Jurisdictional dispute, plan changes, organizing targets dominate session

THE BOILERMAKERS’ Construction Division Winter Conference was held Feb. 24-27, 2003, at the Ocean Point Resort & Club in Miami Beach, Fla.

Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones opened the meeting by awarding Distinguished Service Awards — the highest honor the International union has to bestow — to retiring Asst. to the Intl. Pres. William V. Carey, Admin. Asst. to the Intl. Pres. Joseph A. Stinger, and National Archivist Thomas L. Wands Jr. (see story on p. 3). He then recognized those officers and staff in attendance with long-term service by presenting them with membership service pins.

Award presentations continued as John Erickson gave out safety awards from the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE). Each U.S. vice-presidential area had local lodges with zero lost-time injury rates, and two of these lodges also had a zero compensatory injury rate.

Continued on page 2
Construction Division meets in Miami

Proposed changes to LMRDA reports will hurt many unions

CHANGES TO the Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act (LMRDA) financial reports will cost unions millions of dollars, yet much of the information that will be gathered serves no legitimate accounting purpose, Bob Tiberi and Jim Giemzik, accountants with Legacy Professionals (formerly Thomas Haxev) to review proposed changes to the LMR forms.

Administrator William Palomino, David Haggerty, and Bridget Connors reviewed the Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training (MOST) program.

AIP and NTD Director William J. Almond discussed the National Transient Lodge Agreement, followed by Michael D. DeCiccio, aost. to the director of the Construction Division, who reviewed other national agreements.

Matt Caulfield introduced “Helmets to Hardhats,” an innovative program designed to recruit U.S. military personnel leaving the armed services into construction jobs.

He said 250,000 men and women leave the service each year looking for jobs. The program is working with 15 international unions to help reach these young people in order to fill the critical work force shortage in the construction industry. For more information, visit www.helmetstohardhats.org.

Tom Johnson, president of the Brotherhood Bank & Trust, brought the delegates up-to-date on bank holdings.

Dave Hanson and Mario Rodriguez reviewed the statistics for the Boilermakers’ national funds — pension, health & welfare, and annuity — and discussed in great length new requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which will appear in the May-June issue of this paper.

Natl. Apprentice Coord. Pat Smith introduced Olga R. Atencio, a paralegal and investigator with Brent Coon & Associates (www.bcoonlaw.com; 409-835-2666), a law firm representing asbestos cases. Atencio asked for the delegates’ cooperation in screening members for asbestos, including young members who may have been exposed by parents who worked with asbestos. The firm will file their cases in groups, but will handle settlements separately.

National Archivist Tom Wands reported on the progress of the Boilermakers’ history book and spoke of recent donations to the museum.

Dale “Skipper” Branscum, director of the Construction Division, discussed plan changes for jurisdictional disputes and provided updates on craft jurisdiction. He reported that we will see some SCR work the next two years, but that the bulk of this work has been completed. He hopes, however, that utilities will go back to coal-fired generation, which will mean a lot of work for Boilermaker members.

Regional Director Joe Meredith then provided a referral update.

In his closing remarks, Intl. Pres. Jon Jones stressed the importance of working safely. “A zero tolerance level is the only acceptable level,” he said. “Construction is one of the most dangerous industries. And when we learn of a job-site injury or death, we shudder, and wonder what more we should be doing to prevent accidents. We have to work hard to secure a solution to problems so we can prevent problems.”

In discussing the economy, Jon Jones blasted “corporate crooks who are engaged to greed and corruption” for causing the stock market to crash. He said, “We are trying to do the best job we can to protect our pension.”

In his final words, Intl. Pres. Jon Jones said, “We are trying to do the best job we can to protect our pension.”

They’re MORE THAN the nameless people in the emergency vehicles. They’re husbands and wives and chil- dren and parents and grandparents.

And some of them are members of the Boilermakers Professional EMTs and Paramedics (PEP) Division.

Whatever else they are, you know that when you need them most, they can be lifesavers.

The week of May 18-24 has been set aside to honor America’s 750,000 emergency medical service workers for their commitment and dedication to an essential community service.

The PEP Division represents EMS providers in Denver, Colo. (Local P1), Owensboro, Ky. (Local P5), Youngstown, Ohio (Local P4), and New Orleans, La., where Local P5 will soon be chartered.

EMS week is May 18-24

To all of these emergency medical service professionals — and to every one in this vital industry — we send our most sincere thanks.
Stinger adds 'IVP' to an already long list of titles


In March 1968, he began two years of military service, completing one tour of duty in Vietnam with the elite Airborne Rangers as a team leader and platoon sergeant.

After his honorable discharge, Stinger returned to work at the Monongahela Railroad and earned his teaching certificate at the University of Pittsburgh. He supplemented his railroad income by teaching evening college courses, substituting at the high school level during his vacations.

Stinger was elected general chairman of the Eastern Region in 1977, and was reelected in 1981. In 1983, he became an International representative, attending the Harvard University Trade Program in 1984. The same year he was elected supervisor of the Henry Clay Township and appointed director of the Boilermakers Railroad Division. In 1985, he became an asst. to Intl. Pres. Jones and was named admin. asst. to Intl. Pres. Jones in 1996. On April 7, 2003, he became Intl. vice pres. of the Western States.

Stinger was nominated by Intl. President Charles W. Jones for the Western States effective April 7. Stinger was confirmed him as International vice president for the Western States area. On April 7, 2003, the Boilermakers International elected Joseph A. (Joe) Stinger into the office of International vice president for the Western States effective April 7. Stinger was confirmed him as International vice president for the Western States area.

LACEFIELD, 62, began his Boilermaker career as an apprentice in Local Lodge 101, Denver, in 1963. In 1967, he became the first apprentice to graduate in the Missouri Valley agreement's apprentice program.

In 1970, he was appointed assistant business manager and dispatcher for Lodge 101, and was elected to be the lodge's business manager-secretary treasurer in 1972. After serving two terms as business manager, Lacefield was appointed to the International staff in November 1975, as a representative for the Construction Department and the National Tank Maintenance Department (now National Transient Division). Lacefield began working exclusively for the Construction Division when it was created in 1977. While an International representative for the Rocky Mountain states and Pacific Coast, Lacefield handled numerous special assignments as a hearing officer. In 1996, Intl. President Jones appointed him assistant to the International president.


Local S105 workers strike, keep COLA

UNIONS STRIKE ONLY as a last resort, when all other bargaining tools have failed. But sometimes you have no other choice. Such was the case early this year for members of Local S105, Effingham, Ill., who work for the Fedders Corporation, an air conditioner manufacturer.

“We explored every avenue to avert a strike that would hurt a trade that is profitable,” said S105 Pres. Michael Willison. In October 2002, the union unanimously rejected the company’s contract offer that would eliminate their $2.56 an hour cost-of-living allowance.

Their 11-month contract expired that day.

Their new contract also includes language that prevents the company from changing a regular-status employee to a temporary status, a position that has no benefits.

Willison is relieved that the workers are back to work with a contract. He wrote Intl. Pres. Jones about his appreciation for the International's support during their lengthy negotiations and short strike:

"I was facing a giant corporation that is nothing but an economic terrorist," wrote Willison. "The free-trade agreement is bleeding us to death here at S105. Our jobs are going to P.R.C., as Fedders likes to refer to them, but I believe in calling a spade a spade—we are losing our jobs to communist China.

"I have talked with Intl. Vice Pres. Smith about making the American workforce competitive again. He is committed to helping our people become an asset to Fedders.

"I appreciate you and your staff and look forward to one day shaking your hand. I know, like you, I will live and die an American union man."

