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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hayward, CA
Permit No. 7916

The Boilermaker Reporter
753 Shiloh Avenue, Suite 565
Kansas City, Missouri 64101
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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 160 of the 600 tradespersons, 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 *helroquis*, *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



L to r., Platers Harold Sinclair and Gary Hunter, both members of Local 580, work hard to make Canada's Navy fleet combat-ready.

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.

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Riggers like L-580's Colonel MacLellan (l.) and this Navy seaman sometimes have to work in tight spaces.

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 on 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



FMCS Director Barnes explains TAGS: Technology Assisted Group Solutions.

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



Hartstone meets with union workers at hall then rides in parade on a member's horse

AS A RESULT of the 2000 U.S. Census, the state of Arizona is gaining two congressional seats.

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 discuss the importance of bringing rural issues to Washington, D.C. While in Page, Ariz., he spoke to members of Local 4 during their July monthly union meeting.

"Hartstone wants to work with Arizona residents to make a better life," said Local 4 BM-ST Nate Begay. "He talked about health care, roads, and telephone service — issues that really need work in rural northern areas."

Chartered in 1999, Local 4 represents 850 construction members. □



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. □

State coffers are empty

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 idea during a 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.

Now that we are in the first recession since George W. Bush's father was president, those states are locked into contracts for costly projects like bridges and schools that they can no longer easily afford.

Some unemployment insurance and welfare systems are in trouble, too, even though they are backed by money held outside the states' general funds. The Urban Institute reports that Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, and Maine have no reserve funds for welfare payments.

Five states — Illinois (again), New York, North Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia — have unemployment funds

that can pay at most six months of benefits in a full-blown recession. Another 17 states lack the funds needed for a full year of benefits during tough times.

It's partly Washington's fault. They did away with federal programs to help states deal with unexpectedly high welfare caseloads, and the Bush tax cut has reduced states' revenue along with the federal government's.

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. □

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 the 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.

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 59 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, not simply try to 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 representative. Ask them to support the rebuilding of the U.S. Navy fleet. □

BOILERMAKERS IN PUBLIC OFFICE

L-1240's Hecox is a town councilman

JOHN "CHIP" HECOX, a 23-year member of Local 1240, Wabash, 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 Wabash 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, 33, a 13-year member of Local 903, was elected in July 2001 to serve as the Mantee mayor in Webster County. He had previously served this community as an alderman. □

The Boilermaker Reporter

Nov • Dec 2001

Vol. 40 No. 6

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The Boilermaker Reporter is the official publication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO. It is published bimonthly to disseminate information of use and interest to its members. Submissions from members, local lodges, and subordinate or affiliated bodies are welcomed and encouraged. This publication is mailed free of charge to active members and retired members holding a Retired Members Card. Others may subscribe for the price of \$10 for three years. Standard Mail (A) postage paid at Kansas City, Kan., and additional mailing offices. ISSN No. 1078-4101.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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Kansas City, KS 66101
(913) 371-2640; FAX (913) 281-8104

Web sites: www.workingfamilies.com and www.boilermakers.org

PUBLICATION AGREEMENT No. 40010131

Printed in the U.S.A.

A prize-winning newspaper



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

L-580 members prepare Canada's ships for war

Continued from page 1

Local 580 President Chris Scott said, "I'm proud that the members of my local have undertaken such an active role in support of our brothers and sisters in the United States. The terrible tragedy in New York has affected all of us, and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to our American brothers and sisters."

"The efforts of Local 580 members demonstrate the true meaning of Brotherhood as an International: What affects one affects all, without borders, and we will respond in whatever way we can."

Bravo-Zulu to all Cape Scotter's and everyone involved in this important international operation. □



These L-580 members took a 22-hour flight to service ships overseas. L to r., Brian Wadden, Sec.-Treas. George White (did not go on trip), Bryan Greening, Dave AIMolk, John MacGregor, Lenny Deveau, and Lou Francis.



These L-580 members are fighting terrorism by keeping Canadian ships combat-ready.

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 thousands of workers laid off each month—more than any time since 1980. Unemployment 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 President Bush's father was president.

Although most union-negotiated contracts show higher wage increases over last year's contracts, those in the manufacturing section 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 negotiated contracts was 4.3 percent, compared to 3.8 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. □

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, parties 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 program 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 computer 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 suggestion made.

TAGS also facilitates rapid prioritizing of suggestions. When a suggestion is made, other participants are able to read it and indicate whether they support immediate action on the suggestion 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, gainsharing, recruitment, outage scheduling, project management, and respect in the workplace. Predetermined groups of individuals from each of the three communities represented at the meeting met in their designated room and discussed — on the computer — the designated topic. Several FMCS commissioners 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 web site. When the TAGS session was completed, 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 is prepared to give the Boilermakers a \$150,000 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 don't promise to get better in 2002. The Boilermakers are now using many of our Canadian members on U.S. projects, and we've begun to bring in Australian Boilermakers. However, our temporary work visa program 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 policies, saying that contractors must enforce the policies already on the books. □

Congress passes one good bill, one bad bill

THE NEWS FROM Congress is both good and bad. They passed bills which will reform the railroad retirement system, something we've been trying to get enacted for two years, but they also gave the president fast-track authority to negotiate trade agreements.

Features of the railroad retirement reform bill include lowering the retirement age to 60 for railroaders with 30 years of service, increasing the benefits to surviving spouses by an average of \$300 a month, and continuing medical coverage for retired railroad workers until they are eligible for Medicare. The bill passed the House by a 384-33 vote and the Senate by a vote of 90-9. Members are encouraged to phone those representatives and senators who voted to pass this bill and thank them for their support.

Despite a hard-fought effort by union members to stop them, the House passed a bill giving fast-track authority to the president by a one vote margin: 215-214.

Fast track means that Congress no longer has the power to alter trade agreements that come to them for approval. They still must approve the agreement before it becomes law, but they can't make any adjustments to it. They can only vote yes or no.

The president has said he needs fast-track authority in order to negotiate trade agreements. Unions and

environmental groups oppose this legislation, because historically the trade agreements that come out of the trade representative's office do not safeguard workers' rights, workplace safety, or the environment.

When the U.S. enters into an agreement that does not set any standards in these areas, we lose the ability to enforce our laws that protect workers, consumers, and the environment. Any law that can be said to restrict trade can be struck down by an international board.

The last time Congress gave the president fast-track trade authority, Pres. Clinton was able to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in Canada and the U.S., was used to strike down environmental laws in the U.S. and Canada, and now threatens our highway safety laws.

Find out how your congressmen voted. Thank those who voted against fast track, and express your displeasure with those who voted for it. Be polite, but be firm. The White House does not need fast track; congressmen are merely abdicating their responsibility to ensure that all laws protect their constituents.

You can see how your senators and representative voted on both of these issues by visiting www.boilermakers.org and clicking on LEAP. □

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 \$150,000 plus medical benefits for life to any worker who qualifies.

Survivors 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 where radioactive material was processed), or with a company under a DOE contract and designated as a beryllium vendor.

The act sets up two distinct programs to handle claims. A federal 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, primary depression, carpal tunnel syndrome, and lower back pain.

How to File a Claim

IF YOU HAVE BEEN diagnosed with a toxin-related illness, contact the nearest Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center from the list given at right and request information or help with filing a claim.

If you have not been diagnosed, you may be eligible for a free screening through the DOE's Building Trades Medical Screening program. Phone (800) 866-9663 for information. □



Boilermakers who worked on this Westinghouse Savannah River Company nuclear waste storage tank, shown under construction in the 1950s, are eligible for this program, as are many others who worked on other atomic weapons sites.

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Boilermakers attend governor's conference

Forum helps labor, management to improve Alabama's work structure

FOR 17 YEARS, the state of Alabama has held a governor's conference to build a labor-management relationship that will help cultivate a stable and growing state economy. Members of Alabama Boilermaker lodges and International representatives servicing members in the state of Alabama attended this year's five-day event, which was hosted by the Alabama Department of Labor and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Meeting with the governor and other representatives of labor and management from all across the state is a conference highlight, but delegates also benefit from exhibits: motivational speeches on such topics as building a winning team and a framework for change; workshops on violence in the workplace, grievance mediation, working styles, and workers' compensation; and labor-management caucuses. Even sponsored social events, such as fishing, tennis, and golf tournaments, are beneficial as delegates meet on a more casual basis in order to build closer working relationships.

