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L-680 members restore *Haida*

New technology meets old as Boilermakers remove rivets from hull

WHEN THE HMCS *Haida* came to the Port Weller Drydock in December 2002 for repairs, it was the first time that 38-year shipbuilder John Harden, project repair manager, had ever worked on a riveted ship. But members of Local 680, St. Catharines, Ontario, are working with rivets now in order to repair Canada's most famous naval vet. They are working double shifts repairing the wear and tear of seven seas, six decades, and two wars.

When the *Haida* was built in 1942, shipbuilders used rivets to hold steel plates in place. The hull alone has more than 100,000 rivets holding it together. Before a damaged section can be repaired, rivets have to be "blown" — their heads burned off by a torch — and removed. The process is almost as labor intensive as the original construction.

Once rivets are removed, a steel patch cut is welded in place. But the heat of cutting and welding loosens remaining rivets and seams, and they must be "chased" or sealed with a bead of weld.

When the ship is watertight, repair work will begin on its deck and superstructure. When completed, the ship will make the voyage from St. Catharines to Hamilton with former *Haida* crewmembers on board.

The *Haida* is Parks Canada's largest artifact. It will be permanently docked in Hamilton Harbour in front of the HMCS Star naval reserve base, and just east of Parks Canada's planned Marine Discover Centre.

Built in England, the bladerunner was designed to outrun a German torpedo. It was not intended to last more than 20 years, and in 1963, the Royal Canadian Navy sent the *Haida* to surplus. She spent the next 40 years in a backwater lagoon, before being moved to the Port Weller Dry Dock in December 2002. □

Source: James Elliott, *The Hamilton Spectator*



LOCAL 680 MEMBERS ARE repairing the HMCS *Haida*, one of Canada's largest artifacts. Photo by Cathie Coward, courtesy of *The Hamilton Spectator*.

Construction Division meets

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-terms of service by presenting them with membership service pins.

Award presentations continued as John Erickson gave out safety awards from the National Association of Con-



INTL. PRES. CHARLES W. JONES welcomes delegates to the winter Construction Division meeting in Miami, Fla.



DALE 'SKIPPER' BRANSCUM, dir. of the Construction Division, updates delegates on referral and craft jurisdiction.

struction 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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Construction Division meets in Miami

Continued from page 1

In order to break the tie, NACBE had to look at the number of man-hours reported by participating NACBE contractors. Local 132 (Galveston, Texas) beat out tie-winner Local 37 (New Orleans, La.) because they had more reportable hours.

Other area winners include Local 92, Los Angeles, Calif., Local 169, Detroit, Mich., and Local 193, Baltimore, Md. (see story on p. 11).

Legislative Director Ande Abbott, and Asst. to the Leg. Dir. Bridget Martin, provided the delegates with an update on the second session of the 107th Congress. They also explained how they are using technology to mobilize thousands of Boilermakers as grass-roots lobbyists through their LEAP into Action web site.

To access their web site, click on the word "LEAP" located on the home page of the Boilermakers' web site (www.boilermakers.org). At this site you can learn more about legislative issues and how your representatives are voting. You can even contact your representatives through this site.

Asst. to the Intl. Pres. Victor Maggio and Internal Auditor Bryan King then discussed lodge audits and financial reporting, asking Bob Tiberi and Jim Gienzik of Legacy Professionals (formerly Thomas Havey) to review proposed changes to the LM forms.

Administrator William Palmisano, 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. DiCicco, asst. to the director of the Construction Division, who reviewed other national agreements.

General Matt Caulfield introduced "Helmets to Hardhats," an innovative organizing 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 provided 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 (HIPPA), 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 asbestosis, 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.

Retired Director Joe Meredith then provided a referral update.

In his closing remarks, Intl. Pres. 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 anticipate problems so we can prevent problems."

In discussing the economy, Jones blamed "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." □

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 Gienzik, accountants with Legacy Professionals, told delegates to the Construction Division conference.

Unions must file LM reports every year, complete with details on their budgets, salaries, loans, and expenses. The changes proposed by DOL Secretary Elaine Chao require unions to purchase costly new record-keeping systems and file electronically. Even small unions will need a CPA, according to Tiberi and Gienzik.

Defending the changes, Chao said they put unions "on track" with what corporations must report. But accountants say the new rules require far more detail than any corporate reports.

For example, they require unions to itemize all expenditures of more than \$2,000 to a single person or group, including smaller payments that total that amount over the year.

No corporations are required to report anything nearly this detailed. Under the new rules, LM reports under these new rules would be much larger, more detailed, and more comprehensive than what corporations file.

For example, the Boilermakers' LM report would be larger than the SEC report of most of the largest corporations. The Airline Pilots Association estimates the rules will result in 15,863 pages of data — five feet of paper.

And all this extra work will not benefit members, who already have access to LM reports in which unions must adhere to standard accounting practice.

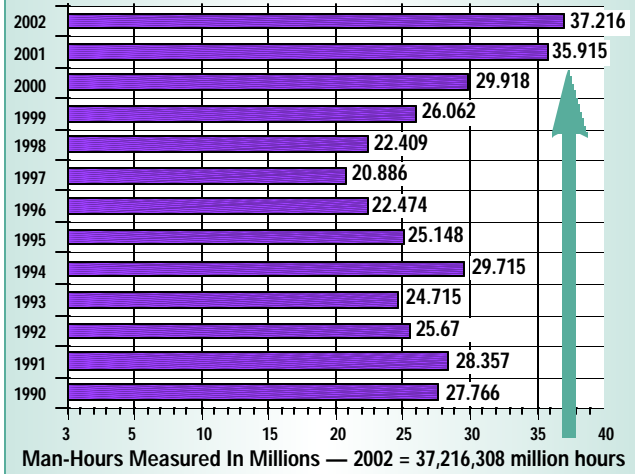
Critics see the new rules as merely another attempt to weaken unions. □

Boilermaker Man-Hours Up Five Years in a Row

While The Injury Rate Continues To Go Down

See page 11 for the latest NACBE safety statistics

Source: National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE)



EMS week is May 18-24

Show your appreciation for the life-saving work of our emergency medical services members

THEY'RE MORE THAN the nameless people in the emergency vehicles. They're husbands and wives and children 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 P3), Youngstown, Ohio (Local P4), and New Orleans, La., where Local P5 will soon be chartered.



To all of these emergency medical services professionals — and to every one in this vital industry — we send our most sincere thanks. □

the Boilermaker Reporter

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A prize-winning newspaper

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 nominated by Intl. President Charles W. Jones to take the position vacated by Don Lacefield's retirement.

Stinger adds 'IVP' to an already long list of titles

JOE STINGER, 57, began his Boilermaker career with the Monongahela Railroad in Nov. 1967, joining Local 747, McKees Rocks, Pa., in Jan. 1968.

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 from the University of Pittsburgh. He supplemented his railroad income by teaching evening college courses and 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 the Intl. pres. and was named admin. asst. to Intl. Pres. Jones in 1996. On April 7, 2003, he became Intl. vice pres. of the Western States.

Lacefield calls an end to a career that began in 1963

DON 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



DON LACEFIELD retires as IVP for the Western States Area.