Employees gain three-year contract, wage increases

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International staff earn awards for service to the Brotherhood

INTL. PRES. CHARLES W. Jones presented Distinguished Service Awards, the highest honor the International union has to bestow, to three deserving candidates — William V. Carey, Joseph A. Stinger, and Thomas L. Wand Jr. — during the opening day session of the Boilermakers’ Construction Division winter meeting, Feb. 24, 2003, at the Ocean Point Resort in Miami, Fla.

"This is the highest award an International president can give to someone who has served with distinction the members of an International union," said Jones. "I can’t give these gentlemen a medal, we don’t have one, but I do have an award for people who distinguish themselves in service to the Brotherhood and its members."

William V. Carey

WILLIAM V. CAREY has served as an administrative asst. to Intl. Pres. Jones and as director of the Railroad Division. On April 7, 2003, the Executive Council confirmed him as International vice president for the Western States Area. He is a 33-year member.

Archivist Thomas L. Wand Jr.

THOMAS L. WAND JR. serves as the Boilermakers National Archivist and is the retired administrator of the Boilermakers National Funds office. He is a 43-year member of the National Transient Lodge.

Joe Stinger is new Western States IVP

Don Lacefield retires after 40-plus years of service

THE INTL. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL voted Joseph A. (Joe) Stinger into the office of International vice president for the Western States effective April 7. Stinger was confirmed him as International vice president for the Western States area. On April 7, 2003, the Boilermakers International elected Joseph A. (Joe) Stinger into the office of International vice president for the Western States effective April 7. Stinger was confirmed him as International vice president for the Western States area.
Local Star District sponsors training

Fifty-two members from five locals attend first-year apprentice classes

THE LONE STAR DISTRICT held a first-year training class for apprentices of its four affiliated lodges, January 13-29, 2003, at the Alvin Community College in Alvin, Texas. Apprentices from Local 592, Tulsa, Okla., also participated. Instructors from the Southeast Area Joint Apprentice Committee (SAJAC) — Michael McCluskey and retired Boilermakers Doug Walker and Camilo Jimenez — taught welding techniques. College welding instructor Laura Bell, a member of Local 132, conducted the classes, utilizing two classrooms and a welding shop at the college.

The first-year apprentices completed 100 hours of classroom studies and 50 hours of hands-on welding during the two-and-a-half week course. Their average score was 89.38 percent.

The Lone Star District Lodge represents members from four Texas lodges — Local 74 (Houston), Local 132 (Galveston), Local 531 (Amarillo), and Local 587 (Orange).

The Boilermakers’ apprenticeship program

ALL APPRENTICES participating in the Boilermakers’ National Apprenticeship Program (BNAP) are subject to a probationary period determined by their area joint apprenticeship committee. During this probationary period, normally six months, apprentices are evaluated on their willingness to accept work assignments, their performance on the job and in the classroom, attendance, punctuality, and writing and submission of work reports and related studies.

After the probationary period, apprentices are required to maintain the high standards set by the BNAP and their area apprenticeship program.

Local 531 holds steward training

Crisis in manufacturing threatens U.S. workers

U.S. MANUFACTURING is in a deep, long-lasting crisis that threatens the future of American prosperity. The crisis is the result of a failure of economic and trade policy.

Since 1998, 2.5 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared, as companies move their production facilities overseas or shut down because of the weak economy. The number of long-term jobless workers is at a ten-year high of 1.9 million, more than twice the number when G.W. Bush took office.

Throughout the 20th century, manufacturing jobs provided the good-paying jobs that created our middle class. Now manufacturing employment has fallen to its lowest level in 41 years.

The apprenticeship period lasts 6,000 hours. This period could be less if the apprentice has prior work experience as a field construction boilermaker or is a certified welder.

Regardless of the number of on-the-job hours accumulated, an apprentice must also complete the self-study program and a minimum of 576 classroom training hours in order to graduate from the apprenticeship program.

For more information, visit the BNAP web site at www.bnap.com.

Apprentice training includes classroom and hands-on instruction. Lone Star District and Local 592 apprentices, above, are working towards completion of the apprenticeship program’s first year requirement of 100 hours of classroom studies.

At left: A LOCAL 74 apprentice, welds an overhead plate as part of his first-year apprentice training, which includes 50 hours of hands-on-welding instruction.

Job fair canceled for lack of jobs

The White House has other plans. He advocates reorienting the U.S. trade policy. “Our trade policy must not offer U.S. companies additional incentives to move offshore and must ensure we maintain a strong manufacturing sector,” Abbott said in a recent bulletin outlining the manufacturing crisis.

Since 1994, NAFTA has cost the U.S. millions of jobs.

Res. DirectoR Rien Beauchamp, standing at left, conducts a steward training seminar for members of Local Lodge 531, Amarillo, Texas, Feb. 12, 2003.

At left: P.J., a LOCAL 74 apprentice, welds an overhead plate as part of his first-year apprentice training class at the Alvin Community College in Alvin, Texas.

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EARLY 250 BOILERMAKER local lodge leaders from all parts of the U.S. descended on Washington, D.C., March 17-21, for the 35th annual conference of the Boilermakers Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP).

These politically active members listened to guest speakers — members of Congress and political strategists — then went to Capitol Hill to take the Boilermaker message directly to the people who need to hear it most: our elected representatives in Congress.

This year’s guest speakers included Congressmen Steve Lynch (D-9th MA), Neil Abercrombie (D-1st HI), and Tom Bishop (D-1st NY), along with political strategists, policy experts, and International staff. First-time attendees also attended a workshop on lobbying basics.

International President Charles W. Jones got the conference off to a good start, explaining to delegates the importance of political and legislative activity.

“With Republicans in control of both houses of Congress, Bush has already begun his assault on labor unions,” Jones said. “He’s dismantling worker protections like the 40-hour week. He’s taken away the right of federal employees to belong to unions — first, Department of Homeland Security employees, and more recently, 1,300 workers at the National Imagery & Mapping Agency, and 60,000 airline screeners.

“He’s giving tax breaks to his rich cronies while in only three years the federal budget has gone from the largest surplus in history to the largest deficit. He’s trying to pass a trillion-dollar tax cut for the wealthy that will weaken Social Security and Medicare.

“We've got to stop him before he does more harm to working families.”

Following Jones’s remarks, Director of Legislation Ande Abbott explained how LEAP works and the importance of political action.

Assistant to the Director of Legislation Bridget Martin gave an overview of the past year’s political activities in Washington and around the country.

Shannon Brett, who works in the Boilermakers’ legislative office, went over the legislative issues that delegates took to the Hill.

Carol Dillon, assistant to the managing editor, introduced delegates to the Boilermakers’ LEAP web site (go to www.boilermakers.org and click on LEAP) and gave a demonstration of all its features, including letter-writing and voter registration.

Donald Caswell, director of communication, used optical illusions to illustrate some of the techniques used to misrepresent the economy and political initiatives.

GUEST SPEAKERS are always an important element of the LEAP conference. They educate delegates on the issues facing our country and motivate them to stay active.

Cindy Brown, president of the American Shipbuilding Association, spoke on the need to get Congress to support America’s shipyards, making pointed reference to the conflict in Iraq.

“Ships do not require the permission of a foreign government to protect our nation,” she said. “But the U.S. Navy is not building ships at the rate needed to keep a 300-ship Navy, and new procurement rules from the Department of Defense will hurt U.S. shipyards by weakening the Buy America Act.

“Built-in-America laws are keeping our shipyards alive,” she said. “Every hull, every defense system should be manufactured in this country, regardless of trade agreements, for security reasons and because they create jobs.

“We are losing our industrial base. Since 1998, we have lost more than two million manufacturing jobs. If we are going to project power around the world, we cannot worry about a foreign leader denying us access to the parts and equipment we need to keep them running.”

