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The official publication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers, AFL-CIO

THE PREPORTER

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THE REPORTER

Vol. 63 No. 4

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



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It is a rare and valuable thing when a leader at any level has the chance to hear frankly and directly from the members they are called and charged to serve. ”

You are the union

A few months ago, I had the honor and privilege to walk in the banner parade with almost 100 Boilermaker sisters as part of our union’s delegation at the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference.

I consider myself fortunate to have been among other Boilermaker allies, marching in support of our sisters, and I am grateful to have experienced firsthand the powerful pride, the untiring enthusiasm of these women.

As I walked alongside them, I had a wonderful opportunity to talk with them, hear their stories—what led them to a career in the Boilermakers—and learn about their families, their ideas, their challenges and their concerns for the future. Many spoke openly about their hopes, their needs and their worries for our union—some unique to the experience of being a woman in a male-dominated industry, and some universal to all who call ourselves Boilermakers.

This should not be the case, but it is a rare and valuable thing when a leader at any level has the chance to hear frankly and directly from the members they are called and charged to serve—whether that’s from Amanda from Local 37 in New Orleans or Bryan from Local 158 in Peoria, Illinois, or Sandiso from Local 146 in Calgary, Alberta.

In fact, the primary responsibility of leadership is the duty of service to the members who are, themselves, the Boilermakers union; to look out for members’ best interest today and build a solid structure for our organization’s thriving future.

Over these past months, I have made this a priority: Whenever it is possible, I want to visit with and listen to working Boilermakers and retirees. I want to see what you make, visit your union hall, find out what’s bothering you, gather your ideas, dispel myths and answer your questions.

As I have done this so far, what I’ve learned is that no matter where we come from, what industry we work in or how long we’ve been on the tools—no matter our differences—we, as Boilermakers, all want the same things. We want jobs that provide good wages. We want benefits that take care of us and our families. We want to be treated fairly. We want to retire with dignity. We want to come home safe from our jobs every day.

Our work together as a union is how we achieve those things.

And so, I commit that I will continue to listen to you—so that together we can grow stronger, united in solidarity; together, we can build our union through a robust recruitment strategy; together we can more aggressively organize to fight against unfairness and fight for what is right and good.

Together, we can “shout a little louder,” as our sisters chanted in the parade march, and make our mighty Boilermaker name known loud and clear.

Together, we can build a better future.





2024 Apprentice of the Year winners and their area IVPs attend the belated awards dinner in Kansas City. Pictured are: first row, l. to r., Brandon Tyson, Local 502; IVP-WS J. Tom Baca; Brad Flanigan, Local 242; winner Mark Kerkaert, Local 647; IVP-GL Dan Sullivan and Christopher Lund L-107. Second row l. to r., Robert Schweiss, Local 154; Joseph Fasulo, Local 26; and Galin Favors, Local 108. Third row l. to r., IVP-NE John Fultz; Dylan Hart, L-28 and IVP-SE Jeff Campbell. Top row l. to r., IP Timothy Simmons and IST Clint Penny.

Local 647's Kerkaert captures Apprentice of the Year title

Mark Kerkaert from Local 647 (Minneapolis) took home the top honor at the U.S. 2024 Apprentice of the Year Competition held at Local 26 (Savannah, Georgia) Aug. 5 to 8. Coming in as this year's runner-up was Galin Favors from Local 108 (Birmingham, Alabama). Team honors went to the Great Lakes duo of Christopher Lund, Local 107 (Milwaukee), and Kerkaert. Winners were announced at a dinner in Kansas City on Sept. 19.

Other competitors included Dylan Hart, Local 28 (Newark, New Jersey); Robert Schweiss, Local 154 (Pittsburgh); Joseph Fasulo, Local 26; Brad Flanigan, Local 242 (Spokane, Washington) and Brandon Tyson, Local 502 (Tacoma, Washington).

This year's competition looked markedly different from other competitions due to Hurricane Debby, which swept up the United States to wreak havoc through flooding and

storms throughout the Savannah area. Airports were closed as well as roads in some areas. Local 154 Business Manager and lead judge Mike Stanton said half of the judges couldn't make it to Local 26, so the coordinators stepped up.

Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program National Coordinator Mark Wertz said the group that made it to the competition before the hurricane rallied together to get the job done, despite the weather. "Every contest presents its challenges, but a tropical storm was a first. But like any Boilermaker job, everyone put in the extra effort that made it a great success."

To reach the national competition, which is sponsored by BNAP, contestants had to finish in the winner or runner-up spot in their respective area competitions.

In addition to the hands-on competition, candidates competed on a written exam covering their four years of related studies and on-the-job-training. The hands-on portion included a difficult rigging exercise, layout and fabrication, tube rolling, knot tying, hand signals, reeving and equipment use, along with welding, buddy welding and cutting. Judges scored contestants on blueprint reading, safety, overall knowledge and demonstrated skills.

BNAP Chairman Michael Bray, from Riggs Distler, spoke at the awards dinner and praised all the competitors.

“You’re all winners. We also want to thank the significant others,” he said. “Because you are what we’re about. You guys are the best of the best and your opportunities are endless.”

Kerkaert, the winner of the 2024 competition, thanked everyone from his local lodge. “This is not for me, it’s for them,” he said. “I put a lot of training into the competition because I wanted to represent my local well. I wanted to represent the [apprenticeship] program, and I wanted to represent my mentors through the years that taught me a lot.

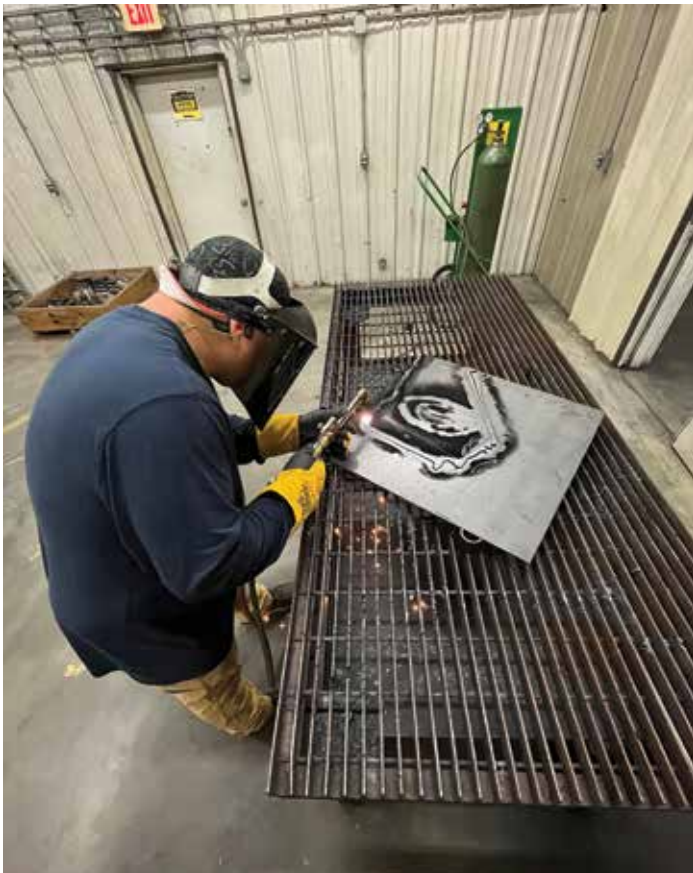
“

Every contest presents its challenges, but a tropical storm was a first. But like any Boilermaker job, everyone put in the extra effort that made it a great success.

”

Mark Wertz

National Apprenticeship Coordinator



Brandon Tyson, L-502 demonstrates his cutting prowess.



The Southeast team, Joseph Fasulo, L-26 (left) and Galin Favors, L-108 (right) plan their approach to the rigging exercise.

Everything I did during the competition is something I learned from someone on the job.”

Judges for the event included: Jason Hettel, GLABAP; Carey Kowalski, GLABAP; Mark Wertz, National Apprenticeship Coordinator; Eric Olsen, SAJAC; Collin Keisling, WSJAC; Jason Dupuis, NEAAC; L-154 BM Michael Stanton, lead judge; Stephen Murphy, NEAAC; Myron Richardson,

Chattanooga Boiler and Tank; Chuck Harvey, Babcock and Wilcox; Mike Nelson, Central Maintenance & Welding; IR Mike Autry and Dave Englund, Local 11 (Helena, Montana). Wertz thanked everyone from Local 26 and their entire staff and helpers, including BM-ST Johnathan Bates and Apprenticeship Coordinator Herman Gibbs. 🙌



Team winners from the Great Lakes, Christopher Lund, L-107 (left) and Mark Kerkaert, L-647 (second from left) talk with WSJAC Coordinator Collin Keisling (second from right) and Stephen Murphy, NEAAC (right).

First gen Boilermaker credits mentors for apprenticeship win

Before finding the Boilermakers, 2024 National Apprentice of the Year Mark Kerkaert, Local 647 (Minneapolis), worked the night shift at a manufacturing plant welding cabs for heavy equipment. During the day he attended welding school, juggling both his job and his studies. But he wanted something more.

He wanted to find a job where he and his wife could travel together while earning a living. That's when a weld trainer at his job told him to apply to the Boilermakers. The decision to indenture proved to be a good fit for him. Four years later, after graduating from his apprenticeship and after winning the Great Lakes regional apprenticeship competition, he found out he was headed to the national competition with little time off to prepare.

"I had a week off before I started working, so I read through all the books: the constitution, referral rules and tool ID," Kerkaert said. "I went through all the books and created flashcards; then I'd go through 200 flashcards at lunch."

He set a goal to read through something every day as he prepared for the competition, and he made sure to keep studying a priority. But not everything he studied showed up on the test.

"I was disappointed there was nothing on the constitution [in the written test] because I'd studied the heck out of that and I knew a lot," Kerkaert said.

He took every opportunity to prepare for the competition. He said he learned on the job from

journeymen who became his mentors, frequently asking questions and benefiting from the guidance of seasoned Boilermakers.

"I learned all the knots," he said. "Every time I'd walk by a rope, I'd tie a crown knot or something."

When the day arrived for the competition, he went in "not cocky but confident," he said. His buddy weld partner, whom he'd met at the regional competition, was a skilled Boilermaker, and Kerkaert believed they'd work well in the team competition—which they won.

While the competition was high-pressure and fast paced, he said it was essential to keep his head in the game.

"You know you're going to mess up, but don't think about your mistakes," Kerkaert said. "Don't ponder your mistakes. Just do your best for the next event."

He said all the competitors were excellent. "When I went to regionals, I was very prepared. Then when I got there and started competing, I got a little more nervous. I realized everyone was high caliber. Then at the nationals, everybody was top notch."

As he accepted the award for capturing the 2024 National Apprentice of the Year title, he emphasized he didn't win it on his own.

"I want to thank my wife. And my mentors, who through the years have taught me a lot," Kerkaert said. "I wanted to do good for them." 🙏



Mark Kerkaert from Minneapolis Local 647 is 2024 National Apprentice of the Year.

“I want to thank my wife. And my mentors, who through the years have taught me a lot. I wanted to do good for them.”

Mark Kerkaert
L-647

2024 National Apprentice of the Year



Fourteen competitors from seven lodges participated in the 2024 Canadian Boilermaker Competition.

Boilermakers take tops at 2024 Canadian Competition

June 6 marked a momentous occasion for Canadian Boilermakers: the return of the National Boilermaker Competition after a 10-year hiatus.

“As evidenced by the enthusiasm and energy of the competitors, judges, hosts, volunteers, sponsors and everyone else in attendance, we were ready to bring it back,” said IVP-Canada Arnie Stadnick.

“Boilermakers know we lead the industry in skill, competence, professionalism and dedication. This competition gives locals across Canada the chance to show off these traits in their best recent graduates.”

Each local sends its best new Boilermaker and welder to pit their skills against one another over two full days in a series of practical challenges. The competition includes models of national quality to demonstrate that contractors and clients receive the best qualified Boilermakers. The event also demonstrates that the union continually advances the development and delivery of journeyperson education, upgrading programs and ensuring Boilermaker graduates are world class.