INTL. PRES. C. W. JONES (r.) swears in Joe Stinger as the new International vice president for the Western States.

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.

Lacefield began handling the work of the Western States IVP office on July 1, 1999, in preparation for Jack Sloan's disability retirement, and officially took office on January 12, 2000. Lacefield retired as IVP on April 7, 2003. □

Local S105 workers strike, keep COLA

Employees gain three-year contract, wage increases

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, but [Fedders] made that impossible," 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 same month, and the company refused to extend it. After numerous attempts to negotiate a contract failed, Fedders sent a letter on January 7 to Willison advising that the company was proceeding with the pay cut that day.

At 7 a.m. the following day, more than 200 Local S105 members went on strike. They soon gained community support in their plight to retain a "living wage." The average assembly worker made about \$10.23 an hour under the old contract; eliminating the cost-of-living allowance would reduce the hourly wage rate to \$7.67.

On January 9, Fedders' corporate lawyer met with Intl. Vice Pres. Othel Smith Jr., but it was clear that neither side was willing to compromise. Fedders was not willing to renegotiate terms, and the union was taking a stand — they were going to make a decent wage.

Fedders' employees had already suffered enough. Over 375 workers were laid off in 2002, when the company sent their jobs to China. Many of the remaining workers suffered pay cuts of \$3 to \$5 an hour when they were moved to the assembly line after their higher-paying jobs were sent to Asia.

Workers planned to stay on strike until their issues were addressed. Not only were workers upset about the pay cut, but they were also troubled by

company proposals to change vacation and temporary employee status.

After the January 9 meeting, further talks were initially called off, but on January 13, the company agreed to meet with the union. By the morning of January 15, the Fedders' strikers were back to work with a three-year contract that retains their \$2.56 cost-of-living allowance and increases their wages by two percent each contract year.

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:

"We were 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." □

International staff earn awards for service to the Brotherhood

Carey, Stinger, Wands receive highest honor

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. Wands 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."

AIP William V. Carey

WILLIAM V. CAREY has served as an assistant to the International president since 1995. He joined Local 29, Boston, Mass., in 1970, and was appointed an International representative in 1986. Health problems are forcing him to take an early disability retirement,



INTL. PRES. CHARLES W. JONES presents distinguished service awards to (l.) William Carey, retiring assistant to the Intl. President, and (r.) Thomas L. Wands, Boilermaker archivist. IVP Joseph Stinger also received a distinguished service award.



which the Social Security Administration granted while Carey was attending this conference.

IVP Joseph A. Stinger

JOSEPH A. STINGER has served as 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 35-year member.

Archivist Thomas L. Wands Jr.

THOMAS L. WANDS 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. □

Lone 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 Juncal — and Alvin Community 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.

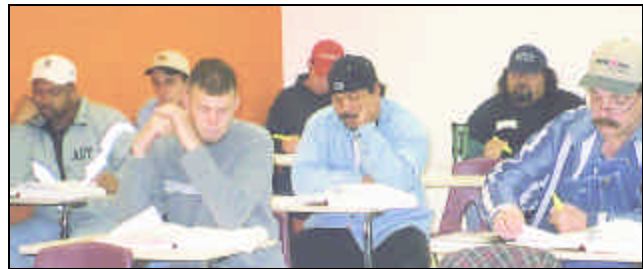
The Lone Star District Lodge represents members from four Texas lodges — Local 74 (Houston), Local 132 (Galveston), Local 531 (Amarillo), and Local 587 (Orange).

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



FIFTY-TWO APPRENTICES from five local lodges attend a first-year apprentice class at the Alvin Community College in Alvin, Texas.



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: P.J., 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.

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.

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.bnapp.com. □

Local 531 holds steward training



RESEARCH DIRECTOR Len Beauchamp, standing at left, conducts a steward training seminar for members of Local Lodge 531, Amarillo, Texas, Feb. 12, 2003.

Thirteen members attend one-day training program in Amarillo

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 531, Amarillo, Texas, an affiliate local of the Lone Star District, held a one-day steward training class on Feb. 12, 2003.

Conducted by Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, the seminar covered such topics as writing, investigating, and presenting a grievance, and a review of the arbitration process.

Attendees included Vickie Ashmead, Mike Brown, Phillip Caudill,

Rick Cunningham, Don Duncan, Randy Dunlap, Ronnie Hulen, Intl. Rep. Lynn McCray, Nina Noviello, Jackie Speed, Charlie Thomas, Pat Torbit, and J. E. Wilkens.

"I would like to thank Mr. Beauchamp and his staff for developing a plan to work with us," said Local 531 BM-ST Kelly Adams. "One of our members, Charlie Bristow, passed away on Tuesday, and we wanted to attend his funeral, which fell on the afternoon of our class. Mr. Beauchamp simply stopped the training in time for us to attend the funeral, then picked up where he left off upon our return." □

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.

Trade, econ policy to blame

THE SINGLE BIGGEST reason we're losing manufacturing jobs is the "strong" dollar, which makes American-made goods expensive for other nations to buy, while U.S. consumers see foreign-made goods as bargains.

A lasting recovery in manufacturing will depend on an increase in overseas demand, coupled with a decrease in U.S. imports. U.S. factories will need stronger demand from both home and abroad before the 30-month slide in manufacturing employment abates.

Boilermakers Legislative Director Ande Abbott says that flawed trade policies are costing Americans their jobs and putting downward pressure

on U.S. wages and working conditions.

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.

The White House has other plans. Using their fast-track authority, they have been crafting a NAFTA-style trade agreement for all of North and South America. Since 1994, NAFTA has cost the U.S. millions of jobs. □

Job fair canceled for lack of jobs

A DISTURBING REFLECTION on the severity of the economic turnaround comes from Wichita, Kan., where organizers have canceled their annual jobs fair for high school students.

The reason? Adults desperate for work are taking the low-wage, no-benefit jobs normally filled by students on summer break. Last year, as many adults attended the fair as teens. This year, few companies had jobs to offer.

Janet Harrah, director of the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University, told the *Wichita Eagle* that the job market probably will get worse in the coming months as more laid-off workers reach the end of their unemployment benefits. □

35th Annual LEAP Conference

March 17-21, 2003

Washington, D.C.



NEARLY 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 include members of Congress

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, regard-

less 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.

Continued on page 6

Guest speakers inform, motivate delegates

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 week and allow employers to require workers to put in 80 hours in a two-week period before they would have to pay overtime. They could also ask workers to take '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.

"If this conference is going 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 workers," 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 steam roller," he said.

Referring to Elaine Chao's address to the AFL-CIO at which she insulted union leaders who oppose her burdensome new LM report rules, 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."

"Does anyone honestly believe that the tax cuts Bush is crying 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 these 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 told delegates, "allows the individuals who gave Bush \$150 million last time to give him \$300 million the next time. It raises the amount an individual can give a candidate to \$4,000 — \$2,000 for the primary and \$2,000 for the general election. The most your entire union 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 lungs full of 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.



REP. NEIL ABERCROMBIE
(D — 1st Hawaii)

ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM:

'Two rich individuals can reach into their deep 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 to people who already have cancer. Asbestosis 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.

