The Shipyard Workers Union
votes to affiliate with the IBB

Affiliation offers strength and security to former members of independent union

MEMBERS OF THE SHIPYARD WORKERS UNION (SWU), an independent union established in April 2000, voted to affiliate with the Boilermakers International Union, effective March 27, 2003. The new lodge will maintain the name Shipyard Workers Union, but will be known internally as Local Lodge 1998.

The SWU represents over 1,700 employees in the San Diego, Calif., port. SWU represents workers at Hopeman Brothers Marine Interiors and has organized 70 percent of the workforce at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company.

Robert Godinez, former president of the independent union, will continue to serve as the new local’s president. Int’l. Pres. Charles W. Jones has assigned Int’l. Rep. Steve Eames to service the lodge and has also appointed Godinez as an International rep. and general organizer for this new unit.

“The future of shipbuilding and ship repair in San Diego is very good,” said Godinez. “Both of our employers have contracted work until the year 2013, and we plan to continue organizing about 2,000 more employees on the waterfront.”

Joseph A. Stinger, who became International vice president of the Western States Section on April 7, wrote Godinez to welcome him and SWU members into the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers union.

I look forward to working with the members of the Shipyard Workers Union,” wrote Stinger. “I know the SWU will become a powerful local union, and we are all looking forward to working with these members, offering training programs, and establishing a new union hall for this local lodge.”

Work performed by members of the Shipyard Workers Union at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (Nassco) was recently featured in the American Ship Review 2002-2003, an annual special issue of the Professional Mariner.

The article by Brian Gauvin features construction of two Orca-class roll on/roll off ships: Midnight Sun, floating and nearing completion; and North Star, taking shape in the graving dock.

L-502 members are working on the railroad, Engine #1

Volunteer members retube 1899 engine for park

LOCAL 502, TACOMA, Wash., may represent construction workers in Alaska and Washington, but since the summer of 2000, L-502 members have been working on the railroad.

That’s not entirely true, but they have been working on the first steam locomotive to travel in the Yukon Territory — Engine #1.

Built in March 1899 by H. K. Porter & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., Engine No. 1 is a 0-4-0 steam locomotive that ran in the Yukon Territory from 1899 to 1905. In 1905, the Tanana Valley Railroad brought the locomotive to Fairbanks, Alaska. It was retired in 1922.

In the summer of 2000, the Friends of the Tanana Valley Railroad, a non-profit organization of volunteers, decided to bring Engine #1 out of retirement. Working with JAFFA Construction, Local 502 members donated their time and effort to help restore Engine #1 to its original condition. Members retubed the engine and rebuilt the coal car.

Engine #1 now operates on selected dates during the summer at Pioneer Park, formerly known as Alaskaland, in Fairbanks. Local 502’s Charlie Winston is one of the part-time engineers.

When SWU members built the Midnight Sun (top) they reinforced the bow (above) for icebreaking. Photos by Brian Gauvin
L-13 members take worker issues to state capitol

EACH YEAR, MEMBERS of Local 13’s political action committee (PAC) travel to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania’s capitol, to discuss issues of importance to workers with state legislators. This was the seventh year the members of Local 13, Philadelphia, have made the journey. PAC members going to the state capitol city this year included Local 13 BM-ST James Banford Jr., Local 13 President Bill Hill, Rich Crouse, John Gushue, Jim Heron, Bill Morgan, Mark Strachan, and Granville Strachan.

Letter shows anti-union aim behind new DOL rules

GINGRICH said new rules will ‘weaken our opponents’

A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION Act request has uncovered a letter written in 1992 by then-Republican Whip Newt Gingrich that reveals the true reason behind Labor Secretary Elaine Chao’s new LM reporting rules. Gingrich wrote to the first President Bush’s labor secretary, Lynn Martin, and Clayton Yeutter, the president’s domestic policy adviser, urging them to institute changes in the LM-2 union reporting and disclosure form exactly like the ones Chao wants to implement this year. These changes, he explained, would “weaken our opponents and encourage our allies.”

Chao insults union presidents

GINGRICH’S LETTER reveals that these changes have nothing to do with helping workers and everything to do with weakening unions. Perhaps that is why Labor Secretary Martin advised the first President Bush against them. Eleven years later, DOL Secretary Elaine Chao had no such qualms about insulting the heads of dozens of unions at an AFL-CIO meeting in February. In answer to a question from IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, she began reading aloud from a list of seven criminal cases involving IAM locals.

Reading the letter to the Boilermaker Reporter, May • Jun 2003, Vol. 42 No. 3

Mississippi one step closer to having labor department

THREE DELEGATES from the Mississippi AFL-CIO testified for passage of a bill to create a state department of labor at a Senate committee hearing. The measure was passed by the committee.

‘Rule clarification’ will end overtime pay for 644,000

MILLIONS OF AMERICAN workers who rely on overtime pay may be in for a pay cut under a “clarification” of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) being considered by the Labor Department. Virginia Lignic, assistant secretary for employment standards at the U.S. Labor Department, says the proposed changes are intended to “protect workers who were not being protected.” Labor leaders see it differently.

Bush administration shows pattern of union-busting

THESE REVELATIONS are the latest in a long series that suggest the Bush White House is actively working to destroy union representation for workers. Bush’s appointments to agencies that oversee workers have consistently gone to anti-union candidates, his executive orders have rolled back worker protections, and he has used the cover of national security to deny federal workers the right to be represented under the National Labor Relations Act.

GOP senators stand up for unions

IN APRIL, 28 Republican senators signed a letter to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, asking her to withdraw her proposed changes to the LM RDA reports, saying they are “unduly burdensome” and would divert unions from “representing members.” Please take the time to thank these senators for standing up for workers.

The Boilermaker Reporter

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

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A prize-winning newspaper
Local 696 says ‘no’
to concessions

Six-week strike softens company demands

FOLLOWING A SIX-WEEK strike, 449 members of Local 696, Marinette, Wis., voted to accept a four-year agreement with Marinette Marine on March 6, 2003.

“This was a very difficult negotiation,” reported Int’l. Rep. Len Gunderson. “It was the first contract with Marinette Marine and the Manitowoc Corp. I hope the next one goes better.”

Negotiations began with the company demanding concessions on vacation, health insurance premiums, overtime, and the workweek. The members wanted to eliminate overtime during the week, and only allow it on the weekend after 40 hours of work. They wanted to eliminate double-time and retest all our journeymen and reduce the pay for any who did not pass,” said Gunderson. “They also wanted to eliminate two weeks of vacation and eliminate two holidays. This left only ten holidays, of which the company wanted five to be floating holidays to be designated at the company’s discretion.

“The company also wanted to able to change the workweek on a weekly basis; i.e., working four ten-hour days, or three 12-hour days, or any combination within the shipyard. Another issue was time off for union business. The company wanted to restrict this to only five days off a year for union business for local lodge officers, stewards, and committee members. They also wanted to eliminate the right to honor a sanctioned strike.

“But the biggest issue was health insurance,” Gunderson said. “The company had been paying 100 percent of the premium. They proposed eliminating insurance for retired employees.

Unions only strike as a last resort. When negotiations came to an impasse, the members initiated a four-day unfair labor practice (ULP) strike. Their efforts did not go unnoticed.

“The ULP strike had a great effect on the bargaining committee,” said Gunderson. “They came back to the table ready to revoke and vigorously sell a proposal.”

Local 449 members ratified a four-year agreement with no concessions and several language gains.

Local 696 MEMBERS participate in a six-week strike against Marinette Marine. Their efforts led to a four-year contract with no concessions and wage increases each year.
Local 28, Nooter complete FCC revamp

Boilermakers revamp the world’s largest catalytic cracking unit and make Nooter’s largest single lift ever.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 28, Newark, N.J., have successfully completed an FCC revamp project for the Nooter Construction Co. at the ConocoPhillips refinery in Bayway, N.J.

This 14-month project on the world’s largest catalytic cracking unit, culminated in the mechanical portion of the turnaround being completed in just 35 days — ahead of schedule, under budget, and with no safety incidents.