This year's attendees included Local 108 BM-ST John Helvin (Birmingham), Local 112 BM-ST Danny Phillips (Mobile), and International Representatives Dennis King and Stephen Speed.

Canadians take on Labor Ready

THE CANADIAN ARM of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) has launched a campaign to expose possible violations of Canadian law by North America's largest blue-collar temporary employment agency, U.S.-based Labor Ready, Inc..

Labor Ready Temporary Services Ltd. is the company's wholly owned Canadian subsidiary. Its U.S. counterpart is shrinking, but Labor Ready of Canada has doubled in size in the past year to over 30 offices in Ontario and western provinces.

Robert Blakely, director of the Canadian BCTD, said, "It appears that they have imported their improper U.S. practices into our country. We will not stand for it. These practices include charging their workers a fee to get their daily pay, fees for safety equipment and transportation, failing to pay workers for all the hours they spend under Labor Ready's control, inadequate measures to protect worker safety, and possible misclassification of workers leading to underpayment of social insurance. Our brothers and sisters in the states have been bringing these issues before government authorities and the courts. We will take action to ensure that Labor Ready obeys our laws."

Boilermaker Intl. Vice Pres. and Chairman of the BCTD Canadian Executive Board Rick Albright said hiring halls are the heart of the building trades unions. "We will fight Labor Ready on every front to defeat them in their attempt to hijack our union hall hiring protocols."

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 \$206.8 million for the construction of three ferries, one dump scow, and an icebreaking buoy tender.

Members of Local 696, Marinette, Wis., at Marinette Marine, will build an \$82 million icebreaking buoy tender 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 Ande 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, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., will build a 7,100-cubic-yard, split-hull dump scow at Bay Shipbuilding for Great Lakes Dredge & Dock.

The \$4.8 million scow will transport dredgings, garbage, and other offensive material.

Marinette Marine, a division of the Manitowoc Company, has designed and constructed boats, ships, and cutters for over 58 years.

Local 696, chartered in 1952, has represented Marinette Marine employees since 1953. Local 449, chartered in 1942, has represented employees of Bay Shipbuilding since 1948. □

Whose side are you on?

Members question the International's endorsements of candidates for federal offices

L-1191 retiree questions Republican Senator Trent Lott's endorsement

I AM A RETIRED member of Local 1191 (Canton, Ohio). I served on our LEAP committee in the late 1970s and early 1980s. When I received the Sep-Oct 2000 issue of *the Reporter*, I was shocked to see that Trent Lott was on the Boilermakers' list of recommended candidates for reelection. His voting record for labor is terrible.

In the Nov-Dec 2000 issue, I read Intl. Pres. Jones's commentary complaining about Senator Lott and three others who are derailing legislation beneficial to Boilermaker members. Who on the Boilermakers' committee recommended Lott for reelection?

JAY CROWL, L-1191 retiree
Canton, Ohio

Legislative Director Ande Abbott explains

I AM THE PERSON who recommends candidates for each election. It isn't easy. 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 to him 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 903, 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 Shaffer, who told me that his plant with 550 workers was about to be closed and sent to a foreign country.

Intl. Vice President 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, saving many Boilermaker jobs.

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.

When we need work 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 off for over six years.

We would prefer to have a strong pro-worker candidate in every seat in Congress, but we don't. So we develop working relationships with those who are elected. Sometimes we endorse a candidate we are not crazy about because he will win the race and has been helpful to us on some issues.

We 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, shipbuilding, maritime affairs, and anything that creates jobs in Mississippi, he is our friend. On most other labor issues, he is terrible.

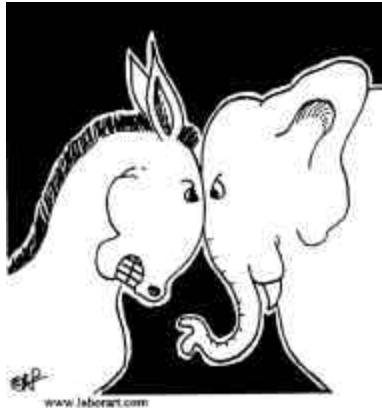
But it is better to have a senator on your side sometimes, than against you all the time.

And we knew Lott would win reelection whether we supported him or opposed him. He is very popular in Mississippi.

So we endorsed him.

We also endorsed 28 other Republicans, because we felt they could help us, and we chose not to endorse 30 Democrats because we felt they didn't live up to their commitment to Boilermaker families living in their districts.

To get a bill passed, you need 218 votes in the House and 51 in the Senate. You have to find those votes wherever you can. I can't think of a single labor bill that passed the House or Senate where we didn't



need a few Republican votes to get it through, even when the Democrats held a majority in both houses.

Few people know what happens behind the scenes in Washington. It is often difficult to know the good guys from the bad guys.

That's why it is important for this union to have a permanent presence in Washington and have people working to keep Boilermaker jobs, improve benefits, and enact worker-friendly legislation. It is equally important to try to educate our members as to who best represents their interests.

I realize it takes a lot of trust on the part of our members to vote for the candidates we recommend. We try to earn that trust every day by always considering the best interests of our members and their families on every issue and with every candidate.

I hope we can count on your trust in the future. It is very important to your union and to the country.

ANDE M. ABBOTT
Legislative Director and
Asst. to the International President

Local D209 member says International should support more Republicans

I KNOW YOU DON'T like the Republican Party. Yet they lowered the capital gains tax and are trying to do away with the inheritance tax. This will help me if I live to be old, because I might have a lot of wealth in the future.

Bill Clinton didn't do me any favors. He raised taxes in 1993. The \$600 we got back was a small part of the taxes we paid when he was in office.

NAFTA cost this country a million jobs, and no union tried to stop it.

Why didn't Clinton do something about Social Security? The problem is you have three people paying Social Security to every person retired.

The union needs to tell the Republican Party what they want.

CLARENCE THOMAS, Local D209
Speed, Ind.

Take out an insurance policy
for your future . . .

**Contribute
to CAF**
The Boilermakers'
Campaign Assistance Fund

Send checks to: CAF - International
Brotherhood of Boilermakers
753 State Avenue, Suite 570
Kansas City, KS 66101

Contributions to the Campaign Assistance Fund
are not deductible as charitable contributions on
your income tax return.

Boilermaker Reporter responds

YOUR LETTER MAKES several different points, which we will respond to in the order you make them.

- First, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers will work with any elected official who will support our positions on the issues, regardless of political party. When Republicans support us on our issues, we support them in return. We do not endorse very many Republicans (only 28 in 2000), because not many Republicans are willing to help us. If that ever changes, you will see more Republicans on our list of recommended candidates.

- Your union does not take action based on the wealth our members "might" have in the future. We try to get our members a fair contract at the bargaining table and a fair break on taxes based on what is happening today.

Right now, the capital gains tax rate is lower than the marginal income tax rate paid by many Boilermaker families. We don't think it's fair that Warren Buffet, who is worth over \$36 billion and does nothing but buy and sell stock for his income, should pay a lower tax rate than a Boilermaker member who works long, hard hours in an uncomfortable, sometimes dangerous, workplace.

Buffet might even agree with us on that. He agrees with us on the inheritance tax. This spring he took a full page ad in the *New York Times* (along with 120 other rich Americans) to tell Congress that they should keep it, because those who pay it (the richest two percent) can afford to, and it encourages children in rich families to earn their own way. Repealing it opens a loophole to avoid paying capital gains taxes.

- The tax bill of 1993 created two new tax brackets for the richest Americans (over \$240,000) and made other adjustments that raised taxes for the top 20 percent of wage earners (over \$79,375). Very few people in lower tax brackets paid more. Few Boilermaker members are in the top 20 percent. The size of your refund has nothing to do with how much you paid in taxes. As soon as a tax cut becomes effective, the IRS adjusts withholding rates.

- You say no union opposed NAFTA. Where were you in the early 1990s?

Every union in America and Canada opposed NAFTA. In every issue of *the Boilermaker Reporter* we published articles attacking NAFTA and asking our members to contact Congress and ask them to vote it down. The AFL-CIO bought ads against it on television and in newspapers.

After it passed, *the Reporter* ran article after article showing the damage it was doing to working families and asking Congress to revoke the pact.

Now Congress has given Bush fast-track authority to pass more NAFTA-style agreements, so we're fighting the same battle again. I hope you are, too.

- Social Security did not need an immediate "fix" when Clinton was president, and it doesn't need one now. We have at least 25 years to find a way to make sure all retirees get all their benefits.

