Newton B. J. Jones is elected International president

Charles J. Jones retires, Sam May is new Southeast IVP

ON JULY 23, Charles W. Jones resigned from the office of International president. Earlier in July, the Executive Council had elected Southeast Section International Vice President Newton B. Jones to fill the unexpired term of C.W. Jones upon his resignation. Newton B. Jones was sworn into office on July 24.

Jones comes from a solid Boilermaker background. He was born in Norfolk, Va., when his father was in that city on a successful organizing campaign at Norfolk Shipbuilding & Drydock Corp. His grandfather, Charles B. Jones, was a staff representative and business manager for Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa. His two uncles were construction Boilermakers, and his father is retiring International President Charles W. Jones.

Throughout his career as a construction Boilermaker, staff member, and International vice president, Jones has emphasized the importance of communication, training, and political action. His education and experience have enabled him to modernize and improve the union’s operations.

Jones began his career as a field construction Boilermaker the day after he turned 18 in 1971, working for Brock & Blevins at the Georgia Power Plant Bowen facility in Cartersville, Ga., out of Local 454, Chattanooga, Tenn.

After studying at the University of South Florida for a year, Jones worked for Brock & Blevins, and later worked for the U.S. Navy, ultimately retiring at the age of 59 as a Staff Representative for Local 312, Jacksonville, Fla.

The Official Publication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO

Boilermakers endorse Gephardt

Strong pro-worker voting record earns Missouri rep. our support in 2004

ON JUNE 23, the Boilermakers became the fifth union to endorse Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) for president in 2004. Gephardt was the winner of a poll sent to all U.S. local lodge leaders by the legislative office on June 14.

Asked to name the candidate their lodge would most like to see as our next president, 57 percent named Gephardt. On learning the results of the poll, the Brotherhood’s Internat-
Newton Jones is the new Intl. president

Continued from page 1

in Newfoundland at the Come-by-Chance Oil Refinery project, where he joined Local 213. He later transferred his membership to Local 199, Jacksonville, Fla. In between Boilermaker jobs, Jones studied at Florida State University. Jones brings to his new job 22 years of leadership experience — nearly 10 as an International vice president — and a long list of accomplishments. In 1981, he became a Boilermaker organizer and was appointed director of organizing and communications five years later.

As an organizer and director of organizing, Jones was the principal architect of the Boilermakers’ Fight Back construction organizing strategy, an innovative and effective approach to organizing in the construction industry. In 1989, he became managing editor of the Boilermaker Reporter, modernizing its design and computerizing its operations. He oversaw the modernization of all computer operations at Boilermakers headquarters and championed better use of technology in all areas of union service. In 1993, the Executive Council elected him to fill the unexpired term of the retiring International vice president for the Southeast Section. He took office Jan. 1, 1994.

As Southeast Section IVP, Jones has been exceptionally successful. His marketing efforts have helped bring more work to our employers and increase man-hours for our members. Using the forum of the tripartite conference to reach the customers — who ultimately pay our wages — Jones presented a compelling argument that raising wages and benefits in the Southeast would not only benefit our members, but also help contractors and owners, who were struggling to keep skilled manpower in the region.

His arguments gained members of one of the largest wage and benefits package increases the area has enjoyed, earning him the respect of local lodge business managers across the region. The coming years hold many challenges for the Boilermakers and all working families. Under the leadership of Newton B. Jones, Boilermakers can be assured that our union will continue to face all challenges with resolve, intelligence, integrity, and innovation. □

Samar May is elected IVP for Southeast Section

ON JULY 24, District 57 Bus. Mgr.-Exec. Sec. Samar May was sworn in as IVP for the Southeast Section to the unexpired term of Newton B. Jones.

May began his career as a Boilermaker in 1969 and joined Local Lodge 454, Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1970. He graduated from the Local 454 apprenticeship program in 1973, earning an outstanding apprentice award.

May served Local 454 as recording secretary, vice president, and president. In 1991, he became Local 454 business manager, and in 1996 he became business manager/executive secretary for District 57, which encompasses five locals with jurisdiction that covers parts of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina, and all of South Carolina and Tennessee.

May earned considerable praise for his work on the law committee for the International Consolidated Conven-
N JUNE 1983, THE REPORTER described the Brotherhood’s new International president as “a leader in the Boilermaker tradition.” The words could better describe the essence of Charles W. Jones. In the 20 years he has been International president, Jones has embodied all of the best qualities of leaders in the Boilermaker tradition.

He has been honest, hard-working, as eager to learn as he is to teach, a tireless organizer, an innovative planner, and a dedicated leader who has never forgotten that the members ARE the union.

Jones learned Boilermaker values from his father, Charles B. Jones, a staff representative and business manager for Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., and from two uncles and two brothers who were also construction Boilermakers.

Raised during the Depression of the 1930s, Jones never forgot the damaging effects of long-term unemployment. Taking office during the Reagan-era of double-digit unemployment, he called on Boilermakers to not forget those members who were losing their jobs, saying, “Nothing does more to diminish a human being in his own eyes, in the eyes of his children, and his neighbors, than to be out of work. As an international union, we must do all in our power to reverse this tragic situation.”

The road to excellence is organizing

JONES JOINED LOCAL 193, Baltimore, in 1942. The following year, he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theater, attaining the level of staff sergeant. In the following year, he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theater, attaining the level of staff sergeant. In the Pacific Theater, attaining the level of staff sergeant. In 1984, he completed his most successful organizing venture when the 27,000-member Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers of America (CLGAW) union merged with the Boilermakers.

“On April 1, 1984, within a year of becoming International president, Jones completed his most successful organizing venture when the 27,000-member Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers of America (CLGAW) union merged with the Boilermakers.

“We will be stronger and more effective at the bargaining table,” President Jones said at the time. “We will do a better job of organizing the unorganized, and our voice will carry more weight in the halls of Congress.” He was right on all counts.

With the Reagan administration destroying unions and shipping our jobs overseas, locals in the new CLGAW Division faced tough bargaining.

Under Jones’s leadership, they implemented the Stay-in-and-Fight-Back Solidarity program, an innovative way to stop employers from locking out members and to bring them back to the bargaining table.

Solidarity, as it was called, relied on member involvement and an aggressive legal strategy. In the Reporter, Jones referred to the program as “one of the largest class-action suits ever.”

Henry Bechtholdt, then-IVP for the CLGAW Division, said, “I take my hat off to C.W. Jones who did something I don’t think any other international president would do. He was willing to take on an entire industry with the Stay-in-and-Fight-Back Solidarity program. And we won.”

New programs for a new era

THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, Jones has championed education of members, officers, and staff. In 1967, as director of education, he worked with the University of Wisconsin School for Workers to create annual collective bargaining seminars for local lodge leaders, a program that continues to educate local lodge leaders about collective bargaining, grievance handling, and building the union.

As president, he oversaw the growth of our national apprenticeship program, which built a national training center and added programs, including one to train our members to work as foremen.

A keen student of history, Jones recognized early that a union’s work at the bargaining table, in organizing drives, and on picket lines must be equalled or surpassed by its work in the political arena. His strong support for the Brotherhood’s Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP) is apparent in his comments for the Reporter and his efforts to increase members’ voluntary contributions to the Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF).

During his presidency, contributions to this fund, which are used to support candidates for federal office, grew from a few thousand dollars a year to over a million dollars during the most recent two-year election cycle.

During Jones’s presidency, our lobbying efforts evolved as well. When government policies caused businesses to shut down their U.S. plants and move overseas, we started working with our employers to help pass legislation that keeps jobs in the United States. We continue to work alongside company representatives on such issues as the illegal trade practice called “dumping,” the need to build more ships in the United States, and trade policies that encourage employers to stay in the United States.

Jones also promoted three-way communication among representatives of the union, our contractors, and their customers at our annual tripartite meetings. These meetings focus on industry problems, allowing us to find solutions that benefit all three groups. In part, they are responsible for the establishment of MOST, a cooperative venture that addresses safety training, drug awareness, manpower, and other issues that improve our ability to get work and to do a good job safely once we’re on the job.

In 1996, the Construction Innovation Forum awarded MOST and Common Arc their coveted NOVA award for excellence in innovation — the first time this award was given to a labor union.

The tripartite meetings also led to a nationwide marketing effort to regain work we’d lost in the 1970s and 1980s because of the public’s negative perception of unions. Our marketing program stresses our members’ skills, training, and work ethic.

He earned his salt

“A UNION EARNs its salt through service to its members,” Jones is fond of saying. Service was the yardstick he used for all programs and union representatives.

A single question that guided him in all of his decisions: “Is it good for the members?”

He expected all International staff to have his dedication to service. He has surprised many new staff members with his favorite question, “What have you done for the Brotherhood today?”

With more than 60 years as a member, over 30 as a staff member or officer, and 20 as International president, Charles W. Jones retired July 23, 2003, leaving a mark on this union and generations of Boilermakers both past and future.
NEARLY 100 REPRESENTATIVES of the cement industry attended the Boilermakers’ Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers (CLGAW) Division conference, June 18-19, in Kansas City, Mo.

International Vice President Jim Hickenbotham opened the meeting and introduced Int'l. Pres. Charles W. Jones. Jones discussed trade and the economy, opening his remarks by quoting newspaper columnist Lou Dobbs. “Dobbs calls today’s market a ‘jobless recovery,’ and he’s right,” Jones said. “Things may be getting better for a lot of people, but there are no new jobs. Without people working and spending money, things can get a lot worse. We can’t keep living in China, Mexico, and all over the world, where people can’t even afford to buy the goods they make.”

Hickenbotham told the delegates that there are some things you can’t control, like downsizing and plant closings, which have caused the division to lose members. That’s why he asked General Organizer John Chapman to discuss ways to recruit new members.

One way, Chapman explained, is with the in-plant organizing program. This program offers incentives for lodges in right-to-work states to increase membership in shops where not all employees are union members. To provide a better understanding of the cement industry and the 151 agreements the CLGAW Division administers, Pam Dummer, ass. to the director of research and collective bargaining services, prepared a 228-page analysis that includes an industry forecast. This comprehensive summary includes contract information, average hourly earnings of workers in the U.S. and Canadian industries, and economic indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Canada’s Labour Program.

Internal Auditor Bryan King then reviewed the duties of local lodge officers. He listed the records a local must maintain to meet the regulations of both the Department of Labor and the International, recommending that financial records be kept for six years and membership records forever. Bridget Martin and Shannon Brett of the Boilermakers’ Legislative Department presented a brief review of legislation that directly affects members of this division, including the anti-dumping order on cement and a proposed overtime bill.

“Our job is to lobby and keep members informed,” Martin said. “Through e-mail and faxes we can send you notices to post.”

Hickenbotham reinforced their message stating, “We need to get more involved. With a little effort we can organize new members, get members registered to vote, and raise more money for our legislative funds.”