The pre-turndown work for the project began in Aug. 2001, with the fabrication of a new 1.625-inch by 50-foot stainless steel regenerator air grid, which was successfully completed in Jan. 2002.

The balance of the pre-turnaround work included fabricating a new one-inch-thick hemispherical regenerator head with four-inches of refractory; installing the plenum and 20 pairs of cyclones; constructing the crane foundation; and setting up the crane — a Lampson LTL-2600, known as “the world’s largest mobile crane.”

Further, led by LampsonIntl LLC of Kennettick, Wash., it took 178 trucks to deliver the crane. A Nooter subcontractor built the crane’s foundation, which took 13,850 tons of stone and 600 cubic yards of concrete. Nooter and ConocoPhillips engineered this construction to accommodate the crane’s rear crawler, which carries 5.4 million pounds of counterweight.

During this turnaround, Nooter made its largest single lift ever — 704 tons at a 287-foot radius, by combining Nooter’s rigging engineering with the capabilities of the Lampson crane.

Besides setting a new lift record, Nooter was able to cut the owner’s downtime in half by fabricating the replacement head, plenum, and cyclones during the pre-turnaround.

Historically, all the components are assembled in place during the turn-around, resulting in downtime that lasts 70 to 80 days. By fabricating these components as a single unit during the pre-turnaround, the mechanical portion of the turnaround was completed in just 35 days, enabling ConocoPhillips to be back in production in half the time.

During the turnaround, one high-pressure water cut was made around the vessel’s 55-foot, 10-inch diameter to remove the old regenerator head and cyclones. The Lampson crane was then used to place the new head and cyclones as a single unit. When the unit was back up, L-28 members scrapped out the old grid, cyclones, and temporary stands, while helping to dismantle and ship out the Lampson crane.

Nooter Construction VP Pete Caron wrote, “This was a very impressive job by the Boilermakers and Nooter. The customer is very pleased. Nooter wants to thank all of the Boilermakers who contributed to this very safe and successful job.”

L-169 members retrofit Michigan boiler

Boilermakers participate in 77-day pollution control project with over 260,000 accident-free man-hours.

THE KARN-WEADOCK Generating Complex hasn’t seen this much construction activity since the D.E. Karn plant first came on line in 1959.

Owner Consumers Energy, general contractor Babcock & Wilcox, subcontractors, and the building trades are in the midst of a major outage affecting D.E. Karn Unit 2, a coal-fired boiler that is being retrofitted with federally-mandated, pollution-control upgrades.

More than 900 workers working two shifts, Local 169 members, Detroit, Mich., among them, began the 77-day outage, taking Unit 2 offline.

To reduce pollutants, Consumers Energy is installing a Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) reactor in both of its coal-burning Karn units.

Constructing the SCRs involves building a multi-story support structure, induction draft fans, ductwork, and a significant upgrade to the plant’s existing electrical system, which couldn’t handle the increased load of the SCRs.

The outage work also includes a partial overhaul of Unit 2’s two turbines, installation of a dust removal system, upgrades to the plant’s digital control system, installation of a 4160 bus expansion and transformers, condenser tube replacement, and replacement of reheat inlet tubing.

The safety record thus far is phenomenal, with over 260,000 man-hours worked without a recordable safety incident.

“...there’s been a lot of planning for this project,” said Chuck Westphal, an asst. bus. mgr. for Boilermaker Local 169 and president of the Tri-County Building Trades. “I think they’ve thought of everything — even down to having a snow removal company on call to make sure we have a place to park. A lot of companies talk about teamwork, but Consumers Energy actually practices what they preach. We couldn’t have asked for a better situation.”

Speaking of planning, there’s already an 86-day outage scheduled for retrofitting the Karn Unit 1 boiler — the tie-in is scheduled for the spring of 2004, and L-169 members are expected back to do the job.

Working together for a safer job site

KCP&L, Enerfab, and Local 83 strive for zero accidents

SPRINGTIME 2002 for Kansas City Power & Light (KCP&L) brought a new and different approach to safety, as well as to the owner, the contractor, and union (tripartite) relationship.

Ralph Boehm of KCP&L, representing the owner, Greg Purdon of Enerfab, representing the contractor, and Local 83 BM-ST Roger Erickson, representing the union, met before a four-week scheduled outage to address a tripartite commitment to safety that would reduce accidents to zero, enhance safety awareness, promote worker participation, and serve as a benchmark for tripartite relationships and safety programs.

These individuals, along with committee members Jim Prothe (KCP&L), Mitch Cauley (Enerfab), and Larry Horsemann (Local 83), planned and adopted several methods to accomplish their stated goals:

• Rewards for zero accidents and best attendance (awards included gift certificates, power tools, and a grand prize — a 27-inch television).

• A clear explanation of safety rules and emergency procedures communicated to the employees prior to starting the repairs.

• Completion of daily JSA checklists to review new activities for potential hazards and encourage safe pre-planning.

• A mid-outage safety break for everyone on site, with the committee distributing donuts, cookies, and a reminder of the importance of safety.

• A final post-outage review.

The result — 56,935 man-hours completed with only one recordable accident, no lost-time injuries, and a 3.51 OSHA incident rate. From these results it would appear that this tripartite approach to safety was a success.

The committee, however, is not resting on its laurels. They intend to continue to meet, plan, adopt, and implement whatever it takes to achieve their goal of zero accidents.

Each committee member recognizes that safety benefits all parties through reduced labor costs, increased productivity, a better work environment, and improved morale.

Most important, this tripartite safety program ensures that workers will return home safely to their families — healthy and whole!
Locals 92, 104 build award-winning sphere

Quality of L-647 crew makes contractor more competitive

I AM WRITING TO thank you for the quality of men furnished to Criner Companies for the construction of the fabric filters and scrubbers at the Olmsted County waste-to-energy project in Rochester, Minn.

The entire crew received great praise from our site superintendent and the management of the owner, as well as Hannon Research Cottrell, the equipment supplier.

Both the quality and the productivity of their work were outstanding, as was their attitude and cooperation with all parties on site.

Criner Companies won this project competing against both nonunion and union air pollution specialty contractors. This kind of performance from union craftsmen is a must, and has to be constant for Criner Companies to continue to make in-roads with nonunion projects.

We at Criner Companies would welcome the following Local 647 craftsmen on our projects, anytime, and anywhere: Michael Abts, Curtis Bendickson, Phillip Bendickson, Dennis Frank, Timothy Fuller, Douglas Helwick, Harold Kirchberg, David Nivala, Richard Poukka, and Don Sailer.

We will bid future projects with the confidence that you can supply this type of crew, or an equal quality crew, to perform the work. Thanks for a job well done.

Jim Moisi, vice pres. of sales Criner Companies, Inc.

Fluor Constructors receives champion of safety award

FLUOR CONSTRUCTORS International, Inc., celebrated a record-setting year in 2002. Our partnership with the AFL-CIO’s Building and Construction Trades Department and the local building trades councils in the United States and Canada has proven once again that the industries’ best performance comes through labor management cooperation.

We want to thank the men and women of the building trades who not only helped amass the record-setting number of man-hours, but also established the record-setting safety performance within Fluor Corporation. We believe these records stand out as benchmarks in the industry.

With the dedicated leadership of building trades like you (the Boilermakers union), we look forward to many more years of quality construction and maintenance for our employees and clients throughout North America.

R. P. Carter, executive director of labor relations, Fluor Constructors

Dakota Gasification Co. credits Local 647 members for successful restoration

ON NOV. 28, 2002, AN explosion related to the Donna gasifier occurred at the Dakota Gasification Co.’s (DGC) synfuels plant. Fortunately, no one was injured during the incident, but there was significant damage to equipment and piping.

I am pleased to inform you that on Jan. 9, 2003, the Donna gasifier was successfully returned to service. The required restoration work was completed ahead of nearly everyone’s expectations by at least ten days. In addition, the work was performed in a safe manner.