True, there are only 3.4 workers for every retiree. But those workers are paying more into the fund than retirees are taking out — \$153 billion more last year. Social Security will continue to build a surplus for another 25 years and will be able to pay full benefits for another ten years after that—even if we do nothing.

People are trying to scare workers into replacing the guaranteed benefits of Social Security with unguaranteed benefits from private investment accounts. That's not a good idea.

Private accounts will raise administrative costs from today's less than one percent of revenue from five to 14 percent. Every country that has privatized social insurance has had to reduce benefits.

- Finally, you ask the union to tell the Republican Party what we want. We do — every day. Legislative Director Ande Abbott and assistant Bridget Martin are constantly phoning offices and attending meetings, trying to get the Boilermaker message to every person in Congress who will listen. Our members write letters and make phone calls. We visit them in their offices during the LEAP conference.

The problem is getting them to listen to us instead of the businesses that give them 15 times as much money in campaign donations as we do. But we will keep trying, and we hope you'll keep trying, too.

We need every Boilermaker to let Congress know that we only vote for candidates who help workers. That is our only yardstick. Period. □

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 Boilermakers' 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 repre-

sentatives from the national funds office. Classes are held at the Friedrich 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 Morgan and Patrick Straker of Local P4, Youngstown, Ohio; James Blakewood Jr. of Local 26, Savannah, Ga.; Terence Garnett and Louis Conner of Local 550, Baltimore, Md.; Todd Register and Richard Roller of Local 84, Paola, Kan.; James Calouette and D. Frank Golden of Local 169, Detroit, Mich.; Paul Bahre and William Jenkins of Local S185, Belleville, Ill.; Earlene Meneskie of Local 374, Hammond, Ind.; Ed Doyen and Richard Wagner of Local 696, Marinette, Wis.; Andre' deLaGrange, Billy A. Leavell, James F. Rose, and Edward S. Zaucha of Local 900, Barberton, Ohio; Angelo Argenti Jr. and Robert Cottos of Local 1704, Euclid, Ohio; and Christopher Burnett of Local 1814, 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 S185, Belleville, Ill.; Omer Williams of Local 482, Wood River, Ill.; Richard Geniesse and Louis Neillio of Local 696, Marinette, Wis.; and Steven Holt of Local 1239, 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. □



SCHOOL FOR WORKERS — BASIC CLASS



SCHOOL FOR WORKERS — ADVANCED AND CONSTRUCTION CLASSES

Southeast Area holds apprentice competition



Competing for the Paul D. Wedge Award at the 33rd annual Outstanding Apprentice Competition of the Southeast Area, are, l. to r., Michael W. Smith of Local 74, Cecil B. Melvin of Local 199, Michael S. Wilkes of Local 26, first-place winner K. Alan Biddle of Local 40, Charles W. Riviere of Local 112, second-place winner Michael L. McCoy of Local 667, James L. Vance of Local 455, and John L. Barker of Local 108.

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 74, Houston, Texas; John E. Barker of Local 108,



Southeast Area Apprentice Co-Chairman and Intl. Vice Pres. Newton B. Jones (l.) and Chairman J. Michael Carroll of Alstom Power (r.) congratulate area apprentice winners (center l. to r.) K. Alan Biddle and Michael McCoy.

Birmingham, Ala.; Charles W. Riviere of Local 112, Mobile, Ala.; Cecil B. Melvin of Local 199, Jacksonville, Fla.; James L. Vance of Local 455, Sheffield, Ala.; and Michael L. McCoy of Local 667, Charleston, W. Va.

Local 40's Biddle won the competition, and Local 667's McCoy placed second, earning them the right to compete at the national apprentice competition in Kansas City, September 9-13. □

Buckeye Council leaders learn about workers' comp.



Buckeye Industrial Council Leadership Committee Member Terry Heiser (left) presents the Steven A. Jewell Achievement Award to Local 1086 President Richard Pigon (center) and L-1086 Sec.-Treas. Scott Croft.

THE BUCKEYE Industrial Council held its 11th 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 pro-

grams. The committee includes L-1191 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 McClintock, and L-1702 Sec.-Treas. Chris Herderick.

Locals 106, 744, 908, 1073, 1086, 1191, 1603, 1664, 1666, 1702, and 1704 are all members of the council, which was created to provide training and support for Ohio lodges. □



Attendees to a Tennessee Volunteers Industrial Council class on record keeping listen to William Parker, investigator for the Department of Labor, discuss audits.

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 embez-

zement or incompetent money handling that should have been noticed much earlier if the lodge auditors and president had been doing their job. Embezzlers are criminally prosecuted, but the local lodge does not always get their money back.

King was able to meet separately with officers of each lodge to help them with any problems they were having regarding record keeping or reporting to the International.

The Tennessee Volunteers Industrial Council includes Local Lodges S2, 14, S14, S56, D140, S251, S272, 586, 656, 679, and 911.

After eight hours of numbers and calculations, attendees hurried home to watch Tennessee beat the University of Florida. □

★ ★ ★ Star Stewards ★ ★ ★

Local D366's Luigi Folcarelli is a Star Steward

LUIGI FOLCARELLI, a two-year steward and 11-year member of Local D366, Mississauga, Ontario, is a Star Steward.

"He is a young man who just recently (two years) became involved in union affairs at the steward level," said Robert Carry, plant union chairman.

"During this period of time, he has dedicated himself to trying to solve problems for the members he represents and our local as a whole," said Carry.

In nominating Folcarelli as a star steward, Carry reported that Folcarelli often comes in on his days off to attend labor and management meetings.

"As his chairman, I appreciate his passion, his dedication, and his support," Carry said.

Do you know a Star Steward?

DROP US A LINE with the name of the steward, the local, the company, and a few words about why you think this steward is so special. Send a photo if you have one. We'd like the world to see what a good steward looks like.

Send info to this address:

Star Stewards
The Boilermaker Reporter
Boilermakers International
753 State Ave, Suite 570
Kansas City KS 66101

Support the National Archives

GIFTS FEATURING THE Boilermaker logo are being offered as a fundraiser for the Boilermakers National Archives.

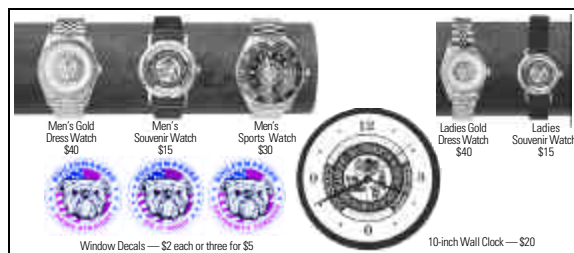
For donating as little as \$2, you can receive your choice of three different-styled window decals. Each three-inch circle decal features a bulldog in the center with the word "Boilermakers" at the top. Language choices at the bottom of the decal include Damn Straight, Do It Right, or Solidarity Forever. 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 ten-inch wall clock (needs batteries).

For a \$30 donation, you can receive a man's sports watch, featuring a stainless steel band.

For a \$40 donation, you can choose a man's or woman's dress watch, featuring a gold coin-die emblem face. (The



face of each watch style and clock features the Boilermaker 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,

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 4 (Page, Ariz.), Local 101 (Denver, Colo.), and Local 182 (Salt Lake City, Utah) attended a foreman/leadership training program in Salt Lake City on October 8-12, 2001.

All 17 attendees are either employed or will soon be employed by Fluor Maintenance Services at sites owned by PacifiCorp; the Fluor/PacifiCorp maintenance alliance covers 20 units at eight power-house sites.

The foreman/leadership program is a fast-paced and challenging course that is representative of much of the

repair work faced by field construction boilermakers in today's market place. Motivation and self help remain an intricate part of the seminar.

Under the direction of Daniel Everett, national coordinator of the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program (BNAP), BNAP instructors Terry Barnes and L. Dwain Smith conducted the five-day seminar. The curriculum emphasizes the construction Boilermaker's 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 be the best that they can be.

Attendees included Buz Carter, Terry Ezell, Phil Freeman, Al Fullermer, Perry Goldtooth, Tony Haliburton, Skip Holt, Gerald Jenkins, Brain Kelly, Carl Labbee, Frank Maes, Jim Porter, Mike Stringer, Kenley Unsworth, Larry Unsworth, Larry Veggeberg, and Leland Yazzie.