General Counsel Joe Moreland and Attorney Dick Waers of the Blake & Uhlig law firm then discussed sexual harassment in the workplace, stressing the importance of listening to a member who says he or she is being harassed. Safety and Health Specialist Milan Racic talked about past and pending cases and how they relate to plants in the Cement Division.

During the second day of the conference, Hickenbotham asked leaders of the local lodge leadership in their plants. Barney Reuland of Cemex reported that they have promoted 14 Boilermaker supervisors to management in the past three years. Alan Piif of Lafarge U.S. said, “Our biggest success is our safety record—now at four and one-half years without an accident.” The conference ended with a reception and banquet, where the final raffle drawing was conducted, raising a total of $2,250 for the Campaign Assistance Fund. The 50/50 raffle was held throughout the conference with several drawings, as a way to support the Boilermakers’ legislative fund.


Recognition plaques were also sent to retired representatives Robert Simmons, J. C. Todd, and Charlie Hunkbich.

Kvaerner launches new era at Philly shipyard

Continued from page 1

850 workers employed at the shipyard—about 475 shipfitters, welders, and riggers—living in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

The lodge and this shipyard are intrinsically connected to U.S. history. Lodge 19 provided workers for the naval operation for 114 years of the shipyard’s 195-year existence. So when the Navy decided to close shipyard finally came. Over 11,000 people were employed at the time.

The city would not give up on the property, however. In December of 1997, the city, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Delaware Port Authority, and Kvaerner signed an agreement to begin renovating 110 acres at the southwest tip of the original shipyard for construction of new commercial ships under the U.S. Jones Act. The grand opening and keel-laying was held in June of 2001.

Lalumera says members had high hopes as they returned to the shipyard, but that working for Kvaerner is a different experience than working for the Navy. The members’ pride in craftsmanship was mixed with the challenge of adjusting to the expectations of new management.

But as we watched the Manukai cruise down the Delaware and out to sea, it restored hope and rejuvenated morale.

“They said we couldn’t do it, but we did it, and if given the chance, we will do it again and again.”

“’Bottom line,’ says L-19 Sec-Treas. Kevin Carpenier, ’is it can’t be done without the Boilermakers at KPSI.’”

Sea trials for the Manukai were reported as some of the most successful in the company’s history. The second ship is 65 percent assembled in dry dock, and a third ship is over 30 percent complete in pre-fabrication.

The Manukai is a 712-foot diesel-powered vessel weighing 30,000 tons. It carries 2,600, 20-foot shipping containers. The renovated shipyard is equipped with a 1,110 by 150-foot graving dock, a building dock outfitted with an intermediate gate and skidding system, 420-ton heavy-lift transports, a 660-ton Goliath crane, two 50-ton and one 75-ton Luffing cranes.

During World War II, it launched the New Jersey and Wisconsin, the Antarctic aircraft carrier, and the Chicago and Los Angeles cruisers.

As new construction became too costly in the 1970s, the shipyard was used for repair and overhauls. In the early 1990s, the decision to close the shipyard finally came. Over 11,000 people were employed at the time.

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“Bumping heads is not uncommon between the union and management, and sometimes it is hard to focus on the objective,” Lalumera said. “But as we watched the Manukai cruise down the Delaware and out to sea, it restored hope and rejuvenated morale.

“They said we couldn’t do it, but we did it, and if given the chance, we will do it again and again.”

“Bottom line,” says L-19 Sec-Treas. Kevin Carpenier, “is it can’t be done without the Boilermakers at KPSI.”
Stove Division meets in Tennessee

150 local leaders learn about health & safety, legislative issues, more

THE STOVE, Furnace, Energy, and Allied Workers (SFEAW) Division conference in Franklin, Tenn., August 14-16, emphasized education. About 150 local lodge representatives learned about issues facing union members and local lodges from a variety of speakers.

International Vice President Othal Smith introduced the meeting and introduced then-International President Newton B. Jones, who spoke about the important role local lodge leaders play in making our union strong.

“I look forward to working with all of you,” Jones said. “With globalization, a president who doesn’t respect workers, and a weak economy, we have a tough job ahead of us. But I know that with teamwork we can get the job done.”

Jones introduced two guests attending the conference, International Vice Presidents Sam May (Southeast Section) and George Rogers (Central States Section).

Pam Dugard from the Brotherhood’s Research and Collective Bargaining Services Department (RCBS) talked about the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and how in most cases the company cannot force the use of paid vacation for FMLA use when workers have a collective bargaining agreement.

Bridget Martin, asst. to the Intl. President and Director of Organizing and Communications, discussed the need for local lodges to send information about their local lodge’s financial health and the need for local lodges to send information about their local lodge’s financial health and the need for local lodges to send information about their local lodge’s financial health.

Throughout the conference, Rogers said when it was over. “I’ve heard many positive comments from the locals involved and hope we can do this again in three years.”

The Central States agreement provides for raises of $1.25 in the first year and $1 in the second and third years. It also includes an improvement in health and welfare language and adds voluntary check-off for Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) contributions.

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Southeast, Central States discuss bargaining

JANUARY 2003, the Boilermaker Reporter 7

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NEGOTIATING A UNION collective bargaining agreement with a single employer is not easy. Negotiating one with multiple employers that do construction work for many different industries in several states can be like chewing through leather — especially when the economy is weak.

To prepare for this year’s contract negotiations in the Southeast and Central States area, George Rogers, Central States IVP, and Newton Jones, then-Southwest IVP, held a combined collective bargaining conference for their areas. In Key West, Fla., July 14-18, business agents and international representatives got together to look at the problems facing them at the table and to plan strategies.

IVP Newton Jones started the program by giving participants a historical look at Boilermaker work in the region since 1979. Using graphs, he showed how our members lost a lot of work — and our jobs — throughout the 1980s, when nonunion construction firms became aggressive under the antimonopoly Reagan and Bush administrations. Man-hours began increasing again in 1998, but the area is still struggling with the residual effects from these years.

Jones also presented graphs showing the breakdown of man-hours by industry for each local, illustrating that no two locals rely on the same industry mix for their hours. Electrical power construction and maintenance provides the largest portion of man-hours in the South, followed by electrical power distribution, but many locals get more work in paper mills, oil refineries, and other industries.

Rogers then reviewed current conditions in the Central States, along with short-term and long-term expectations for the area. He underscored Jones’s observation that we must work on market recovery — that is, getting back the work we lost in the 1980s.

With the theme of the conference, Rogers and Jones emphasized the need for a balanced approach to bargaining. Negotiators must try to get fair wages and benefits, fair work opportunities, fair problem resolution, and fair work rule provisions for their members, while at the same time maintaining jurisdiction over the craft, keeping contractors competitive, and ensuring the financial health of the local lodge.

Construction Division Director Dale Branscum and his assistant, Mark Van- denter, addressed the group regarding jurisdiction and other construction issues. Legislative Director Andre Abbott talked about political issues affecting the negotiations.

“I feel the meeting was a success,” Rogers said when it was over. “I’ve heard many positive comments from the locals involved and hope we can do this again in three years.”

Highlights of the new agreements

IN JULY AND AUGUST, the Southeast and Central States negotiated and signed three-year area agreements with their contractors that yielded modest gains — a significant achievement in today’s weak economy.

The Southeast agreement calls for wage increases of $1 in the first year and $1.25 in the second year, and $1.25 in the third year. Health and welfare language was also improved slightly.

The Central States agreement provides for raises of $1.25 in the first year and $1 in the second and third years. It also includes an improvement in health and welfare language and adds voluntary check-off for Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) contributions.

In a separate development, the Central States has begun a market recovery program in the petrochemical industry in and around Texas City, Texas.
Boilermakers set the pace for PSF

Silverhawk HRSG project finishes eight weeks ahead of schedule

WORKING FOR PSF Industries, members of Local 92 (Los Angeles) and Local 11 (Helena, Mont.) have completed two Alstom-designed, 570-megawatt heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs) eight weeks ahead of schedule for the GenWest Silverhawk location in Las Vegas.

And they did it with no recordable or lost-time injuries and a zero percent reject rate on all associated pipe welding, including P-91 chrome.

This remarkable achievement continues a success story with PSF that began in September 2001, when Boilermakers built two HRSGs at the Apex site, also in Las Vegas. Boilermakers set the pace for the Apex construction site, as well as for Silverhawk.

Local 92 Business Manager-Secretary-Treasurer Ed Marquez said, “PSF President Stan Miller and I put our heads together to figure out how to work this job, and the men on the job came through for us with flying colors. I couldn’t be prouder of them.”

According to PSF field superintendent Dick Cunz, “Quality craftsmanship and production by all the Boilermakers, travelers and locals alike, made both projects successful.

“The relationship built with Ed Marquez and PSF is one we can all be very proud of. General Foreman Jimmy Haines, Foreman Johnny Bernal, and Chris Fermente, along with Jay Matthews and Mick Shikser from Local 11, Montana, truly show how teamwork can pay off for both contractor and union.”

L-108 does economizer change-out in 24 days

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 108, Birmingham, Ala., replaced 218 economizer modules in just 24 days at Southern Company’s Alabama Power plant in Wilsonville.

Teamwork and planning make excellence possible

“TEAMWORK, PLUS planning, plus top-notch Boilermakers, equals a smooth turnaround,” reports John Helvin, BM-ST of Local 108, Birmingham, Ala.

In April, members of Local 108 changed out an economizer for Southern Company’s Alabama Power in Wilsonville, Ala. They replaced 218 economizer modules in 24 days by using a multiple monorail system that allowed them to load or unload from both sides simultaneously.

“Planning between Alabama Power and AlComPower, along with the excellent performance of our Boilermakers made this possible,” Helvin said. “Teamwork between the Boilermakers and the contractors goes a long way to ensure successful projects such as this.”

Northeast Utilities Systems says L-29 gets the job done

I WOULD LIKE to commend the Boilermakers of Local 60 [Peoria, Ill.] for a job well done on the refueling project at the Hennepin Power Station.

American Power Services was contracted to supply tooling and technical support to Local 60 for refueling of Hennepin’s main condenser. I have worked with other locals, and by far, Local 60 has been the best I’ve had the pleasure to work with. We finished the project on time and with little repairs. This says a lot about the quality of work that they performed on this project.

Thanks to all of the condenser gang. It was my pleasure to work with you and we look forward to working with you in the future.

RICK LAIDENHUX, project supervisor
American Power Services

Praxair commends L-667 for work ethic, professionalism

I WOULD LIKE to commend the Boilermakers of Local 667 [Charleston, W.Va.] for providing an outstanding work crew to the Praxair, Inc. maintenance shutdown. July 7-18, while working for Power Maintenance, Inc.