The outstanding performance of members from the Boilermakers union — Local 647 (Minneapolis, Minn.) — played a large part in the successful restoration. By working cooperatively with other crafts and with DGC personnel, a quality job was delivered in a time-effective manner.

Thank you for the quality craftsmanship, excellent work attitude, and concern for safety in completing this project.

FRED R. STEHN, DGC plant manager
The Role of the NLRB

ULPs ensure company complies with NLRA

The NLRB does not solve grievances, but makes sure everyone—companies & unions—complies with law.

O NCE UPON A TIME... Goldilocks formed a union. Wanting just good help, she’d get what she wanted from the three bears, she entered into a collective bargaining agreement with Three Bears, Inc. The agreement requires Three Bears to supply three bowls of porridge, three chairs, and three beds. It goes on to say that at least one bowl of porridge, one chair, and one bed must be “just right.”

One day Goldilocks shows up for work, finds the just-right porridge, sits in the just-right chair, and goes to lie down. When she does, she discovers that all three beds are too hard.

Imagine she knows that Three Bears, Inc., is in violation of their collective bargaining agreement, and she tells Mama Bear that she wants the just-right bed and the only way she can get it is if the company provides one.

Mama Bear tells Goldilocks that all the bears are the same, so she’s just going to have to pick one and call it “just right.” Then Goldilocks decides to file a grievance.

But first, she needs to know more about the beds, so she writes a letter to Three Bears, Inc., requesting information on all beds in stock, particularly information as to whether they have been tested for just-rightness.

Papa Bear reads the letter and calls Goldilocks into his office. He says he isn’t going to give her any information about what beds are in stock or how close they are to just right.

“That’s company business,” he says. “We run this company, not you, and we don’t have to tell you anything.”

Goldilocks does not give up easily, so she writes a second letter. In the second letter, she reminds Papa Bear that there are two parties to the collective bargaining agreement. She says she is entitled to all information relevant to the just-right issue. Papa Bear tells her to go and find the beds herself.

THINGS WENT WELL for Goldilocks because she understood what the NLRB does and was able to make the proper request.

What would have happened if Goldilocks had simply told the NLRB that the company was violating the contract by not giving her a just-right bed? In that case, the NLRB would have said they couldn’t help her and deferred the case (sent it back to the company and the union for resolution).

Too often, an inexperienced steward or union rep. will have good cause for a ULP, but will make the wrong argument to the NLRB. When the company is deferred, they go away grumbling that the NLRB is useless. In truth, they have simply not yet learned how to use ULPs to get what they want.

Just because what the company is doing seems unfair doesn’t make it an unfair labor practice. Only violations of the NLRA are grounds for a complaint.

The courts have given unions access to company information that is necessary for the union to do its job. This access to company information that is necessary for the union to do its job is key to determining whether or not a company is committing an unfair labor practice.

The courts have given unions access to information about the grievance process. If the union does not have access to information about the grievance process, it cannot come to some agreement about how to proceed. Therefore, the union must have access to all information that is necessary for it to proceed with the grievance.

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THE GOPER STAFF
defers a case, we say it has been “Collyerized,” after a 1971 case involving Collyer Insulated Wire Company, in which the NLRB established the criteria for handling cases.

Proceed with your grievance while waiting for NLRB decision

WHEN THE NLRB defers a case, there is no guarantee that the case will ever be heard by the NLRB. Therefore, it is important to proceed with your grievance while waiting for the NLRB to make a decision.

For example, the NLRB will not hear a grievance if it is not filed within a certain time frame. Therefore, it is important to file your grievance as soon as possible.

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L-502 stewards meet in Alaska, Washington

LOCAL 502 MEMBERS attend one of the steward programs the lodge sponsored in Washington in Sept. and Nov. 2002. Classes were also held January 10 in Anchorage.

Over 50 stewards attend programs held in fall and winter of 2002-03

LOCAL 502, TACOMA, Wash., has sponsored three steward-training classes for its members in Washington and Alaska.

Conducted by Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, Asst. to the Intl. Pres. Tony Gallo, and Intl. Rep. Steve Eames, the classes were held at the local’s offices in Puyallup in September and November 2002, for members residing in Washington, and in Anchorage, January 10, 2003, for members who live in Alaska.

The classes covered such topics as duties of fair representation, focused on what it takes to be a union leader, and included an in-depth review of Local 502’s contract language.

Local 502 BM-ST Randy Robbins was pleased with the turnout at each of the programs and will be planning additional training in the future.

“The education of members and job stewards plays a key role in helping the local develop a strong and committed membership,” said Robbins.

Members learn how to prepare for negotiations

ON JANUARY 10, 2003, members of Local P1, Denver, Colo., and Local 344, Ridgecrest, Calif., attended an eight-hour collective bargaining class in Denver. Conducted by Intl. Rep. Howard Cole, the seminar focused on what to expect in negotiations.

Cole helped the attendees prepare for negotiations by covering such topics as what information to request and how to request it, how to cost-out holidays, sick time, and wage increases, and how to prevent an impasse.

He also reviewed bargaining tactics used by both the union and the company and discussed how to avoid company traps.

Normally this class is taught in two eight-hour sessions, but Cole was able to condense the program into one session to accommodate the members’ limited time and schedules.

Intl. Rep. Mike Zordani attended the session to help him prepare for training programs he hopes to conduct in his area.

Negotiation preparation may not be the most exciting part of this, as a matter of fact it is quite time consuming and tedious, and sometimes down right boring, but it is all worthwhile when you walk out of negotiations with what you were asking for and then some because the company came in unprepared, said Zordani. “All of the attendees left with a much better sense of what to expect when they reach negotiations and are looking across the table at their respective company representatives.”

Participating in the class were Local 344 members Mike Beattie, Kim Lockwood, Walter Moore, and Jason Coleman.

Local 696 members say ‘NO’ to concessions

ON MARCH 29 AND 30, 2003, Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia, hosted a steward training program designed for members in the cement, construction, and shipyard industries, as well as for those who work in shops.

In attendance were members who live in Eastern Canada and belong to the following local lodges: Local 73, a shop and construction lodge; Local 203, a shop and construction lodge in St. John’s, Newfoundland; Local D324, a cement lodge in Havelock, New Brunswick; Local D406, a cement lodge in St. John, New Brunswick; Local D454, a cement lodge in Brookfield, Nova Scotia; Local D579, a cement lodge in Lantz, Nova Scotia; Local 580, a federal shipyard lodge in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Local 680, a shipbuilding and marine lodge in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Instructors included Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, and Dale “Skipper” Branscum, director of the Construction Division, who was assisted by Mark Vandler. Intl. Vice Pres. Sandy MacDonald, Asst. to the Intl. Pres. Stan Petromski Jr., and Intl. Rep. Mike Watson were also in attendance.

Nearly 55 participants completed the two-day program. Beauchamp conducted a joint session covering the structure and services of the International Brotherhood, then the group divided into two sessions.

Branscum led a construction seminar, describing craft jurisdiction and dispute resolutions. He reviewed boilers (water & steam cycle, conventional, and heat recovery steam generators), and single cycle and combined cycle power generation/emissions control. This session also included discussions of emerging technologies, with the attendees viewing a video on boiler erection.

While Bransum led the break-out construction seminar, Beauchamp continued the stewards training program for the remaining delegates discussing the importance of knowing your collective bargaining agreement and providing an in-depth review of effective grievance handling as well as other steward duties.

Local 73 BM-ST Kent Oliver was pleased with the seminar. “I’m glad we were able to host this training program for our members in Eastern Canada. Not only did members of Local 73 get a chance to continue their education, but members from surrounding locals were able to take advantage of this service,” said Oliver.

“I want to thank Intl. Vice President Sandy MacDonald for making this happen and extend our appreciation to the instructors for the tremendous job they did.”

Members attend two-day program for ship, shop, cement, and construction workers in New Brunswick

ON MARCH 29 AND 30, 2003, Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia, hosted a steward training program designed for members in the cement, construction, and shipyard industries, as well as for those who work in shops.