After years of training, plus a positive attitude, union spirit and lot of hard work earned, 14 individuals were recognized as the top graduates in



Boilermakers know we lead the industry in skill, competence, professionalism and dedication. This competition gives locals across Canada the chance to show off these traits in their best recent graduates.



Arnie Stadnick
IVP Canada

their locals, earning them a spot on the national stage for competition. Those earning competition spots were: Local 73 (Halifax, Nova Scotia) Boilermaker Gage Vanwychen and Welder Miguel Caron; Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) Boilermaker Nicholas Comeau and Welder Owen Gallie; Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) Boilermaker Alison Barrero and Welder Shi Kim; Local 203 (St. John's, Newfoundland) Boilermaker Brandon Cole and Welder Candace George; Local 271 (Montreal, Quebec) Boilermaker Stephane Noble-Filteau and Welder Charles-Antoine Whissell; Local 359 (Vancouver, British Columbia) Boilermaker Scott Stephenson and Welder Terry Blasco Morris; and Local 555 (Winnipeg, Manitoba) Boilermaker Tyler Wiltsey and Welder Tracy Fedorowich.

Each top graduate apprentice received an engraved Boilermaker ring, \$500 and “competition edition” Carhart coveralls, all to commemorate their achievement and remind them that hard work and dedication lead to success.

Ultimately, the three competition awards were earned as follows:

Top Team Award:
Scott Stephenson and Terry Blasco Morris, L-359

Top Welder Award:
Charles-Antoine Whissell, L-271

Top Boilermaker Award:
Gage Vanwychen, L-73

All competition winners received a bronze sculpture symbolic of the Boilermakers' roots as a craft when steel was hot-formed and joined by force welding and riveting. The sculptures were created by Don Begg who was once a Boilermaker and is famous worldwide for the many sculptures he has been commissioned to design.

In addition to the competition awards, each year the National Training Trustees awards the Industry Award of Excellence to recognize an individual who has made an immeasurable contribution to Boilermaker training and apprenticeship across Canada. This year's recipient was Kent Oliver, who began his Boilermaker career in 1981 at L-73.



Gage Vanwychen, L-73, focuses on his weld. Vanwychen earned the Top Boilermaker Award in the competition.



The L-128 team of Owen Gallie (left) and Nicholas Comeau (right) work against the clock.



Shi Gyung Kim, L-146 receives feedback from judge Keith Muise.



Candace George and L-203 teammate Brandon Cole focus on perfecting their work.



Stadnick noted that many people contributed to the event's success.

"An event of this caliber cannot happen without the generous support of many people," Stadnick said. "Thank you for all the support from business managers, training coordinators, the BCA Board of Directors and IBB representatives across Canada, who made this a truly national competition."

He went on to thank L-146 for hosting the competition: "Your time and attention to detail, along with your exceptional warmth and welcoming, set the bar for future events."

He also thanked the 19 judges representing contractors, union and training, who volunteered their time, experience and expertise to coach and assess the competitors; the sponsors whose contributions made the event possible; and the vol-

unteers who helped ensure the competition ran smoothly and that everyone was fed and happy.

And, he made a point to also acknowledge and thank the family and friends of the competitors, "who encourage and support our graduates as they work to develop their skills and build a career they can be proud of."

Stadnick noted that ever since the first National Boilermaker Competition 30 years ago, individuals who have participated in the competitions have gone on to be leaders in the Boilermaker industry.

"Congratulations to all competitors," he said. "We are so proud of you all and will be watching you progress through your careers, taking on and overcoming new challenges and setting the pace for other skilled tradespeople."👏



IVP-Canada Arnie Stadnick (center) honors the L-359 team of Scott Stephenson and Terry Blasco Morris with the Top Team Award.



Gage Vanwychen, L-73, receives the Top Boilermaker Award from Kent Oliver.



BCA Executive Director Sara Scott presents the Top Welder Award to Charles-Antoine Whissell, L-271



Kent Oliver (center) is presented the Industry Award of Excellence by NTD j'Amey Bevan (left) and IVP-Canada Arnie Stadnick.

U.S. Court of Appeals denies Jones, upholds August 2023 decision

The U.S. Court of Appeals Tenth Circuit issued its opinion on December 5, upholding the original August 2023 decision by federal Judge Eric Melgren, denying former International President Newton Jones' appeal. Melgren found in favor of the International Vice Presidents who, as the International Executive Council, sought to uphold Article 17 charges against Jones, resulting in his ouster.

"We are humbled and grateful the U.S. Court of Appeals saw reason in our actions. This was a stressful and trying time, but it was necessary," said International President Timothy Simmons, who was among the International Vice Presidents filing Article 17 charges against Jones. "This confirms the IEC's original action was proper and conducted in accordance with our constitution. We will continue to move forward and serve our members."

The Court of Appeal's opinion summarized the series of events, which began in February 2023 when Jones allegedly admitted during an IEC meeting that he had spent union funds to travel to Ukraine with his wife. Then-International Vice President Simmons investigated the claims of financial misconduct and shared what he discovered with International Vice Presidents John Fultz, J. Tom Baca and Arnie Stadnick.

In April 2023, IVP John Fultz brought Article 17 charges against Jones based on evidence alleging Jones had directed back pay to his wife while she was living in Ukraine, had spent union funds on private dining by his family and, as he had noted to the IEC, had spent union funds to travel to his private residence in Ukraine. During the Article 17 hearing on May 30, which Jones did not attend, Fultz presented evidence that Jones paid his wife over \$100,000 for work she never performed; had spent about \$40,000 on union-expensed meals for himself and family near his home in North Carolina; and had spent over \$20,000 in flights to his home in Ukraine.

Details of events leading to the May 30 hearing and makeup of the hearing committee and voting members are available in the full court document

link below, as well as further details about the original case.

On June 2, the IEC voted, finding Jones in violation of the constitution, removing him from office, stripping him from membership and directing him to pay back all misspent money. Jones, however, refused to step down and continued retaliatory actions against the International Vice Presidents who had acted against him. He filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas in an attempt to stop the IEC's action.

After hearings on June 20 and July, just ahead of Melgren's 2023 decision, Jones suddenly retired on July 31 and attempted to appoint his successor. In their opinion document, the appeals panel pointed to a letter Jones sent to lodge officers "bemoaning the 'ugly...smear campaign against me and my wonderful wife.'" Ultimately, however, the district court affirmed the IEC's decision to remove Jones, as "binding and entitled to full effect."

Jones filed a notice of appeal to challenge the decision, and a federal appeals panel consisting of three judges reviewed the case and decision, reviewed the union's constitution and heard oral arguments from attorneys representing Jones and the International Vice Presidents (full audio is available in the link below). The panel unanimously affirmed the lower court's decision.

"I would encourage members to read the full opinion," said Simmons. "There is a lot of helpful, detailed information in how the judges arrived at their decision after reviewing our constitution and dispelling the former president's attempts to wrongly use the constitution in his defense against our Article 17 charges."

The opinion states, in fact, that "the Vice Presidents took significant steps to ensure the integrity of President Jones's hearing."

It is important to note that this is a separate legal matter from another ongoing and pending federal case against Jones and other former employees of the union. Information about those matters will be provided to membership as it becomes available at the conclusion of federal court findings. 🙌



Read the full opinion from the U.S. Court of Appeals : <https://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/sites/ca10/files/opinions/01011155889.pdf>

Listen to the oral arguments by attorneys from both parties: <https://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/sites/ca10/files/oralarguments/23-3225.mp3>



Local 549 shows their Boilermaker spirit in the banner parade.

2024 Tradeswomen Build Nations displays strength of women and unionism

Renna Ross, Local 549 (Pittsburg, California) was an apprentice when she started attending the national Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference back in 2019 with a handful of her local lodge sisters.

“It’s what started my passion for wanting women to succeed in this industry. It was inspiring and motivating,” Ross said, recalling her first experience and the powerful plenary speakers, useful workshops, meeting and sharing ideas with other Boilermakers and the electricity of the banner parade with thousands of union building-trades women marching in downtown Minneapolis.

“It’s the motivation of everything. The resources. Seeing the women on stage and hearing them speak and their stories and where they came from and what they’ve become. It gives you hope,” she said.

Ross, who is now a journey person and a business agent for her local, has attended each TWBN conference ever since.

And L-549’s attendance at the event has increased each year. The local even started its own women’s committee, Boilermaker Women at Work (BW@W), catalyzed by TWBN. Now, BW@W brings women and allies together throughout the year to identify and deploy strategies to recruit more women into the Boilermaker trade, as well as address challenges to increase retention of existing members.

“We got our first idea to push forward with our women’s committee from Canadian Boilermakers during a Boilermakers caucus at TWBN,” said L-549 member Kesheona Darden.

And that’s just a tiny example of TWBN’s influence as the event has grown year over year, annually shattering previous attendance records and drawing heavy-hitting keynote speakers and workshop presenters. What began in the 2000’s as a state-focused event hosted by the California construction building trades is now an interna-



L-128's Leah McIntyre shares an idea during the Boilermaker's caucus.

tional event and the largest gathering of unionized tradeswomen in the world.

The 2024 TWBN Conference, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 27-29, continued the trend, boasting attendance of over 5,200 tradeswomen and allies. Under the theme "Let the Good Jobs Roll," featured speakers included U.S. Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, Turner Construction Executive Blanca Diaz, LiUNA General President Brent Booker, a message from actress Kerry Washington and a live phone call from U.S. President Joe Biden.

"Unions built the middle class. When unions do well, all Americans do better," Biden said. He went on to talk about the increase of construction jobs, infused by his administration's infrastructure funding. He noted that his term saw 100,000 more women in construction, the lowest unemployment rate for women in 70 years, a narrowing of the gender pay gap and a nearly 50% increase in women in apprenticeship programs.

"I was raised from the time I can remember that a woman can do anything a man can do," he said.

"Each and every one of you are living, breathing proof of our tremendous progress," said Sean McGarvey, president of North America's Building Trades Unions, during the opening plenary session. NABTU organizes and hosts TWBN. "When I think about how far we've come and how the face of the industry has changed over the years, I'm proud to say that from apprentices to seasoned journey-level sisters to retirees, women in construction are no longer the exception, you are the expectation."

Su stressed the power of women rising in the construction trades.



Erica Stewart shows a TWBN attendee how to use the welding simulator in the IBB booth at the exhibit hall. Stewart is an IR and the National Coordinator of Women's Initiatives, M.O.R.E. WIF, for IBB.



Ashley Flemming (left) and Tayler Stadnick (right), both from L-146, get ready for the opening plenary session.

"When we lift up women, we lift up everyone," she said. "You can be anything that you want to be. Superheroes are not just in comic books and movies. Looking out at all of you, I know superheroes are women."

More than 100 Boilermaker women and allies attended the 2024 TWBN, tripling the union's attendance from the prior year. Some, like Ross and Darden, were veterans of the event. Others, like Amanda Castille from Local 37 (New Orleans), were first timers.

"Outside of this, it's lonesome sometimes being a woman Boilermaker," Castille said. "It was amazing meeting people from all over, and it's been a big opportunity to learn and expand. I've just been enjoying all the speakers and taking it all in. And it's pretty cool getting to show off our Boilermaker pride. Not many even know about us!"

Boilermakers most definitely showed their spirit and made their name stand out during the banner parade through New Orleans' central business district.

In addition to the parade, an exhibit hall and plenary sessions, Boilermakers chose from an array of workshop breakout sessions, including: Building a Sisterhood (retention techniques), Changing Policies and Laws to Support Women, Childcare Challenges and Solutions, Financial Literacy, Fostering Respect on the Job, LGBTQ in the Workforce, Project Labor Agreements, Supporting the Fertility Life-Cycle, the Power of Pensions, Suicide Prevention in Construction, Women in Leadership, Leadership Structures, Wellness Tools, and Worksite safety.

Each trade also facilitated a private caucus session. International President Tim Simmons addressed the Boilermakers caucus with his vision for the union, and women shared best practices for recruiting more women to the trade and supporting one another.

