buy stock, but those were not in the majority. These company “unions” were mostly bluster and promise and did nothing for workers.

Today, like in the past, employers will do just about anything they can to quell union power and solidarity before it can gain a foothold. And like in the past, it’s collective action that pressures employers to treat their workers with fairness, as happened in the nationwide strike of railroad shopmen in 1922, one of the most important actions in Boilermaker history. Find out about the 1922 shopmen’s strike in the next issue of The Boilermaker Reporter.

Most company “unions” that formed after the Great War were full of unfulfilled promises as this 1920s cartoon from The Boilermaker Journal illustrates.
Reduce Your Risk.

In 2021, organizations and businesses lost almost $2.5 billion dollars due to email fraud, alone*.

Bank of Labor offers updates & free tips to help organizations spot fraud and avoid falling victim to the latest financial scams.

Visit [www.bankoflabor.com/safety](http://www.bankoflabor.com/safety) to learn more about ways to keep your organization safe and sound. Plus, you can call 855.24.LABOR to talk to our Treasury experts about other banking tools that can provide additional security.

*2021 FBI Internet Crime Report