Their work ethic, professionalism, and attention to detail were second to none. Their coordination in getting the job completed in a safe and timely manner is also to be commended.

During the two-week shutdown, we performed multiple heavy rigging and welding jobs. There were no safety incidents; in fact, there were no safety violations of any type.

It is good to know that there are men who are dedicated to their craft and exhibit such pride in their workmanship that they will go out of their way to do whatever it takes to please their customers, no matter the circumstance.

I have thanked each of them individually, but I would appreciate it if you would find a way to thank them in front of a larger group so that their fellow craftsmen would know that these are excellent craftsmen. I would be honored to have them work at my facility on any occasion.

Please properly recognize Bruce Conner, Randy Hughes, Larry Friddle, Terry Rose, Timothy Siders, Timothy Stover, and Paul Webb.

RICHARD WALTON, plant mgr.
Praxair, Inc. Institute, W.Va.

Barton Malow credits L-549 members for project’s success

IN APRIL 2003, BARTON M allow Rigging completed an electrical generating station (the Tracey Peaker project) in Tracey, Calif.

My job as general superintendent was to oversee the construction of two very difficult SCR units. Thanks to the Boilermakers’ skills and the professional manner with which they conducted themselves, the project was successful and was completed on time.

I would like to personally thank Stan Currar, Ron Williams, Les May, M.Ike Potter, Albert Franco, and Bill Walsh for their leadership and thank the entire crew for a job well done.

BRUCE CORELL
Barton Malow Rigging Co.

Local 29 members enable Somerset to meet goal

ON BEHALF OF NRG Energy, Inc. and Somerset Operations, Inc., I want to extend our thanks and acknowledgement for the tremendous work effort recently put forth by Boilermakers of Local 29 [Boston] at Somerset Station.

It became necessary for our Somerset Unit No. 6 to complete an emergency boiler furnace waterwall and restoration project in order to return to operation.

While we were offline during the entire month of July and most of August, the project was completed on schedule and our Unit No. 6 was synchronized and put back online July 28.

This work was challenging in job complexity and layout, involving varying cut lines on each furnace wall, tangent and bent tube configurations, and an excess of 1,400 welds.

Some of the job challenges were predictable, such as working 10- and 12-hour shifts in the summer heat and humidity, but other challenges were rare and unexpected, such as the loss of two adjacent boiler elevators for 12 days. Despite these challenges, the Local 29 members worked hard to complete the work and meet our target schedule for the Unit No. 6 operational date.

Needless to say, our operational goal would not have been met without the commitment and dedication of your members and the exemplary work effort put forth by all. For your members’ efforts, we extend our thanks and acknowledge for a job well done.

LEONARD ARAOGO, project manager
Somerset Station

Letters of Praise from Owners & Employers
Construction and shop members work together on nuclear waste project

L-182 fabricates vessels
CBI SERVICES, INC. has been awarded a contract by Bechtel National, Inc. to engineer, fabricate, and field-erect components of a nuclear waste cleanup effort. And CBI has turned to the Boilermakers for both the fabrication and the erection.

CBI will engineer, fabricate, and field-erect four stainless-steel waste feed receipt vessels and install approximately 153,000 square feet of stainless-steel liner plate at the Department of Energy’s Hanford site in Washington.

The components are being built for three of the permanent waste treatment buildings being erected for the River Protection Project Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford.

Members of Local 182 (Salt Lake City) are fabricating the vessels at CBI’s Prowo, Utah, fabrication shop. Each vessel is 47 feet in diameter and 44 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 275 tons. All vessel weld seams must pass dye-penetrant and X-ray inspection.

So far, the X-ray average exceeds a 99 percent satisfactory rate. This success rate means that fewer than one-percent of the welds must be re-done.

L-242 & NTL erect them
MEMBERS OF Local 242 (Spokane, Wash.) and the National Transient Lodge (NTL) will use a heavy-lift crane to set the completed vessels in place next spring.

Field erection began in January and should be completed in June 2004. The secondary nuclear containment liner work, which NTL and Local 242 members started this summer, includes installation in three buildings, the low activity waste building, the high level waste building, and the pretreatment building, where the majority of the liner will be installed.

Liner installation work will continue through the year 2006.

Arbitration wins work
CBI’S DECISION TO USE Boilermakers on this project was challenged by the Sheet Metal Workers International Association. They cited language in the Hanford project labor agreement that they said barred CBI from manning the job under our tank liner agreement.

The arbitrator disagreed and awarded the work to the Boilermakers.

L-104 members build two bridge caissons
Job provides 58,000 man-hours for 150 Boilermakers
MEMBERS OF LOCAL 104, Seattle, working at Todd Pacific Shipyards, completed two bridge caissons in April 2003 for a new 5,400-foot suspension bridge over Tacoma Narrows. When completed, the bridge will have a center length span of 2,800 feet, making it the longest suspension bridge built in the United States since the Verrazano Narrows Bridge opened in 1964.

L-104 Pres. Larry Knapp said he felt fortunate that Todd Pacific Shipyard won the bid to build the two caissons. “Not only did this job provide work for our members,” Knapp said, “but now they can point to this landmark project with pride and say that they helped to get it underway.”

Work started in December 2002. The bridge is being built alongside the existing Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The new bridge will provide Tacoma travelers with three lanes for eastbound traffic, reducing the congestion that now results in three- to four-hour backups for commuters. It is also designed to accommodate a future second deck.

According to Local 104 member Gary Powers, the tower foundations (caissons) are 130 feet by 80 feet by 225 feet deep. The towers are built slightly back of center 53-feet wide, and 14-feet deep.

So far, they have efficiently worked over 50,000 accident-free man-hours.

Focusing on the 130-foot-tall bridge towers, NTL members will be responsible for the activity of work on two bridge caissons. Each caisson is 130 feet by 80 feet by 225 feet deep. They are built to withstand seven-century floods and 80-foot tidal swings.

L-363 completes SCR with Big John’s help
Boilermakers use huge derrick to dismantle 600 tons and set over 2,000 tons of new ductwork
LAST YEAR, MEMBERS of Local 363 (East St. Louis, Ill.) completed the Ameren Coffeen Unit 2 SCR project using “MoMo,” the world’s largest mobile crane. This year, they used another piece of impressive equipment, “Big John,” to complete Coffeen’s Unit 1 SCR.

“Big John” is a 500-ton capacity derrick that is perched on top of a 130-foot-tall tower with a 235-foot boom. With the help of “Big John,” Local 363 members dismantled 600 tons of ductwork and built and set over 2,000 tons of new ductwork.

Working for Alberici Constructors, they completed the job ahead of schedule and under budget.
Local lodge leaders, Intl. reps. attend 2003 Collective Bargaining Institute

Participants focus on education for stronger union leadership

FIFTY LOCAL LODGE leaders and 22 International staff members attended classes at the 46th annual Collective Bargaining Institute at the University of Wisconsin’s School for Workers held July 13-25 in Madison, Wis.

Over a two-week period, the Institute offers three courses of study: Basic, Advanced, and Construction. This year, a special fourth class on pension and health care issues was held July 13-25 in Madison, Wis.


Those attending the Advanced Institute, July 20-25, included David Lanciano and Ronald Weaver Jr. of Local 86, Essington, Pa.; Douglas Ewell and Daniel Longoria of Local 374, Hammond, Ind.; Donald Slater and Kenneth Willis of Local 480, Jacksonville, Ill.; Ed Richardson of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash.; Arty Antsonson, Jeff Bartlett, David Dehne, and Ed Doyen of Local 696, Marinette, Wis.; J. David Herron and Brian McLain of Local D27; Bruce Wood of Local D480; and Indalecio “Indy” Parra of Local 998.

Members attending the Construction Institute, July 13-18, included Intl. Rep. Cory Cannon; Joseph Brown of Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y.; Thomas Saccoach of Local 29, Boston; Wyndham Sparling of Local 105, Chillicothe, Ohio; Phil Haefner of Local 359, Vancouver, B.C.; and Dale Mason of Local 502.

As part of the Bargaining Pension and Health Care program, members of the International staff received a week of in-depth courses on financing retirement, negotiating specific retirement plan features, working with Defined Benefit Formulas, managing and accessing information, applying the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), and assessing funding levels and solvency to plan.


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

Boilermaker Institute students join picket line

Boilermakers show solidarity with UFCW Local 538 at Tyson

ONE OF THE MOST important lessons that local lodge leaders learn at the Boilermakers summer institutes is that we’re all in this together. Meeting other Boilermakers from all over North America, they quickly learn that all union members and all workers face similar problems.

Three students in this year’s classes, David Herron and Brian McLain of Local D27 (Independence, Mo.) and Indalecio “Indy” Parra of Local 998 (San Diego) got an opportunity to show their solidarity on Saturday morning after the Basic class ended. Having heard that the 470 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 538 were on strike at a Tyson plant in nearby Jefferson, Wis., they decided to support their brothers in the picket line.

The morning turned out to be quite a lesson in solidarity.

The town of Jefferson has rallied behind the workers, and the University of Wisconsin has stopped selling Tyson products until the dispute is over. Jim Hightower has even featured their cause on his radio broadcasts.

The UFCW members have been on strike since February, when they rejected Tyson’s final proposal because it asked for cuts in pay, vacation benefits, and sick leave, along with increases in health care insurance co-pays.

Boilermakers walk a picket line in July with striking UFCW members at a Tyson food-processing plant in Jefferson, Wis.

The Boilermakers have joined the UFCW members to show solidarity with UFCW Local 538 at Tyson.
L-158’s Mike Damm shines as a star steward

STEVEN MICHAEL (Mike) Damm has been a steward, committeeeman, vice president, and recently served as acting president of Local 158, Peoria, Ill.

Filling in for L-158 President Kevin Kocher while he recuperated from back surgery, Damm was left with two very important grievances that were scheduled for arbitration.

The first grievance concerned elimination of jobs in the Stores Clerk pattern of Komatsu Mining Systems, Inc.

Komatsu hired an outside firm to stock hardware essential to the assembly process, a job that had been performed by union members for over 60 years, Kocher explained. Working with Intl. Rep. Howard Cole and committeeman Norman Reichert, Damm spent 10 hours preparing exhibits the day before the scheduled arbitration.

"When Komatsu saw how prepared the union was, they asked for pre-arb talks with the arbitrator in the adjacent room," Kocher said. "Through Mike’s leadership, an agreement was reached that preserved our jobs for the future and did not involve the arbitrator."

While preparing for this arbitration, Damm was also preparing for another case regarding the termination of a former Local 158 president.

"Damm met several times with Komatsu representatives and finally convinced them of the union’s determination and resolve to win this case," Kocher said. "He reached an agreement with the company just two days prior to arbitration. The company agreed to change the former president’s status from termination to temporary severance, which will allow this union member to receive his full pension in 2004 upon his qualifying birthday.