"I wanted to come to this event, because I wanted to get inspiration from other women and get different ideas, hear their stories about how they made it through and how they're influencing and encouraging other women," said first-time TWBN Boilermaker attendee Latasha Stallworth from Local 693 (Pascagoula, Mississippi).

"I wanted to know how everyone was working different issues out."

Her experience didn't disappoint.

"It was really encouraging just seeing everyone encouraging each other, being positive and seeing women walking up the ranks and putting their best foot forward," she said.

Stallworth's key takeaway from the event: "Organize. There are a lot of people in the workforce who aren't working up to their potential. People with experience need to reach out to them to pull them up. I had people show me, and I'm blessed and grateful for that. Unity in these unions is what makes us powerful." 🙌

I learn something each time. It's important to get women committee members to come out here, because you learn things you can bring back to your local.

Monette Brownlee. L-146



Definitely come [to TWBN], it's going to expose you to a lot of things to get you motivated and help you with the tools you need. We need to be able to educate one another on what's going on across the country.

Latasha Stallworth. L-693



For a full recap of the 2024 Tradeswomen Build Nations conference, including video highlights and full speeches, visit www.nabtu.org/twbn/

L-549's Woman of the Year

Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) honored 42 women from the 8th Congressional District of California, including Local 549 (Pittsburg, California) member Angel Greer. Garamendi said all the women chosen as Women of the Year were leaders and visionaries in their communities. The honorees have all made significant contributions to society through public service, business, education and the local economy.

“Every year, I have the privilege of celebrating the remarkable achievements and contributions of outstanding women in California’s 8th District,” Garamendi said in a press release. “These leaders come from diverse backgrounds, and each has had a profound impact on their communities and those around them. It is a privilege to honor their efforts.”

He said their commitment to service to others merits this recognition.

“Angel’s commitment to ‘paying it forward’ is evident in her ongoing volunteer work, supporting women entering the trades and honoring the legacy of trailblazing women in the workforce,” said former Pittsburg Mayor Merl Craft, in her nomination



L-549’s Angel Greer accepts her Woman of the Year award from Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA).

tion of Greer for the award. “Angel Greer is a testament to the power of resilience, mentorship and the impact of investing in our youth.”

Through the award, all honorees’ contributions to society will be preserved and documented in the official Congressional Record in Washington, D.C. 🏆

NABTU honors McNair, Yoakum

Tra’Shunda McNair and Jamesee Yoakum are the latest Boilermaker sisters to be recognized as Tradeswoman Heroes by North America’s Building Trades Union. McNair, who was honored in April, is a member at Local 693 (Pascagoula, Mississippi). Yoakum is a Local 92 (Los Angeles) member and was honored in August.

“Never let people tell you what you can’t do and can’t achieve as a woman,” McNair said in a 2022 Boilermaker Reporter article. “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.”

Yoakum’s nomination points to her leadership on the job as well as outside of her Boilermaker work. She was recognized by the Los Angeles City Mayor’s Office for her efforts in a charity turkey and bicycle drive.



“She is eager to learn, while also teaching those around her,” her nomination reads. “She constantly lets the helpers around her know that it is possible to go further in their careers as a Boilermaker.” 🏆



Read a Boilermaker Reporter article about McNair:

boilermakers.org/local/693/mcnair

Read Yoakum’s award nomination:

[nabtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/](https://nabtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Jamesee-Yoakum.pdf)

[Jamesee-Yoakum.pdf](https://nabtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Jamesee-Yoakum.pdf)

Chicago member bounces his way to gold

Earl Pote, a Local 1 Boilermaker from Chicago, discovered a fascination for pogo sticks at age 12, after seeing one at a local carnival. Decades later, his passion and dedication have secured him the 2024 Tech Pogo Stick World Championship, earned at the Pogo World Championships in Pittsburgh last summer. He previously won gold in Tech in 2009 and 2010 and claimed silver in 2011, despite competing with a broken foot.

Pote said that from 2009 to 2011, he also competed in the Big Air competition, as well as in the Tech. He had to stop because he joined the military in 2012, and said he couldn't risk getting severely injured while in the military.

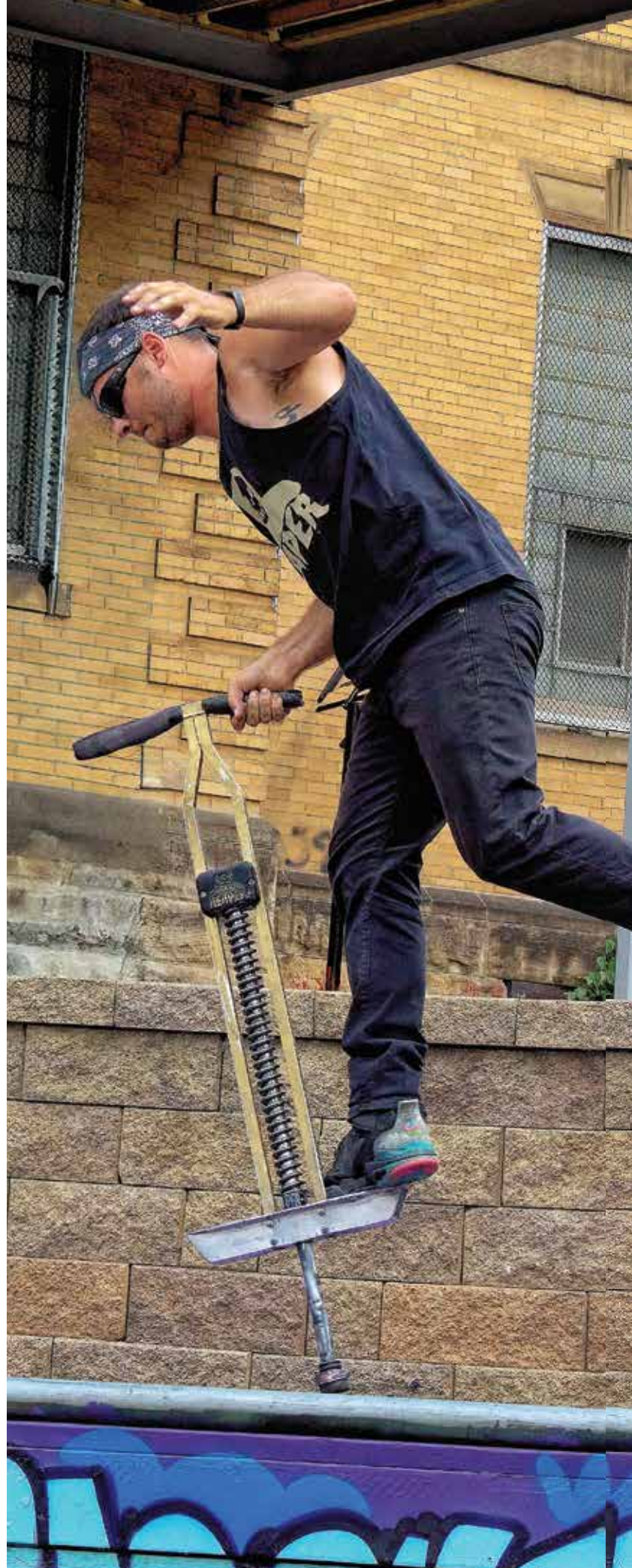
Pote's most recent victory came in the Tech category, which requires participants to use steel spring pogo sticks. The tech style keeps pogoers closer to the ground and focuses on technical skills, unlike other categories, like Big Air, which allow for pneumatic pogo sticks that are lighter and can bounce higher.

"Pogoing requires a lot of balance," Pote explained. "The tech side, especially, requires a lot of balance. There are a lot of tricks that demand precise control. It comes with time and hours of practice."

Although his love for pogoing came first, joining the union gave him the freedom to practice the hundreds of hours needed to become a champion.

Pote's journey into the Boilermakers began in February 2019, after serving six years in the United States Air Force. He discovered the union through Helmets to Hardhats, a program that helps military veterans transition into civilian trades. His military experience involved working on aircrew egress systems. Joining the union opened new doors for him and gave him a trade he could use to support himself and his pogo ambitions.

Before indenturing into the Boilermaker's apprenticeship program, Pote had no weld-





ing experience. “I hadn’t even struck an arc,” he said. “I put a lot of time into learning how to weld. I’d be at the hall for eight hours a day practicing when I was laid off. I also learned layout, something I didn’t know how to do before becoming a Boilermaker.”

His new boilermaker skills made it possible for Pote to begin crafting his own brand of pogo stick called The Reaper. He began fabricating them out of his garage after the company that originally produced tech pogo sticks stopped making them. He decided if he couldn’t buy the pogo stick he needed, he’d design one himself.

“I’m a Boilermaker at the end of the day, and I can make a pogo stick,” Pote said.

The biggest challenge he faced in creating The Reaper was sourcing the right spring. After struggling to find a manufacturer, he finally located one in Chicago. They produced a prototype, which he tested and approved with the help of a friend.

Pote used his own creation, The Reaper, to win the 2024 championship, a victory driven by skill, hours of practice and the benefits of the union way of life.

“Working in the union gives me the freedom of lifestyle,” Pote said. “If I was working a regular job, I wouldn’t be able to train the way I did for this competition.” 🙌



To watch Earl Pote practice pogoing, visit:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziw4nP8CYqo

L-1's Earl Pote earns the title of 2024 Tech Pogo Stick World Champion at the world championships in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 21-23.





BOILERMAKERS NATIONAL IMPORTANT BENE

The Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund provides comprehensive health benefits, Active H/G/GR rates have not increased since 2010, and there have been many benefit improv



In-Network Deductible

Lowered from \$400 to \$300 for individual and \$1,600 to \$1,200 for family.



Vision Annual Benefit Limit

Increased from \$250 to \$300.



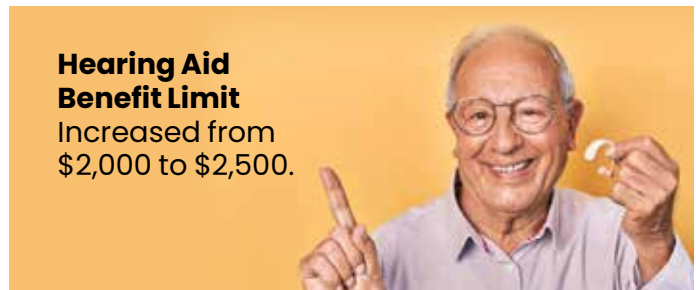
Dental Annual Benefit Limit

Increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Increased PPO and Premier benefits to pay 100% up to the annual benefit limit.

★ **Benefits are payable at no cost to you.**

In addition, orthodontia benefits are no longer limited to dependent children.



Hearing Aid Benefit Limit

Increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500.



Prescription Drug Benefit

Retail pharmacy benefits for Retiree Coverage at the same copay amounts as Active Coverage.



Preferred Labs, LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics

Removed 10% coinsurance and deductible.

★ **Benefits are payable at no cost to you.**

COVID-19 Tests

Added coverage of OTC COVID-19 tests through ESI mail order pharmacy. ★ **Benefits are payable at no cost to you.** Limited to 2 tests per individual per month.



HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND BENEFIT INFORMATION

Learn more at www.bnf-kc.com

long term disability coverage, and life insurance for Boilermakers and their families. Improvements to the Health and Welfare Fund since that time. Recent improvements include:

Life insurance and AD&D basic benefits of \$5,000 are available to all active participants. Supplemental benefits have increased and now offer up to an additional \$20,000 with Active H coverage.

Included with basic and supplemental benefits:

- Digital estate planning • Funeral discounts and planning services
- Retirewise – Financial education • Grief counseling with funeral assistance
- Transition solutions • Empathy (24/7 support for beneficiaries)

Included with supplemental benefits:

- Will preparation • Estate resolution services



Telehealth And Virtual Office Visits

Added coverage of telehealth and virtual office visits.

★ Benefits are payable at no cost to you when telehealth services are provided by the Fund's exclusive telehealth providers.