She advocated support for a resolution to make a 375-ship Navy national policy, funding Title XI, and preserving the Jones Act, which requires that commercial ships used in U.S. waters be manufactured in the U.S.

Gerron Levi, deputy director of legislation for the AFL-CIO, spoke about proposed changes to LM reports (see story, page 2) and Bush’s budget.

“Bush asked for $100 billion worth of funding cuts in order to make way for his $726 billion tax cut, which benefits only the richest taxpayers,” she said.

“Programs that benefit working families will lose funding, yet 31 percent of taxpayers get no benefit from the tax cut, and the top one percent get over $37,000 each.”

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Continued from page 5

"A new effort to do away with overtime pay is strongly supported by the Bush White House. It would do away with the 40-hour work week and allow employers to require workers to put in 80 hours in a two-week period before they would have the right to overtime. They could also ask workers to work 'voluntary' time off in the future instead of overtime pay."

Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-1st HI), a crowd-pleaser every year, got delegates stirred up with his observations regarding the goal of political action.

"We are looking to make sense for your brothers and sisters and their families who sent you here, we've got to get on track to elect 218 people who will support us to do," he said. "If we don't do that there's no sense meeting. It's just going through the motions."

"Bush has both Houses. He can do whatever he wants. It is only the particular organization of the Senate that keeps him from rolling over you like a small roller," he said.

Referring to Elaine Chao's address to the AFL-CIO at which she insulted union leaders who oppose her burden-sharing legislation, he said, "Never before in history has a secretary of labor treated the union community with such contempt. Her actions are a symbol of the contempt this administration has for you and your families. The reason they are coming after unions so hard is that organized labor is the only force in this nation that can withstand corporate dominance.

"I do not believe that the tax cuts Bush is fighting for will help them? They’re for the fat cats. I don’t mind that there are fat cats. I’d like to see more fat cats. But those fat cats just want to get fatter and they want to send the bill to you."

Then Abercrombie took aim at an issue Bush has managed to ignore since taking office: campaign finance reform.

"The so-called campaign finance reform bill," he said, "allows the individual who gave Bush $150 million last time to give him $300 million this year. It increases the amount an individual can give a candidate to $4,000 — $2,000 for the primary and $2,000 for the general election. The maximum campaign contribution can give is $10,000. Two rich individuals can reach into their pockets and match four-fifths of what your entire union of 80,000 members is allowed to give." 

Yet manufacturers continued to put asbestos into products because it was an effective fire retardant and it was cheap. They sold their products with no warning labels and expressed no remorse for their workers who developed asbestosis and lung cancer.

"Our workers have made a good living from asbestos," one corporate executive said. "They might as well die of it."

Asbestos-related disease has resulted in thousands of lawsuits, because its use was so widespread and because it has a long latency period. Workers don't get ill right away. They can develop asbestos-related diseases 20, 30, even 50 years after exposure.

Some legislators are attempting to limit who can sue a manufacturer or employer for exposure to asbestos. Coon strongly objects to these bills, because they effectively limit recovery of damages for the people who have cancer. Asbestos can be deadly in its own right, and people who have it in the early stages must be carefully monitored because they are at a much higher risk for lung cancer and other diseases.

Limiting asbestos lawsuits rewards companies that have shown no regard for the health of their employees. The maximum campaign contribution can give is $10,000. Two rich individuals can reach into their pockets and match four-fifths of what your entire union of 80,000 members is allowed to give."

Brent Coon, an occupational and environmental attorney, spoke to the delegates about a bill before Congress that would limit who can file an asbestos lawsuit.

Asbestos has been used in industrial and commercial products for over 100 years. Doctors and companies using asbestos have known it is dangerous for nearly as long.

The first asbestos cases were diagnosed in the 1800s. In the 1920s, a 30-year-old British woman died working in an asbestos textile mill. Her autopsy showed lung damage from asbestos fibers, which had suffocated her. The doctor who examined her coined the word ‘asbestosis.’

Comprehensive studies in the U.S. in the 1930s showed that a number of trades, including Boilermakers, were at increased risk for asbestosis. By World War II, several hundred articles had been written in medical journals about the disease.

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The building trades put me in office," he said. "Their grass-roots political action got 100 percent. And 14 months later, the building trades put me in the state senate. And it didn't end there. They put me in the House."

The death of Rep. Joe Moakley, a strong supporter of working families and the labor movement, opened another door for Lynch. He ran for the Moakley's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and won.

"If I can do it, you can do it," he told the crowd. "We all come from the same background. We have common experience. It's uncommon on Capitol Hill."

"The experience you have brings a lot to the debate. The first six times I spoke on the House floor, it was all opposing a tax cut. They got tired of hearing me. But we're right on that issue. It is costing us jobs every day."

"Where I come from, you take care of the people who need to be taken care of. We can't turn our back on our seniors. That's not what workers do. And there is no way we should be considering a $700 billion tax cut for people making over $300,000 a year when we can't take care of our veterans. It is unconscionable that we are not funding veterans' health, yet we're passing these huge tax cuts."

Lynch ended his talk by inviting the delegates to take advantage of his position in Congress.

"I know you have your own Congressmen," he said, "but you also have me. We are family. When you're here, come see me. I am here to fly the flag high for labor, and I take great comfort in knowing I represent great people. I could not be prouder of this union card in my pocket."

Rep. Tim Bishop (D-1st New York) spoke on the role that organized labor and working families can play in winning a congressional race.

"I am here as proof that unions can help candidates win elections. I was down 22 points at the start, but began seeking union endorsements. First I got the Carpenters. The second union was a local representing workers at the college where I was an administrator. I had sat across the table from members of this union at contract negotiations, grievances, and arbitrations. I knew them well, but I was from the other side of the table."

"That didn't matter to them. They recognized that in my career I have always been pro-labor and cared about the needs of working families. I got their endorsement."

"The most important thing you can do for a candidate is to provide a grass-roots workforce. Time, effort, and shoe leather swing elections. And when it works, you have a candidate who is forever indebted to you for the service you have done."

"I was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a fund-raiser for a big university, but the Carpenters had a picket line up. Called the university president and told him I couldn't cross the picket line. Within an hour, the president of the university was sitting down with the Carpenters and the job went union. It shows what can happen when organized labor gets behind a candidate."

"Now is the time to use your power. We can't lose sight of the needs of working families. This is the most anti-labor administration that we have seen in decades. They are trying to dismantle all unions. In the Department of Homeland Security, 170,000 workers lost collective bargaining rights overnight when President Bush said he couldn't deal with unions in a time of crisis."

"I don't buy it. When the World Trade Center went down, not a single one of those firefighters hesitated because of collective bargaining. They rushed in to save lives, and many of them lost their own lives. Union workers risk the difference between a contract negotiation and a national crisis."

"Bush wants to take overtime pay away. My father was a member of the graphics union. Overtime paid our bills. Overtime paid for my education."

"Pay attention to the tax cuts and the budget. Bush wants an $800 billion tax cut."
Speakers inform, motivate

Continued from page 6

of that do not stimulate the economy, but fundamentally alters the tax burden, the tax code, and the distribution of wealth in America. His budget deficit could grow over the next three years from three percent of GDP to 12 percent.

“They are constructing a budget that will not sustain our social safety net we have constructed over the past 70 years. The only way we will be able to run our government with those deficits will be to slash Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and all other protections for working families.”

Cecile Richards, staff assistant for Minority House Leader Nancy Pelosi, discussed the economic landscape now that Republicans have majorities in both houses of Congress and the White House.

“Our being in D.C. right now is more important than ever before,” Richards said. “Whether from Bush or the Republican leadership in Congress, we are facing the worst assault on organized labor and working families that we have ever seen.

“Nowhere is that more clear than in the economy. Bush inherited the best economy in 50 years, and he completely blew it. We’ve lost more than 2.5 million private sector jobs since he took office. There are 8.6 million Americans who are unemployed. And Bush is doing nothing to create new jobs.