Guests included representatives of the Boilermakers, PacifiCorp., and Fluor Maintenance Services. Boilermaker representatives included Assistant to the International President John (Tony) Gallo, Local 182 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Brad John, and consultant Harley Macklin. PacifiCorp representatives were Alliance Manager Lou Miller, Project Manager Monty Unsworth, and Regional Superintendent Richard Olsen. Fluor Maintenance Service representatives were General Manager Lanny South and Labor Relations Director Ron Weatherhead. □

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 Winns' 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 Kincaid station. Located in the jurisdiction of Local 363, East St. Louis, Ill., the site also earned the PRB Coal Users Group's prestigious plant of the year award in 2001 for its cleanliness and safety. Jason Makansi, of Pearl Street, Inc., wrote, "If you want evidence that people make up the most important 'system' in a powerplant, the Kincaid station provides it. Trouble-free conversion to PRB coal was the centerpiece of a \$160-million refurbishment following sale of the plant to Dominion Energy."

Power's 2001 Marmaduke Award — named for the legendary and independent-spirited plant troubleshooter who has enthralled *Power* readers since



While the steam drum was being fabricated at KCP&L's Hawthorn plant, Boilermakers labored into the night through two blustery winters to erect this 550-mw boiler in reverse order.

1948 — went to the Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCP&L) for rebuilding their Hawthorn-5 generating station. Located in the jurisdiction of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., this job drew Boilermakers from all across the U.S. and Canada. They earned the award for dramatically reducing coal-fired air emissions, uprating to provide critically needed power to the Midwest, and completing a coal-fired plant construction project in a remarkably short two years. When they decided to rebuild the generating station in 1999, 98 percent of all new power projects were gas-fired. But KCP&L did their own study and decided the coal-fired option was the only one that met their needs. "With some two dozen coal-based projects announced in the past few months, the Hawthorn team was clearly ahead of the curve," wrote Swanekamp.

"When the decision was made to rebuild the unit and the aggressive schedule was announced, we knew a lot of eyes would be on this project," said Local 83 BM-ST John Erickson. "But the Boilermakers stepped up to the plate and delivered. Everyone



Not even Marmaduke, for whom their award is named, could have brought Hawthorn Unit 5 back from the ashes faster than the team of KCP&L, Babcock & Wilcox, and Burns & McDonnell employing Boilermakers from U.S. and Canada.



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.

involved in the rebuild should be proud of this accomplishment." □

The source for both the story and photos is *The Power Magazine*, a division of

McGraw-Hill Companies. The photos are used here with the publisher's permission.

The article is an adaptation of the one that appeared in *The Power Magazine*.

L-647 apprentice training facility holds its first classes

THE FIRST CLASS of apprentices trained at Local 647 (Minneapolis, Minn.) facilities have completed their 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 83 apprentices, with 37

finishing their first year. Twenty-two were trained by instructor Terry Curl in Bismarck, and 15 studied under instructors Brian Longhenry and Kory Olson in Ramsey. They begin their second year of classes in January 2002. □



First-year apprentices who trained at Local 647's new training center.

<http://www.IBB.workingfamilies.com>



Local 647 first-year apprentices who trained in Bismarck, N.D.

<http://www.boilermakers.org>



TIG welder Brian Nakazawa replaces 30-year-old tubes in a tight-wall boiler.



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



Mike Alexander, a rigger/fitter, uses a come-along while fitting a single tube during a tight-wall boiler overhaul.

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 shut down rather than two. Emergency repair work is on the rise. "We got 25 emergency shut downs in the past two months," Local 359 BM-ST 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. "I asked: When do I 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 Renearts.

Source: Tradetalk, a publication of the British Columbia & Yukon Territory Building & Construction Trades Council. Adapted from an article by Leslie Dyson. Photos by Joshua Berson. Used with permission.

Being away from home for extended periods of time can be lonely. Once their shifts are over, they fill in the few free hours with visiting a gym, seeing a movie or live theater, fishing, or hunting. "Talking to your wife and kids for an hour — that fills time, too," said Shane Humphrey.

Be ready for anything

ONCE THEY ARE ON THE JOB, Boilermakers never know what they might find. A crew of six was called in January 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 Lockerbie Industria. 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 vacuumed and washed down.

"But you've got to give this mill credit," said Schultz. The owners have spent millions of dollars trying to remove as much asbestos as possible, and paid \$200,000 a day to cover the payroll 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,



A boilermaker preps tubes for a TIG welder in a five-story boiler.



Lloyd Moores uses a carbon arc torch to gouge a tube wall.

(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 Renearts.

"We go through more contortions than Houdini 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 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 kinky 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 welding 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."

A boilermaker's ticket is recognized internationally, said business representative Darrell Fleming. Some are currently working in Malaysia, Holland, Colombia, and on rigs in the North Sea.

Business Manager 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 Dyson, Face-to-Face Communications, collaborated with the Tradetalk magazine in the production of this article.

HAZARD ALERT

Eye injuries in construction

IN CONSTRUCTION, more than 10,600 eye injuries each year force workers to miss work. 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. Mixing of cement, sawing, grinding, and chipping produce dust and grit. So does heavy machinery moving across a site. Chemicals and welding arc can burn your eyes. If you are not careful, you can hurt your eyes or go blind.

Protect Yourself

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

- Always wear goggles:
- If there will be a lot of dust
- For overhead work.
- Also wear a clear, plastic face shield for:
- Work with chemicals or metals that can splash
- Grinding, chipping, or using a wire brush on welds
- Flying particles
- Sandblasting (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, molten metal, chemicals, and welding or radiation.

Many safety glasses cost less than \$10. Goggles or safety glasses must fit over any prescription glasses you need and must fit you. Or you can get prescription goggles or prescription safety glasses. You can get fog-resistant glasses. Get lenses made of polycarbonate.

All safety eye wear must be marked ANSI Z87. ANSI, the American National Standards Institute, sets criteria for safety glasses.

For a welding hood, the number of the filter lens shade and the company that made it must be marked.

If you work near a welding job:

OSHA says there must be a flame-proof screen to shield against UV rays around a welder to protect other people. You can get welder's flash (burns) in your eyes. Do not look at the welding arc — or reflections of the arc — unless you wear a welding hood with the same lens as the welder's.

WHAT TO DO

- Use local-exhaust ventilation or fans to blow away fumes or dusts.
- OSHA says there must be an eye-wash station on your job if there are

Son of L-146 member designs and sells safety hats

WHILE WORKING As a boilermaker, Michael Hachkowsky, a former member of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, designed his own safety hats to prevent spark burns and to keep his hair, ears, neck, and back clean from grindings, slag, and dust. The hood also protected his neck from arc burns. He no longer works in the trade, but he is selling his hats to protect workers from these dangers.

Michael is the son of Ed Hachkowsky, who has been a Local 146 member in good standing since 1966. For more information, contact Hatch's Safety Hats at 780 417-7547. □

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 (indoor or outdoor work)
3. Type of filter lens (standard or reflective)

Minimum standard lens shade number needed

(You can always use a darker lens [a higher number])

Type of work	Indoors	Outdoors
Torch soldering	2	2
Gas tungsten arc welding*	11	10
Torch brazing	3	2
Plasma arc welding*	11	10
Flame cutting	4	3
Plasma arc cutting*	11	10
Gas welding	5	4
Air/carbon arc cutting*	12	11
Gas metal arc welding*	11	10
Flux core welding*	12	11

* Use reflective filter lens

materials that could damage your eyes. Know where you can wash your eyes.

- If a dangerous or irritating chemical gets in your eye, immediately start to rinse it out for at least 15 to 20 minutes straight — and remove contact lens while you are rinsing. Use flowing tap water, if there is some on site. Get to a doctor or nurse as soon as you can.

If you get hit in your eye, hold a cold compress over it, but do not press on your eye. (You can put ice cubes in a plastic bag or clean cloth.) The cold helps keep down pain and swelling. If pain continues or your vision is blurry, get to a doctor right away.

If you get hit in the eye with flying metal, wood, or material from a power tool (like a drill or wheel) get to a doctor right away.

- If your eye is cut or punctured:
 - Do not wash out the eye
 - Do not push on the eye
 - Do not try to pull out anything that is stuck in the eyeball.
 - Get to a doctor right away.
- If your eye hurts, go to a doctor — emergency room — right away. □

For more information, call your local union, the Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR) (301-578-8500 or www.cpw.com), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (1-800-35-NIOSH or www.cdc.gov/niosh), or OSHA (1-800-321-OSHA or www.osha.gov). Or check the website www.elcosh.org.