Rep. Steve Lynch (D-9th MA) told delegates that it is possible for union members to be elected to political office. He should know. Lynch is a member of the Ironworkers who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002.

Lynch's father and grandfather were Ironworkers, and he grew up in a union neighborhood. After finishing the Ironworkers apprentice program at the Quincy, Mass., shipyard, Lynch worked all over the country, including a job in Maine that he got through Boilermakers Local 29.

"So when my colleagues in the House accuse me of being in the tank with the Boilermakers, I can say, 'It's not the first time,'" he said.

When Lynch was elected business manager of his local, he learned how much union leaders rely on their lawyers and began going to law school nights and weekends. The Ironworkers hired him for legal counsel, and he did free legal work in the projects. When he decided to run for state representative, he was able to take advantage of the grass-roots power of labor unions.



REP. STEVE LYNCH
(D — 9th MA)

ON ELECTING UNION MEMBERS:

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

"The building trades put me in office," he said. "Their grass-roots political action got me elected. 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, though. Not many people in Congress have ever worked for a living the way we have."

"The experience you have brings a lot to the debate. The first six times I spoke on the House floor, it was all opposing fast track. 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."

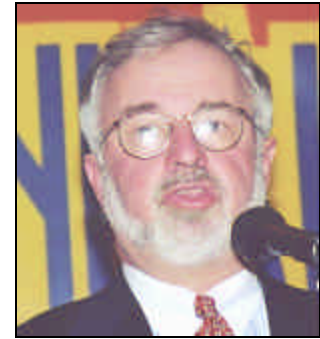
Lynch ended his talk by inviting the delegates to take advantage of his position in Congress.

"I know you have your own congressman," 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 NY) 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



REP. TIM BISHOP
(D — 1st New York)

ON UNION POLITICAL ACTION:

'The most important thing you can do for a candidate is to provide a grass-roots workforce. Time, effort, and shoe leather swing elections.'

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. The last four Saturdays of my campaign, I had 150 union members knocking on doors, at supermarkets with me, talking to people. On election day, we had 1,600 volunteers getting out the vote."

"I won by 2,700 votes out of 150,000. There is no doubt in my mind that the get-out-the-vote effort gave me that margin of victory. Grass-roots campaigning works. 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. I 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 know 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

Continued on page 7

Speakers inform, motivate

Continued from page 6

cut that does not stimulate the economy, but fundamentally alters the tax burden, the tax code, and the distribution of wealth in America. His budget deficits grow over time, 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 do away with Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and all other protections for working families."

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

"Your 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 seen in my lifetime."

"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 \$1.6 trillion tax cut that leaves no billionaire behind. Bush's choice for those seniors on Medicare is that you can choose your doctor or you can get help paying for prescription drugs. You can't have both. His education reform bill is called the No Child Left Behind Act, but he leaves millions of children behind by vastly underfunding his own programs.

"When it comes to labor, Bush doesn't even pretend. This is the most anti-labor administration since Herbert Hoover. Whether it's dockworkers on the west coast, federal lab workers, 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. "Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist works hand-in-hand with the White House. Bush treats the Senate as an extension of the White House and Republican senators play along.

"The Senate leadership has wasted our time for more than a month with the nomination of Miguel Estrada [for Appellate Judge]. He has shown extreme contempt for the Senate. He refuses to answer basic questions and is blocking the Senate from getting the information they need to make their decision. The Senate will not be a rubber stamp for Bush's nominations. They will exercise their due diligence and examine every candidate thoroughly before making a decision. 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

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End dividends tax? Not for most workers

PRESIDENT BUSH likes to say his tax bill will end taxation of dividends, but he isn't telling the whole story.

People who live off their investments would get a tax break, but the vast majority of stockholders are workers who hold most of their stock in retirement accounts.

Income from dividends earned on this stock will still be subject to taxation, just as it is now, when workers retire and begin drawing these funds.

The tax on income from dividends won't end for most workers — just for people who live off their investments.

Some corporate executives will do very well by this tax cut, though, especially those who get huge stock options instead of salary. (Options don't appear as expenses on the books seen by shareholders; salaries do.)

Sanford Weil, CEO of Citigroup, could get a tax cut of \$7 million.

Philip Purcell, CEO of Morgan Stanley, is in line for \$1.1 million.

President Bush wouldn't do poorly himself. If his entire tax package goes through Congress, he'll net about \$44,500, while Vice President Cheney will pocket \$107,000.

Delegates discuss legislative issues with representatives and senators

Taking the Boilermaker message to Capitol Hill is the most important part of the LEAP conference

THE MOST IMPORTANT — AND MOST DIFFICULT — part of the LEAP conference is meeting individually with members of Congress to discuss the issues important to Boilermakers. Each local lodge delegation makes appointments with members of the House and Senate who represent their members. At these meetings, they discuss selected issues of great importance and urgency.

For many delegates, these meetings are their only chance to talk face-to-face with a member of Congress and explain a typical worker's views. These meetings also let our elected representatives get to know our local lodge leaders.

Sporting buttons that said, "Danger: Educated Boilermaker Union Member," delegates spoke with their elected representatives about six key issues, chosen by our Legislative Department from the thousands that will come before Congress this year. Delegates stuck to these six issues so our group had maximum impact.

In the first day-and-a-half, delegates learned from guest speakers and International staff why these issues are important to Boilermaker families. The Legislative Department also provided support materials delegates could distribute to the congressmen. Here is what our delegates talked about at these meetings.

We support requiring Defense Department to buy American-made ships & equipment

- Shipbuilding and manufacturing generate good jobs and economic growth
- The U.S. has lost more than two million manufacturing jobs since April 1998
- Buying American-made ships and equipment keeps good-paying jobs in U.S.
- Buying American-made products reduces our trade deficit, which cost our country three million jobs from 1994-2000 (Economic Policy Institute)
- The Defense Department has proposed weakening the Buy American Act and Title 10 U.S. Code Statutes so they can buy more foreign-made products
- Relying on foreign nations for ships and equipment essential to our defense makes us more vulnerable to disruptions from economic crises and terrorism

We support the 40-hour week

- The Fair Labor Standards Act requires time-and-a-half pay for workers who put in more than 40 hours in a week — our only protection against companies that demand their employees work excessive hours
- Many workers rely on the extra pay they get for working overtime
- The Family Time Flexibility Act would allow employers to avoid paying overtime by giving employees compensatory time (comp time) off in the future
- This bill gives flexibility to employers, but not workers, who will have no choice about when they work overtime or when they take comp time off
- Comp time would be "voluntary," but the employer-employee relationship makes it difficult for workers to turn it down and feel secure about their jobs
- Workers whose companies go out of business would lose unused comp time

We support strong apprenticeship standards

- Rep. Roger Wicker (R-MS) wants to weaken the standards for certifying apprenticeship programs in order to attract more workers
- Our nation needs more high-quality apprentice programs, not weaker ones
- Nearly all industrial construction craftsmen are trained in union programs
- The Boilermakers union and our signatory contractors spend \$500,000 a year training apprentices, constantly improving the program as technology advances
- A West Virginia University Institute for Labor Studies survey found that from 1990-99, West Virginia nonunion contractors graduated seven apprentices; unions 1,180
- Wicker's bill rewards these nonunion contractors for their past negligence