“The Democratic economic plan can be summed up with one word: jobs. Our plan would create one million jobs this year alone.

“Bush’s plan is to cut taxes, not create jobs. His own economists say it will not create even enough jobs to make up for what we lost in February.

“The budget the Republicans want to pass cuts Medicare, veterans’ benefits, and education — all so Bush can give a $1 trillion tax cut that leaves millions behind. Bush’s choice for those seniors on Medicare is that you can choose your doctor or you can get help if you are prescribed certain drugs. You can’t have both. His education reform bill is the No Child Left Behind Bill, but he leaves millions of children behind by vastly underfunding his own programs.

“When it comes to labor, Bush doesn’t even have Labor. That’s just a one-word labor administration since Herbert Hoover. Whether it’s dockworkers on the east coast, steelworkers, or people who work for the Department of Homeland Security, Bush does not want to allow unions. His proposed changes for the LM forms are nothing more than a bureaucratic nightmare that offers nothing to union members. He wants to gut the 40-hour week.

“The Democrats are committed to working with you to find and support strong pro-union candidates. If we do the work we’re supposed to do, we will take back the House and the Senate and defeat Bush in 2004.”

Jennifer Duck, from Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle’s office, continued the list of damage.

“Attack is coming from all sides in this administration,” she said. “Federal Appeals Majority Bill Frist works hand-in-hand with the White House. Bush treats the Senate as an extension of the White House and Republican senators do play along.

“The Senate leadership has wasted our time for more than a month with the nomination of Miguel Estrada [Appellate Judge]. He has shown extreme contempt for the Senate. He has never even bothered to read the information the Senate is giving him. The Senate will not be a rubber stamp for Bush’s nominations.

“They will exercise their due diligence and examine every candidate thoroughly. Rather than working with us so we can get this information, the Bush administration has drawn a line in the sand and wasted five weeks when we should have wasted zero.

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Speakers inform, motivate

have been talking about the economy, about job creation.

“The Senate finally moved on to the budget. Working with moderate Republicans in the Senate, we have reduced the tax cuts to $350 billion. This is the best we could do.”

“Democrats would like to increase spending on transportation, prescription drugs for seniors, education, and job creation. We’ve offered amendments that increase spending in these areas, with offsets so total spending does not increase.”

Bob Baugh, director of the Industrial Union Council of the AFL-CIO, talked about the manufacturing crisis.

“Manufacturing has been in a depression for four years. After World War II, we built the world. Unemployment was low in the 1950s and 1960s because we invested in workers. The GI bill trained and educated more workers than ever before. Jobs in manufacturing grew from the end of World War II until 1978. That’s when we began losing jobs to overseas manufacturers. “Since 1978, we have lost five million jobs in manufacturing. In the past four years, we’ve lost 2.5 million. We have had declining manufacturing employment for the past 31 months — the longest such decline since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Manufacturing productivity is at its lowest in 40 years. “You hear people call manufacturing the old economy. They say our future is with services.

“But the economy only grows when productivity grows. When the economy produces more for the same amount of money, wealth is created. In the 1980s and 1990s, manufacturing productivity grew five times as fast as productivity in the rest of the economy. Manufacturing did more to fuel the boom growth of the 1990s than any other sector of the economy.”

“Yet we’re letting our manufacturing base move overseas. In the 1970s we began giving tax breaks to companies that moved overseas, and we soon had a trade deficit. We began importing more goods than we exported. “U.S. workers enjoyed steadily rising wages from the 1940s until the 1970s. But since then, there has been little or no growth in real wages for workers. Trade deficits have kept wages down. When we have a trade deficit, more money is leaving the country than is coming in. We have to borrow from other countries.”

“In 1988, we became a debtor economy. After 25 years of borrowing, we are getting deeper and deeper into debt. You can’t borrow your way to prosperity. Right now, the accumulated debt of the U.S. economy is about 23 percent of gross domestic product. When it gets to 40 percent, we are in serious trouble. Forty percent is what Argentina was when their economy collapsed.”

“The solution is simple. We must import less and export more. Manufacturing has to become an important part of our economy again.

“We should stop all further trade deals until the trade deficit is gone. We should stop encouraging outsourcing and encourage buying American-made goods. We should require the military to buy American.”

“Let us correct the policies that are killing American industry and encourage widespread state and local participation in businesses and industries. “We need to put American workers first. This is the best we could do.

Annual CAF awards underscore importance of raising political money

THE ONLY WAY unions can contribute funds to candidates for federal office is through a political action committee (PAC), which collects voluntary donations from its members and employees. The Boilermakers’ Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) is our PAC.

Raising money for CAF is essential if our union is to have any impact on workers’ lives in Washington. That’s why at each LEAP conference, Legislative Director Ande Abbott presents awards for outstanding contributions to CAF during the previous year.

The vice-presidential area and local lodge contributing the most money to CAF in 2002 get awards, as do the local lodge having the highest CAF contribution per member and the lodge showing the most improvement from the previous year’s contribution.

This year, all awards went to the Northeast. The Northeast Area won the award for the highest CAF contribution by a vice-presidential area. Local 154, Pittsburgh, won for largest contribution, raising $68,123.59. Local 105, Chillicothe, Ohio, was close behind them, with a contribution of $57,031.02.

Local 5, New York City, won for highest contribution per member. They raised $134.61 per member, slightly more than the $133.97 per member raised by Local 29, Boston. Local 29 also won the prize for most improvement, raising $37,430.27 more than they did in 2001 — an increase of 192 percent.

Retirees were the single group of contributors who donated the most money, with $82,925.09 from all retirees combined. International staff and officers contributed another $55,615.

In all, $538,887.66 was donated to CAF in 2002, yet only 54 locals contributed to the fund. Nearly all of the locals making large contributions have included CAF payroll check-off in their collective bargaining agreement. Payroll deductions are the easiest way to raise money. Most people hardly notice a payroll deduction of one dollar a week. Yet donating a dollar a week to CAF can raise more than $100 over a year’s time — putting you among the members donating the most money.

And every dollar is put to good use, supporting pro-worker candidates. To learn how your local can begin contributing to CAF and how to include a voluntary CAF payroll-checkoff clause in your contract, call the Legislative Office at 703-560-1493.

NE Area sweeps CAF fundraising awards

Top ten locals donating to CAF

No one is better qualified to represent the interests of working families than candidates from those families. That’s why the AFL-CIO created Target 5000, a program encouraging union workers to run for public office. Since it began in 1997, more than 2,500 union members have been elected to school boards, city councils, state legislatures, and even the U.S. Congress.

Target 5000 has assisted workers from all industries in getting elected, including Boilermakers. Their current goal is to double the number of union members who hold public office. They will be targeting legislative bodies where labor can have the most impact by electing pro-worker majority and on moving union members up to higher levels of office.

If you are interested in running for public office — or if you know someone who would be a good candidate — call the Boilermakers Legislative Office to learn how they and Target 5000 can help. Winning office isn’t easy, but others have succeeded. Call 703-560-1493 or e-mail leapintocabin@yahoo.com.

