**Canadians join the fight**

Local 580 members ready Canadian Navy ships for war on terrorism

AFTER THE SEPT. 11 terrorist attacks, members of Local 580, Halifax, Nova Scotia, went into action. Working at the Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) Cape Scott, where Local 580 represents 16% of the 600 tradespeople, our members provide first- and second-line maintenance to Canada’s East Coast Navy fleet.

When the FMF Cape Scott commanding officer received orders to prepare a naval task force, Operation APOLLO commenced immediately. The facility had ten days to prepare a high-readiness task force for deployment to the northern India Ocean/Arabian Gulf theatre of operation.

The first production and planning meeting took less than one day, and the company recalled work teams to ready the ships for departure.

Working without a detailed deployment plan, the task force began taking steps to become interoperable with the U.S. Navy battle groups already on station.

The East Coast Navy’s contribution consists of four HMC ships: the frigate, Charlottetown, Preserver, and the Halifax, which was already deployed in NATO duties. Fortunately, the FMF Cape Scott was well prepared to set the wheels in motion and to immediately ramp up productivity in support of the operation’s objectives.

During the next ten days, the FMF Cape Scott and its Boilermakers were put to the test. By all accounts, the results are impressive.

In a very short time, crews enhanced the ships with numerous critical mission fits. The ships successfully passed all trials.

The unit assumed a “24-7” posture; many personnel willingly worked extensive overtime to ensure maximum ship readiness in support of the Navy’s new mission. The FMF Cape Scott’s motto, “Our Purpose is to Serve,” was well demonstrated during this period. All personnel displayed a commendable level of commitment and professionalism.

FMF Cape Scott personnel worked an impressive 17,444 hours of regular time and 18,759 hours of overtime to prepare the ships for departure. Their Herculean effort enabled them to deliver three combat-ready ships within the deadline.

But their work did not stop there. Local 580 members were called to support the ships overseas, causing some members to endure hardships. Following one 22-hour flight to a European port, Local 580 members had only three hours of sleep before reporting to work onboard the ships. They put in long days to keep the ships in top fighting condition. And Boilermakers will continue to go overseas as long as these ships remain at the front.

Continued on page 3

**Tripartite conference goes high-tech**

Computers help prioritize issues, focus on what works

OWNERS, CONTRACTORS, AND Boilermakers explored new ground during the 16th annual Boilermaker National Tripartite Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Oct. 23-25. The Tripartite Conference has always been a hands-on working conference, where owners, contractors, and union members identify problems and work together to solve them. This year, they were assisted by representatives from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), who helped them run the largest-ever labor-management Technology Assisted Group Solutions (TAGS) program.

International Vice President Michael Murphy opened the meeting, pointing out that there is no other meeting like this one in the entire construction industry. International President Charles W. Jones spoke about a subject everyone’s mind: manpower and manpower shortages. He talked about the need to use the manpower we have to the fullest extent possible, along with our efforts to recruit new members and train new apprentices.

He praised Local 374, Hammond, Ind., and Local 4, Page, Ariz., for building new training centers.

Then FMCS Director Richard Barnes explained the TAGS system and what conference participants would be doing over the next two days. TAGS is a powerful network of Internet servers, mobile computers, and customized software that skilled FMCS mediators use to help groups solve problems, make and implement decisions, and conduct internal elections, remote meetings, and online surveys.

In Myrtle Beach, TAGS enabled Tripartite Conference participants to brainstorm by entering ideas into one of several computers connected to a larger computer in Washington, D.C. The larger computer stores the ideas and helps participants prioritize and weigh them. These computer-assisted brainstorming sessions have many advantages over traditional brainstorming sessions.

First, suggestions can be made anonymously. Words appear on the screen. No one knows who has entered them. Anonymity allows participants to say things they might not...

Continued on page 3
Congressional hopeful visits Local Lodge 4

Roger Hartstone hopes to sit in one of them. Hartstone, a 19-year resident of Flagstaff, Ariz., is running for election. This summer, he visited Navajo Nation communities to make a better life. Local 4 BM-ST Nate Begay: “He talked about health care, roads, and telephone service — issues that really need work in rural northern areas.”

THIRTY-FIVE STATES are facing budget shortfalls in 2001 or 2002. At least 30 of them are considering raising taxes or cutting services, neither one a good way to start a new recession.

What happened? Like Washington, states used the good years to cut taxes without preparing for the proverbial rainy day. Many of them relied on rosy economic forecasts, like the ones the Bush administration used last spring to campaign for its massive tax cut. Without preparing for the proverbial rainy day. What's worse, if Republicans succeed in their misguided plan to abolish the corporate alternative minimum tax, the repeal could cost states another $5 billion. The Democrats' stimulus plan takes another $2 billion from state coffers, but offsets the loss by contributing $5 billion to state Medicaid programs.

Unlike Congress, most state legislatures do not have the option of selling bonds to make ends meet. With the federal government trying to fight a war on terrorism and bail out industries hurt by the Sept. 11 attacks, using less revenue than they had last year, the states have nowhere to turn but to their taxpayers. For most Americans, all the Bush tax cut did was shift taxes from Washington to the states.

BOILERMAKERS IN PUBLIC OFFICE

L-1240’s Hecox is a town councilman

JOHN “CHIP” HECOX, a 23-year member of Local 1240, Walnut, Ind., is town councilman for the city of Lagro in Indiana.

Local 1240 Vice President Rob Haney reports that Hecox was elected in January 2000 to serve Lagro’s population of approximately 500 (about 188 families). Lagro is located 496 miles from Washington, D.C., and 76 miles as the crow flies from Indiana’s state capital.

Hecox, who also serves on the local’s receiving committee and as the lodge’s secretary-treasurer, is an employee of Walabant Alloys, where Local 1240 has represented employees since 1963.

Two L-903 members hold two jobs — boilermaking and public service

THOMAS E. HAMPTON and Billy Joe Wright Jr. not only put in full days as Boilermakers, but they each hold high positions in public office. Hampton, 52, a 26-year member of Local 903, West Point, Miss., is a judge of the Justice Court in Clay County. He was elected to office in 1999, and began his service in 2000.

Wright, 35, a 13-year member of Local 903, was elected in July 2001 to serve the Mantee mayor in Webster County. He had previously served this community as an alderman.

Ask your representatives to expand the U.S. Navy fleet

Local 524’s Terry Paris did, and he received two favorable replies

THE UNITED STATES has relied on naval forces for the past 225 years to defend freedoms we hold precious. But our ability to defend these freedoms is weakening as the size of the U.S. Navy fleet continues to shrink.

At the end of the Cold War, the Navy had nearly 600 ships. In 1987, the Navy’s fleet numbered 594 ships. Today, it numbers 313. Our military services are attempting to do more with less. This forces sailors to spend an increasing amount of time on alert at sea, wearing heavily on ships and aircraft and the men and women who operate them.

For years, the Boilermakers have been lobbying to increase the number of ships in the U.S. Navy fleet. During the Gulf War, the shortage became a grave concern as the U.S. had to rely on foreign ships manned with foreign crews.