Virtual Physical Therapy

Services provided by the Fund's exclusive provider, Hinge Health.

★ Benefits are payable at no cost to you.



Insulin

Increased benefit for all insulin medications.

★ Benefits are payable at no cost to you.



Virtual Diabetes Management

Services provided by the Fund's exclusive provider, Virta Health.

★ Benefits are payable at no cost to you.

National Tripartite alliance remains strong during changes

Amid a time of significant change within the Boilermakers union, newly elected International President Tim Simmons set the tone for the 37th MOST National Tripartite Alliance conference held near San Diego Aug. 26-29. Simmons gave a powerful message, emphasizing the union's perseverance and the need to serve the members.

Simmons acknowledged recent news about indictments handed down by the Department of Justice and the federal investigation into the union, as well as the unprecedented changes in the union's leadership.

"We have a constitution that directs us...and we have followed the [Boilermakers union] constitution faithfully. We have made other changes, which our members have appreciated, our contractors have applauded and that have strengthened our organization."

He upheld that the union's future is secure, while also recognizing that the path forward will likely not be without challenges. Simmons pointed to the Boilermakers' history in steam and the doom that lay over the union when the locomotive steam engine was replaced by diesel—eliminating the bread-and-butter work of many Boilermakers.

"It was the dedication and adaptability of union Boilermakers that allowed us as an organization to change course and redirect our resources into new industries and technologies," he said. "That same determination is alive and well today."

He also reaffirmed his commitment to working together with the International Executive Council, staff, local lodge leaders and members to press forward and ensure Boilermakers continue to be the skilled craftspeople contractors and owners know and trust to man their projects.

"We are here to listen to each other's concerns and put our heads together to plot a path forward," Simmons said. "We owe this to you, and we owe it to our brothers and sisters in the field who want to be able to provide for their families."

"The Boilermakers union has faced storms before, and we will do so again—but we will persevere. We were forged by those generations that came before us, and we will build on their foundation to make better the lives of those who come after us."



“The Boilermakers union has faced storms before, and we will do so again—but we will persevere.”

Tim Simmons
International President

Sonya Bohmann, Executive Director of the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention, underscored the critical issue of elevated suicide rates within the construction sector. Notably, the industry's suicide rate is four times higher than the national average, making it the second highest among U.S. industries. Bohmann emphasized the importance of understanding mental health as a continuum, where individuals may fluctuate between thriving and struggling due to various life events.

She advocated for viewing mental health challenges as illnesses, rather than as moral failings.



Sonya Bohmann, Executive Director of the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention

She highlighted that until the 1970s, suicide was considered a crime, leading to stigmatizing language that persists today.

Several factors contribute to the heightened suicide risk in construction, including high stress levels, demanding work conditions and a culture that often stigmatizes seeking help. Additionally, the industry employs a significant number of veterans, who may face challenges stemming from combat-related traumas, further elevating the risk.

To address these challenges, CIASP is dedicated to creating a zero-suicide industry by providing resources and tools for suicide prevention and mental health promotion in construction. Bohmann advocates for peer-to-peer support, fostering social connectedness and encouraging leadership to prioritize mental health alongside safety. She also stresses the importance of open conversations about mental health, suggesting that simple actions like checking in with colleagues or sharing supportive messages can make a significant difference.

For immediate assistance, individuals can contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors.

Nuclear energy is gaining momentum on Wall Street, signaling a shift in this long-overlooked sector, according to Hilary Lane, Director of Fuel and Radiation Safety at the Nuclear Energy Institute. With 94 reactors across 53 U.S. sites, nuclear



Hilary Lane, Director of Fuel and Radiation Safety at the Nuclear Energy Institute

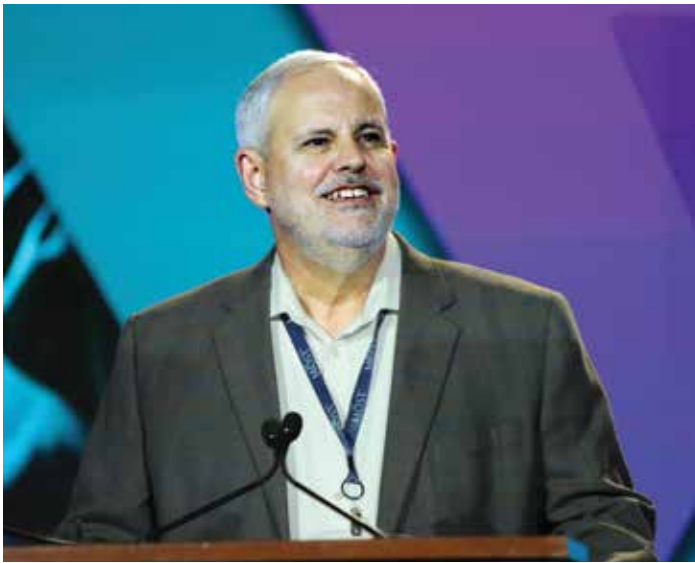
power provides about 18% of the nation's energy and nearly half of its clean electricity. Its efficiency is notable, with a power capacity factor over 90%, far exceeding wind and solar's 25-30%.

The recent completion of Vogtle Units 3 and 4 in Georgia, each at 1,100 MW, marks a significant milestone for the industry. Looking ahead, nuclear capacity is expected to triple from 100 gigawatts to 300 gigawatts over the next 25 years, driven by advanced nuclear technologies. These range from micro-reactors to large-scale reactors capable of powering cities.

Beyond electricity, advanced nuclear can produce hydrogen and provide industrial process heat. Sectors like data centers, oil and gas and artificial intelligence are exploring nuclear energy to meet their growing energy needs. Projects such as TerraPower in Wyoming, which is converting coal plants to nuclear, and X-energy in Texas, which is collaborating with Dow Chemical, highlight nuclear's industrial potential.

Federal support for nuclear is increasing, with new legislation and tax credits boosting the sector. Bipartisan backing at the state level is also rising, with many states lifting restrictions and exploring ways to accelerate nuclear energy's growth.

MOST Programs Administrator Mark Garrett shared training updates and changes to drug testing and OSHA 10. He said that he's spoken with



MOST Programs Administrator Mark Garrett

apprentice coordinators in different areas and is informed about those who are coming into the union who may already have an OSHA 10 certificate. If he can verify a member has passed OSHA 10, they don't need to retake it.

"It streamlines the process and gets people to your jobsites," he said.

Garrett also said that in July, the MOST Board of Trustees decided to remove testing for marijuana metabolites. He said if a contractor or owner requests this testing, it's still available.

Garrett said the new mental health program introduced last year has received positive feedback. "I feel like we can't talk enough about the mental health program."



John Burnett with Chevron, chairman of the owners' caucus

Caucus reports delivered by chairmen representing each sector of the tripartite alliance detailed opportunities for improvement, but also praised successes. John Burnett with Chevron, chairman of the owners' caucus, kicked off the reports noting several areas of importance to improve safety: hands-free standard for bolting, rigging training specific to the type of work to be performed, drug testing policies and concerns about opioid use, ongoing focus on significant injuries and fatalities, and attention to detail in permitting.

The owners' caucus also identified staffing and productivity, quality and access requirements as topics to address.

"We need more up-front discussions about manpower availability and experience, especially at the local level," Burnett said. "We need more transparency on per diem to obtain quality craftsmen. And contractors should continue to raise the level of expectations. It's something the owners are passionate about."

Owners had a frank discussion about quality, manpower, availability and experience. Burnett stressed the need for transparency in communicating needs among the owners, contractors and Boilermakers to ensure the best quality of work is produced.

Reporting for the contractors' caucus was chairman Mike Bray, Senior Executive Consultant for Riggs Distler and Company, Inc. The caucus homed in on the need to understand referral rules, the need for open solicitation to man smaller work



Mike Bray, chairman of the contractors' caucus

projects and the need for selectivity. Bray said contractors also want to better understand the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund—what’s available to help win work and how to go about utilizing the M.O.R.E. Work program.

Training was also tops on their list, and Bray called for more or updated confined space training (some jobsites don’t accept MOST programs’ certification), advanced training on robotics, use and care of cordless tooling, and torquing and tension training. Also, he said, training is needed in new technology.

“With new technology, we really have to train our people to get involved, to get into the scheduling and costing aspects of the business so that we can use Boilermakers on these jobs,” Bray said.

Anthony Howell, AAIP and Executive Director-Construction Sector Operations, represented the labor caucus as chairman.

Dovetailing with earlier reports, he began with the issue of travel cost and expenses Boilermakers incur to man projects, and he explained that being able to use per diem to offset those costs could make a big impact on recruiting.

“It’s the first question they ask before they know anything else about us or the job: What’s the per diem?” he said.

And, he said, the caucus also identified a need for better communication about the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund resources.

“I spoke with some of the owners yesterday, and they told me how they appreciate how hard Boilermaker business managers and reps worked to respond to their needs,” he said.

“Anything that can be done to spread out work is good,” Bray said. “Those who are doing that are getting better manpower fulfillment.”

The National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers is 49 years old and continues to evolve by identifying and solving safety concerns. NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler detailed programs offered by the organization, which began as the result of tripartite discussions to address issues.

“We’re like a three-legged stool,” Traxler said. “NACBE remains committed to our partnership. We do have a partnership with the IBB. We are stronger together. We all know that there have been some changes, but that’s what we do. We maximize on our

strengths. We are stronger together and we must continue to work together.”

He noted that combined, 417 years of experience sits on the NACBE Board of Directors. He stressed the importance of being involved in the organization and its programs, especially those involved with safe working conditions.

“Safety is paramount, and we collaborate with MOST to educate and develop programs,” Traxler said. “We all need a safe work environment.” 🙌



“NACBE remains committed to our partnership. We do have a partnership with the IBB. We are stronger together.”

Ron Traxler
NACBE Executive Director



L-363 BM-ST William Mulconnery accepts the Charles W. Jones award. L to r: MOST programs administrator Mark Garrett, IVP-Great Lakes Dan Sullivan, Mulconnery, IP Tim Simmons.

L-363 again earns Charles W. Jones award

It was a three-peat for Local 363 (Bellville, Illinois) in winning the 2023 Charles W. Jones Award, presented this past August during the 2024 MOST National Tripartite Alliance conference. The award honors the local lodge demonstrating the highest use of specified MOST programs during the preceding year.

MOST programs considered for the honor include OSHA 10/30, Common Arc, Substance Abuse, Scaffolding, Steel Erection, Rigging, Field Leadership and the Boilermaker Code.

“The reason this has happened three years in a row is because I’m surrounded by

people who actually care,” said L-363 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer William Mulconnery. “And they always ask, ‘What can we do better?’ So, that’s the people who really deserve this award, and I’m going to take the recognition back to them.”

The award was created to encourage local lodges to stay involved and to best prepare apprentices for safety on the job. MOST programs administrator Mark Garrett said participation has increased every year since the award’s inception.

He stressed that participation is based on percentage calculations, so size of a local does not influence the award outcome. 🙌

Philly Shipyard christens the Patriot State

The Maritime Administration and Philly Shipyard have christened the Patriot State, the second National Security Multi-Mission Vessel and the new training ship for Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Local 19 Boilermakers helped build the 160-meter multipurpose vessel, which can carry up to 8,500 tons of cargo. The ship was designed for both maritime training and disaster relief missions and features a hospital, helipad and roll-on/roll-off capability for up to 1,000 people.

Local 19 President James Hall, left, celebrates the christening of the Patriot State with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, second from left.



Students enrolled in the welding program at Fannin County High School in Blue Ridge, Georgia, celebrate Lincoln Electric's generous donation of a multi-process welding machine.

Donation sparks TIG welding instruction for high school

Southeast Area recruiter Lee Aurand-Hosey and a Lincoln Electric representative worked together to secure a significant donation for the welding program at Fannin County High School in Blue Ridge, Georgia. After Aurand-Hosey brought the issue to the attention of Lincoln Electric, the company donated a state-of-the-art, multi-process welding machine to the high school's welding program.