Boilermakers Elected to Public Office

Brian Battlefield Local 484 Ill. Board of Ed
Todd Cooley Local 484 Ill. Mayor
J ohn Devin Local 28 N.J. Mayor
Greg Dewitt Local 484 Ill. Councilman
Harley Garrett Local 484 Ill. Village Trustee
Jim Grady Local 484 Ill. Board of Ed
Lyle Grimes Local 37 La. Committeeeman
Steven Gromala Local 696 M.C. Board of Commissioners, Chair
Thomas Hampton Local 903 M.S. Judge
Brian Hickey Local 1851 Mass. Housing Board Member
Rick Hillapse Local 100 C. Board of Ed
Sherman Ivy Local 903 M.S. Constable
Deibert Lathim Local 242 Wash. Commissioner
James Jerch Local 484 Ill. Township Trustee
Floyd McKee Local 903 M.S. Constable
Charlies M. Iles Local 656 Tenn. County Industrial Development Board
Akes Myers Local 484 Ill. School Board
Dave Newell Local 484 Ill. Mayor
Gale Pool Local 484 Ill. School Board
Morris Powell Local 656 Ga. Democratic State Committee
Philip Snowflee Local 197 N.Y. County Legislator
Grover Skyles Local 656 Tenn. City Commissioner
George Strutt Local 614 Conn. City Commissioner
Gene Townsend Local D-299 Mont. Mayor
Casey Weeks Local 903 M.S. Board of Ed
B. Hyjpe Wright, Jr. Local 903 M.S. Mayor

Boilermakers Elected to Public Office

IVP MIKE MURPHY PRESENTS an award for the local lodge with the highest CAF contribution in 2002 to Local 154 President Thomas O’Connor.

VVP MIKE MURPHY PRESENTS an award for the local lodge with the highest CAF contribution per member in 2002 to Local 5 Trustee Chairman Tom Klein.

GERRY WILLIAMS, LOCAL 610 DGE 29 business manager, accepts the award for most improved contribution in 2002 on behalf of Local 29 members.

The Boilermaker Reporter

Mar • Apr 2003

LEAP

8
Delegates meet representatives at Boilermakers’ congressional reception

Meeting in this unimposing setting makes it easier to talk to representatives in private sessions.

The main purpose for going to Washington and taking part in the LEAP conference is so you can get appointments with the members of Congress who represent you and your members. Those appointments provide the personal contact needed for us to get our message to our representatives.

For most new delegates — and for many seasoned veterans — those meetings are intimidating. They take place in the congressman’s office, which may be in any of several office buildings adjacent to the Capitol building. In this unfamiliar setting, laden with reminders of the importance of the person you’re speaking with, it is easy to get tongue-tied.

The Boilermakers’ congressional reception can help ease that anxiety a little. On Tuesday night, delegates and members of Congress mingle together at a reception in the same hotel where the LEAP conference is being held. In this familiar setting, delegates can chat with congressmen or their aides while eating shrimp or sharing a drink. The relaxed atmosphere helps delegates get used to the idea of talking to senators and representatives, while also allowing the senators and representatives to get a look at the delegates who will be visiting them later in the week.

Because they break down barriers and make it easier for people to communicate, receptions are a mainstay in Washington — along with breakfasts, lunches, and dinners.
and testimonial dinners. Members of Congress often attend several in a single evening. On any given night, dozens of receptions are being held by all kinds of different groups. The next morning, there is always a smaller, but equally important series of breakfasts. The photos on these two pages are a record of which congressmen came to our reception and meet our delegates. This year, the House of Representatives had scheduled three votes for the night of our reception. Congressmen could not leave the Capitol until they had cast their votes, many of them sent aides to the reception. Washington beginners often feel insulted when a congressman sends his aide rather than sees you himself, but veterans understand that their schedules are very full. In addition, the aide is often a better person to speak with, anyway. An individual congressman cannot expect to stay current on the thousands of bills introduced each year. Instead, he relies on his staff to advise him in the area of their expertise.

Continued from page 9

REP. ROBERT ADERHOLT (R-4th AL), represented by Dave Newton and Mark Bucshing, third and fifth from left, with, l. to r., Cecil King, Bobby Boyd, Ronnie Dexter, John Helvin, Bobby McGahey, IVP Newton Jones, and Mark Vandiver.

REP. NICK RAHILL (D-3rd WV), second from right, with, left to right, Local 667 delegate Ronny Vanscoy, Local 667 delegates B. B. Smith and George Pinkerman, and IST Jerry Willburn.

REP. TIM RYAN (D-17th OH), center left, with, l. to r., Adam McClain, Jeff Beitel, Pete Nedeljkovic, James Rose, Wyndham Sparling, IST Jerry Willburn, Terry Heiser, IVP Ron Lyon.

REP. ROBERT ADERHOLT (R-4th AL), represented by Dave Newton and Mark Bucshing, third and fifth from left, with, l. to r., Cecil King, Bobby Boyd, Ronnie Dexter, John Helvin, Bobby McGahey, IVP Newton Jones, and Mark Vandiver.

REP. TDM ALLEN (D-1 ME), represented by Jolene Chouko, third from left, Matthew Coffron, far back center, and Joe Petz, fifth from right, with Local 29 and 920 delegates, l. to r., Joe Birolini, Sharon Perry, Chouko, Jeff Perry, Tom Sacc coach, Jack Johndrow, Coffron, Gerry Williams, Pardy, Jack Meade, Don Dinwoodie, Stephen Goodhart, and IST Jerry Willburn.

REP. STEVEN ROTHMAN (D-9th NJ), center right, with Local 28 delegates, left to right, Scott Van Wagner, Chris Murphy, Robert Murray, John Devlin, Ray Cushing, and Jay Biophy, and IST Jerry Willburn.

REP. SPOONER BACHUS (R-6th AL), represented by Shayne Gill, fourth from right, with Alabama representatives, l. to r., Cecil King, Bobby McGahey, Bobby Boyd, Mark Vandiver, IVP Newton Jones, John Helvin, Ronnie Dexter, IST Jerry Willburn, Bill Almond, Shon Almond, and Ed Vance.

REP. BM RYAN (D-17th OH), center left, with, l. to r., Adam McClain, Jeff Beitel, Pete Nedeljkovic, James Rose, Wyndham Sparling, IST Jerry Willburn, Terry Heiser, IVP Lamy McNammon, Tony Stahl, and IR Ron Lyon.

SEN. OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME), represented by Tom Clark Chom and Aaron Haynes, third and fourth from left, with Local 29 and 920 delegates, l. to r., Sharon Perry, Jeff Perry, Jack Johndrow, Gerry Williams, Tom Sacc coach, Jack Meade, Don Dinwoodie, and Stephen Goodhart.

REP. BILL JEFFERSON (D-2nd LA), second from right, with, left to right, IST Jerry Willburn, Richard Fairley Jr., Lodge 582 delegate Eddie Shoonmaker Jr., and Legislative Director Ande Abbott.

REP. BARTLETUPAK (D-1st MI), represented by Lori Mrowka, center left, with L-169 delegates, l. to r., Tony Jacobs, James Calouette, IVP Lamy McNammon, IST Jerry Willburn, John Vardon, James Kaffenberger, and James McDonnell.
Safety awareness wins five locals NACBE awards

Twenty-five lodges have zero lost-time injury rates

THIS YEAR’S NACBE safety awards marked another milestone on our union’s journey toward zero accidents. In an effort to increase safety awareness and reduce accidents, the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) began tracking lost-time and compensable injury rates on Boilermaker jobs in 1996. Three years later, they began presenting awards to the lodge in each area with the lowest lost-time accidents in the previous year, and a special award to the lodge with the best safety record in the U.S. For several years, a lodge has had to complete the year with zero lost-time accidents in order to earn the award. In past years, the compensable injury rate was used to break a tie. This year a third tiebreaker was needed — recordable man-hours.

In 2002, every U.S. vice-presidential area had at least one lodge with a zero lost-time injury rate, and two lodges also had compensable injury rates of zero — Local 132, Galveston, Texas, and Local 37, New Orleans, La. The national award went to Local 132 of the Central Section, which had more recordable man-hours than Local 37 of the Southeast. Other vice-presidential area awards went to Local 92, Los Angeles, Calif., in the Western States; Local 169, Detroit, Mich., in the Great Lakes; and Local 237 of the Southeast.