Terry Paris, secretary-treasurer of Local 524 in East Chicago, Ind., recently asked two Indiana representatives to support the expansion of the U.S. Navy fleet. They each responded favorably.

Former vice president and presidential candidate Al Gore, second from right, meets with Boilermakers (l. to r.) Wade Davis, Eddie Whitefield, and Charles Brock.

Boilermakers talk with Al Gore in Tennessee

AL GORE, VICE PRESIDENT of the United States (1993-2001) under President Bill Clinton and the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party in the 2000 election, attended a get-together sponsored by the Marshall County

Democratic Party where he met with Boilermaker Intl. Representatives Wade Davis, Eddie Whitefield, and Charles Brock. While there, Gore extended his thanks to Marshall County and the Boilermakers for their support.

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Rep. Peter J. Visclosky (D-1st IN) and Senator Richard G. Lugar (R-IN) both told Paris that they support a strong naval defense. Rep. Visclosky serves on a National Security Subcommittee of the House Appropriation Committee. He and nine other representatives sent a letter on August 17 to President Bush asking him to expand the number of ships currently in the United States Navy fleet.

They urged Pres. Bush to ensure that his “defense review reflect the fundamental precept of command of the seas,” pointing out that “no fewer than 360 ships, comprising 15 aircraft carrier battle groups and corresponding amphibious ready groups, are needed to effectively perform our missions.”

Sen. Lugar, one of only 11 senators to have served in the Navy, told Paris that “we must approach defense spending with a clear eye on national security objectives, and fit our capabilities into a budget framework. Peace through strength is a proven concept that should not be abandoned, and we cannot cut corners in gaining that strength.”

Join Paris in contacting your senators and represent. Ask them to support the rebuilding of the U.S. Navy fleet.
Tripartite goes high-tech with FMCS’ new TAGS

Continued from page 1

say in an ordinary meeting, where everyone will know who is talking. At past tripartite conferences, partie

ipts broke up into three groups — owners, contractors, and Boilermakers — for their brainstorming sessions. These ideas were then brought back to the general meeting for discussion. The anonymity of the TAGS pro-

gram allowed representatives from all three groups to brainstorm on the same subject at the same time. Immediate interaction helped move the discussion along more rapidly, so more ideas were advanced. Another advantage is that the com-

puter captures all of the ideas. In a normal session, ideas get lost in the flow of conversation. With TAGS, there is a concrete record of every sug-

gestion made.

TAGS also facilitates rapid prioritizing of suggestions. When a suggestion is made, other participants are able to read it and indicate whether they sup-

port immediate action on the sugges-

tion and whether they believe it can be accomplished with present resources. At the end of the session, participants can tally the total number of votes for each idea and get a snapshot of how other participants feel about each of the suggestions.

Brainstorming sessions were offered on six subjects: absenteeism, gainshar-

ing, recruitment, outage scheduling, project management, and respect in the workplace. Predetermined groups of individuals from each of the three communities were represented at the meet-

ing. The participants met in designated rooms and discussed the designated topic. Several FMCS com-

mittee members helped participants work through the TAGS program. At the end of the second day, the preliminary results of the sessions were shared with the full group. Arrangements have been made to make the final report available on the FMCS website. When the TAGS session was complet-

ed, Director Barnes surprised the entire assembly by pointing out that they had just taken part in the largest labor-management-TAGS session ever conducted. “But what we did this week is not enough,” he said. “You must use it and put it to work.” Barnes then announced that FMCS has prepared to give the Boilermakers a $750,000 grant to help us continue the group solutions process. The Boilermakers will only be required to match one-tenth of that amount.

Tripartite committee report

TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE Chairman Thomas H. O’Connor Jr. reported on the actions of the committee and the current state of our industries. He said that manpower shortages are worse this year than last year and that promise to get better in 2002. The increased need for workers is now using many of our Canadian members on U.S. projects, and we’ve begun to bring in Australian Boilermakers. However, our temporary visa work pro-

gram is experiencing a little difficulty because Immigration and Naturalization Services has been taking longer to clear candidates under the Bush administration.

He stressed the need to provide clean, comfortable facilities for workers. MOST is now refusing to do onsite drug testing in locations where the Boilermaker does not have a clean, comfortable, private location in which to give his or her sample.

He also discussed attendance poli-

cies, saying that contractors must enforce the policies already on the books.

Mixed news for wage earners

RECENT ECONOMIC indicators have verified that the economy has been in recession since March. That comes as no surprise to the hundreds of thou-
sands of workers laid off each month — more than any time since 1980. Unem-
ployment has reached 5.7 percent.

The Sept. 11 attacks are responsible for some of the layoffs in September and October, but unemployment had been trending upward all year. In the third quarter of 2001, total hours worked dropped 3.6 percent, the largest one-quarter drop since Presi-
dent Bush’s father was president.

Although most union-negotiated con-

tracts show higher wage increases over last year’s contracts, those in the manu-

facturing sector did not. The Bureau of National Affairs reports that in the first 46 weeks of 2001, the weighted average first-year wage increase in newly negoti-

ated contracts was 4.3 percent, com-

pared to 3.9 percent in 2000.

However, the weighted average increase in the manufacturing industry was only 3.1 percent, compared with 3.2 percent in 2000. Nonmanufacturing contracts showed a weighted average gain of 4.3 percent.

L-580 members prepare Canada’s ships for war

Continued from page 1

Local 580 members prepare Canada’s ships for war

Local 580 members, Jack Canning (l.), a welder, and plateer Lloyd Cave, work top side on one of three Canadian ships they are preparing for combat.

THE NEWS FROM Congress is both good and bad. They passed bills which will reform the railroad retirement sys-

The Tripartite goes high-tech with FMCS’ new TAGS.
New program helps former atomic weapons workers

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS suffering from illnesses contracted as a result of working at an atomic weapons facility may be eligible for compensation through a law passed under the Clinton administration, which became effective July 31, 2001. The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) provides a lump-sum payment of $75,000 plus medical benefits for life to any worker who qualifies.

Members of covered employees are eligible for a lump-sum payment of $150,000. Persons already found eligible for benefits under the Radiation and Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) may receive smaller lump-sum payments and medical benefits.

To qualify for the program, a person must have worked at a Department of Energy (DOE) facility as an employee, contractor, or subcontractor, or with an Atomic Weapons Facility (a privately owned company under contract to the DOE). If radioactive material was processed, or with a company under a DOE contract and designated as a berley inender.

The act sets up two distinct programs. A medical program handles workers suffering from chronic beryllium disease, beryllium sensitivity, chronic silicosis, and radiation-related cancer. An estimated 27 percent of Americans will develop cancer sometime in their lives.

Workers with other diseases are covered by a program which helps them file claims with their state workers’ compensation program. It is impossible to list all illnesses covered by this program, but they could include asbestosis, liver disease, nervous system disorders, non-cancerous respiratory or kidney disease, heavy metal poisoning, and reproductive disorders. The illness most frequently filed for is asbestosis.

Some illnesses NOT covered under most state programs are hearing loss, carpal tunnel syndrome, and lower back pain.