In attendance were members who live in Eastern Canada and belong to the following local lodges: Local 73, a shop and construction lodge; Local 203, a shop and construction lodge in St. John’s, Newfoundland; Local D324, a cement lodge in Havelock, New Brunswick; Local D406, a cement lodge in St. John, New Brunswick; Local D454, a cement lodge in Brookfield, Nova Scotia; Local D579, a cement lodge in Lantz, Nova Scotia; Local 580, a federal shipyard lodge in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Local 680, a shipbuilding and marine lodge in St. Catharines, Ontario.

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344 President Ralph Legler and Vice President Les Dykes, and Local P1 members Mike Beattie, Kim Lockwood, Walter Moore, and Jason Coleman.

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**Checkbook Economics**

Economic developments that may affect your family or personal budget

**House votes to make bankruptcy more difficult for individuals**

ENRON, WORLDCOM, and other multinational corporations bankrupted and their top executives escaped liability. But don’t try it at home.

In March, the House of Representatives passed a bill making it harder for people to use bankruptcy to eliminate debts. Supported by the credit card industry and the White House, the bill passed 315-113.

As passed, this bill includes a loophole that allows wealthy debtors in five states to shelter income in luxury homes, yet strips many working families of the protections they currently have under bankruptcy law, making it harder for them to make a financial fresh start. It also forces parents who are owed child support from someone who declares bankruptcy to compete with other creditors for whatever money is available. Senator Orrin Hatch said he intends to bypass a committee vote and ask the Senate to act directly on the bankruptcy bill, reported Reuters.

Ninety percent of individuals who resort to bankruptcy have come to the financial crisis because of job loss, medical emergency, divorce, or other catastrophic event, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute.

**U.S. consumer borrowing rises $3.5 billion in March**

CONSUMER BORROWING through $3.5 billion in March, following an increase of $1.5 billion in February.

59 million Americans lack health insurance some time during year

NEARLY 60 MILLION people lack health insurance at some point in the year, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said in a report issued May 12. Members of Congress, administration officials, lobbyists, and advocates often cite the Census Bureau when they declare that 41 million people have no health insurance. The CBO says this figure understates the number who are without insurance for at least part of the year, usually because they change jobs or are laid off.

The report said that “about a quarter of the nonelderly population takes health insurance at some time in 1998, the most recent year for which reliable comparative figures were available.” The budget office conducted its study at the request of Representative Bill Thomas, the California Republican chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Thomas said the report offered “some good news: fewer individuals are long-term uninsured than previously thought.”

But Senator Jeff Bingaman, Democrat of New Mexico, said: “The report underscores how big a crisis our country is facing. On any given day, more than 40 million Americans live with the prospect of facing financial ruin in order to pay for their health care, or going without care altogether.”

**Nearing bankruptcy, states governments cut programs**

AT LEAST 34 STATES are facing bankruptcy this year or next because of the federal income taxes of 2001. This year’s tax cuts and the slow economy make matters worse. Nearly every state in the union is cutting programs or raising taxes to contend with shortfalls.

When the federal government cuts taxes, it hurts the budgets of states in two ways. First, reducing taxes means reducing the budgets of federally-funded programs. States must either make up the slack or cut local services. Second, most states with a personal income tax tie their tax to the federal income tax. Reducing federal tax rates reduces the amount the state collects by a similar percentage.

With reserves depleted, many states are desperate. The governor of Missouri has ordered every third light bulb unscrewed to save money. In Oklahoma, teachers are doubling as janitors; in Oregon, they are working two weeks without pay. Connecticut is laying off prosecutors, and Kentucky is releasing prison inmates early.

Medicaid, which provides health care to 50 million Americans, and higher education have taken the brunt of most of the funding cuts.

Families with members in college will be hard-hit. When states cut their higher education budgets, state colleges and universities must raise tuition. All 50 states raised tuition at their state colleges and universities in 2002, some by as much as 24 percent. The national average was ten percent, nearly four times the nation’s inflation rate.

Next year, many students will face additional hikes of 10-20 percent. Writing in The Nation (May 19), Stanley Aronowitz says, “The situation is so grave that for the first time since the end of World War II college may become a financial impossibility for a quarter or more of our nation’s young people.”

The National Conference of State Legislatures issued a report in April saying that the budget cutting of the current Congress has not worked for federal states. States also accuse Washington of making inroads to enact expensive programs, like Bush’s No Child Left Behind education act, without providing the money to pay for them.

**Pension proposal leaves older workers unprotected**

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT has issued a set of guidelines opening the way for companies to convert their traditional defined benefit pension plans to “cash-balance” plans. The regulations offer no protections for older workers who often lose significant benefits from the conversions.

Companies often claim cash-balance plans are “more democratic” and allow greater flexibility. However, many long-term employees have stayed with their employers because of the defined benefit plan they would get on retirement. The conversion to a cash balance plan takes away that money that these workers have already earned.

**Will deflation worsen economy?**

SOME ECONOMISTS are worried that we are entering a period of deflation, that is, falling prices. But there may not seem like such a terrible thing, but deflation can be harmful.

If prices drop over a long period of time, corporations will see their profits shrink, leading to more layoffs.

In addition, deflation hurts people with long-term fixed loans, like mortgages, because they will be paying back the loan with money that is worth more now (can buy more than the current money). Lenders tend to benefit from deflation, but long-term deflation causes people to stop borrowing.

There’s no point in paying interest on a loan when you can just wait until the price of what you want to buy is low enough that you can pay cash.

Japan’s ten-year economic slump is tied to deflation and a dramatic drop in real estate prices. If the U.S. housing market undergoes a similar collapse, we could be in for hard times.

**American Dreamers**

A GALLUP poll might explain why so many working-class Americans vote for political candidates who promise tax breaks that only help the rich. Workers at all income levels share this hope.

Workers at all income levels share this hope. More than one in every five persons earning less than $30,000 a year sees wealth ahead, with the share climbing to 38 percent for those earning between $50,000 and $74,000, and all the way to 51 percent for those who make more than $75,000.

How much do you need to qualify as rich? The average income of the richest one percent is well over $1 million a year, but you qualify for this bracket making as little as $37,000.

Is vast wealth in your future? You’ll never make that much money punching a time clock, and you’re more likely to get struck by lightning than win the lottery.

There’s another version of the American Dream — a safe job, health care insurance that you can take care of your family, and time off to enjoy life with them.

That’s enough wealth for most people. More important than a truly attainable — not just a dream. And your union can help you reach it.
A Masterful Deception

The 2003 tax cuts aren’t what Congress & Bush say they are — and won’t do what they say they will do

JUST AS THE ANCIENT GREEKS gave the Trojans a gift of a wooden horse only so they could sneak into the city and destroy it, Bush talked of his tax plan as a gift to the American people so he could get their support.

But when you open up this gift, what jumps out is not lower taxes, more jobs, and prosperity, but higher deficits, fewer jobs, and tax cuts that mainly benefit the richest one percent.

Americans expect politicians to lie. Comedians have been poking fun at the dishonesty of politicians for 200 years.

But the lies and deception used to gain public support for the latest round of tax cuts is no laughing matter.

President Bush and Congress — with the silent collusion of the media — have enacted a tax package that is not what they claim it is and will not accomplish what they claim it will accomplish.

They used accounting tricks to hide the true cost of the bill, exaggerated the average taxpayer’s benefits, and distorted the impact of the package’s most popular and most expensive features.

Worst of all, they ignored reports from their own advisors — the Congressionally appointed Joint Committee on Taxation — that the tax cuts will not stimulate the economy, but will in fact have a negative effect. Instead of creating jobs, as Bush promised so many times on TV, it will reduce jobs.

Budget gimmicks hide true cost of tax package

NEWS REPORTS have repeatedly stated that this tax package will cost $350 billion over the next ten years, but the true cost is likely to be from $800 billion to $1 trillion, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R) agreed. On May 22, he said, "The $350 billion to $1 trillion, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities."