This donation will improve the school's welding curriculum, giving students access to advanced technology that will enhance their practical skills. The TIG or Tungsten Inert Gas machine allows students to perform precision welding, expanding their career opportunities.

Aurand-Hosey said the contribution from Lincoln Electric is more than just a machine; it's a commitment to the future of skilled trades. The equipment will ensure students are prepared with the knowledge and tools they need for success in the welding industry.

FCHS welding instructor Terry Flowers said this donation will improve the program. "We're incredibly excited and grateful for this donation," said Flowers. "The TIG machine gives our students valuable hands-on experience with advanced welding techniques that are in high demand. It's a game-changer for our program." 🙌



BNAP Coordinator Mark Wertz talks to Fraser High School CTE students about the Boilermakers and the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program.

L-169 apprentices ignite students' interest in Boilermakers

Who better to demonstrate an apprenticeship career path in the Boilermakers than Boilermaker apprentices themselves? That was the thought when Fraser High School's Career & Technical Education program approached Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program National Coordinator Mark Wertz about giving students a look at the trade.

Wertz, who is a long-time member of Fraser's CTE advising committee, called Local 169 (Detroit) right away. The local is a short drive from the high school, and L-169 business agent/instructor Jamie Ratliff agreed apprentices would be ideal to lead a buddy welding demonstration, show students their skills and answer questions.

So, on November 22, the end of National Apprenticeship Week, apprentices Amber Combs and Chris Calmeyn joined Ratliff and Wertz for three class sessions with CTE students. Wertz discussed the Boilermaker trade and BNAP program, then turned it over to Calmeyn and Combs.

"I can talk to them about trades and the opportunities, pensions and annuities all day, but bring

in an apprentice or someone in a welding jacket saying 'I make X amount of money, I'm secure, and I have a [union] family around me that helps me in challenges'... the kids want to hear it from someone who is living it, doing it and experiencing it," said Brent Brasure, Fraser High School's CTE director.

"When you get students and apprentices in the same room, the level of inspiration we see is on a whole other level. That's where hope and inspiration lie—with those one-on-one human interactions."

Brasure grew up in the area and noted it's predominantly blue collar and trades oriented. The school system's CTE program is robust and begins in kindergarten with career awareness; but even with that, some still have little understanding of what apprenticeship is or the lifestyle of working in the trades. He likes inviting the Boilermakers to his classes, because it's one of the lesser-known trades and the new information piques interest.

Seeing apprentices demonstrate a skill the students have never seen—like buddy welding—is also key.

“We don’t get to do a lot of the exciting work in class—it’s more basic practice and training,” Brasure said. “So, to see something they haven’t done before and how collaboration and communication are so critical to getting a job done, buddy welding is the perfect microcosm for the communication needed on the job.”

“The magic is in the sparks. You ignite them and see the response.”

Wertz said the students picked up the new buddy welding skills quickly and soon became competitive to see who could have the smoothest, quickest hand-offs.

Another important part of the experience: Brasure pointed to the Boilermakers’ modeling of “positive work ethic consistency,” noting that the Boilermaker entourage focused their energy on the students throughout their visit to the school, even talking to students about the Boilermakers and answering questions during lunch breaks.

“That’s a level of professionalism and dedication, and it dispels myths about the trades and unions,” Brasure said.

Brasure said proof of the apprentices’ positive impact is evident in a spike in interest in competing in Local 169’s spring high school welding competition. He wasn’t sure how they would accommodate everyone, but that’s a good problem to have.

Wertz estimates 50-60 students participated in the three sessions.

“It’s important that we get involved in welding programs all over the United States,” he said. “Students are more and more interested in what we do. They want a career and to make money after high school without expensive tuition fees. We need to get them interested and thinking about us. I tell them every trade is hiring now, and you can hit the ground running with a career.” 🔥

“ The magic is in the sparks. You ignite them and see the response. ”

Brent Brasure

Director of the Fraser High School CTE Program



L-169 apprentice Amber Combs instructs two Fraser High School CTE students on buddy welding best practices.

Fraser High School CTE students try buddy welding.





Boilermakers host successful USA clay shoot, youth day

In partnership with the Boilermakers union, Union Sportsmen's Alliance raised more than \$120,000 in the annual USA Boilermakers Kansas City Sporting Clays Shoot and hosted more than 60 youths at a Boilermakers Get Youth Outdoors Day in separate events this past September.

Now in its third year, the youth event doubled attendance from previous years. Kids enjoyed the day Sept. 15 at Powder Creek Shooting Park in Lenexa, Kansas, learning gun safety, skills, blasting clays and fishing under the guidance of Boilermakers and other union volunteers. All supplies—from fishing gear to protection and ammunition—were provided, as well as lunch for all.

IVP-Northeast John Fultz was among the event volunteers. He spent the day baiting hooks, taking fish off the hooks and watching kids' smiles light up with each catch.

"I really enjoyed it—it was like being with my grandkids when they caught their first fish," he said. "It makes you happy to see them so successful and to watch the moms and dads get excited for their little ones."

Fultz said being covered in worms for a day was worth it. He noted that IBB staffer Mallory Smith volunteered all day fixing fishing poles, baiting hooks, helping kids however she could—and also covered in worms.

"This is what we're supposed to do as a union. We stick together and take care of each other, and we stick together to take care of our community—and that's the youth," Fultz said.

The following Saturday, on Sept. 22, 116 men, women and youth met at Powder Creek for USA's popular sporting clays competition. Twenty-five teams competed, each firing 100 rounds per person along the course's stations. Union partners, Boilermaker local lodges and other unions sponsored the stations to offset event expenses.

The 2024 Kansas City shoot winners were:

Highest overall team score: *Callender Printing*

Class A high score: *Boilermakers Local 363*

Class B high score: *Mark One*

Class C high score: *IBEW Local 226*

Top overall shooter: *Austin Post*

Top senior shooter: *Clinton Shipp*

Top youth shooter: *Charlie Jenkins*

Top female shooter: *Kym Savage*

"I want to especially recognize Kym Savage for her work organizing Boilermakers, volunteers, donations, and all the effort she put into the youth event and shoot coordination," Fultz said. "And it was fun to have her on our team to enjoy the hard

work she'd put into the event. Winning as the day's leading female shooter was well earned."

Profits from the shooting event support U.S.A.'s mission to "unite the community through conservation to preserve North America's outdoor heritage." This was the 15th year for the Boilermaker-sponsored event. The Boilermakers union is a charter member of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. Free membership is available to all Boilermaker members. 🍷



Darren Lindee, L-60 BM-ST, fires a shot while Rich Rentsch, L-60, launches the clays.



Visit www.myusamembership.com/union



Gerry Calvert, L-83, blasts the clays.

L-549 hosts Shoot For A Cure

Local 549 (Pittsburg, California) sponsored and attended Shoot For A Cure on Oct. 17, to help raise money for the March of Dimes, an organization that supports research, leads programs and provides education and advocacy for women and children. The local sponsored two teams, one being an all-woman Boilermaker Women at Work (BW@W) committee team. It was the first all-woman team to compete in the Northern California shoot.

"The event was amazing," said L-549 Business Agent Rennae Ross. "Being able to share this event with our Boilermaker brothers was a huge motivation. Their willingness to help and teach us was a true testament of being a part of a Brotherhood."

Ross said the March of Dimes is such a wonderful cause that many tradeswomen hold near and dear



to their hearts. "We'd like to encourage the participation of more all-female teams to support this incredible cause throughout the International."

Western States International Vice President J. Tom Baca serves on the board of Shoot for a Cure. Since 2003, Shoot For A Cure has raised just over \$9,428,000 for March of Dimes and various other charitable causes. 🍷

Boilermakers ratify agreement with BNSF Railway

Boilermakers voted to ratify a new five-year, collective bargaining agreement with BNSF Railway in November. The tentative agreement provides a 3.5% average wage increase per year over the next five years and offers workers more vacation earlier in their career, as well as enhancements to health care benefits.

“This was an all-around great agreement, from wage increases to a better insurance package and vacations,” said John Mansker, Director of Railroad Lodge Services. “The members spoke with an outstanding vote ratification.”

According to a BNSF press release, roughly 17% of railroad’s union workforce is now covered under ratified labor agreements. 🙌



Boilermaker-built USS Idaho launches

General Dynamics Electric Boat celebrated the float-off of the USS Idaho (SSN-799) in August. Boilermakers from Local 614 (New London, Connecticut) and members of other Metal Trades Council unions built the attack submarine. According to a statement by Naval Sea Systems Command, the USS Idaho is the 26th Virginia-class fast attack submarine added to the fleet. It is the eighth Block IV Virginia vessel and part of a \$17.8 billion 2014 multi-year contract awarded to Electric Boat.

L-85 United Way support builds positive recognition

Local 85's (Toledo, Ohio) decision to raise funds for the United Way of Greater Lima was a no-brainer. The United Way supports local organizations that provide needed services in communities throughout the United States.

"We're all part of this community, and we all want to be connected and involved in our community," says L-85 BM-ST Tim Timmons.

So, it was an obvious "yes," when retired L-85 Boilermaker Jack Miller approached the local about raising funds in a 50/50 raffle. Miller represents the Lima Building Trades on the United Way's Board of Directors. Now, in their third year raising funds, the Boilermakers and local Boilermaker employer Nutrien have boosted raffle sales each year bringing the most recent take to \$16,400.

But it's about more than just making money for a good cause and generating good vibes among the members. In addition to Nutrien, other Boilermaker employers, Ashland and Cenovus, are also involved, as well as other building trades. Miller says it's helped to build the union's relationship with the companies. And, during raffle ticket sales, a TV-spot airs every week featuring the Boilermakers.

"We've been our own best-kept secret no one knows about," Timmons says. "The name recognition definitely helps. Doing something like helping the United Way is all about building relationships. It's nice to get to have more interaction, and members have pride in participating in something that helps our community." 🙌



L-85 BM-ST Tim Timmons (center) accepts recognition from the United Way of Greater Lima for the lodge's fundraising support. With Timmons are (left) retired Boilermaker Jack Miller, who represents the Lima Building Trades on the United Way board and Erin Hardesty, President of the United Way of Greater Lima.



Boilermakers win eight ILCA Awards

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has won eight awards of excellence in the annual International Labor Communications Association's Labor Media Awards for work created and published in 2023. The Boilermakers Communications Department competes each year in the National/International category against other ILCA union communication affiliates.

First Place

Visual Communications-Best Design,
Multi-volume Publication:
The Boilermaker Reporter

Second Place

Best in Labor-Electronic Newsletter:
The IBB Update

Electronic Media-Best Long Form Video:
"What's the Boilermakers Union?"

Best Swag/Union "drip":
Fight For Your Future campaign

Visual Communications-Best Photo Gallery:
National Apprenticeship Competition

Writing-Best Labor History Story:
"Greedy owners killed union members in the 1922 Shopman's Strike"

Writing-Best Profile of a Person or Group:
"Joe Maloney retires from Helmets to Hardhats"

Third Place

Electronic Media, Best Short Form Video:
"Boilermakers Shipbuilding"



For a complete list of all winners, visit:
[laborcommunicators.org/news-updates/
ilca-announces-2024-contest-winners](https://laborcommunicators.org/news-updates/ilca-announces-2024-contest-winners)

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.