"Mike Damm is truly a Star Steward."

Contractors nominate Chris Frumento

CHRIS FRUMENTO DOES such a good job that he not only impresses his coworkers, but the contractors who employ him as well.

A member of Local 92 (Los Angeles) since 1973, Frumento was nominated to be a Star Steward by Robert Richards, general superintendent for the Scott Company of California, Thomas Mora, field superintendent for Babcock & Wilcox Construction Co., Inc., and Mark Hansen, superintendent and general foreman for the Kiewit Industrial Co.

In nominating Frumento, Richards wrote, "Not only has Mr. Frumento been in a stellar capacity in front of any problem that has arisen on site with the men, and he has taken an active role in addressing the issues without the need for company intervention. This is a quality that goes a long way in making a job progress on time and within budget. I hope that Mr. Frumento is given the highest accolades for his efforts on behalf of Local 92."

Mora said Frumento has worked several jobs for Babcock & Wilcox as a steward. "Chris has handled this job quite well, maintaining a safe and professional work environment for all, allowing the work to be performed in an efficient manner that has helped craft productivity meet the project schedule."

Hansen has also had a lengthy work experience with Frumento. "I have personally worked with Chris Frumento on various projects. In the last 20 years, he has shown outstanding leadership, good communication with the men and contractors, excellent safety awareness for the men, and the ability to solve problems as they arise," he said. "Chris Frumento always puts in the extra effort to ensure the men are taken care of. He is a hard worker, his production in the field is excellent, and he is always willing to help anybody who needs it."

Local 92 Bus. Mgr.-Sec.Treas. Eddie Marquez says that Frumento is "a model steward. Whenever he works on something, I know he will do the best he can — and that means a good job. Even though he butts heads with them sometimes, the contractors like working with him. They respect Chris because they know he always does a first-rate job."

Al Sprouse is one of the best union stewards

JMMY D. CAIN, NTL member from Barberton, Ohio, nominated Al Sprouse for Star Steward. In his nominating letter, he described working with Sprouse at the Sun Oil refinery, Toledo, Ohio, in February and March 2002.

"We had many safety classes to attend," Caine wrote. "It was a scheduling nightmare. Al was in the bowling leading and directing Boilermakers to the safety class. Al lunch or break time, Al would tell us the changes and cancellations.

"Al never had time for a break or lunch; he was keeping us on schedule.

"When payday rolled around, it was a nightmare. Some employees never received a check or received checks that were incorrect.

"During lunch and breaks, Al picked up and returned checks and gave progress reports to the rest of the people. This went on for days. He solved all our problems — real and imagined.

"One night a Boilermaker pointed out that the union steward was eating with us. I congratulated him on having time to eat, but a good night was not meant for Al Sprouse. Twenty minutes after lunch I heard a loud BOOM! The earth started shaking. I was walking fire watch and used my radio to ask the dispatcher if we had a problem. "The dispatcher said, ‘We do, but we don’t know where. Stand by.’ "In a few seconds, someone on my radio said, ‘There has been an explosion. Plant 3 is burning, EVACUATE.’ I went down the line of about 20 tube welders shouting, ‘TIRE! EVACUATE!’ Have you ever tried to get a welder to break his arc?"

"I got them all out and started to the safe area to regroup. When we got there, plant security said, ‘Move on, get out of the refinery.’ "Since the safe area was gone, I wondered how we would ever regroup for a head count. When I looked over the sea of humanity, getting a head count seemed impossible.

"Turning the corner, I looked ahead at the gate as the hundreds poured through. Through the long, lanky frame of Al Sprouse planted firmly in the middle of the gate.

"As each Boilermaker passed, he calmly handed me and pointed to the Boilermakers new regroup area. We had a head count in less than 15 minutes. Al present. No one in the plant was hurt and Boilermakers were the first craft to report."

Cain ended his letter with unreserved praise: "Al Sprouse is one of the best union stewards. He can think on his feet and under fire (real fire.) He is a fine man and brother."

Great Lakes Area Council holds steward training

College professor, Intl. staff provide full day of learning

ON JUNE 16, 2003, members from affiliated lodges of the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1 met at the Empress Casino, Joliet, Ill., to attend a one-day steward-training program.

Emily Robert, director of the DePaul University Labor Education Center in Chicago, conducted the class that was coordinated by Intl. Rep. Howard Cole. Cole also serves as the council’s business representative.

Pennsylvania Keystone Industrial Council meets

Over 20 lodges send representatives to third annual conference

IN JUNE, 42 representatives of over 20 Boilermaker local lodges attended the third annual conference of the Pennsylvania Keystone Industrial Council.

Conference highlights included a seminar conducted by representatives of the Wolfland & Berger law firm, who spoke on workers and longshoremen compensation laws, and presentation of the Michael S. Murphy Award for excellence in service.

This year’s recipient was John Loughhead, secretary-treasurer of Local D173, Wampum, Pa.

Loughhead goes above and beyond the call of duty in servicing the members of Local D173, said Intl. Rep. Robert Heinje Jr., who also serves as business representative for the council.

John Loughhead receives an award for excellence in service.

The Keystone Industrial Council was founded in December 1999 to form unity among the Pennsylvania locals as they work toward common goals.

Since its founding date, the council has sponsored a series of training programs for members of its 24 affiliated lodges.

"The Pennsylvania Keystone Industrial Council has proven to be a great learning mechanism for our members," Heinje reported. "Our members’ feedback is positive and their interest remains high."

Do you know a Star Steward?

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

Send info to this address: Star Stewards, The Boilermaker Reporter, Boilermakers International, 753 State Ave., Suite 570, Kansas City, KS 66101.
Avondale workers get Ingalls-style contract

L-1814 will see the fruits of negotiators’ labor over next four years

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1814, Bridge City, La., celebrated a pay raise and more vacation time in June when Northrop Grumman Ship Systems and unions of the New Orleans Metal Trades Council signed a new four-year collective bargaining agreement.

The vote was held at the Boilermakers’ union hall on June 27. The extended agreement passed, earning journeymen an 18.6 percent — $2.87 per hour — increase between now and March 4, 2007. In addition, the agreement added two paid holidays, allowing for an annual Christmas shutdown from Christmas Eve to New Year’s Day.

Other benefits for workers included improvements in the Pay-For-Skills Program, a stabilized family health care premium, increased vacation time, and double-time pay for overtime on Sundays.

With the new agreement, Avondale Boilermakers enjoy the same pay scale and benefits as Grumman’s Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., where Boilermakers are represented by Boilermakers Local 693. Both the Ingalls and Avondale agreements expire in March 2007.

L-169 reaches out to young welders

Detroit local sponsors welding competition for high school students

LOCAL 169 BM-ST John Marek talks to high school welders interested in a career with the Boilermakers. With him is Mark Wertz (far right), who suggested providing this opportunity for young welders to show their skills.

"There are a lot of good opportunities out there for skilled workers," Marek told the attendees. "When it comes time to make your decision, we want you to keep the Boilermakers in mind if you’re looking for a great career opportunity."

L-169 put together a one-day program to let invited students have their welding skills rated and show how much they know in a written exam. "I know there are a lot of good high school welders out there," Wertz said. "They come in with a good attitude. Most have the basic skills necessary, and a lot of them are looking at career opportunities. This is an opportunity for us to show them what they can expect if they enter our apprenticeship program and the skills they will need."

Jacobs told the recruits that entering an apprenticeship program “is strictly business.” Boilermaker apprentices are among the highest paid in the building trades, Jacobs said, “but we work hard for our pay. We weld in confined spaces and out in the open, where angels fear to go. It’s hard work.”

Eight contractor representatives served as judges, rating the students’ welds. Three prizes were awarded; the top prize was a $500 savings bond. "I see this as a good idea because we’re meeting people who are interested in the trade at a very early age," said Gary Eff of Gem Industrial, who was acting as a judge. "We’re able to show them what we’re all about before someone else gets a hold of them." The students were judged on the quality of a vertical plate weld with a backing strip — similar to a test given to apprentices.

"I’ve been welding since the eighth grade, and I really enjoy it," said Toby Downey, a senior from Bay City, Mich., who attended the event. "This is what I want to do for a living, and working with the Boilermakers seems like a good way to go."

This story was adapted from a story by Marty Mulcahy, published in the Building Tradesmen. Mulcahy also took the photographs.

Abbott earns appointment

ANDF ABBOTT, asst. to the Intl. President and director of the Boilermakers’ legislative and shipbuilding departments, has been appointed by U. S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao to serve as a member of Industry Committee No. 25 for the Territory of American Samoa.

With two representatives each from labor, industry, and government, the committee meets every two years to determine the minimum wage for this Pacific Ocean island territory.

American Samoa has few industries. Nearly all residents work for the government or for the commercial tuna fishing industry. Most tuna industry workers work in canneries.

When they met in Pago Pago June 16, the industry and government representatives defeated labor’s effort to raise the minimum wage.

Samoa’s minimum wage will remain at $3.26 for cannery workers and $4.60 for government workers.
Bush makes OSHA cuts look like increase

Safety training, federal enforcement face cuts

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION is attempting to disguise major cuts to OSHA as an increase in funding. The Bush administration’s budget proposal for fiscal year 2004 shows $3 million in cuts targeting safety and health standards development, federal enforcement, and worker safety and health training grants.

In the reports, however, Bush attempts to camouflage these cuts by comparing the 2004 proposed budget to his 2003 budget, which has even larger cuts, making this year’s cut look like an increase in funding. The 2003 cuts, the reports fail to mention, were rejected by Congress, and last January, the Senate approved a budget for OSHA that included increases for more program areas.

Similarly, the administration calls a $7 million cut in worker training a “level” appropriation. Bush’s request for $4 million for worker-oriented training is actually a 77 percent cut. In other statements, the administration implied it intended to zero out funding for union training programs, spending the $4 million earmarked for them elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the administration is seeking $67 million for employer-control and guardrail programs, an increase of $7.2 million from last year that also shifts compliance to voluntary measures. At the same time, Bush is seeking to cut 64 federal enforcement positions at OSHA. Compliance assistance only works when there is strong enforcement to back it up.

White House halts TB protection for workers

THE BUSH administration’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will not implement new tuberculosis (TB) protections for health workers, the agency announced May 27. OSHA proposed a rule in 1997 to establish procedures to prevent and limit the spread of TB, a highly infectious airborne disease.

At the time, OSHA said the procedures would protect an estimated 3.3 million workers in more than 100,000 hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and other work settings with a significant risk of TB. Health and safety activists petitioned OSHA in 1993 to establish a TB standard. After the rule was first proposed in 1997, OSHA held extensive public hearings and collected public comments in 1998 and 1999.