The Joint Committee on Taxation released a study on May 8 that says the long-term economic effect of this package will most likely be negative. The Congressional Budget Office, headed by a former Bush administration economist, says it will most likely lead to slower growth, not faster.

Economists across the nation are nearly unanimous in this conclusion. As Dean Baker put it in Economic Reporting Review: "Bush's tax cut proposal is actually unusual in that there is so little evidence or theory that suggests that it could make any positive contribution to growth."

Economists need complex models that perform thousands of calculations to reach their conclusions, but the underlying logic is not all that complex.

First, most of the benefits go to the rich, who are more likely to save or re-invest the money than to spend it. To stimulate the economy, you need to put money into the hands of people who will spend it — such as working families and the poor.

Second, the tax cuts will increase the federal budget deficit, forcing the government to borrow more money. All loans and investments come from the same pool, so increasing government borrowing reduces the capital available to businesses. When their source of loans and investments shrinks, businesses can’t expand and create jobs.

Third, debt means that much of the country’s future tax dollars must be used to pay back old debts. When that happens, the government will need to raise taxes — and that future increase will have the effect of taxing today’s cuts to pay the interest the loans will have earned.

The president may call this bill an “economic stimulus” package, but in reality it is a transfer of wealth from tomorrow’s working families to today’s wealthy families.

It’s a beautiful horse, though.
ACH presents safe-driving awards to L-480 members

George Estabrook excels with 31 accident-free years

TWENTY-THREE members of Local Lodge 480, Jacksonville, Ill., received awards from ACH Food Companies for their years of driving without an accident.

Topping the awards list is George Estabrook with 31 years of accident-free driving. Awards went to these Local 480 members:

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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>George Estabrook</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Bill Foiles</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Ken Willis</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Rich Gaige</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Glenn Brisco and Billy Royle</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Doug Foiles, Rodney Mutch, Terry Suratt</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>John Driskmeyer</td>
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<td>Jim Atterberry</td>
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<td>Gary Lemons and Joe Kirbach</td>
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<td>Bruce Dietrich and Wayne VanBeber</td>
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<td>Tom Edwards</td>
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<td>John Kibelman</td>
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<td>Brian Dawdy, Steve Goodall, Chris Norris, and Steve Reed</td>
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LOCAL 480 MEMBERS RECEIVE awards for their number of years driving for ACH without an accident. L. to r., Ken Willis (26 yrs.), Bill Foiles (29), Rich Gaige (25), George Estabrook (31).

L-60’s Miskell restores cars

40-year member still works with steel

SOME PEOPLE would call it the ideal job — getting a monthly check and spending your days restoring old cars.

Don Miskell, a 40-year member of Local 60, Peoria, Ill., probably wouldn’t argue.

He may have retired from construction boilermaking, but he still works with steel — Detroit steel — restoring vintage cars, like his custom 1954 Mercury, shown at left.

LOCAL 60 RETIREE Don Miskell poses with his custom 1954 Mercury.

Brotherhood Building gets facelift

Local 83 members repair facade of Brotherhood Building

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 83, Kansas City, Mo., working for Woodley-Griggs Boiler Repair, L.L.C., are making repairs to the front of the Brotherhood Building, 753 State Ave., in Kansas City, Kan.

Steve Locke and Bob Ramsey are removing an awning and marble facade in preparation of a new stucco finish. The Brotherhood Building houses the Brotherhood Bank & Trust and the offices of the Boilermaker National Funds. The International purchased the two-story structure in 1920, added three stories, and renamed the building the Brotherhood Block, known today as the Brotherhood Building.

In 1948, the International built the New Brotherhood Building, 753 State Ave., a ten-story structure adjacent to the Brotherhood Building, which houses the offices of the International.


Send photos
GET YOUR LOCAL LODGE members in the Boilermaker Reporter! We are now able to print in full color on all pages, and we need 35mm glossy prints. If you use a digital camera, contact us before you take the photo.

L-154 retiree John Littlejohn (l.) presents a Boilermaker jacket to Alexander Mosson, lord provost of Glasgow, Scotland, and brother’s friend.

Glasgow’s Lord Provost Alexander Mosson apprenticed as a boilermaker

JOHN “SCOTTY” Littlejohn, a 40-year member of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., is a retired Boilermaker who makes his home in Ohio.

He read an article about an upcoming Celtic Celebration in Wheeling, W.Va., that would feature Alexander Mosson, the lord provost (similar to mayor) of Glasgow, Scotland, as a guest speaker.

“Glasgow is my hometown,” said Littlejohn. “The article reported that Mr. Mosson had served his apprenticeship as a boilermaker. Since we were the same age, I thought I might know him.

“I went to the celebration the following week and met Mr. Mosson. When I started to introduce myself, Mr. Mosson interrupted me. He said he has a very good friend named Littlejohn — Walter Littlejohn, who he has known for 35 years. Walter is my brother.

“It really is a small world,” said Littlejohn.

Members tour headquarters

AFTER WORKING on a job near Ashland, Ky., members of Local 4, Page, Ariz., and Local 92, Los Angeles, Calif., stopped by International headquarters for a quick tour before heading home.

In the top photo, Construction Division Director Dale (Skipper) Branscum (back to camera) chats with Local 4 members (left to right) Salena Dickie, Van Edward Tasosie, Rufus Dickie, and Johnson Poyer.


Members of Local 480 and 92 have been helping Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky,) run a job in Louisa, Ky., at the American Electric Power Big Sandy Powerplant.

Lord Provost of Glasgow surprises Local 154 retiree
Local 13 members serve their country

Members have been home only 12 weeks in two years

THREE MEMBERS OF Local Lodge 13, Philadelphia, Pa., have been serving with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Force in Nasiriyah, Iraq, since the war began.

Corporals Ben Coe, Joseph “Chris” Murray, and Ranzy Penn are marine reservists serving with the 2nd Battalion/25th Marines Echo Company’s weapons platoon.

This is the second time they have been called to active duty since terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. In the last two years, they have been home only 12 weeks to work at the trade to support their families and are grateful for the support they are receiving from their Local 13 brothers.

Source: Joe Murray Sr., retired L-13 BM-ST

More Local 13 Reservist News

LOCAL 13 BM-ST Jim Banford Jr. reports that Corporals Coe, Murray, and Penn are not the only Local 13 members who have been called to duty to serve their country.

Local Lodge 13 apprentice Robert Shipe is serving on an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf and Local Lodge 13 Rec. Sec. Paul Immordino just returned from Cuba, where he was guarding al-Qaida prisoners.

Local Lodge 363 has represented construction workers since 1903

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 363, East St. Louis, Ill., celebrated their 100th anniversary, March 29, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency-Union Station, St. Louis, Mo.

Active and retired members joined honored guests for a brief presentation, followed by dinner and dancing.

Local Lodge 363 BM-ST John Pascuilla hosted the event. Guests included Int/l. Vice Presidents George Rogers and Larry McMansanow, as well as retired L-363 Bus. Mgr. Wm. Mulconnery and Bill Palmisano, administrator of the Boilermakers’ MOST program and former Local 363 business manager.

Chartered March 22, 1903, Local Lodge 363 represents approximately 415 members who work in the construction industry.

L-480’s Don Slater retires

ACH forklift operator ends 36-year career, 28 years as local lodge president

DON F. SLATER, a 36-year employee of ACH Food Companies, Inc., retired Feb. 14, 2003, as a forklift operator and president of Local 480, Jacksonville, Ill.

Slater served 28 years as the local’s president, 20 years on the credit union committee, and has been a member of the safety committee since its inception.

Before coming to ACH in 1966, Slater served four years in the U.S. Navy.

He has earned several 110 percent awards from ACH, where he worked in many positions before becoming a warehouse forklift operator in 1980.

Workers must act locally to defeat bad state laws

ALEC’s “model” bills undermine worker, consumer protections

MAJOR CORPORATIONS are operating behind-the-scenes in state capitals across the country to promote an industry-friendly agenda through the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

ALEC calls itself a membership association of state legislators, but corporations and trade associations finance virtually all their activities, including gifts and free trips for lawmakers, followed by heavy lobbying for a wide range of industry-friendly initiatives.