LOCAL 1 • CHICAGO

60 YEARS	Jack Benz
55 YEARS	Gary Ames, Richard Carlson, Daniel Durkovic, Robert Eisenhammer, William Feeney, Charles Hayes, Jim Hess, Barry Jeleniewski, Larry Nolan, Emil Priesol
50 YEARS	Ernie Gossett, Jack Ruby
45 YEARS	Roland Leavitt, Bobby Lowe
30 YEARS	Kevin Maddix, Ricardo Molina
25 YEARS	Christopher DeCaigny, Anthony Danta, Brett Hamilton, Jaime Haro, Kurt Kelleher, Michael Mager, Isaac Rayes, Charles Sneed, Brad Spiess, Terry Tye
20 YEARS	Ryan Bolz

LOCAL 5 • NEW YORK

35 YEARS	Mark Peponakis, Russell Rogers, James Solly
30 YEARS	John Blauvelt, Blaine Carusone, Kevin Farrell, Kevin O'Brien, Jonathan Smith, Thomas Stelfox
25 YEARS	Gerald Penfield
20 YEARS	Moises Fernandez, Scott Goodberry, Jason Hunter, Rocky Ramphal, Stephanie Thompson, Anatoliy Vovna, Shamus Waldron
15 YEARS	Colin Ambellan, Shawn Chesebrough, Jeffrey Dunworth, Charles Falcone, Jonathan Gibli, Jared Hite, Michael Kniffen, Brian Lonergan, Steven Manchester, Radeew Mohabeer, Glenn Stevens, Victor Urena, James Zyniecki

LOCAL 26 • SAVANNAH GA

55 YEARS	Larry G. Davis, Charles T. Deal, Fredrick C. Helmuth, Walter J. Hickox, Wilfred C. Jeffers Jr., Willie Oliver, Walden J. Ware
50 YEARS	Leon Able, Fred O. Baggett, Melvin Baker Jr., William S. Bashlor, Vernon J. Baxter, Samuel B. Beard, Barry N. Bethune, James E. Blakewood Jr., Wade L. Brower, Johnny D. Burkhalter, Jimmie A. Copeland, Darrell W. Daley, Walter (Phil) P. Douglas, Ronnie E. Fail, Robert J. Groover, James D. Harrison Sr., Bobby R. Hickox, Donald L. Ivie, Mikel R. Johns, Ellis R. Knight, Jack R. Lanier Jr., Archie T. Lanier, Milton J. Morgan, William D. Morrow, Douglas R. Noel, Frank D. Owens Jr., Milton C. Rahn Jr., David Frank Riggins, James R. Smith Jr., David E. Stone, George J. Strickland, Earl C. Tyson, Jack M. Vickers, Roger L. Way Jr., Thomas B. West
45 YEARS	James G. Able, William M. Andrews, James A. Brower Jr., Michael H. Clanton, Luis A. Cordero, Thomas R. Crews, Charles M. Davis, Kenneth R. Drake, Charles (Mike) M. Garrett, Charles S. Grimsley, Irie S. Harkleroad, James C. Holbrook, James M. Holton, Winton D. Howard Jr., Gerald F. Hulett, Charles W. Johns, Larry G. Jumper, Billy J. Lane, Michael F. Lay, Kenneth E. Leggott, Jackie W. Madaris, Raymond Mills, Vernon R. Pitts, Larry F. Quigley, Madison (Matt) Rushing, David L. Smith, Ronald L. Smith
40 YEARS	Danny Bruce Crews, P. W. Cummings Jr., Taylor H. Haskel, Albert E. Klein Jr., Ernest D. Pack, Larry D. Womack

LOCAL 26 • SAVANNAH GA (continued)

25 YEARS	Garrett S. Beaumier, Derek C. Howell, James A. King, Barry L. McDonald
20 YEARS	Johnathon Mitchell Bates, Homer Allen Bennett Jr., Sherril H. Black, Barbara J. Bolton, Reginald D. Bryant, Michael L. Byrd, Donald L. Carlton, Don W. Clevenger, Dennis E. Crews, Eric R. Crumpton, Bruce Davis, Charles M. Fields, Gary M. Filla, Johnny Hawkins, Michael A. Huls, Shannon N. Hutcherson, Robert M. James, Chad E. Johns, Norman W. Lee, Jerry Leggett, Arthur F. Martin, Robert K. Mask, Keith M. Massey, Daniel Mathie, Scotty L. Matthews, Michael W. McCranie, David McKendree, Carlton H. McLeod, Gerald Miller, William A. Morris Jr., Phillip S. Pavo, Timothy P. Piercy, Michael S. Pitts, Archie C. Rish, Patrick A. Roberts, Kenneth R. Sanders, Raiford D. Scarbrough Sr., Christopher L. Scott, Kelvin K. Shannon, Crantford E. Smith Jr., Dwight Strickland, Frank P. Walls, Todd W. Wilcox, Paul Wilkes
15 YEARS	Warren Rex Anderson, Greg Bacon, Robert N. Baker, Travis W. Bowman, Herschel A. Brown, Jimmy Parnell Byrd Jr., Rodney Carver, Allen F. Clark Jr., Chadwick R. Clark, William D. Cooper, Timothy L. Davis, Charles A. Diehl, Tony Ryle Foskey, Willis L. Garrett II, Jerimey Gibson, Bobby E. Hightower, Cecil D. Hill, Garry Hines, Hansford C. Hunter, Sterling Irvin, Issac Johnson Jr., Justin A. Jordan, David D. Lilly, Scott M. Maniscalco, Brandon Massey, Kevin M. Miller, Chess Moxley, Terry L. Parker, Chad E. Pierce, Devin L. Pierce, Michael Preston Sr., Arnold D. Purcell, Ricky P. Salter II, Justen B. Smith, Willie F. Spatcher, Scott Tibbitts, Arthur T. Tolbert Jr., Gregory B. Torrance, Leonard Allen Troupe, Kevin Wardle, Cecil W. Young

LOCAL 45 • RICHMOND VA

60 YEARS	Perry A. Day, Fred A. Gaither, Edward T. Powers, Lewis K. Powers, Louis F. Takovich Jr.
55 YEARS	R. Barry Dowdy, John C. Hall, Chris C. Haynes, Charles A. Kenney, P. Robert. Madrigal, Chester C. McCrackin, Leo D. McVicker, Martin J. Phillips, Thomas D. Scott, Jeffrey C. Viar
50 YEARS	Harry Amend, Stephen V. Anderson, Lawrence R. Bell, Gary H. Biddenger, Richard C. Blight, Patrick L. Bonner, Ian Charles, W. Dennis Covington, James A. Crawford, Jimmy W. Gray, L. Steve Hammond, Phillip D. Kendrick, V. Steve Knight, John H. Lucas, Michael A. Lyons, Thomas R. Mantiplay, Paul F. Mockabee, Hobert B. Myers, Frank E. Phillips, Daniel W. Shirk, John R. Shorb, Donnie L. Simmons, Wayne D. Smith, Dale T. Stevenson, George W. Taylor Jr., Jenira Thompson, Robert D. Whetsell Jr., C. William Wright
45 YEARS	Robert T. Barfield, Wilbur F. Brown, James R. Burrows, George W. Crouch, Wade L. Dillow, Cecil R. Dorsey, Charles T. Geilfuss, Robert W. Gray, James R. Green, R. Kevin Hall, C. Michael Heaps, Wayne H. Johnson, Dennis Kuhn, Frank S. Liptak, James D. Lynch, Michael M. Matkins, David C. Miller, William F. Mitchell, Clark J. Moon, Dennis A. O'Neil, Dale T. Pfeiffer, James F. Phillips, John C. Pierce, Gregory A. Powell, Donald C. Rexrode, Bobby G. Rohrbaugh, Russell G. Shaffer, Ronald W. Shehane, Richard H. Sheppard, Steven P. Shorter, Larry L. Turner, Mark D. White
40 YEARS	Donald J. Margensey
35 YEARS	Steven P. Bomar, Richard C. Buckson Sr., Steven W. Croft, Charles A. Dunn, Stanley J. Harper, Dennis O. Hartman Sr., Michael J. Herd, Michael R. Junkins, Steven M. Junkins, Gary L. Kephart, Paul D. Kuykendall, T. Craig McCracken, John D. McIntosh, Roger D. Moyers, Steven E. Platt, Timothy W. Shake, Luther A. Smith, Michael L. Takovich, Gary W. White, Randy K. Wilson, Clyde A. Witt Jr., Lonnie M. Wright

LOCAL 45 • RICHMOND VA (continued)

30 YEARS	Carlos G. Cintron, Brent M. Corvin, Gerry Llewellyn, Joseph L. Nickey, Dale Marty. Sites Jr., Denzil D. Smith
25 YEARS	Douglas W. Armbrester Jr., John S. Beard, Charles J. Hall, Burnell R. Kauffman, Richard Knotts, L. Shane. Mobley, Harold T. Timbrook, Daniel J. Weber
20 YEARS	Daryl W. Almond, Donald T. Dudenhoeffer, William T. Hinson, Elwood C. Hyre II, Donald L. Keeter, Stephen A. Lantis, Derek J. Long, Franklin L. Price, Donald C. Rexrode II, Albert T. Robinson, Paul N. Snider, James R. Stanley
15 YEARS	Robert B. Burton, Cody A. Catlett, Russell W. Crosco, Phillip D. Embry, Jimmie Howard. Harrison, William S. Hutcheson, Kevin D. Lockhart, Michael O. Quillen, Brandon C. Stumpf, Jared H. Turner, Seth J. Vance, Wesley B. Vance, William G. Washington, Justin D. York

LOCAL 83 • KANSAS CITY MO

60 YEARS	James Parsons
55 YEARS	Ronald L. Hoyt, Ronald Pettinger, Joseph Super
50 YEARS	Vincent Alagna, Earl Davis, William Ehmke, Thomas E. Guilfoyle, Ricky Hastings, James F. Holland, Richard B. Kirby, Edward Lacey, Louis L. Padilla, Richard Racette, Lowell Robling, Richard A. Scott
45 YEARS	Donald Abeln, Michael W. Collins, Jess F. Laster, Kelly Lykins, Brad L. Myhr, David Pachmayr, Kenneth G. Smith, Kirk Stanley
40 YEARS	John Oswald
35 YEARS	William H. Adams Jr., James Brichacek, Mike T. Clifton, Elmer Duane Dorrough, Brian A. Jones, Robert G. Mueller, Kevin T. Myers, Donald F. Onnen Jr., Kenneth R. Patrick, Steven B. Rakes, Paul Roark, Larry T. Rowe, John Seward Jr., Dale Sharp, Ronald L. Sundquist, Christopher Woods, Kent D. Zoz
30 YEARS	Dave Bryson, Robert Crosthwait Jr., Leonard J. Dalbey, Scott A. Daniels, William Scott Durham, Thomas A. Hardison, Dale Ray Leach, Joseph Lewandowski, Lia Nguyen, Michael Phillips, Ronald Stallard
25 YEARS	Kelly A. Alterman, Edward Amador, Robin Burianek, Wesley Graham, Gary W. Griblin, Casey Jensen, Steve Lake, Clarence O. Leonard, Chad Wayne Lucas, Harold E. Morris, Lloyd Myers Jr., Jeff Parrish, Brian Pettinger, Grady Smith, Darren Stroder, Brandon C. Wahwassuck, Shannon Wiatt
20 YEARS	Terry Dowell, Donald Hensler, Aaron Waldrop
15 YEARS	Ralph Bennett, James Brooks, Dennis Burlingame, Brandon Clark, Ryan Conley, James F. Deatherage, Dustin Devore, Lyman Lloyd Estep, Jonathan Fagan, Larry Grotewiel, Lynn Holmes, Bradley J. Horn, Robert Imondi, Roni Jenkins, Brandon J. Kafka, Lonny Kirk, Michael Locke, Michael Mayotte, Clifford Noah, Richard S. Peve II, Brandon David Reusch, Ronald E. Robinson, John A. Speichinger, Daniel Stockwell, Jack Trent, Michael Wahwassuck, John Wenzel, Jeffrey Wilson

LOCAL 106 • CINCINNATI OH

45 YEARS	Mike Orlando
35 YEARS	Ron Anderson, Andrew Stapf
30 YEARS	Jeff Weitz, Tom Sienkiewicz
25 YEARS	Hershel Asher, Tracy Dickerson, Mike Raisor
20 YEARS	Tony Shockley, William Rust, William Newsom