OSHA now refuses to issue the final rule even though it was ready when the Bush administration took office in 2001. Experts say the TB rule also would guard against other airborne diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

The White House says the OSHA rule is not needed because voluntary guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are adequate to protect workers.

Can you save money by buying drugs from Canada?

More and more Americans buy prescription drugs from Canada through the Internet

FOR YEARS, Americans traveling in Canada have been buying a wide variety of prescription drugs, even those drugs that are made in the U.S. and shipped to Canada. The FDA and U.S. Customs used to ignore people returning from abroad with up to a 90-day supply. But earlier this year, they warned that health plans and other groups that “aid and abet” the importation of drugs from Canada could be found “criminally liable.” So far, they have not targeted insurance brokers or employers who have routinely reimbursed travelers for drugs purchased overseas for the convenience of the traveler are asking for clarification of the law.

Canadian drug prices are lower than those in the United States because Canada has publicly funded, universal health care — sort of like Medicare for everyone. The government uses this enormous buying power to negotiate lower prices.

Consumers in the United States pay higher prices for drugs than consumers in any other industrialized country, even though many of those drugs are manufactured in the U.S. before being shipped overseas. Americans pay more, because the United States is the only industrialized nation that does not have universal health care.

In the U.S., drug companies charge as much as the public will pay. For drugs still under patent protection, drug companies have a monopoly on sales and can inflate prices accordingly.

Americans buying prescription drugs from Canada report cutting costs by 60 to 90 percent.

Safety tips in Spanish

This issue’s Safety Column, “Aerial Lift Safety,” 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.

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Grants total $50,000

THE BOILERMAKERS International Executive Council (IEC) Scholarship Committee has announced its selection of scholarship award recipients for the International, one local lodge, and the Canadian Federation of Labour. The committee awarded $50,000 to winners of the International’s scholarships — $38,000 to United States students and $12,000 to Canadian students. They also awarded $3,000 in local lodge awards and $2,000 for the Canadian Federation of Labour.

IEC scholarship winners

THE IEC COMMITTEE chose 25 award winners from a pool of 150 applicants for the International’s scholarships. The Scholarship Committee determined the amount of each grant. This year, the committee awarded one $5,000 award, two $4,000 awards, three $3,000 awards, nine $2,000 awards, and ten $1,000 awards. Winners were chosen based on their high academic achievement, leadership skills, participation in extracurricular activities, and performance on a 300-500 word essay on this year’s topic: “What roles are North American unions playing in the global economy and what roles should they play?" Traci Barrett, daughter of William Barrett of Local 13, Philadelphia earned the top award of $5,000.

ONE OF THE most popular benefits of being a Boilermaker is the college scholarship program that helps dependents of Boilermakers get started with their college education. These one-year grants reward the hard work and success of young members of Boilermaker families and encourage members of the next generation of college-educated workers to remember the union advantage.

IEC scholarship program

SINCE 1988, WHEN the International began the scholarship program, the Boilermakers union has awarded a total of $526,000 to 197 children and dependents of Boilermaker members. The scholarship committee spends days reviewing the applications and reading the essays. The board of directors reviews and approves the recipients of these scholarships. The Boilermakers Union will not mail applications. Applications postmarked after the March 31, 2004 deadline cannot be considered. Contact your local to get an application. The International will not mail applications to individuals.

How to apply for a Boilermaker Scholarship

Applications for the 2004 scholarships will be available from your local lodge at the end of January. Applications must be received by March 31, 2004. Applications postmarked after the March 31, 2004 deadline cannot be considered. Contact your local to get an application. The International will not mail applications to individuals. Applications postmarked after the March 31, 2004 deadline cannot be considered. Contact your local to get an application. The International will not mail applications to individuals.

Continued on page 13
IEC committee selects CFL and Local 146 winners, too

THE INTERNATIONAL’s scholarship committee also chose two winners of scholarships from Local 146, and two scholarship winners from the Canadian Federation of Labour (CFL).

Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, awarded $2,000 to Brandon Leitch, son of Danny Leitch; and $1,000 to Amanda Marleau, daughter of Roy Marleau.

For the fifth year, the CFL is awarding scholarships to applicants from each affiliated union. This is the second year that they have increased their awards to two $1,000 grants per affiliated International union.

The IEC Scholarship Committee selected Jenna Marleau, daughter of Roy Marleau of Local 146, and Rebecca Treherne, daughter of William Withey, L-169.
Local 1 LEAP committee motivates youth, registers members, influences elections

WHEN LOCAL 1’s LEAP committee decided to make voter registration a high priority in their political program, committee member and 30-year Boilermaker Benjamin Kosiek didn’t delay for any time.

“I chose to become a voter registrar,” he said. “When I brought that back to the committee, we decided that at the annual picnic, we would try to get registrars there from all the major counties the members live in and be there taking voter registration.”

According to John Skermont, Local 1 business manager, getting members registered and voting is their single most important political action.

“We are working people, and that is the only real power we have, the power to vote,” Skermont says. “When we vote, we can offset all the money that big business has spent on the elections.”

For locals just starting to get politically involved, voter registration is easy and effective. L-1 President John Benz recommends getting a list of your members who are already registered from your state’s election office. The National Association of State Election Directors has a free Web link to each state’s election Web site at http://www.nased.org/state/elect.htm. The LEAP office can also provide you with voter registration status of your members. Knowing who is registered helps you figure out who isn’t.

Local 1 found out that their voter registration numbers are down from a few years ago. Though they’re still doing better than most Boilermaker locals, they know they need to register everybody.

“A lot of younger members don’t realize how important voting is,” Skermont explains. “We need to light a fire under them.”

Boilermaker Assistant to the Legislative Director Bridget Martin says it is critical for members to keep their registration current.

“Every time you move you must fill out a new voter registration form,” she says. And you must keep your registration current by voting. Most states require members to purge their records every few elections. If you don’t vote in as few as two elections, your registration may be deleted.

Registration is just a start

A LOCAL CAN’T stop at just voter registration. All members (and their families) must get out and vote in every election, no matter what.

While Benz estimates as many as 70 percent of Local 1’s registered members vote regularly, that still leaves hundreds of their members without a voice. One reason may be that construction workers are not always home on Election Day. But that’s not a good excuse, says Benz. Anyone who travels should vote by absentee ballot. Each state’s regulations are different, so contact the LEAP office for guidelines on absentee ballots in your state.

Stewards and other lodge leaders need to stay in close contact with the members on the job sites, Benz says.

“Go to them and say: Be sure you get out and vote. We ask them to bring in their voter slips so we have proof.”

Get younger members involved in LEAP

BENZ AND KOSEK agree that the key to getting members voting is education, especially teaching younger members how the political system works.

“When you get the younger guy involved, there is a lot of energy and enthusiasm there,” Benz says. They have so much energy, you can say to them: ‘Can you get it done?’ And BAM, it’s done.”

For Local 1, political action is part of the educational process. Apprentices commit to political involvement when they agree to become members. Local 1 apprentices take part in letter-writing campaigns for issues that are pertinent to the trade, and they will be working the polls this year.

Success does not come overnight, but after 30 years of small steps, Local 1 has established itself as a force in the Cook County political arena. Their LEAP committee became a certified Political Action Committee (PAC) in the 1970s, with stalkers collecting $5 to $10 per man on a voluntary basis.

In 1978, Skermont recalls, committee members were able to donate $5 each to buy tickets to Mayor Daley’s fundraiser. Daley’s election has helped to maintain Chicago’s labor-friendly status in the downtown. In the beginning, Local 1’s income was small, but it kept the committee going until 1991, when $200.05 per hour voluntary contributions were added to the collective bargaining agreement.

Local 1 is a pace-setter

LOCAL 1 IS AN example for all locals that want to see these kinds of results. Not only do they contribute on the floor, but many of their members are involved in political activity at home. Action gets results.

In 1994, for example, L-1 used its political influence to ensure that Boilermaker employer Chicago Bridge & Iron landed the contract with Florida-based Wach Shipyards to build Chicago’s riverboats.

Their fundraising goes a step further than most LEAP committee members. They are urged to sign up for payroll deductions that raise one nickel per hour worked for political activity.

One-and-a-half cents of that nickel goes directly to LEAP’s Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) to fund lobbying efforts at the federal level. In 2002, voluntary contributions from Local 1’s members generated $24,000 for CAF. Local 1’s PAC keeps the other 3.5 cents right at home to fund lobbying efforts and legislative issues at the state and local level.

Forming a state and local PAC is not easy. But for lodges ready and able to do so, they can make decisions made at local and state levels — decisions that mean more work for their members. A local PAC gives the lodge influence with city commissioners, mayors, state legislators, and the governor.

Having the money to spend at the state and local levels has given Chicago’s Boilermakers political clout. Skernont says their LEAP committee helped to more than double membership working with the city of Chicago and Cook County. Local 1’s influence compelled the Illinois House, Senate, and governor to approve a whopping $6-an-hour pay increase for Illinois Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, allowing them to become a part of the Brotherhood on equal scale.

In 2002, with the help of Local 60, Peoria, Ill., and Local 363, East St. Louis, Ill., Skernont says the membership voters played a vital role in electing Rod Blagojevich, the state’s first Democratic governor in three decades. They were also able to maintain Democratic control of the Illinois House of Representatives and regain control of the Illinois Senate.

With this kind of labor-friendly government in place, Local 1 was able to see the fruits of their efforts almost immediately. In August, Gov. Blagojevich signed a state minimum wage increase into law, giving low-wage workers a $1.35 per hour increase by 2005, and approved corporate accountability legislation written by the Illinois AFL-CIO.

These kinds of results show that if you are successful, but they don’t come easy.

Many people have become disillusioned with the political process. Politicians seem to be only interested in taking care of individuals and companies that have given them large campaign donations.

Local 1 shows that hard work brings results, too. Workers can’t buy politicians, but we can vote them in or out.

As Kosiek puts it, “There is not a single greater need than to be politically active.”

This article is the first in a series that will take in-depth looks at what some of our locals are doing to promote their LEAP programs and be active politically in their areas. If you would like us to feature the activities of your local lodge, please contact

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Correction: In the May-Jun 2003 issue of this paper, a headline and story about Republican congressmen who stood up for workers should have referred to them as “representatives” and not “senators.”

In April, 28 Republican U.S. representatives signed a letter to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao asking her to withdraw her proposed changes to the LMRDA reports because they are “unduly burdensome” and would divert unions from “representing members as efficiently as possible.” The letter was signed by 20 members from the more conservative congressional committees and other groups and individuals persuaded the Department of Labor to delay implementing the new rules until 2004. Please take the time to thank these representatives for standing up for workers.