Issues ALEC supports include ending living wage laws, privatizing prisons and schools, and outlawing union security clauses in collective bargaining agreements. Though it has a carefully cultivated “good government” image, ALEC serves its corporate sponsors, a veritable who’s who of corporate America. Through ALEC, oil, tobacco, telecommunications, chemical, pharmaceutical, energy, and manufacturing companies can work in near secrecy to change laws affecting their industries.

ALEC boasts of seeing hundreds of its “model” state bills become law each year. Many of these bills undermine the public interest on issues like health care, employee benefits, worker protections, tax policy, and education.

The Boilermakers Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP) does a good job of following legislative developments in Washington, but it is up to local lodges to get active in their state AFL-CIO in order to defeat anti-worker initiatives at the state level.

To learn how you can get active, contact Legislative Director Andre Abbott, (703) 560-1493.
New contracts summaries
A brief listing of recent agreements signed and ratified by Boilermaker local lodges

L-5 – New York, NY
THOMAS KELLY, vice president of Local 5, New York, N.Y., reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2004, for five members of Local 5 who work at Quickey Metal Fabricators, Inc.

L-6 – Oakland, CA
MICHAEL GRABROWSKY, BM-ST for Local M06, Oakland, Calif., reports contract ratification, effective Sept. 1, 2002 to Oct. 31, 2003, for 20 Local 6 members who work in the forge shop of the Western Forge & Flange Co.

M-13 – St. Louis, MO
PATRICK THOMAS-DAVIS, BM-ST for Local M13, St. Louis, Mo., reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 28, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2004, for eight Local M13 members who work in the production unit at the Diamond Platting Co.

L-27 – St. Louis, MO
DAVID SNAID, BM-ST for Local 27, St. Louis, Mo., reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Jan. 1, 2006, for seven Local 27 members who work in production and maintenance at J &ones & Lockhardt Welding, Inc.

D50 – Catskill, NY
INTL. REP. RAILEIGH EVERSOLE reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2006, for 112 members of Local D50, Catskill, N.Y., who make Portland Cement at St. Lawrence Cement.

M-67–Los Angeles, CA
INTL. REP. HENRY JAMES reports contract ratification, effective March 18, 2003 to March 17, 2006, for 77 members of Local M67, Los Angeles, Calif., who work for the Valex Corp.

L-83–Kansas City, MO
JOHN SHERMAN of Local B3, Kansas City, Mo., reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 1, 2002 to Nov. 31, 2005, for 23 Local 83 members who work in the shop and perform field repair for Sharam Metal Fabricators in the custom fabrication of steel, aluminum, and stainless steel, ASM E code vessels, and the service of process and heating boilers.

L-88 – Essington, PA
INTL. REP. ROBERT HEINRICH reports contract ratification, effective May 19, 2002 to May 19, 2006, for 34 members of Local 88, Essington, Pa., who work with custom polymer and acrylics at Esschem, Inc.

L-104 – Seattle, WA
CHUCK HONGS, acting BM-ST for Local 104, Seattle, Wash., reports contract ratification, effective March 1, 2003 to Feb. 28, 2006, for 25 Local 182 members who make food and beverage tanks for Wyron, LLC.

S105 – Effingham, IL
M. KHALED W. ALI, president of Local S105, Effingham, Ill., reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Jan. 1, 2006, for 200 Local S105 members who make air conditioners at the Fedders Corporation.

D140 – Knoxville, TN
INTL. REP. RAILEIGH EVERSOLE reports contract ratification, effective March 1, 2003 to Feb. 28, 2005, for members of Local D140, Knoxville, Tenn., who make Portland Cement at Cemex.

L-154 – Pittsburgh, PA
AIL PIW MMN reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Jan. 1, 2004, for 33 members of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., who produce steel pressure vessels and small storage tanks for Whiterip Fabrication and Erection, Inc.

L-182 – Salt Lake City
BMAJ BM – ST– Local 182, Salt Lake City, Utah, reports contract ratification, effective March 1, 2003 to Feb. 28, 2006, for 25 Local 182 members who make food and beverage tanks for DGI of Utah.

L-242 – Spokane, WA
MARK L. MCCORMY, BM-ST of Local 242, Spokane, Wash., reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 16, 2002 to Nov. 15, 2006, for 113 members of Local D242, who make boat and utility trailers for E-Z Boat Trailers.

D282 – Wind Gap, PA
INTL. REP. RAILEIGH EVERSOLE reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Dec. 1, 2006, for 22 members of Local D282, Wind Gap, Pa., who make shingled-type home siding.

D359 – Edmundson, AB
DONALD M. ASIS, asst. bus. mgr., representing Local D359, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Nov. 30, 2006, for 123 members of Local D359 who make Portland Cement at Lehigh Cement Ltd.

L-469 – Clarksville, MO

L-482 – Wood River, IL
INTL. REP. JAMES PRESSLEY reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 24, 2003 to Jan. 23, 2004, for three members of Local 482, Wood River, Ill., who fabricate steel at Circle T Steel.

L-483 – Alton, IL
INTL. REP. JAMES PRESSLEY reports contract ratification, effective Feb. 3, 2003 to Feb. 2, 2007, for 106 members of Local 483, Alton, Ill., who make mining equipment at J. Mining Machinery.

L-524 – East Chicago, IN
INTL. REP. CLAYTON PUMMER reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 9, 2002 to Dec. 8, 2005, for members of Local 524, East Chicago, Ind., who work at the Union Tank Car Company.

D533–Hagerston, MD
INTL. REP. RAILEIGH EVERSOLE reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 5, 2002 to Dec. 4, 2007, for 370 members of Local D533, Hagerston, Md., who make window siding and vinyl windows for the Certainteed Corporation’s vinyl siding group.

D596 – Chester, PA
INTL. REP. RAILEIGH EVERSOLE reports contract ratification, effective March 1, 2002 to Feb. 28, 2007, for 50 members of Local D596, Chester, Pa., who produce roofing materials for CertainTeed Roofing.

L-661 – Florence, NJ

L-677 – Kingston, PA
INTL. REP. ROCCO DEILO reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Jan. 12, 2006, for members of Local 677, Kingston, Pa., who work for R & M Mfg.

L-725 – Springfield, MA
INTL. REP. ROCCO DEILO reports contract ratification, effective Feb. 9, 2003 to Feb. 8, 2007, for members of Local 725, Springfield, Mass., who work in the Storms Forge Division of Donancers, Inc.

L-744 – Cleveland, OH
PATRICK GALLAGHER, BM-ST for Local 744, Cleveland, Ohio, reports contract ratification, effective Sept. 1, 2002 to Aug. 31, 2003, for Local 744 members who work for RCR Services, Inc.

L-1600–St. Charles, IL
INTL. REP. HOWARD COLE reports contract ratification, effective March 31, 2003 to April 6, 2007, for 30 members of Local 1600, St. Charles, Ill., who make water purification machinery at Walker Process.

L-1664–Mead Heights
INTL. REP. ROLAND LOW reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Jan. 14, 2006, for 63 members of Local 1664, Mead Heights, Ohio, who produce bar steel and wire for RCS Cuyahoga, LLC.
Safe Work with Power Saws

THOUSANDS OF WORKERS are seriously injured each year by gas or electric power saws. Some are killed — most by electric shock.

The Hazards

YOU CAN BE badly cut or burned, using a power saw, if you are not careful. You can get sprains and strains and lose your hearing. Grit and dust from using the saws can hurt your eyes. Dust can hurt your lungs. If you dry-cut masonry or stone that has silica in it, you can get silicosis and it can kill you. An electric saw can electrocute your body. A gas-powered saw can cause carbon monoxide poisoning and kill you.

Protect Yourself

READ THE OWNER'S manual before you first use a saw. Keep blades sharp, clean, and oiled.