How to File a Claim

IF YOU’VE BEEN diagnosed with a toxic illness, contact the nearest Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center from the list given at right for free assistance in filing your claim. You may be eligible for a free screening through the DOE’s Building Trades Medical Screening program. Phone (800) 966-9663 for information.

Manitowoc lands new contracts

Members of Locals 696, 449 to build icebreaker, ferries, and dump scow

THE MANITOWOC MARINE Group of the Manitowoc Company, Inc. has been awarded contracts totaling $306.8 million for the construction of three ferries, one dump scow, and an icebreaker built for Majesty.

Members of Local 696, Marinetown, Wis., at Marinetown, Marine will build an $82 million icebreaker built for the U.S. Coast Guard.

“The Boilermakers are indebted to Wisconsin Congressman David R. Obey for his commitment to this project,” said Shipbuilding and Marine Director Andre Abbott. “Obey and other House and Senate members fought tirelessly for this new vessel, which will replace the aging Cutter Mackinaw, built in 1944.”

James J. Driscoll, marketing manager for the Manitowoc Marine Group, said, “The skills and dedication of our workers enabled us to make the winning bid.”

The contract will provide work for Local 696 members through the year 2005. The vessel will be used to maintain shipping lanes, break ice, and conduct search and rescue missions.

Manitowoc was also awarded a $120 million contract to build three ferries, capable of transporting 4,400 passengers and 30 vehicles. Local 696 members will build these vessels, which will provide year-round transportation between Staten Island and Manhattan.

Members of Local 449, Sycamore Bay, Wis., will build a 7,100-cubic-yard, split-bulk dump scow at Bay Shipbuilding for Great Lakes Dredge & Dock. The $4.8 million scow will transport dredging, garbage, and other offsite material.

Marinette Marine, a division of the Manitowoc Company, has designed and constructed boats, ships, and cutters for over 50 years. Local 69, chartered in 1953, has represented Marinette Marine employees since 1953. Local 449, chartered in 1942, has represented employees of Bay Shipbuilding since 1948.
Legislative Director Ande Abbott explains:

I AM THE PERSON who recommends candidates for each and every seat. Will Rogers once said there are two things the American public does not want to know: how sausage is made and how legislation is enacted. Having spent ten years on a farm and 22 years in Washington, I agree.

Before I recommend a candidate, I look not only at his or her voting record, but also at whether the candidate is accessible and willing to help us when the chips are down. I also have to ask whether the candidate has a realistic chance of winning.

Trent Lott fails the first test. He is right wing, and it is true that he derailed the Railroad Retirement bill last year. But he is always accessible when I want to talk about matters that affect the jobs of our members in Mississippi.

Our members in Mississippi are in three areas. Members of Local 693, Pascagoula, work at Ingalls Shipbuilding, the largest employer in Mississippi. Members of Local 1063, West Point, work at a Babcock & Wilcox plant. Construction Local 110 is in Hattiesburg.

A few years ago, I got a call from Local 903 President Robert Shafter, who told me that his plant with 550 workers was about to be closed and sent to a foreign country.

I went to see Newton Jones and I went to Trent Lott to explain the situation and ask for help. Senator Lott immediately contacted Babcock & Wilcox on our behalf. Shortly after that, they decided not to close the plant and keep 550 Boilermaker shipbuilders.

In my 22 years in Washington, I had never before seen a senator use his power to save jobs in the way that Senator Lott did in that case.

I have worked for our members in Ingalls Shipbuilding. Trent always comes through. He has helped us keep thousands of Boilermaker shipbuilding jobs.

When we were fighting the OECD Shipbuilding Subsidy Agreement, which would kill America’s shipbuilding base, Trent Lott kept the agreement off the floor of the Senate. He held it over for six years.

We would have always been able to speak directly to Senator Lott when it was important to our members in his state. We know that on national defense, ship building, and all the things that create jobs in Mississippi, he is our friend. On most other labor issues, he is terrible.

Bill Clinton didn’t do me any favors. He raised the capital gains tax rate to a level where I couldn’t live to be old, because I might have a lot of wealth in the future.

Our member in Hattiesburg, Trent Lott, always comes through. He has helped us keep thousands of Boilermaker shipbuilding jobs. Trent always comes through. He has helped us keep thousands of Boilermaker shipbuilding jobs.
Local leaders attend University of Wisconsin School for Workers

44th annual summer training institutes draw 35 local lodge leaders

SUMMERS ALWAYS SEEM hectic, but the summer of 2001 was especially eventful as the International held its 30th Consolidated Convention. But it wasn’t too busy for some local lodge leaders who jumped at the chance to attend the International’s 44th annual summer training institutes. Held at the University of Wisconsin School for Workers in Madison, Wis., these classes provide a wealth of important knowledge and skills to help local lodge officers and stewards serve their members.

Twenty-one members participated in the Basic Institute, August 12-17; eight members attended the Advanced Institute, August 19-24; and six members from construction locals also attended the Construction Institute, August 19-24.

Each year, Basic Institute classes offer a week-long course of study on the principles of collective bargaining, contract administration and grievance handling, labor history, occupational safety and health, communications, public relations, and political action.

The Advanced Institute, for those individuals who have previously attended a Basic Institute, covers arbitration preparation and presentation, topics in collective bargaining, labor law, and political action.

The Construction Institute, designed specifically for construction lodge leaders, includes classes in basic and current developments in labor law affecting construction lodges and their members, construction-related safety and health issues, structures and operations of the Brotherhood, national health and welfare and pension funds, the MOST programs, and structure and services of the Construction Division and the International Brotherhood.

Instructors include professors from the School for Workers, International Brotherhood staff members, and representatives from the national funds office. Classes are held at the Frederick Center on the shore of Lake Mendota at the University of Wisconsin. Attendees listen to lectures, view training films, participate in class discussions, and role-play various parts of the grievance and arbitration procedures.

Members attending the Basic Institute, August 12-17, included Scott Mor gan and Patrick Striker of Local 199, Youngstown, Ohio; James Blakewood Jr. of Local 26, Savannah, Ga.; Terence Garnett and Louis Canes of Local 5185, Baltimore, Md.; Todd Register and Richard Roller of Local 84, Fasco, Kan.; James Calouette and D. Frank Golden of Local 169, Detroit, Mich.; Paul Bahre and William Jenkins of Local 5185, Belleville, Ill.; Earlene Meneskie of Local 374, Hammond, Ind.; Ed Doyen and Richard Wagner of Local 696, Marinette, Wis.; Andre’ del C. Grange, Billy A. Leavell, James F. Rose, and Edward S. Zoucha of Local 900, Barberton, Ohio; Angelo Argenti Jr. and Robert Cottos of Local 1704, Euclid, Ohio; and Christopher Burnett of Local 181, Bridge City, La.

Those attending the Advanced Institute, August 19-24, included Thomas Klein of Local 5, New York City, N.Y.; Paul LeFebvre of Local 26, Savannah, Ga.; Mitch Mitchell and William (Jeff) Williams of Local 5185, Belleville, Ill.; Omer Williams of Local 482, Wood River, Ill.; Richard Genesee and Louis Neatfield of Local 696, Marinette, Wis.; and Steven Holt of Local 1299, Aurora, Ill.