We oppose the new LMRDA requirements

- Bush's proposed new rules for Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) financial reports will cost unions millions of dollars
- Unions already disclose budgets, salaries, loans, and expenses, using standard accounting practices — in fact, they report more info than corporations
- The new rules will force unions to purchase costly new record-keeping systems and file electronically; even small unions will need a CPA
- They will not improve union efficiency; they will only cost unions money
- The new rules are so onerous, when the first President Bush proposed them in 1991, his own assistant secretary of labor, Robert Guttman, denounced them

We oppose another Bush tax cut for the rich

- As layoffs continue, President Bush's proposed budget would create fewer jobs in the next year than we lost in December — by his own office's calculations
- It creates deficits of \$1.5 trillion over the next five years and cuts domestic programs while giving people making over \$374,000 a year tax cuts of over \$30,000
- It shifts more of the tax burden to working families, while reducing funding for programs that serve them — Labor Department programs and education
- With unemployment at a ten-year high, we need a budget that will create new jobs, not one that rewards corporate executives for laying off workers

We oppose the Estrada nomination

- The D.C. Appellate Court hears more National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and OSHA cases than any other court and is often a path to the Supreme Court
- Bush has nominated Miguel Estrada to preside over this court, even though Estrada has no experience as a judge and has never been published in law journals
- The Department of Justice has refused to release his legal memoranda
- A former supervisor said he is too ideological to be a federal judge
- Estrada has a very limited view of the role of the court
- Many Hispanic groups oppose his appointment, such as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and California La Raza Lawyers.

Speakers inform, motivate

Continued from page 7

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 Unions Council of the AFL-CIO, talked about the manufacturing crisis.

"Manufacturing has been in a depression for four years. After World War II, we rebuilt 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 alone, 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 capacity 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. 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 back 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 (GDP). When it gets to 40 percent, we are in serious trouble. Forty percent is where 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.

"And we should let workers organize unions. If a majority of workers at a company sign cards, that should be enough. No elections. When a majority want the union, they should get it." □

Elect workers to office

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 a pro-worker majority and on moving union members up into 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 leapintoaction@yahoo.com. □

Boilermakers Elected to Public Office

Brian Battefield	Local 484	Ill.	Board Member
Todd Cooley	Local 484	Ill.	City Council
John Devlin	Local 28	N. J.	City Council
Greg Dewitt	Local 484	Ill.	Council Member
Harley Garrett	Local 484	Ill.	Village Trustee
Jim Grady	Local 484	Ill.	Board Member
Lyle Grimes	Local 37	La.	Committeeman
Steven Gromala	Local 696	Mich.	Board of Commissioners, Chair
Thomas Hampton	Local 903	Miss.	Judge
Brian Hickey	Local 1851	Mass.	Housing Board Member
Rick Horn	Local 105	Ind.	Board Member
Sherman Ivy	Local 903	Miss.	Constable
Delbert Lathim	Local 242	Wash.	Commissioner
James Lerch	Local 484	Ill.	Township Trustee
Floyd McKee	Local 903	Miss.	Constable
Charles Miles	Local 656	Tenn.	County Industrial Development Board
Max 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 Skowfoe	Local 197	N. Y.	County Legislator
Grover Skyles	Local 656	Tenn.	City Commissioner
George Strutt	Local 614	Conn.	City Council
Gene Townsend	Local D239	Mont.	Mayor
Casey Weeks	Local 903	Miss.	Board Member
Billy Joe Wright, Jr.	Local 903	Miss.	Mayor



IST WILLBURN PRESENTS an award for the local lodge with the highest CAF contribution in 2002 to Local 154 President Thomas O'Connor.



IVP 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 LODGE 29 business manager, accepts the award for most improved contribution in 2002 on behalf of Local 29 members.

NE Area sweeps CAF fundraising awards

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 what happens 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 during 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 \$82,929.05 from all retirees combined. International staff and officers contributed another \$35,615.

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. □

Top ten locals donating to CAF

Local/Location	2002 CAF Donation	Per Member	VP/Area
Local 154 — Pittsburgh, PA	\$68,123.59	\$64.63	Murphy/Northeast
Local 105 — Chillicothe, OH	57,031.02	94.74	McManamon/Great Lakes
Local 29 — Boston, MA	56,938.42	133.97	Murphy/Northeast
Local 13 — Philadelphia, PA	25,000.00	23.97	Murphy/Northeast
Local 193 — Baltimore, MD	24,472.55	53.67	Murphy/Northeast
Local 1 — Chicago, IL	24,000.00	62.99	McManamon/Great Lakes
Local 85 — Toledo, OH	20,000.00	75.19	McManamon/Great Lakes
Local 5 — New York City, NY	18,038.02	134.61	Murphy/Northeast
Local 549 — Pittsburg, CA	16,966.37	31.36	Lacefield/Western States
Local 92 — Los Angeles, CA	16,353.68	21.98	Lacefield/Western States

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,

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REP. GARY ACKERMAN (D-5th NY), center right, with Local 5 delegates, l. to r., Kevin O'Brien and Tom Klein, and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. BUD CRAMER JR. (D-5th AL), represented by M. J. Bailey, second from left, with Local 108 delegates, l. to r., John Helvin and Ronnie Dexter, and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. NITA LOWEY (D-18th NY), center, with L-5 delegates, l. to r., Kevin O'Brien and Thomas Klein.



SEN. DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI), center, with, l. to r., Leg. Dir. Ande Abbott and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. WILLIAM DELAHUNT (D-10 MA), right, in his office with L-29 delegates, l. to r., Tom Saccoach, Jack Johnndrow, Joe Birolini, and (seated) Jack Meade.



REP. CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-4th NY), center right, with Local 5 delegates, l. to r., Kevin O'Brien and Tom Klein, and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. JOE BACA (D-43rd CA), center, with, l. to r., Leg. Dir. Ande Abbott and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. BOB ETHERIDGE (D-2nd NC), center, with Local 905 delegates, l. to r., Zachary Givens and Charlie Graham.



REP. BRAD MILLER (D-13th NC), center, with, l. to r., IVP Newton Jones and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. FRANK BALLANCE JR. (D-1st NC), center, with Local 905 delegates, l. to r., Charlie Graham and Zachary Givens.



REP. BOB FILNER (D-51st CA), center, with, on the left, Gary Fernandez of Local 101, and on the right, International Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Willburn.



REP. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD (D-34th CA), represented by Victor Castillo, center, with, l. to r., Gary Fernandez of Local 101, and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. LEONARD BOSWELL (D-3rd IA), second from right, with L-83 delegates, l. to r., Dennis Schissel, Larry Horseman, and John Seward Jr.



DAVID LAURISKI, asst. secretary of labor for Mine, Safety & Health, with International Vice President Othal Smith Jr. (r.).



REP. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER (D-2nd MD), center, with Ernest Dorsey of L-193 on the left and Legislative Director Ande Abbott at right.

CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION

Continued from page 9

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 met 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. □



NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB) representatives Al Palewicz of Region 5, fourth from left, NLRB Chairman Robert Battista, third from right, and Wayne Gold of Region 5, second from right, with, l. to r., IST Jerry Willburn, General Counsel Rep. Mike Manley, Stephanie Palewicz, Nora Leyland of Sherman & Dunn, and IVPs Larry McManamon, Newton Jones, and Othal Smith Jr.



REP. ROBERT ADERHOLT (R-4th AL), represented by Dave Newton and Mark Busching, 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 John Grove, NTL delegate Ronny Vanscoy, Local 667 delegates B. B. Smith and George Pinkerman, and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. TOM ALLEN (D-1 ME), represented by Jolene Chouko, third from left, Matthew Coffron, far back center, and Joe Patry, fifth from right, with Local 29 and 920 delegates, l. to r., Joe Birolini, Sharon Perry, Chouko, Jeff Perry, Tom Saccoach, Jack Johndrow, Coffron, Gerry Williams, Patry, 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 Brophy, and IST Jerry Willburn.



REP. SPENCER 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. TIM RYAN (D-17th OH), center left, with, l. to r., Adam McClain, Jeff Beitel, Pete Nedeljko, James Rose, Wyndham Sparling, IST Jerry Willburn, Terry Heiser, IVP Larry McManamon, Tony Stahl, Gerry Bullock, and IR Ron Lyon.



SEN. EVAN BAYH (D-IN), represented by Todd Menotti, center, with l. to r., Steven Hurm, IVP Larry McManamon, Tom Stevens, Paul Maday, Steven Mantz, Mike Pulley, Preston Miracle, Terry Paris, IST Jerry Willburn, and Joseph Pawlik.



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 Saccoach, Jack Meade, Don Dinwoodie, and Stephen Goodhart.



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



REP. BART STUPAK (D-1st MI), represented by Lori Mrowka, center left, with L-169 delegates, l. to r., Tony Jacobs, James Calouette, IVP Larry McManamon, 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 1990. Three years later, they began presenting awards to the lodge in each area with the least 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.

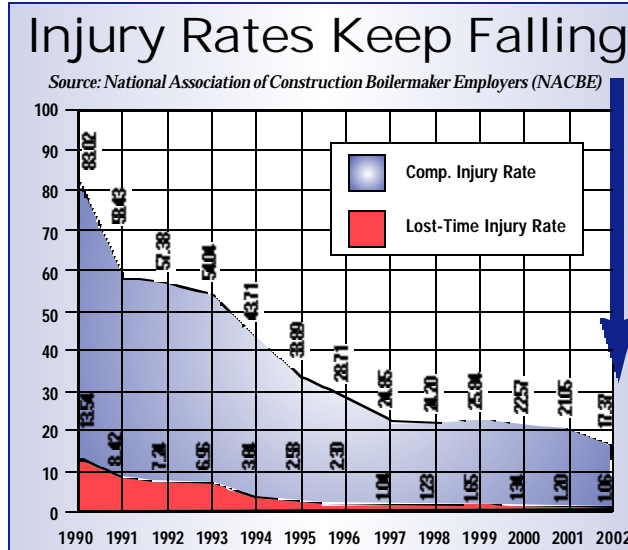
Other vice-presidential area awards went to Local 92, Los Angeles, Calif., in the Western States; Local 169, Detroit, Mich., in the Great Lakes; and Local



MARK THOMPSON (r.) accepts the national safety award for Local 132, Galveston, Texas, with IP C. W. Jones (l.) and Central Section IVP George Rogers.

193, Baltimore, Md., in the Northeast. Each area winner received a plaque at the Construction Division Winter Conference, and all members of winning lodges received keepsake items commemorating their accomplishment.

Boilermakers safety programs are an important element in maintaining the safety awareness that reduces accidents. All local lodges are now participating in the MOST Hazard Awareness and Safety Training Program. MOST's OSHA-certified instructor training makes it possible for lodges to provide their own programs at times and in locations convenient for their members. The success of these approaches is evident in our declining injury rates. □



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-1073 Pres. Jeff Beitel (far right). Class topics included hazard communication, protective equipment, inspections, and recordkeeping. □

MAKE IT SAFE

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 more are injured every year because they did not de-energize and lock out equipment before working on it. Most of the deaths are electrocutions, 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 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).

Procedures

1. Notification. Tell equipment operators and supervisors that power is being disconnected or isolated.
2. Preparation. Check with your supervisor for a written procedure (or checklist) that tells how to shut down and restart the equipment you are working on.
3. Shutdown. Turn off the equipment.
4. Isolation. Separate all energy sources using proper isolating devices — like manual circuit breakers or disconnect switches. Pushbuttons or selector switches cannot be the only way to de-energize. A lot of equipment has more than one type of energy that needs to be isolated.
5. Lockout/tagout application. Every worker who can be exposed to hazardous energy must be part of the lockout/tagout process.
 - A lockout device is a key or combination lock with a special tag with a worker's name. The lock must be attached to an isolating device, circuit breaker, and/or switch to prevent turning on the energy source or equipment or releasing energy.
 - A tagout device is a tag and a way to attach it that can withstand at least 50 pounds of force. (Some tagout devices are
6. Control of stored energy. Release energy by discharging capacitors, removing jacks or chock blocks, or draining hydraulic lines, for instance.
7. Verification. Use testing equipment (such as an electric circuit tester) to make sure equipment has been de-energized.
8. Removal of lockout/tagout devices. Only the worker who puts on a lockout or tagout device should take it off. If someone else must take off the device, he/she must be sure that the person who installed it is not on the site, and must warn that employee when he/she returns.
9. Return to service. When the work is done and lockout/tagout devices are off, you must test and look to be sure all tools, mechanical restraints, and electrical devices have been removed before you turn on power. Before you re-energize, you must warn all workers who can operate the equipment and make sure no one else is near it.
10. Temporary release. If the job requiring lockout/tagout is interrupted for testing or positioning equipment, the procedures must start all over.

attached with wire.) Use a tagout device only when you cannot lock out. The tag should have a label or sign that says no one can turn on the equipment or remove the energy-isolating device without permission. (OSHA allows tagout devices, but the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, does not recommend tagout-only work.)

Each worker at risk should apply an individual lockout/tagout device to each source of hazardous energy — so there may be many locks or tags on each device. You must be the only one who has the key or combination for a lockout device you install — except in complex lockout/tagout (read below).

Individual qualified employee control. For minor servicing, maintenance, or inspection of plug-and-cord equipment, you may work without attaching lockout/tagout devices if you unplug the equipment and you always work next to the power plug and control the plug.

Complex lockout/tagout. A special written plan is needed when a job has more than one of any of these:

- Energy source
- Crew
- Craft
- Location
- Employer
- Work shift
- Way to isolate energy

One crew member should be in charge of the whole lockout/tagout. This person should be trained and identified by name in the written plan. Each worker still should check to be sure all energy sources are locked out before starting work.

6. Control of stored energy. Release energy by discharging capacitors, removing jacks or chock blocks, or draining hydraulic lines, for instance.

7. Verification. Use testing equipment (such as an electric circuit tester) to make sure equipment has been de-energized.

8. Removal of lockout/tagout devices. Only the worker who puts on a lockout or tagout device should take it off. If someone else must take off the device, he/she must be sure that the person who installed it is not on the site, and must warn that employee when he/she returns.