When you use a saw, wear goggles or safety glasses with side shields, even if you wear a face shield. Do not wear jewelry, necklaces, or chains. Do not wear loose clothes. If you have long hair, tie it inside your hard hat. Wear hearing protection.

Do not cut unless you have a clear work area and solid footing. Do not use a power saw when you are tired. Keep other people away from the saw when you are using or refueling it.

Training: OSHA says you must be trained in general workplace hazards, electrical hazards, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Here is how to protect yourself against the main hazards:

Lung diseases: Do not dry-cut masonry or stone if you can get lung disease. Cutting brick, cement, concrete, or stone can make a lot of dust — and there can be silica in it. (Silicosis can kill you.) Wet-cutting is the best way to control dust. Local-exhaust ventilation can capture the dust at the blade. As a last resort, your boss may give you a respirator. If you use a respirator, OSHA says you must have a full respirator program. This means proper selection and fitting of respirators, medical screening to be sure you can wear a respirator, and worker training to use respirators.

Electrocution: An electric saw needs to be disassembled or insulated and have a three-prong plug in a grounded outlet. And the outlet needs a ground-fault circuit interrupter. Unplug a saw before you change a blade. Be extra careful when working in wet grass or near a puddle. If you are cutting toward any wires, make sure they have been disconnected.

OSHA says you must not use worn electric circuit breakers. OSHA says electrical equipment should not be used in damp, wet, or very hot locations unless approved for such use.

Cuts and amputations. Make sure the saw blade is not touching anything before you turn on a saw. OSHA says a circular saw must have a guard above and below the base plate. Keep the blade guard and other safety devices on the saw.

Make sure the blade guard goes back to the fully guided position after you cut. Do not use a handsaw or chainsaw. To start a saw with a starter cord, put one foot on the back handle, put the other hand on the top handle to keep the blade off the surface, and use the other hand to pull the cord. Hold a saw with both hands. Do not use your leg to push the blade. To help prevent kickback, hold your forward arm straight and do not cut above chest height.

After you turn off a saw, hold it away from you until the blade stops turning. Do not prop the saw on your leg or the blade slips when you turn it down. Turn off a saw before you carry it anywhere.

Burns. When you cut can catch fire from friction. A spark from a saw can ignite any gasoline leaking from the saw. Make sure there are no fuel leaks and the fuel cap is tight. Turn off the saw and let it cool down before you refuel it.

Sprains and strains. When you cut, your worker’s foot may be struck by the blade and they may lose balance at waist height. Try not to work bent over or in another awkward position.

Carbon monoxide: An electric or gas-powered saw where there is not a lot of fresh air, carbon monoxide can kill you fast. This can happen in a tight crawl space or a storage and tooling garage. You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide gas. Fans can help keep fresh air coming in, but fans are not always enough. If you can, use an electric saw instead of a gas-powered saw. OSHA has special rules for controlling toxic gases in closed spaces and for PPE (personal protective equipment). A trained person should monitor the air with special equipment while the work is done.

For more information, call your local union, the Center to Protect Workers’ Rights (CPWR) (319) 570-8500 or OSHA, (1-800-321-OSHA or www.osha.gov) or OSHA 1-800-321-Osha or www.osha.gov. Or check the website www.cdc.gov/niosh. © 2001, CPWR is the research and development institute of the Allied Trade Building and Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO.

Safe Work with Power Saws

MAKE IT SAFE

HAZARD ALERT

Hazardous work with Power Saws

Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Plan

Summary of Privacy Practices

For participants in the Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Plan

The Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Plan (plan, or health and welfare plan) is committed to protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and security of your personal health information.

In the course of administering health care benefits, the health and welfare plan receives individually identifiable health information about you and creates records containing this type of information.

The plan describes our privacy practices. To obtain a copy of the plan’s full notice of privacy practices, contact the fund’s administrative office at: 660-644-6555 (913-340-6555 in the Kansas City area).

Copies of the privacy notice are also available from your local lodge and can be viewed at the Boilermakers’ web site (http://www.boilermakers.org).

New federal regulations limit how the plan may use and/or disclose your protected health information (PHI) and provides you with certain, specific rights concerning your PHI.

PHI is your individually identifiable health information, including demographic information that is collected or received by a health care provider, health plan (such as this health and welfare plan), your employer, or a health care clearinghouse, that relates to your past, present, or future health or medical condition, the delivery of health care to you; or the past, present, or future payment for the delivery of health care services to you.

The plan includes information such as your name, address, telephone number, social security number, and information about your health or visits to a health care provider. The plan is required by federal law to maintain the privacy of your PHI.

You have the right to request that the plan not disclose some or all of your PHI and you may request the plan to communicate with you only by using certain methods, such as writing to a specified address or sending information to a specified phone number. The plan is required by federal law to honor such requests, unless the requests are judged to be unreasonable.

A. You have the right to restrict or limit the use and disclosure of your PHI that we maintain in our records, and to the secretary is investigating or determining the plan’s compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

B. You are required to provide your PHI to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or he or her designee, when the secretary is investigating or determining the plan’s compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

C. The plan contracts with individuals and entities (called business associates) to perform various functions or to provide certain types of services, that would otherwise be performed by the plan, on behalf of the health and welfare plan. These entities use and disclose PHI in connection with the contract, and protect the privacy of your information, in the same manner as the plan is required to do.

D. The plan may use or disclose PHI when such use or disclosure is required by law, such as the use or disclosure required by law and is limited to the requirements of the law.

The plan may disclose PHI for certain health activities, to report health statistics, to enable these individuals to carry out their duties with respect to the decease or the health care operations, or pursuant to your written authorization. The plan may be required to make such a disclosure by law.

The plan may disclose your PHI, provided that you are informed in advance of the opportunity to agree to or to prohibit the use or disclosure of your PHI, to a family member, or other relative, close personal friend, or any other person you specifically identify, specific PHI directly relevant to that other person’s involvement with your health care for payment of your health care plan. The plan will presume that your spouse, if you are married, is involved in any health care and payment for your health care unless you tell us otherwise.

Four other use or disclosure of your PHI is required by your written authorization. The plan has authorization forms which you may use to authorize other uses or disclosures of your information. You may revoke any authorization at any time by sending written notice of revocation to the plan.

You have the right to request that we make additional restrictions on our use and/or disclosure of your PHI for treatment, payment, and health care operations.

You have the right to request that we communicate with you confidentially about your PHI, by communicating in an alternative way and means and by sending communications to an alternative location.

C. The plan may disclose PHI for certain health activities, to report health statistics, to enable these individuals to carry out your duties with respect to the decease or the health care operations, or pursuant to your written authorization. The plan may be required to make such a disclosure by law.

On certain exceptional occasions, you have the right to request that we prevent any disclosure of your PHI to your employer.

You have the right to request that we prevent any disclosure of your PHI to your employer.

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You have the right to request that we prevent any disclosure of your PHI to your employer.

You have the right to request that we prevent any disclosure of your PHI to your employer.
Get great deals in the fast lane

FROM SECURITY TO savings, Union Plus offers everything union members need when they hit the road. Get behind the wheel of these popular union members-only programs: auto insurance, Goodyear discounts, auto buying service, and car rental discounts.

Auto Buying Service

WHETHER YOU ARE looking for a new or pre-owned car, van, or truck, turn to Union Plus Auto Buying to help you find the right vehicle for the right price. Plus you’ll save and support your fellow union members when you buy a union-made auto.

Give Union Plus the details, and leave the car search to them!

JUST CALL 1-877-800-2924 and tell the Union Plus Auto Buying service what your vehicle needs and preferences are, then leave the research and negotiations to them. Your Personal Auto Advisor will help you get the car you want at a great price. The car buying service uses an extensive, up-to-the-minute database of vehicles and a network of authorized car dealers.

Your auto advisor will guide you through the car search process and provide you with all the information you need to make an informed decision.

When you are ready to buy, they will direct you to the contact person at the closest authorized dealer in your area that has the car you are looking for at a special pre-negotiated price.

All you have to do is visit the selected dealer, test drive the car, and decide whether or not you want to buy the vehicle. There is never an obligation to buy and they will continue searching until you’re completely satisfied.