Those attending the Construction Institute included Paul Kern of Local 105, Chillicothe, Ohio; Terry Merritt and Jimmie Westbrook of Local 110, Hattiesburg, Miss.; Terry Duzan and Joe Esparza of Local 374, Hammond, Ind.; and Randy Robbins of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash.

For more information on training programs sponsored by the International, contact the Research and Collective Bargaining Services department at International headquarters.

Southeast Area holds apprentice competition

Competing for the Paul D. Wedge Award at the 33rd annual Outstanding Apprentice Competition of the Southeast Area, are, from left to right, Michael W. Smith of Local 112, Mobile, Ala.; Cecil L. Wilkes of Local 199, Savannah, Ga.; K. Alan Biddle of Local 40, Charleston, W. Va.; Michael L. McCoy of Local 667, Jacksonville, Fla.; and John L. Barker of Local 108, Birmingham, Ala.; Charles W. Riviere of Local 112, Mobile, Ala.; Cecil L. Wilkes of Local 199, Jacksonville, Fla.; James L. Vance of Local 455, Sheffield, Ala.; and Michael L. McCoy of Local 667, Charleston, W. Va.

L-40’s Biddle and L-667’s McCoy win area contest

During the week of August 13-16, 2001, eight apprentices in the Southeast Area Apprenticeship Program competed for the Paul D. Wedge Memorial Award and the honor of representing the Southeast Area in the national apprentice competition.

Competing were Michael S. Wilkes of Local 26, Savannah, Ga.; K. Alan Biddle of Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky.; Michael W. Smith of Local 73, Houston, Texas; and John L. Barker of Local 108, Birmingham, Ala.; Charles W. Riviere of Local 112, Mobile, Ala.; Cecil L. Wilkes of Local 199, Jacksonville, Fla.; James L. Vance of Local 455, Sheffield, Ala.; and Michael L. McCoy of Local 667, Charleston, W. Va.
Buckeye Council leaders learn about workers’ comp.

THE BUCKEYE Industrial Council held its 113th annual conference at its headquarters in Canton, Ohio, on Oct. 27. This year’s meeting had a dual focus: workers’ compensation laws and no-fault attendance policies. Mike Orlando (L-106, Cincinnati) reviewed recent changes in Ohio’s workers’ compensation law. Council Bus. Rep. Ron Lyon explained recent arbitration rulings regarding no-fault attendance policies. The council’s leadership committee spoke about the union label and legislative and education programs. The committee includes L-1911 Sec.-Treas. Terry Heiser, L-1073 Pres. Jeff Beitel, and L-908 Pres. Vernon Persons. The council’s Steven A. Jewell Achievement Award for outstanding service was presented to L-1086 Pres. Richard Pigon, L-1086 Sec.-Treas. Scott Croft, L-1664 Pres. Mark McCloskey, and L-1702 Sec.-Treas. Chris Herderick. Locals 106, 744, 908, 1073, 1086, 1191, 1603, 1664, 1666, 1702, and 1794 are all members of the council, which was created to provide training and support for Ohio locals.

Tennessee Council lodge leaders learn about records

OFFICERS OF LOCAL lodges in the Tennessee Volunteers Industrial Council attended a training session in Franklin, Tenn., on Dec. 1, 2001. The subject was record keeping, a topic that isn’t too exciting, but which is essential knowledge for every local lodge officer. Bryan King, internal auditor, and William Parker, an investigator for the Department of Labor’s Tennessee office, explained the legal obligations local lodge officers have, how to complete forms required by the International and the Department of Labor, and how to conduct an audit. Parker stressed the importance of conducting a thorough audit, citing recent examples of local lodges that had been seriously harmed by embezzlement.

Members attend foreman and leadership training in Salt Lake

UNDER THE DIRECTION of Daniel Evett, national coordinator of the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program (BNAP), BNAP instructors Perry Underwood and L. Dwain Smith conducted the five-day seminar. The curriculum emphasized the construction Boilermakers’ role in completing projects on time and under budget. The instructors provided valuable information to help attendees improve their technical, human relations, and communication skills. Participants worked hard, putting in long hours — evidence of their commitment to being the best that they can be.

Support the National Archives

GIFTS FEATURING THE Boilermaker Reporter logo are being offered as a fundraiser for the Boilermakers National Archives. For donating as little as $2, you can receive your choice of three different style window decals. Each three-inch circle decal features a building in the center with the word “Boilermakers” at the top. Language choices at the bottom of the decal include Dann Straight, Do It Right, or Solidarity Forever. For $5 you can receive three decals of your choice. For a $15 donation, you can choose a man’s or woman’s souvenir watch with a black leather band as your gift. For a $20 donation, you can receive a tervinich wall clock (needs batteries).

For a $30 donation, you can receive a men’s sports watch, featuring a stainless steel band. For a $50 donation, you can choose a man’s or woman’s dress watch, featuring a gold coin-decim emblem face. For a $75 donation, you can receive a man’s or woman’s dress watch, featuring a gold coin-decim emblem face. The face of each watch style and clock features the Boilermaker Reporter logo. You may increase your donation and receive more than one gift. For example, you can donate $55 and receive three decals of your choice, a wall clock, and a man’s sports watch. Only U.S. funds can be accepted. Please make checks or money orders payable to the Boilermakers Archives.

The Boilermaker Reporter

http://www.wwll.org
Engineering magazine selects three job sites for their pioneering efforts

All three award-sites employ Boilermakers!

Doing the job right the first time, on time, and safely — the Boilermaker Advantage — has earned three powerplants national recognition in 2001.

This is the 25th year that the editorial staff of Power, a magazine published by the McGraw-Hill Companies, has presented their annual powerplant awards to job sites applying advanced equipment designs, environmental stewardship, and competitive business practices. This year, all three 2001 Powerplant Awards went to sites employing members of the Boilermakers union.

The 500-megawatt gas-fired Klamath cogeneration project in Oregon earned a 2001 Powerplant Award for building a station with “features that have local residents and environmental groups cheering.” Located in the jurisdiction of Local 500, headquartered in Portland, Ore., the new station earned recognition with its resident-backing development, energy-efficient design, and rapid construction. “It provides a model for genuine, well-engineered solutions to today’s politically-created crisis,” wrote Robert Swanekamp, Power editor-in-chief.

Local 500 BM-ST Steve Nelson “attributes the success of this project to the ‘can do’ spirit of the Boilermakers in Local 500, and the support of our surrounding locals, as well as project manager Clint Wins’ treatment of organized labor as partners rather than as employees.”

The second 2001 Powerplant Award went to Dominion Energy for its 1200-megawatt coal-fired Kilkaid station. Located in the jurisdiction of Local 500, and the support of our surrounding locals, as well as project manager Clint Wins’ treatment of organized labor as partners rather than as employees.

The high-efficiency steam turbine at the Klamath cogeneration project in Oregon, features advanced blading. The blades are 40-inches long and are twisted, bent, and curved for optimum aerodynamics.