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ADVERTENCIA DE PELIGRO

Lesiones en los ojos

EN LA CONSTRUCCIÓN ocurren más de 10.600 lesiones en los ojos que obligan a los trabajadores a faltar al trabajo. La construcción reporta un porcentaje mucho más alto de lesiones en los ojos que cualquier otra industria.

El peligro

LOS CLAVOS, partículas de metal, las astillas, y las puntas de alambre 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 quemarle los ojos. Si no tiene cuidado, se puede lesionar o hasta quedar ciego.

Protéjase

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

- Siempre utilice gafas:
- Si sabe que habrá mucho polvo
- Si tiene que trabajar mirando hacia arriba.

• Use también una mascarilla de plástico que le cubra la cara para:

- Trabajar con químicos o metales que puedan darle en la cara
- Triturar, picar o usar un cepillo de alambre cuando esté trabajando con soldaduras
- Protegerse de las partículas que puedan saltar por el aire
- Limpiar con chorro de arena (el respirador necesario para hacer limpieza con chorro de arena tiene un casco 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 anteojos de protección (también llamados cristales inactivos) cuestan menos de \$10. Si usa anteojos para ver, cualquier antejo de protección que use tiene que caer por encima de sus anteojos de ver y deben quedarle bien. O también se puede dar a hacer un par de anteojos de protección que a la vez sean para ver. También puede adquirir anteojos contra el empuño o humo. Es aconsejable que los anteojos estén hechos de policarbonato. Los anteojos deben estar marcados como Z87. ANSI, que es la indicación de anteojos de seguridad establecida por el American National Standards Institute).

SI TRABAJA CERCA DE UN SITIO DONDE ESTÉN SOLDANDO: 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. (Sírvese volar la página)

LO QUE DEBE HACER

- Use la ventilación del mismo sitio de trabajo o ventiladores que se lleven el humo y el polvo.
- OSHA ordena que debe haber un lugar en el sitio de trabajo donde pueda lavarse los ojos, en caso de que haya material dañino en el ambiente. Infórmese dónde se puede lavar los ojos.

Lentes de protección para soldar y cortar con soplete

TRES COSAS AFECTAN el número de lentes que necesita:

1. La intensidad de la energía radiante producida por el trabajo
2. La luz de fondo (en interiores o al aire libre)
3. El tipo de lente filtrante (estándar o de reflejo)

El número de protección mínima para la lente estándar es el siguiente [siempre puede usar una lente más oscura [un número más alto]]:

Tipo de trabajo	Adentro	Afuera
Soldadura de estaño con soplete	2	2
Soldadura con arco de tungsteno	11	10
Soldadura fuerte soplete	3	2
Soldadura con plasma de arco eléctrico	11	10
Corte con soplete	4	3
Corte con plasma de arco eléctrico	11	10
Soldadura con gases	5	4
Corte por arco eléctrico con aire/carbón	12	11
Soldadura con arco metálico	11	10
Soldadura con arco eléctrico de metal protegido	12	11

- Si se le introduce un producto químico peligroso o irritante en el ojo, enjuágueselo inmediatamente por unos 15 o 20 minutos continuos y si usa lentes de contactos, sáqueselos mientras se lava. Si es posible, lávese con el chorro de agua del grifo y atienda con un médico o una enfermera tan pronto como pueda.
- Si recibe un golpe en el ojo, póngase una compresa de agua helada. (También puede echar cubitos de hielo en una bolsa plástica o en un paño limpio). Lo helado le ayudará a aliviar el dolor y aminorar la inflamación. Si no se le quita el dolor, o comienza a ver borroso, atienda con un médico de inmediato.

• Si recibe un golpe en el ojo con pedazo de metal, madera o algún material que provenga de una herramienta eléctrica (como una perforadora o un serrucho), O

- Si sufre una herida o una perforación en el ojo:
 - No se lo enjuague
 - No se aplique presión
 - No trate de sacarse nada de adentro del ojo
 - Vaya de inmediato donde el médico.
 - Si le duele el ojo, atienda con el médico o vaya de inmediato a la sala de emergencia. □

Si desea más información, contacte al sindicato local, al Centro de Protección de los Derechos de los Trabajadores (Center to Protect Workers' Rights, CPWR) al teléfono 301-578-8500 o vaya a www.cpw.com, al Instituto Nacional para la Seguridad y Salud Ocupacional (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 1-800-35-NIOSH o www.cdc.gov/niosh), o a OSHA (1-800-321-OSHA o www.osha.gov).

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Members donate money, equipment to New Yorkers

WHEN TROUBLE STRIKES, union members are ready to help out their brothers and sisters. Nearly every local has a special fund to raise money for their brothers and sisters who can't work because of an extended illness or some other tragedy. Those that don't, often "pass the hat" at meetings and raise money in other ways to help distressed members.

So it should be no surprise that our brothers and sisters were among the first to send money to help victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. Many of our locals raised money, and the number of individuals who donated to fund-raising efforts outside our union is enormous.

This help is, for the most part, overlooked and unsung. Donations may be announced at the monthly meeting or mentioned in the newsletter, but most union members would tell you they are "only doing what is right" and don't need recognition.

But it is only right that they be thanked. Since the victims' families can't do it, we will do it here.

Thanks to all Boilermakers for their help in a time of need

AMONG THE LOCALS raising money were two whose efforts were unusual enough to warrant special attention.

Members of Local 196, Sayre, Pa., had set aside \$2,000 for their annual party. When they learned of the disaster, they voted to send that money to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund instead.

Members of Local 13, Philadelphia, Pa., and other trade unionists working at the Three Mile Island nuclear



Displaying the flag are, l. to r., Karen and Mike Crawford, and general foreman Jim Kaylor.

plant, raised \$600 for disaster relief funds by purchasing raffle tickets for an American flag crocheted and donated by Karen Crawford, wife of Local 13 member Mike Crawford.

Susan Gabriel, of Insulators Local 48, and Bill Markine, of Insulators Local 110, held the winning ticket.

Local 154 member Kaelin donates rescue equipment

JERRY KAELIN, a Local 154 member and owner of American Boilermaker and Chimney on Neville Island, Pa., just outside of Pittsburgh, made an unusual but much appreciated donation to the New York rescue workers.

Kaelin's daughter, Christine, lives on Staten Island, a brief ferry ride from the World Trade Center. The firehouse near her home, Staten Island FDNY Unit No. 5, lost 11 of its 25 firefighters when the towers collapsed.

A few weeks after the attacks, she told her father how she felt every time she walked past the near-empty firehouse. Her story gave Kaelin an idea. The shelves of his shop were stocked full of respirators, goggles, and the kinds of protective gear the FDNY lost along with their men.

The next day, a pickup truck loaded with rescue equipment made a non-stop drive to Staten Island.

"They were really grateful to get the stuff," Kaelin said. "It turned out they really needed respirators." □

CORRECTION

IN THE SEP-OCT 2001 issue of the *Boilermaker Reporter*, we reported the amount of benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries of the Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2000 as \$24,975,124. It should have been \$124,975,124.

It's time to think about union scholarships



HOW TO APPLY FOR A BOILERMAKER SCHOLARSHIP — Boilermaker scholarships are open to high school seniors who will be entering their first year of a two- or four-year academic program at a degree-granting, accredited college or university within one year of their high school graduation and are dependents of Boilermaker members in good standing (includes son, daughter, legally adopted child or dependent of active, retired, disabled, or deceased members).

Applications for the 2002 awards are available from your local lodge. Some local lodges have their own scholarship programs. Scholarships are also available through the Union Plus credit card program and some state and regional labor councils. For information on their scholarships, contact these organizations directly.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP — Applications for the 2002 Union Plus Scholarship Program are now available. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.unionprivilege.org>. To receive an application through the mail, send a postcard, with your name, return address, telephone number, and international union name clearly printed on it, to: Union Plus Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 34800, Washington, D.C. 20043-4800.

Union Plus must receive applications by January 31, 2002; winners will be announced May 31, 2002. Due to the volume of applications, only winners will be notified.

Applicants must be members, their spouses, or dependent children (as defined under IRS regulations; includes foster children, step children, and any other child for whom the member provides greater than 50 percent of their support) of unions participating in the Union Plus Credit Card program. Having a Union Plus Credit Card is not a requirement. One year of continuous good standing union membership is required at the time of the award. The individual must be accepted into an accredited college or university, community college, or recognized technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. Graduate students are not eligible.