Spencer Bachus (Ala.)
Sherwood Boehlert (N.Y.)
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (Fla.)
J. D. Ann Emerson (M.)
Phil Enns (Pa.)
Mike Ferro (Ill.)
Mark Green (Wis.)
Ammo Houghton (N.Y.)
Timothy J. Johnson (Ill.)
Sue Kelly (N.Y.)
Peter King (N.Y.)
Ray LaHood (Ill.)
Steven LaTourette (Ohio)
Jerry Lewis (Calif.)

Frank LoBiondo (N.J.)
John M. McGuire (N.Y.)
Tim Murphy (Pa.)
Jack Quinn (N.Y.)
Dennis Rehberg (M. ont.)
Joe Ridder (Iowa)
Mark Saxon (N.J.)
Bob Shimkus (Ill.)
Rob Simmons (Conn.)
Chris Smith (N.J.)
Jim Sweeney (N.Y.)
James Walsh (N.Y.)
Curt Weldon (Pa.)
Don Young (Alaska)
LEAP Web site has election info

The Boilermaker legislative office and your state's AFL-CIO CIO office can provide the obvious advantages of political action, most Boilermaker lodges do very little.

LEAP upgrades e-mail system

Take these steps to receive Boilermaker Action News

You Hold the Power

Moan Groat Grip bellyache curse
Condemn criticize fuss complain
Refuse whimper grumble object
Delay withdraw neglect protest
Tolerate whine suffer or vote

In the United States, there are more than 14 million union members — but more than eight million are not registered to vote.

Elections are decided by a few thousand — even a few hundred — votes. Unregistered union members could determine who wins in November 2004.

How you vote is your business, but we can make it easier for you to register. See your union steward or local business manager, log onto www.boilermakers.org and print a voter registration form, or call the Boilermakers at 703-560-1493.

Register. Get informed. You’re more powerful than you think.

Tax cuts for rich cost more than war

With $148 billion he could pay the budget for the Department of Homeland Security for the next four years. With $148 billion, he could pay for prescription drugs for retirees on Medicare for the next two years. With $148 billion, he could give every person in the United States $560. That’s a bit more than he gave most Americans in his tax cut. Tax cuts for the 159 million people in the bottom 60 percent by income totalled less than $50 billion — an average of $315.

But Bush doesn’t have his eyes on that $148 billion windfall he gave the rich. He’s planning to cut expenses. His Department of Defense has asked Congress to eliminate combat pay for soldiers still in Iraq. That will save the DOD about a half-billion dollars. After all, the war’s over. Isn’t it?

LEAP Web site has election info

Eight tips for a successful political action program

LOCAL LODGE 1 offers these tips to help build a successful political action program.

1. FORM A LEAP committee today and start recruiting members now. The Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP) provides an extensive Web site of legislative contacts, political news, voter registration forms, and election information — all at the click of the mouse.

Start at the Boilermakers home page, http://www.boilermakers.org/, then click on the “LEAP” tab, or your directly to the LEAP site by typing http://capaviz.com/boilermaker/home/ on your Web browser.

2. LEARN HOW the people who represent your community vote. The Boilermaker legislative office and your state’s AFL-CIO CIO office can provide the obvious advantages of political action, most Boilermaker lodges do very little.

3. INFORM YOUR members. They can’t learn about these issues anywhere else. Create flyers and mailings, electronic mail lists, and Web pages with the latest news flashes and headlines. To access election and legislative information, all you need is your ZIP code. Legislative and political information is divided into four categories: Elected Officials, Issues and Legislation, Elections and Candidates, and Media Guide. “Elected Officials” provides statistics and relevant voting records for your congressional representatives and senators.

4. RECRUIT YOUTH. You need their energy, and they need your experience. People who get involved young stay involved for a lifetime. Many young people are cynical about political involvement — until they learn how it works and see the results for themselves.

5. INFORM YOUR members. They can’t learn about these issues anywhere else. Create flyers and mailings, electronic mail lists, and Web pages with the latest news flashes and headlines. To access election and legislative information, all you need is your ZIP code. Legislative and political information is divided into four categories: Elected Officials, Issues and Legislation, Elections and Candidates, and Media Guide. “Elected Officials” provides statistics and relevant voting records for your congressional representatives and senators.

6. ASK FOR help — you will need it. Every city, county, and state has different guidelines for political action committees. Contact other Boilermaker locals in your state for advice. Contact the Boilermaker legislative office for help finding another local that can work with you. Two locals working together can get a lot of work done.

7. STAY IN TOUCH with your state’s AFL-CIO political department, and, for construction lodges, your state’s Building and Construction Trades Department. The LEAP manual lists each state’s contact in the AFL-CIO’s Committee on Political Education (COPE).

8. DON’T GIVE UP. While the thought of getting involved in politics may seem overwhelming, it is the reason the Boilermakers and other union members are as successful as we are today. Political action in the 1930s legalized unions. Action in the 1960s created Medicare. Trust the democratic process. Act within it. Don’t just complain. Get active.

WEB TECHNOLOGY takes the wind out of any excuse about not being politically informed. The Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP) provides an extensive Web site of legislative contacts, political news, voter registration forms, and election information — all at the click of the mouse.

Some people were shocked when Bush asked Congress for another $87 billion in military operations in Iraq. He said we defeated five months ago. But $87 billion isn’t all that much in Washington’s terms.

Our federal budget deficit this year will be only $480 billion — more than five times what Iraq will cost us. But both these numbers are small compared to the amount of tax revenue spent nothing to bail them out. As a national union supports or opposes legislation, “The word ‘committee,’ by definition, is more than one.” Accept all help, regardless of how small.

Register. Get informed. You’re more powerful than you think.
Harkin amendment protects overtime pay

THE SENATE VOTED 54 to 45 in September to block the Department of Labor from imposing new regulations that would gut overtime protections for millions of American workers.

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) led this fight, but it would not have been possible without votes from six Republican senators who broke ranks with their party’s leaders and defined the White House to vote in favor of protecting American workers who rely on overtime pay.

The proposed rules would have redefined which workers are eligible for overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). It would not have affected unionized workers whose collective bargaining agreements guarantee overtime, but would have weakened our ability to negotiate overtime pay in future contracts.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and other administration officials have stuck to their guns, saying the rule changes are necessary. They claim that 1.3 million low-wage workers would be granted overtime under the new rules, while only 20,000 would lose overtime rights.

These administration claims are disputed by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), which claims the new rules would jeopardize overtime for eight million workers.

The Senate blocked the rule changes by amending the annual Department of Labor spending bill. To become law, the House of Representatives must agree to the amendment. President Bush has vowed to veto the bill if it comes to his desk with the amendment.

These rule changes are not the first time the Bush administration has tried to take away overtime pay. The Family Time Flexibility Act would have allowed employers to give employees compensatory time off instead of paying them time-and-a-half for overtime. Republican leaders in the House of Representatives pulled this bill off the calendar when they realized they could not get enough votes to win.

Bush: No new tax cuts for workers

IN AUGUST, President Bush said he would NOT push for a new round of tax cuts as he heads into his re-election campaign this fall. The child tax credit ends in 2004; other tax cuts benefiting workers end in 2005. Bush’s statement makes it clear that he does not want to make these cuts permanent.

Workers with families had hoped he would ask Congress to make the child tax credit permanent. Advocates for low-income workers with families had hoped he would extend the child tax credit to cover families making below $26,625 a year. Families with incomes between $10,500 and $26,625 raise 12 million children. Extending the child tax credit to these families would cost about $3.5 billion, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

On September 5, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the country lost another 93,000 jobs in August, the seventh straight month payrolls have been reduced. The economy needs to gain about one million jobs a year in order to stay even with growth in the workforce.

Airline bill threatens airline jobs, safety

THE WHITE HOUSE strong-armed congressional leaders into making several key changes to a major aviation bill that threatens aviation safety and security by exposing U.S. airlines to unfair foreign competition.

By weakening 200-year-old protections that keep foreign competition out of transportation within the United States, the bill threatens the struggling airline industry, threatening jobs.

The bill would also privatize our air traffic control system and make anti-terrorism training for flight attendants voluntary. These provisions threaten both worker and passenger safety.

 Versions of this bill were passed by both houses of Congress earlier this year; a joint committee is preparing a compromise bill for the president’s signature.

Tax cuts take priority over troops in Iraq

U.S. TROOPS in Iraq must contend with sniper attacks, car bombs, homelessness, and 120-degree heat. In August, the Pentagon gave them another worry: pay cuts.

In August, the Pentagon asked Congress to cut $757 a month from soldiers’ “imminent danger” pay and another $150 a month from their “family separation allowance.”

The Bush administration says we can’t afford the $25 million a month this pay cuts would cost — about $300 million a year.

Soldiers’ wages aren’t the only area in which Bush hopes to cut expenses in the military budget. He has asked for only 9.2 billion for military construction in 2004, a full $1.5 billion lower than the amount budgeted in 2003. That’s a 14 percent reduction.

Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, tried to restore $1 billion cut. He proposed trimming recent tax cuts for the roughly 200,000 Americans who earn more than $1 million a year. Instead of a tax break of $883,100, they would receive $833,500.

The Republican majority on the committee shot him down. Tax cuts for the rich are more important to them than military construction.

Or our troops, for that matter.

Airline bill threatens airline jobs, safety
L-5 rallies for troop support

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 5, New York, joined 30,000 members of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York in a rally, April 10, showing support for troops engaged in the conflict in Iraq.

The rally, which was held on the streets of downtown Manhattan, adjacent to Ground Zero, attracted national media coverage and participants from every trade.

Members working on the 14th Street re-power project represented the Boilermakers union at the rally. They included shop steward George Lonergan, ABM Tom Klein, L-5’s Jim Durning, L-5’s Randy Graves, Jerry Moore, September and October.

L-37 Pres. Lopez will ‘ride’ out his retirement

MARCONS A. LOPEZ, a 34-year member of Local 37, New Orleans, retired as the local’s president, dispatcher, and assistant business manager on May 13. Lopez told Local 37 Bus. Mgr. M. David Hegeman that he believes there IS life after the Boilermakers and that he plans to spend his riding his new 2003 Harley Davidson Fat Boy.

Local 359 elects executive board

THIS WAS ELECTION year for officers of Boilermakers lodges in Canada, and members of Local Lodge 359, Vancouver, British Columbia, exercised their rights of membership by electing members of their executive board to a five-year term.

They re-elected Carl Ellsworth as their business manager and secretary-treasurer. The rest of the board are all first-term members: Trustee Collin Hall, Business Manager Jerold Bailey, Recording Secretary Russ Osborne, Vice President Phil Halley, Recording Secretary Bob McCormack, Mac Intosh, and Blawor.

L-453 adds welding center to hall, celebrates apprentice graduation

LOCAL 453, Knoxville, Tenn., has added a 30-foot by 40-foot welding center to their training facilities.