L-647 apprentice training facility holds its first classes

The first year at Local 647's new facility in Ramsey, Minn. Previously all apprentices were trained at the Boilermakers National Apprentice Program training center in Kansas City, Kan.

The local's new training center was completed in the spring of 2001. The first classes were held in June. Local 647 has jurisdiction for three states.

Apprentices from North and South Dakota take classes at the Bismarck Community College in Bismarck, N.D. Minnesota apprentices train at the new facility in Ramsey. Currently, Local 647 has 85 apprentices, with 37 finishing their first year. Twenty-two were trained by instructor Terry Curt in Bismarck, and 15 studied under instructors Brian Longhery and Kory Olson in Ramsey. They begin their second year of classes in January 2002.
Boilermakers on the job

Members of Local 359 tell what it means to be a Boilermaker — the good, the bad, and the ugly

They work away from home most of the time, in tight and awkward places, in the heat and cold, on a job they know will lay them off in a few weeks or months.

They’re construction boilermakers. And this brief profile of Local 359 members (Vancouver, B.C.) barely begins to tell their story.

Have card, will travel

LODGE 359 HAS 1,100 MEMBERS. About 800 are fitters, riggers, and pressure welders, 127 are apprentices, and the rest work in shops. Most of their work comes from the province’s 24 pulp mills.

“As the pulp mills expand, renovate, or close, that’s how we go,” said business representative Bob Banish.

When mills shut down for maintenance, they lose income, so some mill owners have been moving toward one annual shutdown rather than two. Emergency repair work is on the rise.

“They’ve got 25 emergency shutdowns in the past two months,” Local 359 Business Manager Carl Ellsworth said.

Dispatcher Rob McCormack is expected to pull together a highly-skilled crew, sometimes 100 at a time, ready to work within a few hours at mills scattered around the province.

“But that’s where we shine,” said Ellsworth. “It doesn’t matter where you live, because you’re always out of town.” And often in a hurry.

Pat McGurk, a boilermaker for 11 years, said he was participating in a curling bonspiel in Abbotsford one evening when he got a call on his cell phone about a job at a mill in Kamloops, 400 kilometers (250 miles) away. “When do I have to be there?” he asked. “I don’t have to be there, they said. ‘Tomorrow,’ “

He finished his game, got four hours sleep, and was on the job at seven the next morning.

“I left my family at the drop of a hat for those people,” he said.

Cindy Garbe said, “I’ve been on a plane and in (Prince) Rupert ready to work 15 minutes later. But it’s hard to get a babysitter.”

The travel takes a toll on their families and social lives as well. It’s difficult to join a sports team or sign up for a night school class with their unpredictable work schedule. “You have to have an understanding wife,” said Al Renneby.

Boilermakers are ready to work long shifts, many days at a time.

Boilermaker’s ticket is recognized across Canada.

Once they are on the job, Boilermakers never know what they might find. A crew of six was called in February to repair a small leak in a boiler. As is usually the case, they arrived on site with their work boots, tape measures, and expertise, said Lance Collins, a boilermaker and manager for Lockheedin Industries. Everything else is supplied.

They found a one-centimeter (one-third inch) hole in the boiler.

“But a small hole is a major leak,” said Dale Schultz, a boilermaker for 28 years. Further inspection revealed numerous potential leaks. The steel tubing, installed during the mid-1960s when the plant was built, needed to be replaced. Repairs required 5,000 meters of new tubing that had to be ordered from the United States.

Additional calls were made to the dispatcher, and within a few days, 100 boilermakers were on site.

Then one of them became suspicious about the material they were removing. Tests showed it was asbestos. Boilermakers quickly evacuated the area and turned the work over to asbestos workers. Because the asbestos particles were airborne, the entire building had to be evacuated and washed down.

“But you’ve got to give this mill credit,” said Schultz. “Our owners have spent millions of dollars trying to remove as much asbestos as possible, and paid $200,000 a day to cover the work for the people called in for the shut down.”

Boilermakers often work in tight spaces and awkward settings.

Collins said, “Boilermaker welders have to be able to weld with their right hand and with their left hand, (looking) with just one eye, and upside down.”

“Welders often must crawl into cramped spaces as small as 40 cm wide to weld a tube. It’s hard on the body going in and out of some of these places,” said Renneby.

“We go through more contortions than Hou7ini every day,” added Lee Crowder. After a weld is complete, it’s x-rayed to ensure there are no leaks. He said he’s often heard the x-rayers say, “I can’t get in there to do the x-ray. I don’t know how you got in there to weld it.”

Riggers and fitters have their challenges, too, said Jim Main, shop steward and at the Burrard Thermal Generating Plant. Main comes from a long line of boilermakers. His great grandfather helped build the Queen Mary.

He explained that rigging requires a good knowledge of angles, weights, and breaking strengths. “Riggers work kinked angles, down and around equipment,” added Schultz.

Fitters are required to position steel sections to within one millimeter to ensure a solid weld. Often they’re trying to arrange the fittings in a hectic environment with rigging and welders going on all around them.

Safety is the biggest concern

EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS, FALLS from heights, and eye injuries are the most serious safety concerns. And there’s still plenty of asbestos around.

“If you’re a boilermaker, you don’t have to prove you’ve been exposed to asbestos,” said Ellsworth. “It’s a given.”

Knowledge about safety has had the biggest impact on the trade, Main said. Old-timers tell of being exposed to chlorine gas and running out into the fresh air while coughing up blood. Management didn’t care. “It clears out your sinuses,” one supervisor scoffed.

Wearing safety harnesses is also an important consideration. Main was working at the Port Mellon mill when a boilermaker fell 300 feet to his death. “It was pretty shocking,” he said.

Before training programs were introduced in the mid-1960s, the lodge was seeing the death of one apprentice a year.

Wouldn’t trade it for the world

BOILERMAKERS MAY COMPLAIN at times, but they take pride in being the elite craft in industrial construction. They come into the trade because it’s a challenging job with potential for good money and travel.

McGurk was working in sawmill construction and heard people say what good workers boilermakers were. “I got thinking about it,” he said. “If foremen were raving about them, maybe that was a next step for me.”

Ellsworth is confident about the future of the trade because of its close ties to energy production. “We’re going to do okay. Are they going to close down power generating units with all the talk of power shortages? The problem will be keeping them in B.C. when they have their pick of places to work.”

Leslie Dixon, Face-to-Face Communications, collaborated with the Tradetalk magazine in the production of this article.
IN CONSTRUCTION, more than 10,000 eye injuries each year force workers off the job. Construction has a much higher rate of eye injuries than any other industry.

The Hazards

NAILS, TINY PIECES of metal, splinters, and cut wire ends fly in the air. With cement, sawing, grinding, and chipping produce dust and grit. So does heavy machinery moving the site. The protection of welding arc can burn your eyes. If you are not careful, you can hurt your eyes or go blind.

Always wear goggles:

• If there is a lot of dust.
• For overhead work.
• Also wear a clear, plastic face shield for:
  • Work with chemicals or metals that are hot.
  • Grinding, chipping, or using a wire brush on welds.
  • Flying particles.
  • Sand-blasting (the respirator needed for sandblasting has a helmet with a strong shield).