LOCAL 108 • BESSEMER AL

45 YEARS	James D. Finneran
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LOCAL 169 • DETROIT

70 YEARS	Bruce McLeod
60 YEARS	Dale Foster
55 YEARS	Thomas Aitken, David Angle, Avner Bashman, James Bostedt, John Card, Ova Fletcher, Timothy Gapen, Charles Gaskin, Jerry Golden, Daniel P. Kidd Sr., David Krzyzanski, Dale Nelmark, Michael Parkhill, Richard Sevrey, Robert Bruce Warnken, Larry Way, Kenneth Wyman, William Zink
50 YEARS	Roger Arend, Michael Audia, Wallace Barron, Earl Bushong, Michael Byrnes, Bruce Campbell, Larry Campbell, John Castonguay, Harold Danula, John Donohue, Peter J. Gannon, Daniel Godfrey, Vincenzo Grillo, Gregory Guidry, Phillip Hendrix, Dennis J. Jackson, Joseph Jones, Allan W. Kidd, Terry Kuzala, Andrew Lawson, Roy Lewis, Archie R. Long Jr., Mark Mankowski, John Marek, Patrick Miller, Randy Mitter, William Nelson, Dave J. Rinna, James Robb, Wayne Smoot, Clinton Strawn, David Tacie, Charles Taube, John Tischler Jr., Dwight Tobaison, George Tromp, Gerald Skip VanBuren, Rodger Vanderville, Nelson Wallaker
45 YEARS	Timothy Brewster, Stephen Buys, David Campbell, Kent Damron, Steven Dunn, Richard Jenerou, Dale McElvany, Timothy Parrish, Daniel Rheume, Jeffrey Rokuski, David Schmitt
40 YEARS	Gordon Durham, James Guertin, Burl Hill, Carl Profrock, Douglas Thennes, Alfred Glenn Williams
35 YEARS	Richard Bruno, Lori Custer, William Dodge Jr., Michael A. Dodson, Steven Harbenski, William M. Jenerou, Billy R. Keener, Frank Wimmer
30 YEARS	Richard Castle, John Mitch Doss, James Easley, Gregory Jacobs, Craig Lanzon, David McMullen, Timothy H. Miller, Norman Pennell, Robert Sevrey, Roosevelt Sweeney Jr.
25 YEARS	Otis Autman, Terrence Card, Zerbin Dean, Gary Deneau, Jeffrey Harmon, Timothy Henderson, Michael Irwin, Mark Ivey, Daniel P. Kidd Jr., Christopher F. Kidd, Matthew Klecker, Carl Kopsi, Jeremy Kriesel, Jason Kuntze, Paul Kurian, Joseph Lambrich, Neal Marsh, Kevin McNutt, William Meinheit, John W. Miller Jr., Tyrone Montgomery, Timothy Parker, Christopher Patrick, Louis Reno, Robert Shukait, Michael E. Trischler Jr., Adam Way, Minelous Young
20 YEARS	Bradley Flisnik, Josue Fuentes, Nathan Gardner, Anthony Herrera, Marc Lanzon, Lyle E. Leavitt II, Ilias Margaris, Mark Miller, David Milton, Kyle Mowrey, Mark Olson, Jeffrey G. Rohn, Anthony Suban, Donald Vogan, Max Westphal, Chanol Wilkie-Jones, Brian Wimmer, John Winterbauer

LOCAL 344 • RIDGECREST CA

25 YEARS	Darren Clark, John Reynolds, Paul Ubricht, Donald West, William Wilson
20 YEARS	I. Acevedo, J. Bosley, John Dean, Vincent James, R. Jimenez, C. Latanya, Robert Lyttle, Christopher Padilla, Saravut Salacheep,
15 YEARS	Joab K. Amoni, Jose L. Ayon Jr., Raymond G. Bega, Sean Burgess, Jason T. Coleman, Ray Darele, Roger M. Daug, Christopher DeLeon, Michael P. Drouin, Jacob M. Furst, Sherwin M. Galiza, Fernando Galvez, Nathan R. Geurts, John B. Hoggatt, Robert Knickelbein, Anthony M. Lair, Robert Lampkin Jr., William O. Lowe Jr., Joshua Luis, Joshua McDonald, Jason T. Melnick, Carlos Morales, Ron M. Neal, Jorge L. Paniagua, Felipe Rodriguez, Daniel Schandl, Brandon J. Smith, Demian C. Thomas, RaShawn Wright

LOCAL 374 • HOBART IN

60 YEARS	Philip Faucett
55 YEARS	Paul Rogier, Robert Styka
50 YEARS	Joseph Struzik
35 YEARS	James Kizer
30 YEARS	Jeffery Fleck, Lauren Gehlhausen, Kenneth Iseman, Jason King, Randolph Kookan, Nick McDowell, Brian Willis, Robert Zatarski
25 YEARS	Michael Aders, Daniel McWhirter, Jerry Timberlake, Robert Werner
20 YEARS	James Bantz, John Bramlett, Lee Hauter, Christopher Jackson, Brian Moree, Zach Pendleton, Jamie Sahagun
15 YEARS	Owen Johnson, Robin Purvis
10 YEARS	John Petro

LOCAL 555 • WINNIPEG MB

55 YEARS	Robert Bishop, Robert Eil, Clarence Lipinski, Ray Morphy, Richard Posehn, Stewart Smith
50 YEARS	George Dheilly, Roy Ducharme, Wayne Hanson, Dennis Hassan, Wayne King, Lance Stark, Rod Thorne, Don Wudrick, Eric Zimmerman, Mel Zoroneck
45 YEARS	Hugh Alguire, Bill Chapman, Peter Donovan, Randy Dukart, Darrell Gaebel, Richard Joyal, Pat Monaghan, Ron Schellenberg, Seppo Vesa
40 YEARS	Ken Hiebert, Ron Wilson
35 YEARS	Lyle Feiffer, Jason Ross, Lonny Schellenberg, Darwin Willis
30 YEARS	Terence Delaurier, Jason Delaurier, Richard Fisher, James (Lee) Smith, Brent Wilgosh, Randy Zuk
25 YEARS	Kim Bellman, Michael Hall, Willie Henderson, Dustin Hill, Michael Keilback, Myles Munro, Triston Nicolson, Jeff Shaw, Tony Stark, Doug Werner, Bob Wiens

LOCAL 614 • NEW LONDON CT

20 YEARS	Dean Ambot, Dale Bates, Gregory Bell, Michael Bushek, Benny Contreras, Robert Dupuis, Greg Emard, Daryl Frink, Patrick Gauthier, Paul Kelly, Peter Klick, William Licciardi, Bjorn Liese, Nickolas Racicot, Thomas Sheppard, Elicarlian Torres, Kelvin Waheed, Wayne Watson
15 YEARS	Christopher Bell, Dean Bowen, Eric DeSaulnier, Jeffrey Fleck, Wayne Haapala, Alexander Johnson, Christopher Kelly, Frederick Korn IV, Alfred Kovalik, Anthony Mancini, Scott Marchione, Joshua McCabe, Jon Morris, William Perry, Thomas Racicot, Matthew Robbins, Mark Scepanski, Steven Smith, Anthony Ziccardi

LOCAL 647 • MINNEAPOLIS

80 YEARS	Eugene E. Archambault
55 YEARS	Riley J. Jester, Russell J. Mehrman, Rex W. Novek, Lawrence F. Pruter, David E. Riley
50 YEARS	Gregory G. Anderson, Jay M. Arendt, Wayne M. Cooper, Michael J. Horsch, Mark S. Jackson, Charles P. Leimgruber, Archie R. Maki, Gerald L. Piatz, Mark W. Shape, Rolf M. Sondergaard, Carey V. Tribbett, Duane O. Willhelm
45 YEARS	Dan S. Cassidy, Wayne P. Goerger, Daniel Laplante, Randy P. Lewis, Michael R. Quinn, Timothy L. Schleicher, Eugene Skaj, Glenn R. Weismann
40 YEARS	Michael F. Engbrecht
35 YEARS	Dale D. Hollister
30 YEARS	Lyle Christianson, Roger Ellingson, Charles A. Leingang
25 YEARS	Dustin G. Johnson, Jeremiah J. Klein, Kevin R. Pellersels, Jamie L. Schauer, Dana M. Seil, Wayne J. Szczur, Luke A. Voigt
20 YEARS	Travis M. Lewis
15 YEARS	Wesley A. Fredrickson, Patrick F. Ryan

LOCAL 650 • LAKE CITY MN

45 YEARS	Brad Weberg
40 YEARS	Robert Bauer, Douglas Dick, David Diepenbrock, Norman Hager, Francis Halling, Monte Hurlburt, Larry Luhmann, Kris Nickelsen, Jeff Wettren
35 YEARS	Dale Adler, Jeffrey Heisler, Bryan Huffman, Thomas Loechler, Daniel Pearson
30 YEARS	Shawn Bauer, Pamela Breuer, Chad Briggs, James Heitman, Mark Kent, Tim Klein, Scott Markham, Duane Miller, Bruce Mounts, Nate Nickelsen, Kevin Norton, John O'Flaherty, John Schurhammer, Rick Solum, Lee Swanson, Karen Thorie
25 YEARS	Jake Flodquist, Svjetlan Milosavlevic, Jason Ohde, Daniel Walker
20 YEARS	Bruce Arens, Michael Berger, Brian Ebersold, Zvezdan Kurtaljevic, Harry Linscheid, Timothy Pote, Joseph Roemer, Ryan Sharp

LOCAL D480 • CHARLEVOIX MI

10 YEARS	Stephen Kretovic
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Local Lodge leaders can now submit service pins for fulfillment and inclusion in The Reporter online at boilermakers.org/leaders/resources/pins