Over the summer, this year’s graduating class of fourth-year apprentices and instructors celebrated both the opening of their new welding center and their upcoming graduation. The apprentices pictured here completed their programs in September and October.

Front row, l. to r., Michael Ridenour, Ronald Jones, Randy Graves, Jerry Moore, Instructor Gary Newby, Bill Cox, Jimmy McKee, Steve Cofer, Marvin Moseley IV.

Second row, l. to r., Apprentice Instructor Bruce Behre, Thomas Wright, Thomas Latham, Becky Spears, Valerie Travis, Shirl Hackler, Greg Vannorstan, Jimmy Sutton, Instructor James Lindsey.

Third row, l. to r., Douglas Henderson, Michael Denton, Jonathan Rutherford, Terry Jordan, Danny Patterson, Jimmy Heath, Gerald Howard, Michael Haynes.

A Boilermaker Wedding

WHILE IN KEY WEST, Fla., for the Southeast and Central States Joint Collective Bargaining Conference, William J. (Bill) Almond, ass’t. to the Intl. Pres. and director of the National Transient Division, wed Carolyn S. (Carol) Dillen, ass’t. to the managing editor of the Boilermaker Reporter.

Bill has been a member of the NTL for 40 years and on staff for 20. Carol, an NTL and staff member since 1980, will continue to work for the Reporter from her new office in Alabama.

Local 40 donates cookies to troops

Servicemen grateful for support, touch of home

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 40, Elizabethtown, Ky., donated 100 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq. Girl Scout Troop 1274 attached a donor card to each box so recipients would know Local 40 made the donation, adding encouraging words on each card.

Stationed in Tent City, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, Master Sgt. Donald Overstreet received one of the boxes. From Kentucky himself, he wrote Local 40 to say, “In this environment, a touch of home is greatly appreciated.”

Overstreet helps maintain C-130 aircraft for the 123rd Air Guard Station of the Kentucky Air National Guard. Local 40 also received a copy of a letter the Fire Control Platoon of A 5/52 sent to Troop 1274.

“It’s nice to know that people back home support what we are doing here,” they wrote. “We don’t really know how good we have it in America until you see first hand how bad people can be treated by their leaders. It feels good knowing that we are helping to free the Iraqi people from this dictatorship.”

The Girl Scouts also thanked Local 40 members for supporting them while bringing “a piece of home to those who are defending our freedom.”

S60’s Deutsch celebrates 50 years at Peerless Premier

IN DECEMBER 2002, members of Local S60, Belleville, Ill., held a surprise celebration for co-worker Don “Enamel” Deutsch at the Peerless Premier Appliance Company.

Deutsch joined Local S60 the same year he started working for Peerless — 1952.

In his 50 years of employment, Deutsch has had a near-perfect attendance record and has worked almost every hour of overtime offered.

However, after his surprise party, he was persuaded to take the rest of the day off.

L-193’s Drummond uses CPR to save life

BILL DRUMMOND, a member of Local 193, Baltimore, used his CPR training to save a man’s life at an area shopping mall.

Walking for exercise, the man in front of Drummond collapsed. “He had no pulse,” said Drummond. Before help arrived, Drummond used CPR twice to start his heart. The 71-year-old survived.

The Carroll County Hospital and the Westminster Town Mall both honored Drummond for his life-saving efforts, presenting him with certificates of appreciation.

L-193’S BILL DRUMMOND shows the certificates of appreciation for his life-saving efforts.
Will California’s governor recall start a national trend?

California’s economic troubles mirror U.S. as a whole

THE POLITICAL CHAIN reaction that culminated in California’s October gubernatorial recall election is more than a source of jokes for Jay Leno — it may be a sign of what is in store for the rest of the country.

An article by Jackie Calmes and Cott Thurm in the Wall Street Journal points out striking parallels between California’s political crisis and what is happening at the national level.

California was in the black when Gray Davis took office in 1999, with a $7 billion budget cushion; experts predict an $8 billion budget gap by 2004.

When President Bush entered office in 2001, the nation boasted a $236 billion budget surplus. The budget surplus for 2004 is expected to be at least $480 billion.

These similarities could prove a bad omen for Bush, since Americans tend to associate a deficit with a failing political system. A July poll conducted by the Wall Street Journal and NBC found that 76 percent of Californians think the state is seriously off track, up from 54 percent a year ago.

Parallel Problems California’s economic troubles mirror those of the United States as a whole.

California U.S.
Unemployment rate 6.60% 6.20%
Percentage jobs lost (since February 2003) 1.95% 2.03%
Total in manufacturing 15.4% 14.2%
Economic growth (January-June 2003) 2.50% 2.50%
Personal income growth 2.25% 2.50%
Budget deficit as a percentage of GDP 2.61% 2.88%

Public perception is one thing — economic facts are another. When it comes to the kinds of numbers that illustrate an economy’s health, the similarities between what is happening in California and in the nation as a whole become painfully clear.

The jobless rate in California is 6.6 percent, compared to the U.S. rate of 6.2. California has lost 1.95 percent of its jobs since February 2001; the nation has lost 2.03 percent.

Trends in economic growth are equal at 2.5 percent, and the budget deficits in June (as a percentage of gross domestic product) are also similar: 2.61 percent for California and 2.88 percent for the entire nation.

Now that the Clinton-era surpluses are gone and deficits are growing, voters are beginning to see lawmakers’ inability to solve economic crises in both California and nationally.

As the economy continues to whimper, more money is spent in taxes and other states are finding it hard to raise taxes or go bankrupt. Americans may feel they can’t afford to wait until the next election to throw the governor out — or the president.

Companies keep workers in dark on pensions

WHEN U.S. AIRWAYS extinguished their pilots’ pension on March 31, the pilots were stunned. They had no idea their plan was so underfunded that keeping it going would drive the airline into liquidation, as the company now contended.

Some pilots believed the company was exaggerating its illness, but they couldn’t get their hands on the data to pursue this argument. Required government reporting forms offered little help.

Companies can lump all their pension plans together on the SEC 10K form, hiding how individual plans are doing. The information on the IRS 5500 form is out of date by the time it is available. In the end, a bankruptcy judge rejected the pilots’ complaint — largely because of their lack of evidence.

The plight of these pilots illustrates the inadequacy of laws protecting the pensions of workers. Because workers have little access to accurate information, companies can exaggerate minor problems in healthy pension plans to justify reductions in benefits. Or they can mask serious problems in a deteriorating plan, then kill the plan when the true picture is revealed.

The second scenario is what happened to the US Airways plan. While the stock market was booming, the pension fund looked strong. So the company made no contributions to the plan for three years because payments weren’t “required by law.” When the stock market collapsed, the plan needed an infusion of cash, but the sluggish economy and a marked dip in the number of passengers made that impossible.

Federal regulations do not require pension funds to maintain full funding to cover all future liability. Rather, they rely on companies to assume earnings from investments and future contributions. These may dip below 100 percent and still not trigger additional contributions.

Bull markets like the one we experienced in the late 1990s can create an unrealistic picture of possible future earnings. Plan administrators who base contributions on rosy projections can drain a fund quickly.

Local 29 holds retirement seminar

Representatives supply Boston-area members with answers to pension and annuity questions

SO MANY MEMBERS of Local 29, Boston, are nearing retirement that BMST Gerry Williams decided to sponsor a seminar to help answer their numerous questions.

He invited Mary Pierce, pension manager, and Vicki Brawner, health & welfare manager, of the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension plan to give a presentation to the members of how to best handle the many diverse questions on pension and annuities that will come their way upon retirement,” said Meade. “Both Vicki and Mary did an outstanding presentation. They brought with them the pension and annuity information for each member attending the seminar and were able to answer all the questions asked by the members and their wives.”

Williams wants to thank all who made this program possible and the members and their wives who attended for making it the success that it was.

Buy, Lie, and Sell High

Top Wall Street brokers won’t admit to deceiving investors, but agree to pay fines to make SEC go away

TEN OF THE nation’s largest investment firms have agreed to pay $1.4 billion in fines for a variety of illegal practices that misled the investors they were supposed to be advising.


Citigroup/Salomon Smith Barney drew the largest fine and agreed to publicly apologize. The apology on their Web site (http://www.citigroup.com), from CEO Charles O. Prince, reads more like an advertisement than an admission of guilt. None of the 10 firms admitted any wrongdoing.

Settlement payments range from $80 million to $400 million. The companies will pay $900 million in fines to New York state regulators and the SEC, $450 million for independent research, and $85 million for investor education.

The firms are being required to pay for independent research and investor education because they were accused of using their own research departments to lure new customers and mislead investors. Analysts at all 10 firms routinely hyped the stocks of companies they privately considered dogs. Rather than supply true insight into the value of a stock, analysts pitched information as a marketing tool to help their companies win the investment-banking business of grateful companies.

Many of the over-hyped companies had Internet connections. For example, Morgan Stanley analyst Mary Meeker, one of Wall Street’s hot-shots on Internet companies, hyped one called Chemdex. They were trying to become an Internet-based business-to-business distributor in the medical and chemical industries and needed someone to help them go public.

Meeker led underwrite their initial public offering (IPO), while their analyst, Meeker, wrote rave reviews of the stock. In less than a year, the stock price shot up from $15 to $243.50. Morgan Stanley made millions selling the stock before the public realized the company had nothing to offer. Even as the stock price fell 89 percent, their analysts continued to give it high ratings. It now trades below $1 per share.

The fines these companies paid come nowhere near compensating for the losses our nation has suffered as a result of the stock market bubble and its ultimate and inevitable collapse.

In a congressional hearing into the matter, SEC Chair William Donaldson said, “Although the monetary relief in the settlement is substantial [investors] can never fully be repaid.”

Union members on board of directors make a difference

BOILERMAKERS WHO participate in the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension are in a much different situation. Unlike the management plans, which are administered by company executives, the board of directors of the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension includes 11 representatives from the Boilermakers union.

As lifelong union leaders, they are dedicated to watching out for the best interests of their members. In addition, they rely on this pension for their own retirements, so they have a personal motivation to make sure the plan stays financially healthy.
Little League honors L-667 retiree Hudson

LOCAL 667 RETIREE Jim Hudson, Charleston, W.Va., has coached at the Midwestern Little League for more than 43 years. For 25 years, he has served on the league’s board and run the concession stand. He tries to attend as many sporting events as he can to support the players he has helped coach. During the off season, he sells tickets at the Capital High School football games and serves as an usher at the school’s basketball games. His life is so intertwined with the league that he even married his wife, Brenda, at home plate on opening day.

To recognize Hudson’s devotion, the Midwestern Little League has named its facility on Bigley Avenue, “The James L. Hudson Sr. Field.” Now Hud-

Local 667’s Cassidy celebrates 95 years

RUFUS ELTON CASSIDY, who joined the Boilermakers union in 1943, celebrated his 95th birthday at the Local 66 “Old Timers Picnic” in May 2003.