Injury Rates Keep Falling

Source: National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE)

Lost-Time Injury Rate

Comp. Injury Rate


0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Reps. attend OSHA class

(L. TO R.) INTL. REPS. Tony Palmisano, Charles Brock, Warren Fairley, Len Gunderson, Ron Lyon, and Jim Pressley have attended a ten-hour OSHA class on general industry safety and health standards. Representing the Buckeye Industrial Council was L-1077 Pres. Jeff Betel (far right). Class topics included hazard communication, protective equipment, inspections, and recordkeeping.

Making it Safe

Safety HAZARD ALERT:

Safety With Lockout/Tagout

Turning off a power switch is not enough, also lock out & tag out

DOZENS OF CONSTRUCTION workers are killed and many are injured every year because they did not de-energize and lock out equipment before working on it. Most of the deaths are electrocution accidents, but workers sometimes are crushed or have amputations or other injuries. These types of energy need to be controlled: electric, hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, heat, and pressurized liquids, vapors, and gases.

Protect Yourself

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT is a way to make sure electricity or other energy is not turned on (or released) while someone is working on machinery. Turning off a power switch is not enough. You must de-energize (prevent equipment from starting or moving), lock it out, release stored energy (for instance, bleed air from a pneumatic hose), and test to make sure the energy is off.

Your employer should:

• Set up a written lockout/tagout program
• Train you to use the program*
• The program should cover:
• Planning to identify:
  • Energy sources
  • Workers who can get hurt
  • Who will de-energize equipment (and who will keep records of how).
• Keeping track of all involved workers
• Telling workers on new shifts about the lockout/tagout job
• Making sure the equipment is de-energized so it cannot be restarted
• Setting and removing lockout/tagout devices
• Coordinating with other jobs under way
• Releasing stored energy (for instance, discharging capacitors)
• Returning equipment to service (including testing or positioning of equipment).

Safely in Spanish

This issue’s safety column, “Safety With Lockout/Tagout,” is also available in Spanish.

For more information, contact the Boilermaker Reporter, 937-371-2640.
Local D39 and Lone Star companies help families

This is 11th year for the labor and management joint community project

TWO CHILDREN WITH special needs have a merrier Christmas thanks to members of Local D39, Lone Star Industries, and Lone Star Alternate Fuels.

In December, Santa Claus made a special delivery to Joey Hord and Daniel J. Custis. Joey received a new walker, and Daniel got a touch-screen monitor to help him in his schoolwork—equipment that neither child’s family could afford. In addition, both boys, and Joey’s sister, Nickie, received toys and clothing.

Pictured at front left is Joey testing out his new walker. Behind him are his sister, Nickie, and mother, Ruthie Hord.

At front right is Daniel. Behind him, l. to r., are Santa (Local D39’s Richard Huili), and Daniel’s parents, Brenda and Donny Custis, and his grandmother, Geneva.

This is the 11th year that Local D39 and Lone Star have sponsored this community project during the Christmas season.

Boilermakers earn membership pins

Jefferson receives 60, Almond gets 40-year pin

PEERLESS JEFFERSON, a 60-year member of the National Transient Lodge (NTL), received his 55 and 60-year membership pins during the 35th annual LEAP conference, March 17, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

Jefferson has represented NTL members as a delegate to the Boilermakers’ legislative conference for a number of years and was past due in earning recognition for his many years of service.

William J. Almond, director of the National Transient Division, presented Jefferson with his membership pins.

Following the presentation, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Jerry Willburn told the group that Jefferson was not the only member due recognition, as he presented Almond with his 40-year membership pin.

Farewell Columbia

WITH FAITH IN GOD and country, they stood poised at heaven’s door.

Hopes and dreams now realized; rising with majestic thunder into the clouds they soar.

Straining at the invisible bonds of earth, they eagerly urge on their fiery steed.

With pounding pulse and bated breath, toward their destiny they speed.

Seven brave souls, forever entwined, boldly assaulting the new frontier.

Upon their shoulders, man’s future plans; behind them, all that they hold dear.

When the roster is completed, of all those who were faithful to their call, their names will be high upon the list of those to whom we owe the most of all.

As the vapor trails of their shattered dreams streaked through the blue Texas skies, Other brave hearts gazed up in awe, undaunted, and dared to dream of even greater enterprise.


EditorsNote: Mr. Boardman wrote this poem as a tribute to the crew of the U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia, which was lost Feb. 1, 2003, during its re-entry into earth’s atmosphere.

Local News

Boilermakers earn membership pins

Officer, staff receive pins

INTL. PRES. CHARLES W. JONES presented pins for continuous years of membership to International officers and staff attending the winter meeting of the Construction Division. When he completed the lengthy task, Const. Div. Director Dale Branscum surprised Jones by presenting him with his 60-year pin.

Other International officers receiving pins include the following:

- INTL. VICE PRES. DON LACEFIELD
- INTL. VICE PRES. RICHARD ALBRIGHT
- INTL. V.P. SANDY MACDONALD
- INTL. VICE PRES. MICHAEL MURPHY
- INTL. VICE PRES. GEORGE ROGERS
- INTL. SEC.-TREAS. JERRY WILLBURN
- INTL. V.P. JIM HICKENLEITHOM
- INTL. VICE PRES. NEWTON B. JONES

L-1, Chicago, Ill., presents membership pins

JOHN SHERMONT, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, Ill., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

- 35 Years—Nicholas Leone; and
- 25 Years—Edward Ryan, Mark Vandervey.

L-7, Buffalo, N.Y., presents membership pins

F. PATRICK LYONS, BM-ST of Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

- 55 Years—John C. Schwartz;
- 35 Years—Richard L. Angstadt, Joseph C. Nadler, Edward H. Parker, Richard V. Persico, Christopher P. Walsh; and
- 30 Years—Curtis A. Mulhein, David G. Vogt.

L-60, Peoria, Ill., presents membership pins

ED HEBERT, BM-ST of Local 60, Peoria, Ill., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

- 55 Years—Rudy Kovacevich;
- 45 Years—David Canon, O’Neil Roberts, Charles Shonkwiler, John Dean;
- 30 Years—Donald Bozarth, Carl Johnson, Michael Jones, Robert Miskell, James Williams;
- 25 Years—Donald Abel, Charles Ashbury, Donald Babcock, Thomas Bradley, Rick Bradshaw, Thomas Busssey, Larry Couch, Loren Crawford Jr., Dale DeRose, Danny Fischer, Dennis Gog, Vernon Harden, Dewayton Harrison, Edmond Hebert, Melvin Hill Jr., John Mason Jr., James Mooney, Michael Mooney, Kim Mower, Anthony Reese, Johnny Roger Jr., Ronald Ross, Bruce Sack, Doyle Sawyer, Larry Schaeb, Robert Sears, Dale Staples, Charles Tarpley, Joseph Vando, David Vescogni, Jeffrey Vincent, Jeffrey Wallace, William Watkins, Eddy Weatherford, David Weber, Scott Wilson, Randall Wright, Robert Yates; and
- 15 Years—Edward Goveia, Thomas Goveia, William Goveia.

L-374, Hammond, Ind., presents membership pins

CHARLES H. VANOVER BM-ST of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

- 60 Years—Forest L. Correll;
- 40 Years—George W. Cullom;
- 30 Years—Denis E. Irvin, John J. Kostrzbedski, Charles E. Miner;
- 20 Years—Gregory L. Allen, Richard A. Banken, Michael L. Correll, George I. Fleming, Louis F. Gregor Jr., Mark W. Jorden, Earlene Meneskie, Christopher Sickle;
- 15 Years—Stanley R. Austin, Richard W. Catt, Dominic Flores Jr., George A. Sweeney.
L-30 members surprise L-433’s Juncal with retirement party

Gesture makes 30-year member reflect on life in the trade

IN THE SUMMER of 1973, I was nervous about starting a new job as a boilermaker helper at Tampa Ship, so green I couldn’t even light a torch. I advanced to first-class shipfit by the time I was accepted into the apprenticeship program, and I topped out, became a journeyman, and hit the road in August 1977.