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10. Temporary release. If the job requiring lockout/tagout is interrupted for testing or positioning equipment, the procedures must start all over.

For more information, call your local union, the Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR) (301-578-8500 or www.cpwv.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. © 2001, CPWR is the research and development institute of the Building and Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO: CPWR, Suite 1000, 8484 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

*OSHA has a comprehensive standard for lockout/tagout for general industry (29CFR1910.147), but not for construction.

Safety tips in Spanish

THIS ISSUE'S SAFETY COLUMN, "Safety With Lockout/Tagout," is also available in Spanish. CPWR has supplied us with a number of safety columns in both English and Spanish that we can

make available in camera-ready form to any lodge that believes they may be useful.

For more information, contact *the Boilermaker Reporter* at 913-371-2640.

Local D39 and Lone Star companies help families



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

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

TWO CHILDREN WITH special needs had a merrier Christmas last year, thanks to the efforts of Local D39 in Greencastle, Ind., 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 fam-

ily 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 Hull), 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. □

NTL members earn 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. □



PEERLESS JEFFERSON, r., receives his 60-year membership pin from NTD Director William J. Almond.

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.*

by James "J.P." Boardman, Local 667, Culloden, W. Va.

Editors Note: 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.

HONORS

Boilermakers earn membership pins



DALE BRANSCUM (l.), director of the Construction Division, presents a 60-year membership pin to Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones.

pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

55 Years – Rudy Kovacevic;

45 Years – David Canon, O'Neil Roberts, Charles Shonkwiler, John Dean;

35 Years – Lyle Ball, Richard Chavez, Everett Cottingham, William Crim, Jack Dobbins, Gene Ebert, Monte Emmons, Michael George, Kenneth Laws, David Lindee, Richard Luncsford, Gilbert Ridley, James Scobel, Ronald Starr, Royall Wade, Russell Webber, Earl Wolfe, Floyd Wood;

30 Years – Donald Bozarth, Carl Johnson, Michael Jones, Robert Miskell, James Williams;

25 Years – Donald Abel, Charles Asbury, Donald Barbour, Thomas Bradley, Rick Bradshaw, Thomas Bussey, Larry Couch, Loren Crawford Jr., Dale DeRose, Danny Fischer, Dennis Granger, Vernon Harden, Dwain Harrison, Edmond Hebert, Melvin Hill Jr., John Mason Jr., James Mooney, Michael Mooney, Kim Moore, Anthony Reese, Johnny Roger Jr., Ronald Ross, Bruce Sack, Doyle Sawyer, Larry Schaab, Robert Sears, Dale Staples, Charles Tarpley, Joseph VanLoo, 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.

Officers, 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:

40 – Intl. Vice Pres. Don Lacefield

35 – Intl. Vice Pres. Richard Albright
Intl. VP Sandy MacDonald
Intl. VP Larry McManamon
Intl. Vice Pres. Michael Murphy
Intl. Vice Pres. George Rogers
Intl. Sec.-Treas. Jerry Willburn

30 – Intl. VP Jim Hickenbotham
Intl. Vice Pres. Newton B. Jones

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

JOHN SKERMONT, 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 Vanderway.

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. Mulhollan, David G. Vogt.

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

ED HEBERT, BM-ST of Local 60, Peoria, Ill., reports presentation of

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;

35 Years – James E. Collins, Jimmie C. Huffman, William R. Sears, Albert J. Senteno, Charles D. Weber;

30 Years – Denzil E. Irvin, John J. Kostrzebski, Charles E. Miner;

25 Years – Neil E. Bockhold, Daniel Colantuono, Richard I. Flamion, Robert D. Lock, Steven I. Mantz, Patrick E. Neu, Thomas F. Rycerz, Ray R. Skamay, Timothy J. Thomas, Donald L. Trumpower Jr.;

20 Years – Gregory L. Allen, Richard A. Banken, Michael L. Correll, George I. Fleming, Louis F. Gregor Jr., Mark W. Jorden, Earlene Meneskie, Christopher Silkey; and

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 ship fitter 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



L-433 RETIREE CAM JUNCAL tests his retirement gift from L-30 members on Plymouth job.

was boomed out, 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 1955 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* □



L-72'S DEAN MICKELS worked as a welder, public employee.

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 parachuted in. 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 lines to draw 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 that I got too close." Marauder 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 Western States," 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. □

Local 687 Bus. Mgr. Jim Bryant retires



JIM S. BRYANT HAS SERVED as a business manager and as an assistant business manager of Local 687 in Charleston Heights, S.C., since 1984, and has been a member of the District 57 affiliate lodge since 1974.

On Feb. 28, 2003, he spent his final day in office representing his members at the winter meeting of the Construction Division, officially retiring the next day, March 1.

Seated at left, Bryant listens intently to Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones' closing remarks, with Intl. Rep. Al Watts (c.) and District 57 BM-ES Sam May (r.).

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 said that ensuring the system's long-term financial health would require more changes later.

"It'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 sen-

iors 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 buy 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. □

Members Only

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

UNION PLUS CREDIT CARD

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MORTGAGE & REAL ESTATE

Also open to your children & parents.

Call: 1-800-848-6466

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Available for credit-qualified members.

Call: 1-888-235-2759

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Visit: www.unionplus.org

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Call: 1-800-899-2782

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Call: 1-800-899-2782

HEALTH SAVINGS

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Call: 1-800-228-3523

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Call and give the ID number:

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

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

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FLOWER SERVICE

Call: 1-888-667-7779

NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES

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Go to our web site for more information:

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**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.

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 cell phone 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 they 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. also has 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. □

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- **Cingular Wireless Discounts.** Save five to ten percent on your Cingular 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

and used books. Choose one for yourself and a friend.

- **Computer Discounts & Freebies.** Year-round, Union Plus offers dis-

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Archives Needs Support

Window Decals

Men's Gold Dress Watch \$40 Donation

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Men's Sports Watch \$30 Donation

Ladies Gold Dress Watch \$40 Donation

Ladies Souvenir Watch \$15 Donation

Christmas Ornament — \$10 Donation

10-inch Wall Clock \$20 Donation

One for \$2 Donation, Three for \$5 Donation

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

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.

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 Fortin, Ernie	27	Klunick, Peter	104	Miller, Leo W.
NTL Frias, Jose	29	Wallace, Clark W.	110	Boudreaux, Herman
NTL Jones, James	37	Grafton, Walter R.	112	Helveston, Wilton E.
1 Favia, William	60	Harwell, James	128	Cavanaugh, Sherry
1 Kuh, Leonard C.	74	Cassidy, Edwin E.	132	Smith, Robert C.
6 Cassidy, Edwin	74	Gill, Doyle G.	146	Deck, David
9 Perazzo, Vincent H.	85	Johnson, Albert L.	146	Dowhy, Eugene
13 Bondi, James	92	Gaytan Sr., David	154	Newman, Lawrence D.
13 Carney, Charles G.	92	Johnson, John H.	169	Basquin, Donald
13 Marini, Steven	104	Larson, Albert L.	175	Sisson, Donald
13 Marshall, James L.	104	Haag, Robert M.	182	Davis, Billy J.
		Kohlman, Donald D.	182	Walker, Kenneth S.