The scholarship program is open to students attending or planning to attend a four-year college or university, a community college, or a technical college/trade school. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need, and appreciation of labor.

Local 5 presents flag to New York Power Authority



(L. to r.) NYPA President Eugene Zellmann accepts a U.S. flag from Local 5 BM-ST Jerry Connolly as Local 5 site superintendent Dan Brady, Local 5 night-shift general foreman Edward Dunn, and NYPA Vice Pres. Woody Crouch look on.

Ceremony celebrates completion of turbine-generator project

HOPING TO AVOID the blackouts and price spikes California has experienced, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) has added 11 small, clean turbine 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-ST Jerry Connolly presented a U.S. flag to NYPA President Eugene Zellmann. 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.

Flying a flag at the highest point to symbolize the "topping off" of a project has been a practice of construction workers for generations. The flags that now fly over the five NYPA sites symbolize unit completion for the union personnel involved.

Connolly said he had his doubts about finishing these units on time. "I have 30 years in construction and I know what it takes to get something like this built in New York, but NYPA gave us the resources, and working together, we got it done."

In accepting the flag, Zellmann said he was extremely proud of the effort put forth by all in seeing this important, environmentally-sound project to completion. "I am thrilled with the cooperation we have gotten from the unions involved, and it is just another indication of the close working relationship that we have with organized labor." □

Source: NYPA Currents Weekly Edition

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 where they could get some.

At first, the association was disappointed to learn that the benches had not been purchased, but made by BNAP training instructors. But they weren't disappointed 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 welding skills to the test, but they would also learn that their skills can benefit the community.

Carole Diehl, president of the neighborhood association, was ecstatic when she heard President Jones' idea. When the benches were installed at St. John's Park, located at the intersection of 4th 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 built he ever saw. It took three men to install them."

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



Jordan Epley, 5, watches his 17-month-old brother play with the toy ambulance he received in recognition of saving Aaron's life. Photo by Gary Emord-Netzley, Messenger-Inquirer

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

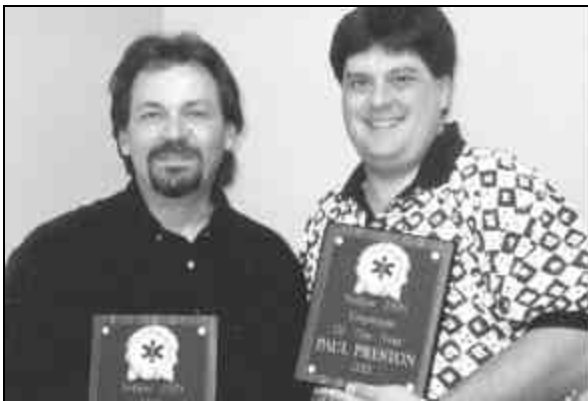
resuscitation. When Jennifer Epley returned, she saw Jordan sitting on Aaron and pushing on his chest.

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

Yellow Ambulance honors two Local P3 members



Dennis Wade, I, is Yellow's EMT of the Year, Paul Preston is Paramedic of the Year.

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 serv-

ices 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. □



L-500 burns their mortgage

Sixty-year member Matt Haggerty lights the match

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



Headquarters visit — seated, l. to r., L-359 members Wayne Wilson and Andrew Cousins. Standing, l. to r., L-359's John Robertson, L-107 members Roy Dobb and Debra Bishop, Jones, and L-359 members Richard Guenette and Wally Cousins.

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; Erik just signed up to become a Boilermaker apprentice. □



Headquarters visit — Larry Seaberg, left, Intl. C. W. Pres. Jones, and Erik Seaberg.

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 Dresser Mining Systems, Inc., where Local 158 has represented employees since 1941. □

Cemeteries dig deep for profits

Beware of overpriced cemetery goods and services

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! □

ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS

Save money by using a Medicare-registered, 'take assignment' supplier

Make sure your supplier accepts prices approved by Medicare as payment in full

IF YOU ARE A Medicare recipient in need of medical equipment and supplies, you can purchase these items at a lower cost from Medicare-registered suppliers that "take assignment" — accept prices approved by Medicare as payment in full.

Nearly eight million people with Medicare depend on medical equipment such as wheelchairs, oxygen, scooters, hospital beds, walkers, prosthetics, and diabetes supplies. Yet a recent survey by the Medicare Rights Center found that 63 percent of older and disabled New Yorkers who rely on medical equipment and supplies did not know about this savings.

Suppliers who are not registered with Medicare to "take assignment" can charge whatever they want for



Medical supplies, such as this wheelchair, can cost you less if you shop at "Medicare take assignment" stores.

equipment they rent or sell, and consumers are responsible for the difference between the Medicare-approved amount and the supplier's fee, in addition to the customary 20 percent coinsurance.

Using a Medicare-registered "take assignment" supplier can mean a significant savings to the consumer. So the next time you need medical equipment or supplies, make sure your supplier is Medicare-registered and will take assignment. □

Elite tools for elite man



Retired Const. Div. Dir. Joe Meredith holds two rosewood and brass trim tools given to him by International staff members on his retirement. He is flanked by (r. to l.) Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones, AAIP Joe Stinger, and Construction Div. Director Dale Branscum.

Joe Meredith receives special-order tool set

JOE MEREDITH, who served the International 27 years as an International 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 cabinetry 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. □

Taylor retirees now number four



Father William P. Taylor (front right), has been joined in retirement by his sons, Roy D. Taylor (front left), and (back, l. to r.) Gerald A. and William Ronald Taylor.

IF YOU HAVE ANY questions about the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust, you could always ask one of the Taylors; after all, four of them are plan recipients.

The senior family member, William P. "Bull" Taylor, began boilermaking in 1940 with Chicago Bridge and Iron in Attalla, Ala. He joined the Boilermakers in 1942, and retired as a member of Local 455 (Sheffield) in 1983. His last job was at Alabama's Brown Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Three Taylor sons followed in his footsteps. Roy D. "Little Bull" Taylor joined Local 455 in 1963. His first job was with PDM at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. He retired nearly six years ago. Gerald A. "Bull" or "Bull Three" Taylor joined the National Transient Lodge in 1966. He

also worked with PDM and joined Local 169, Detroit, Mich., in 1975. He retired in 2000. William Ronald Taylor joined the National Transient Lodge in 1969, working for Graver Tank. He joined Local 455 in 1974, and retired in October 2001. □

HONORS

Local 1 presents pins

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 III.

IN MEMORIAM

WITH DEEP SORROW the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer's office, and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

LODGE & NAME

NTL Bronson, Wayne E.	29	Malia, Michael	101	Molton, Oscar
NTL Durler, Donald	30	Masse, Noel	104	Cooper, Gilbert E.
1 Nilo, Jerry H.	30	Shackleford, Robert	104	Hutchinson, Troy
6 Matrai, L.	30	Smith, Joy T.	105	Flaughner, William
6 Rogalewski, Casimir	45	Smullen, Joseph	105	Maupin, Harold
6 Sutter, Russell	50	Potter, Glyn W.	S105	Blackwell, Delores
7 McCarthy, Thomas	72	Lindell, Harold A.	112	Butler, George
13 Bandura, James	72	Paino, James B.	112	Kyzer, Robert
13 O'Quinn, Bennie B.	72	Spang, Robert	127	Macey, James E.
13 Yurkavage, George	72	Werronen, Ernest J.	128	Clarkin, Clyde
26 Aldridge, Milton D.	73	Vautour, George	132	Anunsen, Morris
26 Stermo, Bernard	83	Smith, Ronald	134	Rehel, J. E.
28 Corbridge, Joseph J.	92	Lehrer, Samuel	146	Presiloski, David
28 Fulco, Frank	92	Turner, Edward	154	Daniele Jr., Vincent

502 Eidsmoe, Ralph	531 Thomas, Garnett
549 Crews, Bobby	592 Collins, Alfred
647 Ivey, William	656 Barmettler, Adam
667 Washington, Clifton	667 Melton, Stanley
667 Ross, Joe	696 Bitters, Robin
744 Carlson, Jay	801 Rinaldi, Lewis
1073 Johnson, James	1086 Jarosz, Chester
1240 McGraw, Philip	1509 Dziadosz, Paul
1509 Klasko, Gary	1509 Wielichowski, Allen

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.

LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT	37	Martin Jr., Henry E.	4,500.00
Intl. Maupin, Harold J.	\$4,500.00	40 Parrott, Julian C.	4,500.00
Intl. Walter, Kenneth	4,500.00	40 Waltz, Donald	188.50
NTL Anthony, Elbert M.	4,500.00	40 Young, Harry	4,500.00
NTL Bonds, George	1,573.65	60 Carson, Duane D.	6,000.00
NTL Franklin, Benjamin J.	3,000.00	60 Davis, Richard J.	4,500.00
NTL Gooch, Darris Henry	4,500.00	72 Anderson, Laurie J.	4,500.00
NTL Halfacre, Archie L.	4,500.00	72 Beck, Lester V.	4,500.00
NTL Hanks, James C.	4,500.00	72 Hassell Jr., Donald P.	4,500.00
NTL Martin, Robert W.	4,500.00	72 Hill, Alvin R.	3,000.00
NTL Powell, Russell W.	4,500.00	72 Parker, Philip	4,500.00
NTL Schifilliti, Paul	4,500.00	72 Stark, Lee M.	4,500.00
NTL Smith, Charles D.	4,500.00	72 Werronen, Ernest J.	4,500.00
NTL Stermo, Bernard M.	12,000.00	72 Wilcke, Conrad A.	4,500.00
NTL Wilder, Willis	4,500.00	79 Kelley, Joseph H.	4,500.00
1 Coomer, Noble E.	4,500.00	83 Ames, Phillip V.	4,500.00
1 Furlan, Thomas	4,500.00	83 Dill, James L.	4,500.00
1 Kozio, Mitchell P.	4,500.00	83 Greeno, Matthew J.	4,500.00
1 Spulak, William J.	4,500.00	83 Lee, J. C. A.	4,500.00
5 Soccolich, Gaudenzio	4,500.00	83 Thomas, Archie J.	4,500.00
6 Andazola, Joe M.	4,500.00	84 Ellis, Merle L.	4,500.00
6 Bettencourt, Eugenio R.	4,500.00	92 Allen, George W.	4,500.00
6 Calbo, John J.	6,000.00	92 Brackett, James	4,500.00
6 Carvalho, Alfred Bento	4,500.00	92 Gibson, William David	6,000.00
6 Gin, Bow M.	4,500.00	92 Longest, Burl D.	4,500.00
6 Jarrell, William	53.28	92 McEntire, Doyle J.	4,500.00
6 Maples, Eric L.	4,500.00	92 Meeks, Charles S.	4,500.00
6 Montalvo, Adolph	6,000.00	92 Whatley, Dennis F.	4,500.00
6 Pauly, John R.	4,500.00	92 Wilson, Harold E.	4,500.00
6 Qualls, Guy H.	4,500.00	101 Doyle, Frank P.	4,500.00
6 Rogalewski, Casimir	4,500.00	104 Caughell, John H.	4,500.00
6 Shannon, James R.	4,500.00	104 Culbertson, William A.	4,500.00
6 Sowders, Russell E.	3,000.00	104 Drake, Gary L.	4,500.00
6 Stapp, Bob	4,500.00	104 Harkinson, Jon L.	4,500.00
6 Taylor, Kirk F.	4,500.00	104 Lalonde, James R.	4,500.00
6 Weldon, Floyd R.	4,500.00	104 Larsen, Albert	4,500.00
7 McCarthy, Thomas J.	4,500.00	104 McDougal, Robert D.	4,500.00
11 Crisler, Carey D.	4,500.00	104 Real, Robert L.	4,500.00
12 Butler, George M.	4,500.00	104 Roll, Robert J.	4,500.00
13 Hudak, Stephen R.	4,500.00	105 Flaughner, William H.	4,500.00
13 McGinnis, John W.	4,500.00	109 Wilson, Lee C.	4,500.00
13 O'Quinn, Bennie B.	4,500.00	112 Carpenter, Pinar	4,500.00
13 Reed, Donald K.	4,500.00	112 Tuttle, Donald L.	4,500.00
26 Arnold, Robert	4,500.00	113 Watkins, Flora Maezell	4,500.00
26 Kendrick, Lucious	4,500.00	132 Heggans, Ernie L.	4,500.00
26 Pittman, Albert H.	4,500.00	132 Lopez, Guadalupe	4,500.00
27 Manwaring, James R.	6,000.00	154 Daniele Jr., Vincent	4,500.00
27 Vaughn, Harold Lee	6,000.00	154 Ihrig, William R.	4,500.00
27 Ward, Wilbern M.	4,500.00	154 Kooser, Wendell L.	4,500.00
28 LaConti, Edward J.	4,500.00	154 Lowery, Jody M.	12,000.00
28 Mulhern, Richard S.	4,500.00	154 Yuna, Michael J.	4,500.00
28 Rundle, Alfred J.	1,174.78	169 Boyd, Chester O.	6,000.00
29 McNeice Jr., Thomas P.	4,500.00	169 Marrt, William E.	3,000.00
29 Mitchelson, Alexander	4,500.00	169 Mott Jr., Carl W.	6,000.00
29 Watson, William M.	4,500.00	169 Rattou, Mike C.	4,500.00
37 Castro, Jorge A.	4,500.00	169 Vorgias, George J.	4,500.00

Local 1252 mourns 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.

Local 1252 retiree Ben Walker said, "John was the only one who knew why every clause of the labor agreement existed, since he served on every negotiating committee since the company's first contract."

Walker said Hatfield was "a great family man, father, uncle, brother, and dedicated union man. He will be missed by all of us." □

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101, at the earliest possible date. NOTE: These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

175 Kelly, Charles F.	6,000.00	502 Sallee, Richard H.	4,500.00
177 Devroy, Charles P.	4,500.00	531 Bryan, Willis H.	6,000.00
182 Davis, James D.	6,000.00	531 Thomas, Garnett E.	4,500.00
182 DelVecchio, Florian A.	4,500.00	549 Barnes, June LeRoy	4,500.00
182 Larsen, Carl T.	4,500.00	549 Crews, Bobby Gene	4,500.00
182 Worthen, James V.	4,500.00	549 Horton, Norman B.	4,500.00
193 Buga, Bill	4,500.00	568 Austin, Albert F.	4,500.00
193 Floyd, Ronald M.	1,360.60	568 Jeffers, Nyal L.	6,000.00
193 Grayson, Victor V.	4,500.00	568 York, James C.	4,500.00
193 Liggett, James W.	4,500.00	582 Fontenot, Harold P.	4,500.00
199 Greer Jr., Ernest W.	4,500.00	582 Scarbo, Richard H.	4,500.00
199 Hatchell, Carlyle W.	4,500.00	583 Smith, Hubert	4,500.00
199 Hunker, Robert L.	4,500.00	587 Byerly, James D.	4,500.00
204 Miller, Edward P.	3,000.00	587 Davis, Huey	4,500.00
204 Pregana, William S.	4,500.00	587 DeVersa, Peter A.	4,500.00
204 Singrattana, Khamva	4,500.00	587 Harmon Sr., Jack L.	4,500.00
212 Boarman, Robert T.	4,500.00	587 Livingston, Sammie J.	4,500.00
242 Stapleton, Donald R.	4,500.00	592 Collins, Alfred C.	4,500.00
357 Brown, Raymond	4,500.00	592 Hartgraves, James D.	4,500.00
357 Napier, Ronald	4,500.00	592 Johnston, Ivan R.	4,500.00
363 Howell, Chester	4,500.00	627 Smith, Everett A.	4,500.00
374 Duggan, Clifford E.	4,500.00	647 Buss, James A.	1,305.07
374 Preikas, Albert	6,000.00	647 Pieper, Frank L.	198.75
374 Sweeney, Sherrol	4,500.00	647 Tribbett, Norman	4,500.00
374 Wilson, Norbie E.	4,500.00	667 Gray, David A.	4,770.00
397 Lesoine, William I.	4,500.00	667 Robinette, Frank W.	4,500.00
433 Davis, Billy J.	2,250.00	667 Suarez, Scott L.	2,117.50
433 Fuqua, Jerry D.	4,500.00	679 Burckhalter, H. A.	4,500.00
433 Langford, Haywood	4,500.00	679 Williams, Ishmael	4,500.00
453 Peltz, Donald G.	4,500.00	687 Borchert, Marc J.	2,632.10
454 Jenkins, Carl R.	1,665.08	687 Jones, Samuel W.	8,274.44
454 Russell, Charles R.	4,500.00	696 Bitters, Robin M.	2,972.97
455 Barnett, James R.	4,500.00	696 Martin Jr., Michael F.	4,500.00
455 Gamble, James C.	6,000.00	744 Scott, Robert Lee	4,500.00
455 Raper, Hubert C.	4,500.00	799 Krause, Ronald C.	4,500.00
455 Shultz, Estle C.	4,500.00	802 Evans, Lonnie L.	4,500.00
469 Snowden, Charles R.	1,822.06	806 Scull, Robert J.	4,500.00
500 Doane, Joseph S.	4,500.00	807 Chao, Gerardo	4,500.00
		807 McKenzie, John A.	4,500.00
		1044 Samp, Floyd H.	4,500.00
		1086 Jarosz, Chester J.	4,500.00
		1162 Hanke, Ralph	6,000.00
		1212 Brett, Jorge A.	4,500.00
		1230 Booth, Edward	4,500.00
		1240 Harris, Jimmie D.	4,500.00
		1240 McGraw, Philip J.	4,535.17
		1509 Gawlak, Walter R.	4,500.00
		1509 Palubicki, Phillip W.	4,500.00
		1509 Russell, Willie L.	4,500.00
		1592 Weinhofer, Julius	4,500.00
		1600 Baines, Willie	4,500.00
		1670 Ervin, Daniel	4,500.00
		1670 Miller, Ann	4,500.00

Moving? Tell us where...