Since then, boilermaking has taken me from coast to coast, border to border, and beyond, including places like Amsterdam, Aruba, Germany, St. Croix, and South America. Twenty of my years as a Boilermaker were spent on the road, so it was no surprise that when it was time to retire, I was boomsted, working a shut down in Plymouth, N.C. I had never worked out of Local 30 before, so I only knew a couple of people. I was afraid that after almost 30 years of boilermaking, I would retire and no one would even notice. But much to my surprise, the last night I worked, everyone on the night shift gathered and presented me with gifts. There were two retirement cakes and coolers filled with sodas. I received a plaque, rod and reel, watch, a couple of bottles of nice single malt (which I received after I left the job site), and other gifts.

But the best gift is my memory of how good it made me feel that these Local 30 members cared enough to treat me like a real brother. It was all I could do to keep my composure, and I couldn’t say much at the time. But to all of you, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

CAM JUNCAL, L-433 retiree Manderston, Fla.

L-72 member Dean Mickels is named to Labor Hall of Fame

DEAN MICKELS, 85, a member of Local 72, Portland, Ore., has been named to the Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council’s Hall of Fame.

Mickels joined the Boilermakers union in 1941, working as a welder in Portland shipyards. When he made a career change in 1955, he continued to maintain his Boilermaker membership in addition to joining Local 88 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union.

Mickels worked as a residential and commercial property appraiser for the Multnomah county tax office in the County Courthouse in downtown Portland from 1953 until his 1972 retirement.

During his service as a public employee, Mickels served as president of the Multnomah County Employees Local 88, and as president of the Oregon State Industrial Union Council, which represented 20,000 members during his term of office.

Source: The Northwest Labor Press

Local 92’s Robert Carr inducted into Ranger Hall of Fame

51-year member served with Merrill’s Marauders in WWII

ROBERT L. CARR, a 51-year member of Local 92, Los Angeles, Calif., was inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame on July 9, 2002. But Carr never learned of this honor, as the announcement was made seven weeks after his death, on Feb. 12, 2002.

Carr served with Merrill’s Marauders in Burma during World War II. When Japanese forces held a Marauder battalion for several days, two 75-millimeter artillery pieces were parceled out. Carr was part of the volunteer group that assembled and manned the guns.

When two of his fellow infantrymen were wounded, Sergeant Carr dragged each of them through heavy fire to an aid man. He then crawled forward and threw grenades toward Japanese trenches hit by the fire, exposing the enemy positions, which he radioed back.

At one point, Carr radioed, “Move in ten yards, and if you don’t hear from me, you’ll know I’m dead.” Carrader shells wiped out an enemy heavy machine gun nest only 30 yards from him.

Two officers told Carr that they were nominating him to receive a Silver Star for his actions, but the mule carrying the records fell off a cliff and all the records were lost.

Vicki Carr grew up knowing her father had served in World War II, but she didn’t know until three years ago about the role he had played. That’s when a radio personality interviewed Carr about being a Merrill’s Marauder.

After the interview, the wife of another Marauder called and told Carr about the Merrill’s Marauders Association. He had no idea that his comrades had been meeting annually for the last 54 years.

He started attending meetings and met Dave Richardson, a correspondent for YANK, an Army weekly paper. Richardson wrote about Carr’s bravery, and the Hall of Fame Committee took notice. Soon after, Carr became one of only 170 Rangers, out of more than 50,000, to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Vicki told a reporter that Carr “didn’t think he did anything special. He felt that the men who died were the ones who deserved it.”

Carr joined the Boilermakers union in 1951, and retired in 1986 as a general superintendent for Western Petro-Chem Services in Long Beach. “Dad was well-known in the industry. His specialty was rigging and he worked on big lifts all over the West,” said Vicki. “He was most proud of his safety record — there were no serious injuries under his supervision.”

Carr’s family believes his Army Ranger training had a lot to do with his no nonsense way of supervising construction sites.

White House admits their proposal hurts Medicare funding

Seniors must leave traditional Medicare, join HMO, to get prescription drug benefit

PRESIDENT BUSH’S point man for Medicare said the administration’s proposal to change the system will worsen its long-term financial problem, not improve it, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said passage of Bush’s plan would “probably” accelerate the date the Medicare trust fund is unable to pay all its obligations. Medicare trustees have estimated that will occur in 2030 unless more funding is provided to the program.

In his presidential campaign, Bush pledged to set Medicare “on firm financial ground.” But Thompson told Congress that enrolling the system’s long-term financial health would require more changes later.

“What’s more costly” than the current system, he said, but claimed the plan would save some money as beneficiaries shift from Medicare to private insurance plans.

Medical care experts say it won’t work

WHEN FIRST introduced, Bush’s plan to “reform” Medicare by pushing beneficiaries onto private health care plans met with widespread opposition from health policy experts, seniors groups, and prominent Republicans.

He quickly came up with a “revised” plan, which the White House claimed would include drug benefits for seniors in the traditional Medicare program. However, this second plan was equally bad.

Under his plan, seniors wanting a prescription drug benefit could leave the traditional Medicare program and obtain private insurance or stay in Medicare and get a card allowing them to obtain prescription drugs at a discount.

However, a Government Accounting Office (GAO) study of the proposal concluded that the card would provide less than a $3.50 discount per prescription — an almost meaningless benefit for the average senior, whose medicines often run more than $50 per prescription.

HMOs are not cheaper than current Medicare

BUSH HOPES TO improve Medicare finances by making seniors join Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO). Health care experts warn that this approach failed the first time it was tried in the 1990s, when HMOs discovered that they could not provide Medicare services as cheaply as the federal program had.

Faced with growing losses, they began dropping coverage for these seniors, leaving them with no health insurance.

Medicare has served America’s seniors well for 40 years, but Bush’s proposed tax cuts, may drain the resources needed to keep it on track another 40 years.
Do you know what to do if your credit card is lost or stolen?

A thief may steal your wallet, but don’t let him steal your identity, too.

HAVE YOU EVER had your wallet stolen? It’s a real bother to replace all the things you carry with you, like your driver’s license, Social Security Card, and credit cards, not to mention your hard-earned cash. But the real headache can come later, if your thief steals your identity to apply for credit.

One thief stole an attorney’s wallet. Within a week, the thief had ordered an expensive monthly cellphone package, applied for a credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a computer, received a PIN number from the DMV to change the attorney’s driving record information online, and more.

If your wallet is stolen, be sure to do the following:

• Cancel your credit cards immediately. (Keep a list of the toll-free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call.)

• File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your wallet was stolen. (This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation.)

• Call the three national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. (This alert means any company that checks your credit will know that your information was stolen and will have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.)

The three national credit-reporting organizations are Equifax (1-800-525-6285), Experian (1-800-301-7195, formerly TRW), and TransUnion (1-800-680-7289).

The Social Security Admin. has also a fraud line at 1-800-269-0271.

More steps you can take to protect your identity:

• Order checks with your initials (instead of your first name) and last name. If someone steals your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

• When you write a check to pay on your credit card account, only list the last four numbers of your account on the memo line. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won’t have access to it.

• Put your work phone number on your check rather than your home number. If you have a box number, use that instead of your home address. If you don’t have a box number, use your work address.

• Never have your social security number printed on your checks. You can add it if necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

• Make a copy of both sides of your driver’s license and credit cards. This way you will have a record of what is in your wallet and will have all the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

Save with Union Plus discounts online!