193 Ashe, Charles
199 Batten, James R.
220 Logullo, Charles
300 Noll, Theodore
363 Dutton, Harry W.
363 Gallup, Duane R.
363 Mocerri, Anthony R.
374 Day, Ralph
374 Glinski, Casimir
374 White Jr., Clifford
487 Hansen, Wilburt J.
582 Blackwell, Felix E.
582 Callender, Ellis L.
582 Temple Sr., Hiram C.
582 Thames, Howard

587 Bussell, Johnnie
619 Drenno, John F.
620 Mayo, James R.
647 Ferguson, James
650 Caven, Francis
650 Veek, Kirby
667 Childers, Virgil
667 Horne, Roy
667 Plymale, Frederick
744 Preece, Thomas J.
752 Harper, Michael
900 Whatley, Tommy
1603 McQuilkin, Walter A.
1626 Harshman Jr., Paul
1660 Poe, Marion

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

Funds Riordan, Vincent M.	\$6,000.00
Intl. Steele, Marianne F.	6,000.00
NTL Byrd, Emmett E.	6,000.00
NTL Cooper, Issack Q.	6,000.00
NTL Cooper, Truman L.	6,000.00
NTL Couch, William J.	6,000.00
NTL Dennison, Daniel L.	12,612.42
NTL Hallock, Bruce A.	6,000.00
NTL Hudson, Ezra F.	6,000.00
NTL Marsh Jr., Jessie W.	6,000.00
NTL Piefer, Joseph C.	6,000.00
NTL Sain, Charles D.	6,000.00
1 Chaney, James W.	6,000.00
1 Dressen, Edward J.	6,000.00
1 Fitzpatrick, Patrick	6,000.00
1 Kresz, Frank P.	6,000.00
1 Parcher, Jason A.	419.72
1 Zygowicz, Stanley S.	6,000.00
6 Braz, Clarence A.	6,000.00
6 Brovelli, Nathan S.	6,000.00
6 Cachero, Paulino	6,000.00
6 DePetrillo, Patsy	6,000.00
6 Goodwin, Eugene T.	6,000.00
6 Kaltenbach, Hans	6,000.00
6 Nickison, William H.	6,000.00
6 Patrizi, Frank H.	6,000.00
6 Rodriguez, Alex L.	6,000.00
6 Roja, Edward J.	6,000.00
6 Santos, Alfonso E.	6,000.00
11 Cassidy, Monty S.	6,000.00
11 Schaefer, Paul G.	232.50
13 Bondi, James	6,000.00
13 Schmoll, Charles W.	848.68
26 Akins, Clinton L.	6,000.00
26 Kilpatrick, Herbert D.	6,000.00
26 Mosley, Hubert	6,000.00
26 Newman, Thomas E.	6,000.00
27 Klunick, Peter	6,000.00
27 Thielemann, Lucius F.	6,000.00
27 Wille, Clinton O.	6,000.00
28 Bockisch, Karl	5,000.00
28 Duffy, Patrick A.	11,000.00
28 Hellmig, William A.	11,000.00
28 Mackiewicz, Ray Z.	11,000.00
28 Pero Sr., Charles P.	11,000.00
28 White Sr., Conrad H.	5,000.00
30 Bumpass, William E.	6,000.00
37 Blackwell, Grady R.	6,000.00
37 Cowart, Willie J.	6,000.00
37 Esco, Alton	6,000.00
37 Harwell, James E.	6,000.00
37 Johnson, Charles	6,000.00
37 Smith, Weldon	6,000.00
45 Battle, William W.	6,000.00
60 Burress, Oatley	6,000.00
60 Cassidy, Edwin E.	4,000.00
67 Purvis, Robert	4,464.25
72 Akins, Robert C.	6,000.00
72 Dykstra, Alfred L.	6,000.00
72 Edwards, Ivan R.	6,000.00
72 Goble, William E.	6,000.00
72 Gorman, James T.	6,000.00
74 Cotton, Robert F.	6,000.00
74 Johnson, Albert L.	6,000.00
79 Alford, Edward J.	6,000.00
79 LeBleu, James A.	6,000.00
79 Plaisance, Paul D.	6,000.00
83 Herring, Billy Haze	6,000.00
83 Reynolds, Paul A.	6,000.00

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.

108 Milam, James E.	6,000.00	487 Brauer, Warren	6,000.00
110 Havard, Harlie T.	6,000.00	487 Papham, Maynard	6,000.00
112 Brannon, Judith E.	6,000.00	487 Vogel, Ervin L.	6,000.00
112 Davis, Mark L.	6,000.00	502 Dumas, Richard K.	6,000.00
112 McDaniel, Hubert	6,000.00	502 Larson, Jack A.	6,000.00
117 Slovick, Alex J.	6,000.00	502 Reichenauer, Robert J.	4,072.25
124 Streicher, John R.	6,000.00	549 Garrett, David B.	15,000.00
132 Kline, Russell G.	6,000.00	549 Moron, Alfonso	6,000.00
132 Sandoval, Marcus G.	8,183.09	568 Kubista, Val G.	6,000.00
132 Ward, Rex B.	3,000.00	568 Maples, Allan Lee	6,000.00
154 Glagola, Charles	6,000.00	568 Nichols, James W.	6,000.00
154 McClain, Elmer R.	6,000.00	582 Melancon, James J.	6,000.00
154 McCoy, Rodney G.	224.00	583 Akers, Hubert L.	6,000.00
154 Pantuso, Louis V.	8,697.24	583 Bowling, Letcher E.	6,000.00
154 Vavra, Frank D.	6,000.00	587 Bourgeois, Paul J.	6,000.00
169 Ford, Steven M.	7,262.33	587 Elmore, Roy E.	3,186.01
169 Fugitt, Raymond H.	6,000.00	587 Franklin, James	6,000.00
169 Heiden, Richard L.	6,000.00	587 Lynn, Lester	4,500.00
169 Kilpatrick, Kevin B.	6,000.00	587 Powdrill, Truitt L.	6,000.00
169 Smith Jr., Dennis R.	6,000.00	592 Cloud, Roy C.	6,000.00
169 Yates, William	6,000.00	647 Arch, Harry W.	6,000.00
177 Cwiak, Edward	6,000.00	647 Ferguson, James R.	6,000.00
182 Hollingsworth, G. A.	6,000.00	647 Gilbertson, Richard	6,000.00
182 Service, Virgil H.	6,000.00	647 Kaufman, John J.	6,000.00
182 Wheeler, Earl H.	8,027.51	647 Kenney, James J.	6,000.00
197 Oppedisano, Angelo	6,000.00	651 Halley, James	6,000.00
199 Carter, Steven W.	81.00	667 Childers, Virgil C.	6,000.00
199 Crews, Marvin	6,000.00	667 Priestley, Lenvil	6,000.00
199 Young, Ernest L.	6,000.00	679 Brown, Grover L.	6,000.00
237 Pelletier, Richard L.	6,000.00	687 Linville, William E.	6,000.00
305 Beal, Floyd Thomas	6,000.00	696 Berg, Einar L.	6,000.00
338 Davenport, Delbert E.	6,000.00	696 McGivern, Clyde E.	6,000.00
357 Hunt, Claude W.	6,000.00	744 Myk, John Norman J.	194.58
358 Lake, Ralph C.	6,000.00	744 Pennybacker, Wm. H.	6,000.00
363 Mocerri, Anthony R.	6,000.00	752 Melaugh, Edmund J.	6,000.00
374 Anderson, James D.	6,000.00	799 Dover, Richard M.	2,551.74
374 Becich Jr., Daniel J.	6,000.00	802 Emerson, James G.	6,000.00
374 Day, Ralph O.	6,000.00	802 Kline, Louis K.	6,000.00
374 Forsythe, Ronald W.	6,000.00	802 Ruff, William L.	6,000.00
374 Glinski, Casimir	6,000.00	802 Warren, John L.	6,000.00
374 Sharp, Robert E.	6,000.00	1086 Davis, Cedric G.	242.20
374 Swindle, Todd	635.63	1086 Davis, Cedric G.	968.80
374 White Jr., Clifford R.	6,000.00	1234 Bohdan, Wasyl	6,000.00
433 Clements, Albert G.	6,000.00	1234 Oswalt, Robert L.	13,996.75
433 Posey, Lawrence	6,000.00	1234 Sprovieri, John J.	6,000.00
449 Bruckner, Robert L.	6,000.00	1234 Webb, Marian B.	6,000.00
449 Nedd, Kenneth D.	6,000.00	1509 Citko, Tony	6,000.00
449 Swedal, John C.	6,000.00	1509 Gallus, Thomas W.	6,000.00
454 Brown, Louis Mac	6,000.00	1509 Nowak Jr., John P.	6,000.00
454 Clark, Lewis C.	6,000.00	1570 Stewart, John B.	6,000.00
454 Murphy, Charles	6,000.00	1592 Estrella, Juan A.	6,000.00
454 Ray, Jeff	6,000.00	1600 Cluchey, Joseph W.	3,000.00
454 Thomas, Guy W.	1,012.50	1600 Melgoza, Raul	6,000.00
454 Thomas, Guy W.	12,155.38	1670 Beatty, Thomas J.	6,000.00
455 White, Clarence J.	6,000.00	1670 Benn, Clifford	6,000.00