OSHA says your employer must provide eye or face protection for:

• Flying particles that make it through your protective clothing.
• Arc — or reflections of the arc — in your eyes. Do not look at the weld — or reflections of the arc — in your eyes. Do not look at the weld.

What TO WEAR — Always wear goggles or safety glasses with side shields. If you use contact lenses, wear unvented goggles.

Filter lens shades for welding, flame cutting

THREE THINGS AFFECT the lens number you need:

1. Intensity of radiant energy produced by the work.
2. Background lighting (indoors or outdoor work).
3. Type of filter lens (standard or reflective)

Minimum standard lens shade number needed (you can always use a darker lens (number higher) than recommended)

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<tr>
<td>Flux core welding</td>
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</table>

* A reflective filter lens

Son of L-146 member designs and sells safety hats

While working as a boilermaker, Michael Hakchowki, a former member of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, designed his own safety hats to prevent injuries. His son, Michael Hakchowki Jr., who has been a Local 146 member in good standing since 1966. For more information, contact Hatch’s Safety Hats at 780 417-7547.

HAZARD ALERT

Eye injuries in construction

ADVERTENCIA DE PELIGRO

Lesiones en los ojos

Lentes de protección para soldar y cortar con soporte

TRES COSAS AFIJ ETAN el número de lentes que necesitará.
1. La intensidad de la energía radiante producida
2. La luz de fondo (en interiores o al aire libre)
3. El tipo de lente filtrante o especular

El número de protección mínima para las lentes antipolvo es el siguiente: para el uso en una lente más oscura (un número más alto).

Tres cosas afectan el número de lentes para el trabajo

Son los CLAVOS parcialmente de metal, las partículas, y las puntas de alambres que pueden saltar por el aire. Al mezclar cemento, serruchar, triturar y picar se produce polvo y grava. También la maquinaria pesada que se mueve de un lado a otro produce lo mismo. Los productos químicos y el arco de soldadura pueden quemar los ojos. Si no tiene cuidado, se puede lesionar o hasta quedar ciego.

Prorájase

QUÉ PONERSE — Siempre utilice gafas que tengan protección a los lados. Si usa lentes de contacto, use gafas de protección que no tengan lentes o espejos de ventilación.

Siempre utilice gafas:

• Si sabe que habrá mucho polvo o chispa
• Si tiene que trabajar mirando hacia arriba
• Use también una mascara de plástico

• Use siempre una mascarilla de plástico que le cubra la cara para el trabajo de químicos o metales que puedan dañar en la cara
• Protegerse de las partículas que puedan saltar por el aire
• Limpiar con chorro de arena (el residuo que quede sobre la cara debe limpiarlo con chorro de aire con una mascarilla fuerte)
• OSHA ordena que su empleador debe ofrecerle algo para los ojos y para la cara a fin de protegerse contra las partículas que saltan por el aire, el metal fundido, los productos químicos y la soldadura o radiación.

• Muchos antojos de protección (también llamados cristales inactivados o de cámara) cuestan menos de $10. Si usa lentes de contacto para ver, cualquier anteojo de protección que use tiene que estar bien encima o no puede hacer dar un par de antojos de protección que a la vez sean para ver. También puede adquirir antojos contra el empaño o humo. Es aconsejable que los antojos estén hechos de policarbonato. Los antojos deben estar marcados como Z87. ANSL, que es la indicación de antojos de seguridad establecida por el American National Standards Institute.

Si trabaja cerca de un sitio donde estén soldando o cinciendo DO: OSHA ordena que debe haber una pantalla a prueba de fuego alrededor del soldador para proteger a la demás gente. Sin protección, se puede quemar los ojos. No mire el arco de soldadura ni las reflexiones del arco a menos que tenga puesto un casco para soldar que tenga la misma lente del soldador. (Sirva colar la página)

LO QUE DEBE HACER

Use la ventilación del mismo sitio de trabajo o ventiladores que se llenan el humo y el polvo.

OSH A ordena que debe haber un lugar en el sitio de trabajo donde se pueda lavarse los ojos, en caso de que haya material dañino en el ambiente. Informese donde se puede lavarse el ojo.
Local 5 presents flag to New York Power Authority

HOPING TO AVOID the blackouts and price spikes California has experi-
enced, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) has added 11 small, clean tur-
bine generators at five sites in New York City, Long Island, and Brooklyn.
Completing the task within a nine-
month time frame, when the industry standard for installation of just one site is over two years, was considered impossible. But members of Local 5, New York City, N.Y., working with other craft unions, got the job done.

In a ceremony celebrating this tremendous accomplishment, Local 5 BM Jerry Connolly presented a U.S. flag to NYPA President Eugene Zeitmann. The flag had flown from the top of the Hellgate site’s exhaust stack in the Bronx, at what once was the largest powerhouse in the United States.

Apprentices use skills to benefit community

Apprentice class project yields benches with a view

Members of the Kansas City, Kan., Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Assoc. admired the benches in front of the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program’s (BNAP) office so much that they asked if they could get some. At first, the association was disappointed to learn that the benches had not been purchased, but made by BNAP training instruc-
tors. But they weren’t dis-
appointed for long.

Intl. President Charles W. Jones decided one of the apprentice classes at the national training center could make the benches as a class project. Not only would the class be putting their fabrication and weld-
ing skills to the test, but they would also learn that these skills can benefit the community.

Carole Diehl, president of the neigh-
borhood association, was ecstatic since she heard President Jones’ idea. When the benches were installed at St. John’s Park, located at the intersection of 46th and Ann Avenue in Kansas City, Kan., not only was she impressed by the craftsmanship, but by the weight of the benches themselves. “My husband said the benches were the heaviest and strongest he’d ever seen,” she said.

Made of steel and steel mesh, each bench is painted black and measures eight-feet wide, with a two-foot back and a two-foot seating depth. “Many people enjoy the benches and eat their lunches here every day. It is so nice to drive by and see people enjoying the weather and the park again,” the view from there is beautiful,” said Diehl.
Local P3 honors young hero

PEP MEMBERS OFTEN save lives. But when someone in the community does it, they deserve recognition. Especially when that person is only five years old.

That’s why Local P3, Owensboro, Ky., presented an award plaque and toy ambulance to five-year-old Jordan Epley for saving his brother’s life.

When the 17-month-old boy fell into a swimming pool while his mother was using the restroom, Jordan pulled him out and gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. When Jennifer Epley returned, she saw Jordan sitting on Aaron and pushing on his chest. Aaron was taken to Owensboro Mercy Health System and later flown to Louisville’s Kosair Children’s Hospital. He is fine today.

When asked how he knew what to do, Jordan simply said he learned CPR by watching TV.

Source: Lydia Carrico, Messenger-Inquirer

L-500 burns their mortgage

WHEN YOU ERASE a debt, you feel good. So when Local 500, Portland, Ore., made their last payment on the mortgage to their union hall, they celebrated by burning the document in public at their annual picnic, August 12.