Whether you need flowers, a cell phone, or tires, Union Plus can help you get a quality product for less and used books. Choose one for yourself and a friend.

• Computer Discounts & Freebies. Year-round, Union Plus offers discounts of up to ten percent off Dell and IBM computers. Get the details about your special union deals — from Dell, purchase ONLINE select new DimensionTM desktops and get a FREE memory upgrade! Or purchase select new InspironTM notebooks and get a FREE memory upgrade! 

YOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP can save you money on the purchase of everyday products when you use the Union Plus program. Boilermakers can easily shop any day — any time — with Union Plus special discounts online. Just click on “Everyday Savings” at the Union Plus web site of www.unionplus.org to order any of these discounted products.

• Circular Wireless Discounts. Save five to ten percent on your Circular wireless plan. Plus pocket $50 off a Motorola phone.

• Goodyear Tire & Service Discounts. Get rolling with five to ten percent off Goodyear tires and services, including oil changes.

• 15% Off Flowers & Plants. Send a loved one a “thank you” and thoughtful gift.

• Save Up To 25% On Car Rentals. Give your car a vacation and save up to 25% on rentals with Avis and Budget. Check union-member-only rates and book reservations online. With Budget, you’ll receive an extra $20 off any weekly rental (five day minimum) when you print the coupon and present it at the time of rental (does not apply to economy cars).

• Union Hotel Discounts — 10-78%. Off. Save when you stay union. Union Plus has negotiated great rates for you. Plus you support your fellow union workers when you visit one of these quality accommodations.

• Great Prices At An Online Unionized Bookstore. Check out bestseller award winners — new books. Choose one for yourself and a friend.

If you have a box number, use your work address. 

To help raise much-needed funds, the National Archives is offering the above pictured gifts to donors. Only U. S. funds can be accepted. 

Please make checks or money orders payable to the Boilermakers Archives, indicate your gift choice on the memo line, and mail to:

Tom Wands, Archivist
Boilermakers National Archives
753 State Ave., #570
Kansas City, KS 66101

All donations are tax deductible (less $1 for each decal received; $5 for ornament; $7 for souvenir watch; $10 for clock; $18 for sports watch; $20 for dress watch). Tax ID #48-114-537.

THE BOILERMAKERS UNION occupies an important place in the history of North America, and we are working to preserve that history through the Boilermakers National Archives, a museum located one block west of International headquarters in Kansas City, Kan. National Archivist Tom Wands has been collecting and restoring items for display. He is also creating databases for a pictorial history and to record dates of local lodge charters, names of local lodge officers, and biographies of International officers. You can help us continue the work of the archives through your donations. To
DEATH BENEFITS

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.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET been furnished this information, please contact your local lodge to secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 W. 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 Boilermakers-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

IN MEMORIAM

DEATH BENEFITS

THE DEATH BENEFIT PLAN under the Boilermakers-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.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET been furnished this information, please contact your local lodge to secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 W. 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 Boilermakers-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

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U.S.-made ships are key to security

The WAR WITH IRAQ was over almost before it began. There was never any doubt that the U.S. armed forces would overwhelm Sadam’s army and his private guard. The U.S. military is without peer. The only question was whether Sadam would commit chemical or biological weapons. He didn’t, and we won with relatively few U.S. casualties. I won victory that was 6,000 miles from our shores does not make us overconfident about handling threats closer to home.

President Bush said that invading Iraq would help us combat terrorism and reduce the probability of attacks on our soil using biological, chemical, or even nuclear weapons. But Iraq is not the only source for these weapons, and it is far from the only country whose leaders or people harbor hostility — even hatred — toward the U.S. Even if we were able to remove power every national leader we suspect is an important terrorist action against the U.S., we would remain in danger from dozens of groups that act without the explicit approval or backing from any national government.

Yet Republicans in Congress seem far more worried about what happens in the intervening miles than in what is happening right here at home. While they readily approved an extra $80 billion to defend the U.S. from what its own government has said is impossible, they defeated amendments to this request including funding for homeland security.

One aspect of homeland security we must not overlook is the need to modernize and expand the fleets of the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy. About 7,500 foreign commercial ships enter 361 U.S. harbors annually, carrying six million cargo containers and hundreds of thousands of mariners. In addition, we have 95,000 miles of open shoreline. Clearly, the Coast Guard’s responsibilities are enormous.

It should go without saying that every mile of open shoreline and every foreign ship entering a U.S. harbor provides an opportunity for terrorists to sneak weapons or operatives into this country. Yet the Coast Guard is able to inspect only two percent of the cargo containers entering our ports, and their aging fleet limits their ability to conduct comprehensive inspections.

At the same time, our U.S. Navy has been losing ships since 1987, while deployments overseas have risen 300 percent. No nation can remain a military superpower without the ability to wage war from ships.

We are fortunate that Congress has begun to take notice of these problems and made some modest increases in funding for new Coast Guard and Navy ships. But an initiative from the Department of Defense threatens to destroy any good that might come from this increased funding.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has proposed sweeping changes to the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations (DFARs) that would allow them to circumvent the Buy American Act and purchase ships and equipment overseas.

These changes include revising the definition of U.S. manufacture to permit the DOD to buy defense systems from up to 21 different foreign countries, even if nearly 100 percent of the product is mined, produced, or manufactured in those foreign countries.

To me, that is a disturbing proposition for many reasons. It would weaken our national defense, rely on foreign nations for defense systems, what happens when those nations no longer support our military efforts? What if, for example, we were relying on France and Germany for a crucial weapon component when we invaded Iraq?

Or what if some natural or economic catastrophe were to make the nation supplying us with a vital piece of equipment? Would we be willing to bail out foreign-based weapons suppliers — or even the foreign country’s entire defense industry — in the same way we have bailed out U.S.-based weapons contractors in the past?

Most important, though, is the effect military spending has on the economy.

Charles W. Jones
International President

Shipbuilding is an industry that stimulates the economy enormously. Every time the U.S. Navy purchases a ship made in a U.S. shipyard, it gives a significant economic boost to that shipyard community.

For me, this is the most important consideration, especially at a time when our economy is sluggish and millions of Americans are unemployed or facing layoffs. Military spending should be used to put some of those people back to work. After all, the purpose of all military spending is to protect the American people. And that should include protecting their means of income.

If the U.S. military won’t buy American-made goods, who will?

Some were even killed. These talks are forever imprinted on my mind. What amazed me was the things I learned after I was employed (Robert joined L-582 in 1985). During times when I would help my father around the house, he would talk of the things he shopped used to make, like ammunition and the first nuclear reactor for naval power. Men lost their lives building this equipment and very few people know what kind of work these Boilermakers performed.

My father did not have the formal education that I was fortunate to receive. However, he knows things I know nothing about and he is still teaching me.

Robert M. Whiddon, L-582
Independence, La.

Got something to say?
WE WELCOME LETTERS OF less than 150 words on topics of interest to our members and their families.

Send a letter to the editor:
The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Ave. Suite 570
Kansas City KS 66101
FAX: (913) 281-8304
E-mail: david@boilermakers.org or ciddillon@boilermakers.org

L-582’s Whiddon reminisces about his father’s career

MY FATHER Harold Whiddon, a 32-year Local 582 member, who retired in 1993 was born Sept. 19, 1931. He started work at age 16 and retired at 62. He was a union steward at Delta Southern for many years. During his employment, he knew many men who were injured on the job. As a small boy, I would listen to him go over contracts and talk about those who were injured.

When our economy is sluggish and millions of Americans are unemployed or facing layoffs. Military spending should be used to put some of those people back to work. After all, the purpose of all military spending is to protect the American people. And that should include protecting their means of income.