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Name _____
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 Local Lodge No. _____ Register No. _____

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

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 Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

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 Saddam's army and his private guard. The U.S. military is without peer.

The only question was whether Saddam would unleash chemical or biological weapons. He didn't, and we won with relatively few U.S. casualties.

I only hope that this swift victory 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 from power every national leader we suspect might support terrorist actions against the U.S., we would remain in danger from dozens of groups that act without explicit approval or backing from any national government.

Yet Republicans in Congress seem far more interested in what is happening 6,000 miles away than in what is happening right here at home. While they readily approved an extra \$80 billion so we could fight the war in Iraq, they defeated amendments to this request increasing 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 200,000 foreign 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 pro-

vides 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 interdict commercial ships at sea and conduct inspections far from U.S. ports.

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

vides 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 interdict commercial ships at sea and conduct inspections far from U.S. ports.

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. If we come to rely on foreign nations for defense systems, what happens when those nations no longer support our military efforts? What if, for example, we had been relying on France and Germany for a crucial weapons component when we invaded Iraq?

Or what if some natural or economic catastrophe were to befall 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 economy — 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's 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 layoff. 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? □

Letters to the Editors

Lockey appreciates union

I AM A BOILERMAKER, a woman, and a union worker. I send all my best to Ingalls Shipbuilding. It was there I joined the union. It's a family tradition.

I might not have been in one of the most powerful unions, but I am proud of it. In this union shipyard I learned to read blueprints, weld on steel and aluminum, and work with come-alongs. I had an overhead crane license and, at one time, was the only one in my crew to have a man-lift license.

Without this union, this little woman of 5-foot-two-inches and 110 pounds would not have made it. I still remember walking the picket line waiting for our demands to be met. And when they were, it was one of the proudest days of my life. So to Lodge 693, I send a thank you and a wish for a happy new year.

WANDA LOCKEY, L-693
Lucedale, Miss.

L-13's Spera: I owe my life to an apprentice — value them

ON JULY 17, 2001, I was working at Motiva Enterprises in Delaware City, Del., when there was an explosion. We lost a good man, and had it not been for an apprentice, I, too, would have died. Ken Creamer saved my life.

The explosion left me lying at the bottom of some steps, barely breathing. In a matter of seconds, acid and fire would consume the building. Kenny came running down the steps and put his own safety aside, scooping me up and carrying me to safety. I cannot truly express how I feel, but Kenny is my hero and savior. I think his selflessness should be recognized.

I am impressed by the integrity and quality of our apprentices. We should

never look down on someone for being an apprentice because an apprentice is just as much of a man as a journeyman is. If it wasn't for that apprentice, I believe I would be dead.

Praise to all who have been there.
STEVE SPERA, Local 13
New Castle, Del.

L-37's Lindsey is grateful for Local 374's support

I AM A LOCAL 37 Boilermaker. My 19-year-old son has terminal brain cancer. I was a boomer at Madison, Ind., for Local 374, when my son became very ill and I had to leave work and return to Arkansas to be with my family. My son almost died. When I got back to work the guys all pitched in and took up a collection for my family.

I would like to thank all the guys who gave and the ones who just said a prayer. A special thanks to B&W Boilermakers' day and night shifts, Enerfab's Boilermakers day shift, Enerfab and Ironworkers' night shifts, one adopted Ironworker (Whitey), and a special thanks to Local 374 — you all are the greatest. Please continue to pray for my son and family.

THOMAS LINDSEY, L-37
Floral, Ark.

Green has great respect for laid-off Local 1162 members

THOUGH I LIVE in the Milwaukee area and knew that Interstate Drop Forge (recently bought by Citation Corp.) was to be closed and their operations sent to Navasota, Tex., it was still heart-rending to read of their closure in the Jan-Feb 2003 *Boilermaker Reporter*.

As an International rep. who repre-

sented the people of L-1162 for about ten years, I found the people of that local to be a very hardworking group and exceptionally easy to work for.

George Groves, now retired, was president of L-1162 during my tenure serving them. George set the tone, but all members of L-1162 were consistently gentlemanly toward me. We worked together as a team.

I was there in the late 1980s when Lodge 1162 members conceded over \$4.00 per hour because Interstate was losing money. The Interstate owner and CEO promised us he would return the concessions to us when the economy picked up. True to his word, he did.

I serviced many locals and negotiated many labor contracts during my nearly 20 years on the International staff. Using honesty and integrity as a criteria, I would say that Interstate's management, along with its employees, members of L-1162, ranked right up there with the best companies and local lodge members I had the pleasure of dealing with.

I am truly sorry to see the Citation Corp. move them. Maybe the Brotherhood could do Citation a favor and organize the Navasota facility.

CASPER GREEN, retired Intl. rep.

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.

Some were even killed. These talks are forever imprinted on my mind.

What amazed me most are 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 his shop 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) 281-8104

E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org

or cdillon@boilermakers.org