L-500 Pres. Darin McCarthy and retiree Matt Haggerty did the honors. Haggerty holds the oldest registration number of any living Local 500 retiree. On August 25, 2001, he completed 60 years of continuous union membership. Haggerty joined Local 72 in 1941, and transferred his membership to L-500 when it was chartered as a construction and maintenance lodge in 1984.

Members tour headquarters

WHETHER IT’S A JOB nearby or a vacation trip through the Midwest, when Boilermakers come to Kansas City, they like to visit International headquarters. And when they do, they often get a chance to talk to Intl. President Charles W. Jones.

Above, Boilermakers from Local 359, Vancouver, Canada, and Local 107, Milwaukee, Wis., meet with Jones while in town working at the Hawthorne and Lacygne power plants. Below, a family vacation brought Larry Seaberg, left, and his son, Erik, to Kansas City. Larry has been a member of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash., since 1967; Eric just signed up to become a Boilermaker apprentice.

Yellow Ambulance honors two Local P3 members

EACH YEAR, employees of Yellow Ambulance Service in Owensboro, Ky., choose an emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic to receive the company’s coveted EMT and paramedic of the year awards.

This year, both award recipients are members of Local P3, Owensboro, Ky. Dennis Wade, Local P3 trustee and steward, is EMT of the year. “Dennis has been in emergency medical services for 15 years,” reported Local P3 President Kay Phillips. “He has been a great asset for Local P3.”

Paul Preston, a Local P3 steward who also has 15 years experience in emergency medical services, is paramedic of the year. “Paul teaches paramedic classes and helps with the education of Owensboro and Davies County emergency medical service employees,” said Phillips.

Dennis Wade, l., is Yellow’s EMT of the Year; Paul Preston is Paramedic of the Year. Photo by Gary Ermer-Natley Messenger-Inquirer

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Cemeteries dig deep for profits

UNLIKE FUNERAL HOMES, cemeteries are not regulated by federal law and are only lightly regulated by the states. As a result, cemetery fees in some areas have increased 300 to 500 percent. Even the day or time of day of the burial can add to burial costs. Some cemeteries charge a hefty fee for burials that are not held between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on a week day.

Lack of regulations also results in “surprise” expenses. According to a survey by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), some 41 percent of burial arrangements do not include a grave liner or vault, and written price lists are not given to one in three people who shop for burial plots. At the worst possible time, some families discover there are additional funeral costs.

Those who have already purchased burial plots may not be aware that their plot purchase price did not include a grave liner or burial vault, which can cost anywhere from $500 to several thousand dollars, and the price of opening and closing the grave, which takes only a few minutes, can run you more than $1,000.

The best way to protect yourself is to ask a lot of questions and demand that all costs be disclosed before you sign a contract. And read the fine print!

L-158 retiree hits the streets to celebrate Labor Day

ALICE HARDER RAGAN, a retired member of Local 158, Peoria, Ill., showed her union pride by participating in the Peoria Labor Day parade. Wearing her welding helmet, gloves, and jacket, she walked in the parade with a Local 158 banner on her back. Ragan joined Local 158 in 1974. She retired in 1996, at the age of 78, from Komatsu Doosan Mining Systems, Inc, where Local 158 has represented employees since 1941.

Taylor retirees now number four

JOE MEREDITH, who served the International as rep., assistant to the Intl. president, and director of the Construction Division, received one of his retirement gifts in November, just ten months after his January 2001 retirement.

Some gifts are worth the wait. That’s what International President Charles W. Jones told Joe upon presenting him with tools made by the Bridge City Tool Works Company. “We were told there were people who had been on the waiting list for over a year, so we were lucky to get these tools now,” said Jones.

A gift from Joe’s International staff friends, the tools are made with rosewood and brass trim and have Joe’s initials engraved on each piece: an angle bevel, a combination square, a level, and a plumb bob.

Joe was impressed by the gift, but couldn’t see himself using them on the job. “These are just too nice to use,” said Joe, who helps at his son’s cabinet business. Asked how he is enjoying his retirement, he joked: “The hours are longer and my boss is real strict.”

At least we think he was joking.

Elite tools for elite man

Joe Meredith receives special-order tool set

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Taylor retirees now number four

JOHN SKERMONT, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, Ill., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following Local 1 members: 35 Years — Robert Watson; 30 Years — Edward Anderson, Timothy Barry, Mark Gustafson, Ronald Kowalski, Jack Ray; 25 Years — Eugene Forkin Ill.
## Death Benefits

The Death Benefit Plan under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the beneficiaries of the following deceased members who were covered by the plan since the last issue of our publication.

### Lodges & Name

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### Local 1252 Mourns Death of Charter Member

Local 1252 mourns the death of charter member John Hatfield.

John R. "DICK" HATFIELD, a charter member of Local 1252, Chicago Heights, Ill., passed away October 8, 2001. He was 65.

Hatfield helped organize Thrall Car Manufacturing Co. in 1965, which led to Local 1252's charter in that same year. He served as vice president for Local 1252, on the local's legislative committee, and as chairman of the lodge's bargaining committee.

He served as vice president for Local 1252, on the local's legislative committee, and as chairman of the lodge's bargaining committee.

Local 1252 retiree Ben Walker said, "John was the only one who knew every clause of the labor agreement we signed, and he never sacrificed a member's rights by making a bad contract." Walker said Hatfield was "a great family man, father, uncle, brother, and dedicated union man. He will be missed by all of us."
Union Privilege Program now offers education loans to union members

The Union Plus Education Loan program is designed exclusively for union members and their families.

UNION PRIVILEGE and Sallie Mae have partnered to provide educational assistance to union members and their families. The Union Plus Education Loan program is uniquely designed to save union members time and money, and provides financing for a range of education and training needs — customized to meet the needs of union members today.

Career Training Loans

CAREER TRAINING LOANS are available to students attending technical, trade, or professional schools, this loan is the perfect way to advance your career. You can also choose the repayment plan that works best for you. The application process is easy and quick.

College Loans

COLLEGE LOANS are available to students attending accredited colleges and universities at least half time. These loans — including Stafford, PLUS, and Signature loans — help you and your children pay for college tuition, books, fees, computers, and other education-related expenses.

Union Plus WiredScholar

THERE’S NOW A web site designed to help students figure out which college to attend and how to get there. This site also helps parents unravel the mystery of the college and financial aid application process. The Union Plus Wired-Scholar site is the Web’s premiere destination for getting a head start on preparing for the world of continuing education. Access it at http://unionprivilege.wiredscholar.com. There, you’ll find pointers on the entire “Go-to-College” process from preparation to getting loans.

WiredScholar also has interactive tools that enable you to analyze the affordability of schools and compare financial aid award letters. Union Plus and Sallie Mae brings this wealth of information and functionality to you… when you need it, when you want it.

Financial aid counseling is also available via a dedicated toll-free phone line. Call toll-free at 1-877-881-1022 to speak to a Union Plus Education Loan financial aid counselor, who is ready to answer your questions and guide you through the application process.