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 Botkin, Gary L.	29 Labonville, Jacques R.	104 Gans, Terry E.	146 Nuur, Abdirasak A.
NTL Crockett, Randall	30 Edwards, Barry D.	104 Holcomb, Lamar V.	146 O'Donnell, Bruce
NTL Dolan, Clura F.	30 Kirkpatrick, Howard N.	104 Kim, Hyun T.	146 O'Donnell, Lee O.
NTL Goodbread Jr., Kenneth L.	30 Pennington, Donald G.	104 Lantz, Philippe E.	146 O'Donnell, Owen B.
NTL Hershman, Stephen W.	37 Clark, Morris J.	104 Mays, Joe B.	146 Penner, Brian E.
NTL Hillis, Johny W.	37 Governale Jr., Luca J.	104 McCormick, James H.	146 Wozny, Nick
NTL Kay, William O.	40 Lara, Joe G.	104 Seidl, Jerome G.	154 Bosco, Ronald D.
NTL Kirk, Carl M.	45 Brown Jr., Wilbur F.	105 Chambers, Kenneth P.	154 Carothers, Terry
NTL Lawson, Kenneth A.	45 Dowdy, Ryland B.	105 Couch, Leroy	154 Ieraci, Richard M.
NTL Phelps, Minot H.	45 Friend, Jody W.	105 Duvall, Rodney A.	154 Karenbauer, Michael L.
NTL Rowlett, Dale A.	45 Leshen, Theodore J.	105 Harra, David A.	154 Kolat, John E.
NTL Stewart, Bobby J.	45 Maggard, Richard J.	105 Holsinger, Roger A.	154 Wilbert, Robert C.
NTL Teems, Billy R.	45 Wyche, Milton	106 Davis, Wilkie O.	169 Bass, Stuart J.
NTL Wall, Norwood	69 Harrison Jr., Alfred C.	107 Madsen, Roy A.	169 Crispin, Gary L.
NTL Wilkerson, Dale F.	72 Delaney, Walter W.	107 Mays, Oliver	169 Frankhouse, Charles E.
1 Bartos, Richard S.	72 Groff, Charles L.	107 Williams, Thomas D.	169 Gapen, Terry L.
1 Haemker, Dwayne E.	72 Gutierrez, Genero	108 Ogle, Earnest B.	169 Gapen, Timothy G.
1 Nolan, David	73 Clannon, Thomas	108 Robeson, Dennis J.	169 McMullen, David H.
5 Bruck, Gerald R.	73 Glazier, Kenneth	109 Moncrief, William D.	169 Nelson, William E.
5 Cole, Robert J.	73 Murphy, Jacob J.	110 Harris, Adam E.	169 Pedrys, Gerald R.
5 Cullon, Robert F.	73 Poirier, Derek	112 Kinard, Alvin R.	169 Simkins, Roger L.
5 Moore, Lloyd A.	74 Howard, Loise L.	113 Brown, Modean	169 Valiquette, John R.
6 Cardana, Micheal T.	74 Wittge, Larry R.	117 Shunk, Frank E.	169 Vermeesch, Elijah L.
6 Cechanek, Miroslav	83 Lee, John C.	128 Blahut, Carl	174 Fenney, Vernon
6 Davis, Charles D.	83 Lentz, Larry L.	128 Brace, Harvey A.	193 Passmore, Thomas H.
6 Deleon, R.	83 Marshall, Kenneth A.	128 Burbine, Joe	193 Stadler, Thomas P.
6 Ferstl, Franz	83 Neblock, Harold J.	128 Rhude, Mark	199 Martin Jr., William W.
6 Gonzalez, Fidel A.	83 Potter Jr., James T.	128 Sereres, Brent R.	203 Flynn, Edward P.
6 Hall, Herbert C.	83 Stacey, Carl D.	128 Villeneuve, Marc	203 Ghaney, Richard M.
6 Hill Jr., Ernest E.	85 Kramer, Edward J.	132 Stewart Jr., Arnold W.	203 O'Toole, Timothy J.
6 Ledford, Donald E.	85 Navarre, Gale	146 Bennett, Dwight A.	204 Delima, Herbert
6 Lewis, Thomas E.	88 Brown, Ronald H.	146 Biro, Al	213 Novak, Jerome
6 Monroy, Jorge D.	88 Sheid, Samuel M.	146 Campbell, Kerwin C.	237 Lathrop, Charles R.
6 Pridmore, Joseph J.	92 Afalava, Erik E.	146 Castellarin, Davide	242 Ahrens, Ken W.
6 Rowe, Donald E.	92 Barker, Milton C.	146 Chapman, Roy W.	271 Guerin, Roger
6 Sellick, Robert R.	92 Bittle, Richard L.	146 Corbett, Daniel	271 McInnis, Daniel
7 Weishaar, Donald	92 Cisco, Doyle C.	146 Cubrilo, Mike M.	271 Rehel, Angelo
11 Roeber, Kevin R.	92 Guerrero, Mike S.	146 Desbiens, Real	271 Rehel, Jean M.
11 Wageman, Donald	92 Iacob, Nicolae	146 Doerntlein, Helmut	271 Sauriol, Marc
13 Deseta, Louis J.	92 Medearis, James R.	146 Dolhaine, Robert	357 Dziadosz, Kenneth
13 Hackling, George G.	92 Morris, William D.	146 Fitzgerald, Lawrence O.	359 Arthurs, James W.
13 Murphy, James F.	92 Ramsey, Steven K.	146 Fradette, Paul J.	359 Baird, Dennis J.
13 Sweeney, Steven J.	92 Todd, Kenneth G.	146 Kim, Chongto	359 Graff, William
13 Weber, Walter W.	101 Ferrell, Clayton A.	146 Klotz, Raymond	359 Kemkaran, Shaune A.
26 Miller, Gerald G.	101 Lawrence, John W.	146 Lambert, Kevin	359 Lainas, George
28 Brereton, Winford R.	101 Martin, Stephen H.	146 Larson, Gustof L.	359 Woods, Robert J.
28 Scully Jr., Leonard S.	104 Brill, Richard C.	146 Lust, Edwin R.	363 Davis, Howard J.
29 Arruda, James E.	104 Douglas, John L.	146 Nixon, Kenneth R.	363 Reinhardt, Anthony C.

IN MEMORIAM (continued from previous page)

363	Schmidt, M.	592	Dickson, Kenneth D.
363	Wallace, Eddy L.	592	Elliott, Jim L.
374	Aders, George E.	592	Rogers, Joe W.
374	Lollar, Ray T.	592	Williams, Billy D.
374	Meyer, David L.	614	Sostre, Benjamin
374	Revlett, Danny L.	627	Clark, Billy R.
374	Seaquist, William B.	627	Clark, Paul J.
433	Dasher, Stanley W.	627	Davis, Terry L.
433	Folds, Abner M.	627	Johnson, David L.
433	Green, Ruel B.	647	Johnson, Donald L.
433	Jones III, Paul E.	647	Karna, Steven W.
433	Kemman, James A.	647	Landeis, Edwin
433	Norris, Bennie L.	647	Layne, Gary F.
449	Lefevre, Randal E.	647	Maki, Archie R.
453	Hawkins, William T.	647	Rall, Albert E.
453	Rose, Zelma D.	647	Stewart, Ronald
453	Smith, Darrell G.	656	Barton, Roy G.
453	Taylor, Kevin W.	656	Milling, Charles L.
454	Brown Jr., Cecil L.	667	Casto, John B.
454	Harris, Sylvester	667	Eddy, Charles F.
454	Scannella, William D.	667	Jeffers, Jerry A.
454	Smith, Hunter B.	667	Templeton, Lowell T.
454	Vaughan, William K.	667	Tustin, Delmus N.
455	Bryan, William D.	696	Springer, David G.
455	Collier, Terry G.	696	Thomson, Cory J.
455	Estes, Mark J.	744	Budny, Raymond A.
455	Getty, Brian M.	744	Wagoner, Lewis A.
455	Mauldin, William L.	752	Edwards, George P.
456	Benton, David R.	802	Brown, Johnathan L.
487	Gasche, Glen W.	802	Clark, James
487	Worachek, Joseph V.	802	Strickland, Charles T.
500	Flannery, Thomas R.	802	Tolbert Jr., Mike
502	Burge, Bruce E.	807	Fennell, Delphin M.
502	Cervania, Danilo C.	900	Bibby, Charles E.
502	Dillon, Edgar W.	1212	Desousa, Candido A.
502	Hendrick, Rod W.	1212	Hernandez, S. F.
549	Brooks, Thomas L.	1234	Roche, John T.
549	Robinson, L. P.	1240	Brown, Charles E.
549	Ward, Keith B.	1600	Ybarra, John
555	Knight, Brian K.	1666	Ratliff, Warren D.
555	Koptie, Norman	1999	Ruffin, Clarence F.
555	Wagner, Thomas G.	2000	Daniels, Bruce
568	Crabb, Joseph A.	2000	Foster, Ronald J.
568	Lemaster, Richard P.	2000	Graddick, Don R.
582	Taylor, Gerald	2020	Thibodeaux, Ali M.
583	Blevins, J. C.	D357	Griffith II, Daniel L.
586	McGill, James E.	D486	Byle, Sid
590	West, Jeanette L.	S50	Rosenberger, Andra L.
592	Conley, Everett W.	S251	Spight, Donnie S.

A NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO UNION SECURITY CLAUSES

EMPLOYEES WORKING UNDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS CONTAINING UNION SECURITY CLAUSES are required, as a condition of employment, to pay either monthly dues or fees to the union. This is their only obligation to the union, regardless of the wording of the clauses. Individuals who are members of the Boilermakers pay monthly dues. Individuals who are not members pay fees.

These dues and fees, which are authorized by law, represent your fair share of sustaining the broad range of programs offered by the Boilermakers in support of you and your fellow workers. The most important job right you can have is the right to collective bargaining. The working conditions of all bargaining unit employees are improved immeasurably when the union gains higher wages, better health care and pensions, fairness in the disciplinary system, overtime pay, vacations, and many other improvements in working conditions at the bargaining table.

Because they negotiate together through their union, employees who are represented by a union typically receive higher wages and better benefits than nonunion workers doing similar jobs in the same industry. Strength in numbers is what makes this possible. The stronger your union, the better your contract. We urge all employees to participate and become part of your labor organization.

An objecting nonmember who is subject to a union security clause has a legal right to file objections to funding expenditures which are not germane to the collective bargaining process. Fee-paying nonmembers who choose to file such objections should advise the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in writing, in the form of a letter, signed by the objector, and sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, 12200 N. Ambassador Dr., Suite 303, Kansas City, MO 64163. The letter must contain the objector's home address and local lodge number, if known.

Upon receipt of the objection, the International President shall provide a description of the procedures to be followed. This objection must be filed every year during the month of November, or within the first 30 days in which the objector is required to pay dues or fees to the union, or within 30 days after the objector becomes a nonmember. Examples of expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for the negotiation, enforcement, and administration of collective bargaining agreements, meetings with employer and union representatives, proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, arbitration proceedings, servicing the bargaining units that we represent, internal union administration, and matters related to these activities.

Examples of expenditures not germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for political purposes, for general community service, for charitable activities, for non-worker-related legislative activities, for members-only benefits, and for certain affiliation costs.

In considering these matters, you should be aware that only members have the following rights:

- to vote on the terms of your collective bargaining agreement;
- to participate in the development of contract proposals;
- to nominate and vote for local union officers;
- to attend International conventions as a delegate;
- to participate in strike votes; and
- to numerous other benefits available only to members, such as those described above and qualified Union Plus programs.

It is clearly to your advantage to continue to be a full, active member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Only through unity and solidarity can we better our working conditions and reap benefits for ourselves and our families.

World War II forces unions into racial diversity

The American labor movement has a complex history when it comes to race and inclusion. While organized labor was racially and culturally diverse from the start, many individual unions were slow to integrate, much like the United States as a whole.

In the 19th Century, unions including the Boilermakers often reflected the ethnic makeup of local communities. Irish and Scottish workers were the primary members of the Boilermakers in its early years, followed by English, Germans and Italians, who rose to leadership positions. However, non-European workers and people of color faced significant barriers to membership.

In its early days, the American Federation of Labor attempted to combat racial discrimination, urging member unions to pledge against it. But racial tensions remained a challenge in some unions, reflecting the United States' general population.

When two Boilermaker groups—the Chicago Group and the Atlanta Group—merged in 1893, they adopted a constitution that restricted membership to white males. This move forced the union to leave the AFL. But not long after, the Boilermakers' stance began to change. In 1896 the union removed the word “white” from its membership requirements, leading to the union's re-admission into the AFL. Despite this shift, barriers remained for non-European workers. A constitutional clause stated members had to be from a “civilized country,” a vague requirement that effectively excluded Asian and African Americans.

Within the union, opinions on race were divided. In 1913, Booker T. Washington quoted a letter from Boilermakers International Secretary-Treasurer William J. Gilthorpe, who acknowledged that Black laborers he'd worked with in New Orleans were dedicated to the labor cause. Yet, he noted, the union's rules prevented their full inclusion. While Gilthorpe supported organizing Black workers, his advice went unheeded. The Boilermakers continued to exclude Black members until 1937.

Economic pressures during the 1930s began to shift the Boilermakers' stance. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's shipbuilding program required

increased labor, leading him to call for racial inclusion in unions to meet workforce demands. In response, Boilermakers at the 1937 convention voted to admit Black workers. The change came with a catch: Black members were placed in segregated auxiliary lodges, supervised by nearby white locals. This compromise allowed Black workers into the union but kept them in a separate, subordinate class.

Economic factors also played a role in the decision to accept Black members. The Boilermakers faced competition from the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, affiliated with the more inclusive Congress of Industrial Organizations. The CIO welcomed African Americans as equals, organizing workplaces including all job categories under one union. This posed a threat to AFL unions like the Boilermakers, which organized by craft and initially resisted integration.

The first non-white auxiliary local was established in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1938, and by the end of World War II, 44 auxiliary locals existed, mostly in shipyards. These lodges provided a foothold for Black workers to enter the skilled trades, but the struggle for true equality continued for decades as Boilermakers and other craft unions plodded to move from segregation to full integration, which reflected a broader change in American society. 🍷

In the next issue of The Boilermaker Reporter, read how Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practices Committee challenged auxiliary lodge practices.



In 1938, Boilermakers establish its first non-white auxiliary local in Nashville, Tennessee. By the end of World War II, 44 auxiliary locals existed, mostly in shipyards. Jene Brooks, front row, first on left, was a Black member of L-42 in Nashville.

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