Call Union Plus Auto Buying at 1-877-800-2924 for more information about car buying.

Save 25% off vehicle history reports CONSIDERING A USED CAR, but worried it may have been in an accident or been stolen? No problem, the Union Plus Auto Buying service can help you find the history of your vehicle. When you use the Union Plus Goodyear Discount, you can help keep your car in good shape and save money — while also supporting your fellow union members.

Many Goodyear tires are made by members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Through an agreement with the company-owned Goodyear Gemini Auto Service Centers, Union Plus Goodyear discount tires and car service deals are now available exclusively to union members. So treat your van, car, or motorcycle to some new Goodyear tires, wheels, and a tune-up — and give the thanks to your union membership.

Cash in on the following special union-member-only deals for Goodyear discount tires and more:

- $15.95 oil change and filter service
- 5% off all Goodyear tires, including snow tires, all-terrain & more
- 10% off service — including sale prices.

Car Rental Discounts

UNION MEMBERS CAN enjoy up to 25% in savings from Budget and Avis. Whether it’s a car, van, or SUV, working families can drive in style for less. Avis and Budget rental car savings vary depending on vehicle, time of year, location, and length of rental.

To get your union discount, call Avis Car Rental at 1-800-698-5685 and reference ID# B723700, or call Budget Car Rental at 1-800-455-2848 and reference union ID# V816100.

The AFL-CIO offers home loans

THE AFL-CIO HOUSING Investment Trust is working with Countrywide Home Loans to make home financing easier and more affordable for hard-working families. Their HIT HOME program is supported by union pension funds and offers money-saving benefits, exclusively for AFL-CIO affiliated members. As a Boilermaker, you can take advantage of HIT HOME benefits:

- Save hundreds of dollars when your loan to purchase or refinance closes
- $200 credit when your loan to purchase or refinance closes
- Flexible payment schedules let you reduce the length of your loan and save thousands of dollars in interest with no up-front or closing fees
- Homebuyer education, including information for first-time homebuyers

To learn more about the Hit Home program, call 888-HIT-HOME/1-888-448-4663 to start your application, or simply stop by your local Countrywide Home Loans branch today.

Archives Needs Support

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. The 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
  - 783 State Ave., #570
  - Kansas City, KS 66101

All donations are tax deductible (less $1 for each decal/sticker or ornament; $7 for souvenir watch; $10 for clock; $18 for sports watch; $20 for dress watch). Tax ID #68-114-537.
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.

**DEATH BENEFITS**

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

**LODGE & NAME & BENEFIT**

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**OBITUARIES**

**John J. Mulligan, Local 60**

John J. Mulligan, 55, was a Boilermaker and vice president of the General Power Construction Co., where he had worked for 22 years. He passed away on Jan. 20, 2003. Mulligan joined the National Transit Line on Oct. 16, 1974, and transferred his membership to Local 60, Piscataway, N.J., on April 1, 2000. He was an active member in the local and was always ready to help in any way that he could.

**Kee Thomas Lane, Local 4**

Kee Thomas Lane was a lifelong member of Local 4 and passed away on Dec. 31, 2000. He dedicated his working career to the local and was always there to help in any way that he could.

"He was a model worker and a respected member of the community," said Local 4 BM-ST Tina Begay. "He made everyone feel good about themselves."
Bush, Congress must like red ink

Tax cut, budget will raise deficits, slow down the economy, and benefit wealthy at expense of poor

I F YOU THINK the destruction of Saddam Hussein’s regime was accomplished in record time, take a look at the U.S. federal government’s budget and our country’s economy.

In just two years, the U.S. has gone from having a budget surplus, a strong currency, and a decreasing national debt into a country with a long-term budget deficit, a weakening currency, and soaring national debt. We have gone from a surplus once forecast at $5.6 trillion over ten years to an estimated deficit of at least $2 trillion, a reversal of more than $7 trillion. We haven’t seen a reversal that big since the Great Depression.

How did it happen? Don’t blame the recession. These projections assume moderate economic growth. If we have another recession, the deficits will be even larger.

Don’t blame Saddam Hussein. The $100 billion Bush budgeted for invading Iraq is less than one-third of the 2003 deficit, and these projections do not include future invasions. Of course, if we invade Syria, Iran, or North Korea, the deficits will get even bigger.

Don’t blame Osama bin Laden or the war on terrorism. Don’t blame the French. Don’t blame the weather.

President George W. Bush and a compliant Congress — Democrats and Republicans alike. In 2001, Congress passed Bush’s tax cut that gave $1.3 trillion in tax breaks to the wealthy Americans. That was the first nail in the coffin, sending us from surpluses to record-high deficits in only two years.

Now Congress has passed a second Bush tax cut — one that will cost at least $350 billion and will, according to nearly every economist who has analyzed it, have a negative effect on the economy over the next decade.

That’s right: Negative effect. That means fewer jobs, not more.

President Bush keeps calling it an “economic downpayment,” but the only economies that will be stimulated are those of his wealthy backers.

The Congressional Budget Office, Congress’s Joint Committee on Taxation, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and every independent economist in the country have warned that the tax cut will reduce jobs over the long haul — not create them.

We’ve been here before. Bush’s 2001 tax cuts were supposed to create jobs, too. Instead, we lost two million jobs over the next two years.

Sure, I am happy that the average middle income family will pay $217 less in taxes next year. I wish it could be more. They need the money.

And I’m happy that some working families will get checks for about $400 per child some time in July. I wish those checks could go to all working families with children, but Congress chose to leave workers at the lower end of the pay scale out of this tax cut.

They also chose to end this tax break in 2014, along with the tax breaks for married couples and lowering of tax rates for many working families.

Of course, the reduction of the tax rates for the highest income brackets will continue indefinitely.

But the worst part is that the federal government is going to have to borrow more money and pay for these cuts. In 2003, the federal budget deficit is projected to be over $300 billion — even higher in 2004.

Borrowing to pay for tax cuts simply shifts the burden of payment from today’s taxpayers to tomorrow’s.

When the bill for these tax cuts comes due, some future president will have to raise taxes. It won’t matter whether he is a Democrat or a Republican.

And because debts earn interest, that future tax increase will most assuredly be more than the $217 you get this year.

In the meantime, these tax cuts will give Congress and the president a convenient excuse to delay spending programs that help working families.

There is something wrong when the people of the U.S. put up with these “economic downpayments,” and when only 40 percent of the registered voters vote.

There is a movement in this country to destroy labor unions. We don’t want much, just a decent wage so we can raise our children and grandchildren.

STANLEY D. COMBS, L-40 retiree Jeffersonville, Ky.

L-40’s Combs says there is something wrong when . . .

THERE IS SOMETHING wrong when the president of this nation and our Congress become union busters; when they knowingly and willingly allow corporations to move offshore to avoid income tax; when Congress accepts an $18,000 per year pay raise while refusing to raise the minimum wage.

L-5 retiree working on Vietnam Veterans reunion

THE FOURTH ANNUAL campout reunion for Vietnam Veterans will be held July 25-27, 2003, in Freehold, N.Y. For more information on attending or how to make a contribution, please contact me at 1-518-966-8503.

THOMAS G. MAY, L-5 retiree Greenville, N.Y.

Curl wants to see more letters from owners, contractors

ON THANKSGIVING DAY 2002, the Dakota Cassification Co. in Bismarck, N.D., had an explosion which damaged an exchanger. Boilermakers from Local 128 (Minneapolis) were asked to work 12-hour shifts to lift the vertical exchanger out of the gasifier building, then lay it down horizontally and retube it — including Christmas and New Year’s days, if necessary.

As always, Boilermakers rose to the challenge and completed the project ahead of schedule and without injuries.

On March 17, 2003, Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced that Canada would not support the United States in its war against tyranny and terrorism.

Please be assured that he does not speak for those of us who respect and appreciate all the brave souls of your great country who so willingly gave their lives so that we may enjoy the freedoms of democracy.