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www.unionprivilege.org
Want to stimulate the economy? Put money into the hands of consumers

Corporations tax giveaways won't rev up economy

In the Days and Weeks — new months — following the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have slowly gone back to their regular routine, trying to get back to that comfortable feeling of "business as usual." In Washington, however, concerns seem to have taken place more rapidly. Even with the anthrax threat, politicians went back to their old war of words. The debate now is who gets the tax giveaways.

In a matter of days, Congress had approved a $15 billion bailout for the airlines, an industry that donated millions to congressional candidates in the last election. That money would have been better spent improving passenger rail service. We are the only major-developed nation without a viable pas- senger railroad industry.

President Bush was among the first to use the tragedy to promote his political agenda. He began telling audiences that giving him fast-track trade author- ity would help defeat terrorism. He did not say how trade agreements could help him find bin Laden, but his strategy seems to have succeeded.

The fast track in the American flag. Bush owed just enough congressmen to get fast track approved by a vote of 215 to 214. Now U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick can negotiate NAFTA-style agreements without input from Congress or the people. All Congress can do is accept them or reject them.

Bush has said we need to give people money so they can spend it, but the stimulus package doesn’t do that.

President Bush made that very point himself in November: "The best way to stimulate demand is give people some money so they can spend it."

But even as he was speaking those words, his staff was lobbying Congress to make sure the stimulus package con- tained corporate tax cuts, most important- ly, repeal of the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

The AMT was created in the late 1980s to make sure that no matter how many ways loopholes a corporation used, it would have to pay at least a mini- mum tax on its profits. The AMT is not footloose, but it does account for some tax revenue. The stimulus plan not only does away with the AMT, but it refunds all the money these corpora- tions have paid because of it.

The AMT was designed to make sure that no matter how many ways loopholes a corporation used, it would have to pay at least a mini- mum tax on its profits. The AMT is not footloose, but it does account for some tax revenue. The stimulus plan not only does away with the AMT, but it refunds all the money these corpora- tions have paid because of it.

Many of the nation’s largest and most profitable corporations will get checks for hundreds of millions of dollars. What is most telling, though, is that a small group of medium-sized compa- nies will reap windfalls far out of pro- portion to their sizes. For example, General Motors, with 380,000 employ- ees, will get $800 million; TXU (formerly Dallas Power and Light), with only 16,000 employees, will get $600 million.

Other medium-sized companies stand- ing to rake in huge checks are Chevron Texaco, Enron, Phillips Petroleum, IMC Global, and CMS Energy.

What do all these lucky companies have in common? They are all in the energy or mining business, and they are all based in or near Texas.

In an editorial in the New York Times (Oct. 31), Paul Krugman said that to really understand legislation, you need to look for the part that gives something special to one-eyed bearded men with a limp. That is, you should look for spe- cial favors to select groups. In the stim- ulus package language, the one-eyed bearded man with a limp looks a lot like Dick Cheney or George W. Bush.

Bill Moyers, press secretary to former President Lyndon Johnson, said, “The predators of Washington are up to their old tricks in pursuit of private plunder at public expense.” In the wake of this awful tragedy wrought by terrorists, there were cashing in.

Using a national tragedy to promote tax breaks for your campaign contribu- tors seems to require a ruthless cynicism we can’t fathom. But the one part of their plan that might actually stimulate the economy requires even more cynicism. It asks workers to spend their pensions.

Less than $100 per month is just not what the union should be doing for members who become totally dis- abled. I think management needs to address this issue and not use the same arguments when you retire to deter- mine disability benefits. Let’s take bet- ter care of our members.

Ralph P. Slomian, L-696
Marinette, Wis.

Want to stimulate the economy? Put money into the hands of consumers

Letters to the Editors

Boilermakers think of less fortunate when traveling

During this season of giving, I wish to thank the members of Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) who work with my husband, Paul Liimatainen, at Suncor in Fort McMurray, Alberta, for their continued generosity during 2001. Several hundred miniature toiletries have been gathered and dispensed to inner city help agencies in the City of Edmonton. The members gather the toiletries, soap, shampoo, etc., during their prolonged stays in Fort McMurray and I eagerly carry them to the homeless and underprivileged utilizing these agencies. The members can be proud of their efforts while away from home in making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. I would hope this small gesture of kindness might spread around the membership of North America and benefit your local shelters as well. Thanks again to Paul’s great crew and let’s go for thousands in 2002!

Siwella Limatainen, wife of 24-year L-146 member Paul Limatainen

L-29’s McCarthy thankful for help of Canadian members

I know I can speak for all the foremen on the job and say “Thank You” to the Canadian Boilermakers for their hard work and dedication to union ideals. Also thanks to whoever is responsible for getting these guys their work visas. They have been indispensable during a severe manpower shortage. They are skilled craftsmen and hard workers, and I have made some new friends.

Stephen M. McCarthy, L-29

Weymouth Job

Editors Note: The Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training (MOS) office works with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to expedite certification for temporary workers (Boilermaker members) from Canada during manpower shortages.

L-154’s Littlejohn wants Americans to show their pride

No one will ever forget the tragic morning of September 11, 2001, nor will we forget what we were doing at that exact moment in history. We have shed enough tears to fill a lake, and said enough prayers to fill our hearts. My kinfolk in Scotland called to make sure my family and I were safe. My sister-in-law said all of Britain shares the pain that Americans are feeling. She was impressed by how many American people display their country pride by flying the red, white, and blue.

To all Americans, I say: keep up the good work, show your pride and patriotic duty by flying high the grand old flag, and go one step further by buying American.

John “Scotty” Littlejohn
L-154 retiree, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Family of Terry White Eagle is grateful to Local 549

The entire White Eagle family would like to thank the members of Local 549 (Pittsburgh, Calif.) for their kindness, cards and flowers, the generous dona- tion from the men at Hunters Point in San Francisco, and for the beautiful bible they presented at the service in recognition of their beloved brother and my husband, Terry White Eagle.

At this time like, we find out how truly special some people can be.

Wendy White Eagle and the entire White Eagle Family

I. S. Anyone wishing to make a dona- tion should send money to the American Cancer Society.

L-696 Polomis wants a new measurement for disability

I had worked in a shipyard for over four years when I fell on the job. I was eventually put on permanent Social Security disability, with no hope of ever returning to any kind of work.

I was placed on the Boilermaker’s disability without any hassle at all. However, the way the disability pay- ments are structured bothers me. I am paid just as if I were to retire with the same amount of time I had in the union when I got hurt. What if I had been injured with just two days on the job? Would I also be paid as if I had retired from the union after working only two days?

Although any money at all is appreci- ated when you are totally disabled, less than $100 per month is just not what the union should be doing for members who become totally dis- abled. I think management needs to address this issue and not use the same arguments when you retire to deter- mine disability benefits. Let’s take bet- ter care of our members.

John Polomis, L-696

Nov • Dec 2001

Letters to the Editors

Got something to say?

We welcome letters on topics of interest to our members and their families. Keep it short and sweet. Avoid profanity and personal attacks.

Send a letter to the editor:

The Boilermaker Reporter
7620 W. 103rd Street
Kansas City KS 66101
Fax: (913) 281-8104
E-mail: editors@boilermakers.org
or cdillon@boilermakers.org