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State or Province _____ Zip _____

Local Lodge No. _____ Register No. _____

(Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.)

Mail form to:

Publications Department
753 State Avenue, Suite 565
Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

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 designed for adults or part-time 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

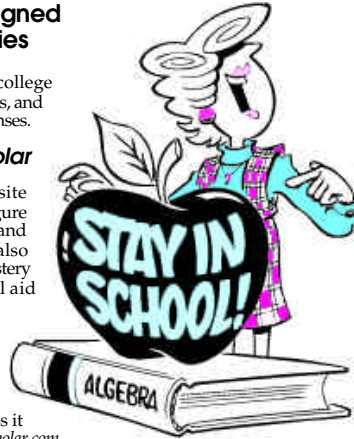
and your children pay for college tuition, books, fees, computers, and other education-related expenses.

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 WiredScholar 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. □

Members Only

The money-saving programs listed below are available only to Boilermaker members and their immediate families.*

UNION PLUS CREDIT CARD
Call: 1-800-522-4000

MORTGAGE & REAL ESTATE
Also open to your children & parents.
Call: 1-800-848-6466

EDUCATION LOANS
For college and job skills training.
Call: 1-877-881-1022

PERSONAL LOANS
Available for credit-qualified members.
Call: 1-888-235-2759

MOTOR CLUB
Towing and roadside assistance.
Call: 1-888-330-8801

LEGAL SERVICE
Discounted legal help — first 30 minutes are free.
Visit: www.unionprivilege.org

LIFE INSURANCE
For members, their spouses, and children.
Call: 1-800-899-2782

DENTAL & VISION
Discount fees
Call: 1-800-257-8352

ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Call: 1-800-899-2782

HEALTH SAVINGS
Save on prescription medicines and vision care.
Call: 1-800-228-3523

DISNEY WORLD DISCOUNT
Call: 1-800-248-7890

CAR RENTAL DISCOUNTS
Call and give the ID number:

Avis: 1-800-698-5685
AWD #B723700

Budget: 1-800-455-2848
BCD #V816100

HEARING CARE
Call: 1-800-766-3363

UNION-MADE CHECKS
Call: 1-800-864-6625

FLOWER SERVICE
Call: 1-800-667-7779

NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES
Call: 1-800-524-5533

Go to our web site for more information:

www.unionprivilege.org

BOILERMAKERS UNION
PRIVILEGE BENEFITS

*Includes retired members. Program restrictions apply to members outside the continental United States. Phone 1-800-452-9425 for clarification of eligibility.

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Receive free and discounted legal advice. Benefit includes a free 30-minute consultation, free document review, 30 percent discount on complex matters, and no enrollment fees.

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Working For Working Families

<http://www.IBB.workingfamilies.com>

The Union Plus® Mortgage & Real Estate Program Opens the Door

For Your Parents & Children to Buy, Sell & Save!

1-800-848-6466

Monday-Friday, 8:30a.m.-7p.m. (EST)
Se habla español
www.unionprivilege.org



Relatively speaking, no program brings your family savings like the Union Plus Mortgage and Real Estate program!

Because of your union membership, your parents and children get competitive rates and low five percent down payments.* If they also use a program real estate agent to buy their home, they'll save \$350 on closing costs. And when they list their home for sale, they'll get a free comprehensive home warranty plan (valued at \$350).

To help your family save, tell them about this great benefit.

Union Plus®
Mortgage and Real Estate

Not all mortgage program/products are available in all areas. *These down payment options are not available in all areas. Financing provided by Chase Manhattan Bank or Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation. All rights reserved. Equal Housing Lender.

<http://www.boilermakers.org>

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

Corporate tax giveaways won't rev up economy

IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS — now 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, recovery seems to have taken place more rapidly. Even with the anthrax threat, politicians went back to their old ways within days of the attacks.

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 passenger 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 authority would help defeat terrorism. He did not explain how trade agreements could help him find bin Laden, but his strategy seems to have succeeded.

By wrapping fast track in the American flag, Bush cowed just enough congressmen to get fast track approved by a single vote: 215 to 214. Now U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick can negotiate NAFTA-style agreements with no input from Congress or the people. All Congress can do is accept them or reject them.

We've been here before. In 1993, Bill Clinton used fast-track authority to strong-arm the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) through Congress. NAFTA was supposed to promote world peace, too, by creating millions of jobs. Instead, Canada and

the U.S. lost hundreds of thousands of jobs, and Mexico plunged into a major financial crisis. They are still recovering from the "benefits" Clinton's fast track won them.

Now we have the "economic stimulus" package, which Bush and Congress claim will not only stimulate the economy but — you guessed it — help us win the war on terrorism.

Unfortunately for all working Americans, it will do neither. It is a \$100 billion cornucopia of tax giveaways to corporations that will put a lot of money into a very few pockets.

And they are the wrong pockets. To stimulate demand, you need to put money into the hands of people who will spend it — the middle class and the poor. Working-class families.

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 contained corporate tax cuts, most importantly, repeal of the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

The AMT was created in the late 1980s to make sure that no matter how many tax loopholes a corporation used, it would have to pay at least a minimum tax on its profits. The AMT is not foolproof, 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 corporations 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 companies will reap windfalls far out of proportion to their sizes. For example, General Motors, with 380,000 employees will get \$800 million; TXU (formerly Dallas Power and Light), with only 16,000 employees, will get \$600 million. Other medium-sized companies standing 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 special favors to select groups. In the stimulus 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, they are cashing in."

Using a national tragedy to promote tax breaks for your campaign contributors requires 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.



Charles W. Jones
International President

This provision would give workers a "holiday" from Social Security and Medicare taxes, temporarily increasing workers' paychecks by 7.65 percent. Workers are likely to spend this money on consumer items, putting the money in circulation and increasing demand.

But that money comes from the workers' own retirement funds, while corporate refund checks come from the general treasury. Congress would have you rob your savings while they give corporations checks written on the taxes you pay. All in the name of fighting terrorism.

Attorney General John Ashcroft told the Senate that anyone who questions the Bush administration's policies is "giving aid to the enemy." We disagree. We are 100 percent behind the war effort and the men and women putting their lives at risk overseas.

But when the White House and Congress take actions that will bring hardship to the lives of working families, it is our duty to oppose those actions.

Anything less is un-American. □

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 dispersed to inner city help agencies in the City of Edmonton. The members gather the hotel soaps, shampoos, 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!

SHERRY LIIMATAINEN, wife of 24-year L-146 member Paul Liimatainen

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 MC CARTHY, L-29
Weymouth Job

EDITORS NOTE: The Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training (MOST) 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 (Pittsburg, Calif.) for their cards and flowers, the generous donation 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 a time like this, you find out how truly special some people can be.

SHERRY WHITE EAGLE and the entire WHITE EAGLE FAMILY
P.S. Anyone wishing to make a donation 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 payments 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 appreciated when you are totally disabled,

less than \$100 per month is just not what the union should be doing for members who become totally disabled. I think management needs to address this issue and not use the same table as when you retire to determine disability benefits. Let's take better care of our members.

JOHN R. POLOMIS, L-696
Marinette, Wis.

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
753 State Ave. Suite 570

Kansas City KS 66101

FAX: (913) 281-8104

E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org
or cdillon@boilermakers.org