Born April 5, 1908 near Stamps, Ark., Cassidy worked on his father’s farm until 1937, when he went to work for the city of Hope, Ark., earning $80 per month.

In 1943, he began his Boilermaker career building a boiler for the local utility company, “hired at the gate” by a Boilermaker steward. He worked as a high-rigger until his 1975 retirement at age 67 and has been receiving a Boilermaker pension for 28 years, which he says arrives “like clockwork” at his bank each month.

Will we see a Medicare drug benefit in 2003?

IN HIS 2003 State of the Union speech, President Bush vowed he would add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare this year. Both houses of Congress obliged by passing prescription-drug bills, but with significant differences.

Right now, the bills are in the hands of a joint committee whose assignment is to come up with something both the House and the Senate can agree on. A majority of both houses will have to vote to approve the compromise bill before it goes to Bush for his signature.

President Bush wants to see something soon. A prescription drug bill for Medicare would be a boost for his 2004 campaign for the presidency. In July he told Congress, “My pen is ready.”

Whether the joint committee will ever come up with a compromise acceptable to both houses of Congress is questionable. The differences between the two versions are considerable, and both the Democrats and the Republicans have begun to draw lines in the sand on certain aspects of each.

These drug bills could spell end of Medicare as we know it

NEITHER THE HOUSE nor the Senate version is acceptable. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney says they represent an “unmitigated disaster” for seniors.

The problem with both bills is that they require seniors to choose between the traditional fee-for-service Medicare and a private insurance plan. It is not surprising that both bills were authored by Republicans. Insurance firms and drug companies have donated heavily to Republican candidates in recent elections, and these bills are a grab-bag of giveaways to these special interests.

The House bill even includes provisions for subsidizing private insurance companies that want to compete directly with Medicare after 2010. If that happens, private companies will take all of the healthiest seniors, leaving Medicare with the ones requiring the most expensive care, driving up premiums and undermining the program.

Is a compromise possible?

SENIORS DESERVE to have prescription drug coverage. The United States is the only industrialized country that does not provide this benefit. As the richest country in the world, the often-heard claim that we “can’t afford” to take care of our retirees rings hollow.

Most experts believe Congress will cut a deal, but the final bill will owe more to politics than to good health care policy.

Good health care policy does not include privatizing Medicare on any level. Numerous studies have shown that Medicare is more efficient and cheaper than private insurance. Passing a bill that privatizes Medicare in 10 years will destroy our most successful health care program.

Nice catch for L-60 retirees

AFTER WORKING over 35 years in the trenches, these three Local 60 retirees (Peoria, Ill.) felt they deserved a day of deep sea fishing in Islamorada, Fla. They feel they got a pretty good catch. Pictured, 1. to r., are Mick Nelsen, Jim Chavez, and Jack Keith.
New contract summaries

A brief listing of recent agreements signed and ratified by Boilermaker local lodges

L-5 – New York, NY
JERRY CONNOLLY, J., BM-ST of Local 5, New York, reports contract ratification, effective April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006, for 10 L-5 members who work at the Boiler Repair Mnt. Corp., and effective July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006, for 10 L-5 members who work for Empire Industrial Burner Services, Inc.

L-6 – Oakland, CA
MICHAEL GABRIELSKI, BM-ST for Local 6, Oakland, Calif., reports contract ratification, effective July 15, 2003 to July 15, 2006, for 20 L-6 members who work at the Southern California Gas Co., and effective July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005, for 13 L-6 members who work at the California Air Resources Board.

L-7 – Philadelphia, PA
Ralph ALBINO, BM-ST, reports contract ratification, effective July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005, for 20 L-7 members who work at Southern States, Inc.

L-8 – Toronto, ON
Michael A. R. O’CONNOR, BM-ST of Local 8, Toronto, reports contract ratification, effective May 1, 2002 to April 30, 2005, for 31 L-8 members who work at the Metropolitan Toronto Transit Commission.

L-9 – Atlanta, GA
Robert S. TUCKER, BM-ST of Local 9, Atlanta, Ga., reports contract ratification, effective May 1, 2002 to April 30, 2005, for 10 L-9 members who work at the Georgia-Pacific Corp.

L-10 – Chicago, IL
Evelyn B. MALONE, BM-ST of Local 10, Chicago, Ill., reports contract ratification, effective April 15, 2003 to April 15, 2006, for 25 L-10 members who work at the Chicago Transit Authority.

L-11 – Los Angeles, CA
TROY ROBBINS, BM-ST reports contract ratification, effective April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006, for 10 L-11 members who work at the Los Angeles County Parkway.

L-12 – St. Louis, MO
RICK MCDEVITT, BM-ST of Local 12, St. Louis, MO., reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2005, for 15 L-12 members who work at the St. Louis University Hospital.

L-13 – Philadelphia, PA

L-14 – St. Louis, MO
JOHN D. MADER, BM-ST reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2005, for 10 L-14 members who work at the St. Louis University Hospital.

L-15 – Cleveland, OH
DANIEL W. AIKERT, BM-ST reports contract ratification, effective Aug. 1, 2002 to July 31, 2005, for 15 L-15 members who work at the Cleveland Clinic.

L-16 – Portland, OR
TROY ROBBINS, BM-ST reports contract ratification, effective Apr. 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006, for 10 L-16 members who work at the Marquam Hill Inc.

L-17 – Philadelphia, PA
RICHARD L. BOEHMER, BM-ST, reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2005, for 15 L-17 members who work at the St. Joseph’s Hospital.

L-18 – Kansas City

S-20 – Baltimore, MD
DAVID S. NEAL, BM-ST, reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 5, 2002 to Dec. 4, 2005, for 10 S-20 members who make and repair low pressure vessels at the G. J. Johnson Boiler Co., and effective April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006, for 10 S-20 members who work in the boiler shop at Whippie-Slygs Boiler Repair.

L-31 – Oakboro, NC

S-50 – Baltimore, MD
L. R. RICKER, BM-ST, reports contract ratification, effective April 15, 2003 to April 15, 2006, for 31 S-50 members who work with the Baltimore Tin & stove Co.

L-124 – Buffalo, NY
GERALD J. WITZ, BM-ST reports contract ratification, effective March 15, 2003 to March 15, 2006, for 10 L-124 members who work at the Westside Yacht Co.

L-126 – Philadelphia, PA
J. PATRICK OSBORN, BM-ST reports contract ratification, effective May 1, 2002 to April 30, 2005, for 20 L-126 members who work at the Philadelphia Elec. Co.

A summary of these contract settlements

This analysis of the 34 agreements is based on information provided in the Contract Summary and Transmitted Report section of the agreement. The agreements include approximately 1,220 employers.

Wage Increases

TWENTY-EIGHT facilities received pay increases in 2002, averaging $0.56 per hour or 3.13 percent. Twenty-six facilities will receive pay increases in 2003, averaging $0.57 per hour or 3.26 percent. Twenty-three facilities will receive pay increases in 2004, averaging $0.55 per hour or 2.86 percent.

Pension

TWENTY-TWO facilities participate in some type of pension program. There are 17 facilities which contribute to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust. Fifteen facilities have a cents-per-hour contribution. In Canada, the pension contributions are paid to a local lodge fund. Their contributions range from $1.10 to $3.80 per hour for the first year. Average cents-per-hour contributions are $1.30 for the first year. In the United States, cents-per-hour contributions range from $0.25 to $3.00 per hour. The average is $2.12 per hour for the first year. Two facilities have a profit-sharing plan.

Vacation

TWENTY-TWO facilities provide the following:

- Twenty-two facilities provide paid vacation. Twenty-one provide seven weeks of paid vacation. Twenty-seven provide a two-week paid vacation. Twenty-seven provide a one-week paid vacation. Nineteen provide a three-week paid vacation. Eight facilities provide a five-week paid vacation. Three agreements provide a six-week paid vacation.

- Days off are paid at the regular rate for the duration of time off.

- Seven facilities provide paid leave for those persons who are military encampment each year.

You don’t get what you deserve . . .

You get what you negotiate

UNION LEADERS, like these pictured here, work long hours to negotiate the best benefits they can for Boilermaker members.
Union Plus offers savings and sweepstakes to Boilermakers

Win a new union-made car

UNION MEMBERSHIP entitles you to exclusive Union Plus benefits — benefits that work for union members in their homes, in their workplace, and now … in their driveway!

We’re happy to announce the Union Plus Win a Car Sweepstakes brought to you by the Union Plus Auto Buying Service.

Through the simple registration at www.unionpluscar.com, Boilermaker members can enter for their chance to win a choice of three union-made cars: a new Ford Mustang, a Ford F-150 XLT truck, or a Ford Freestar mini-van. Visit www.unionpluscar.com for details.

Other ways to drive away with savings

FROM SECURITY TO savings, Union Plus offers everything union members need when they are on the road. Take a look at some of these popular union-members-only programs.

Auto insurance

STAYSAFE — and savvy — with Union Plus’ low-rate insurance. Members can even compare plans today by receiving free quotes online from Insweb.

For more information, please visit www.unionplus.org/autoinsurance

Goodyear Discounts

USING THE UNION Plus Goodyear Discount, Boilermakers can help keep their cars in good shape and save money — while also supporting our fellow union members.

Many Goodyear tires are made by members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). Learn more and download coupons at www.unionplus.org/goodyear.cfm

Union Plus offers savings at the movies, theme parks, video store

BOILERMAKERS CAN NOW save on all types of entertainment — from going to the movies to theme parks to video and DVD rentals — through the new Union Plus Entertainment Discounts program. This program includes discounts on:

- Theme Parks — Save up to $15 per ticket at Adventure Island, Busch Gardens, Hershey Park, Paramount’s Great America, SeaWorld, Six Flags, Universal Studios, and more.
- Movie Rentals — Save up to 20 percent on video and DVD rentals at Hollywood Video and Blockbuster when you buy movie rental coupons in advance. The cost per rental is just $3.40.
- Movie Theaters — Up to 40 percent off regular ticket prices at AMC, Cinemark, City Cinemas, Clearview Cinemas, Crown, Harkins, Hoyts Cinemas, Lanmark, Loews, Mann, Marcus, Pacific, Regal Cinemas, and United Artists theaters (some restrictions may apply). A minimum of six to eight movie tickets must be purchased with each order (depending on the theater chain).
- Theater, museums, aquaria, theme parks, and sporting events like Major League Baseball in selected cities (New York, Boston, New Jersey, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and San Francisco).
- Discount ski lift tickets for New England ski resorts.

To enjoy the benefits of this program, members can purchase tickets and passes over the Internet or by phone.

- To purchases over the Internet, go to www.unionplus.org/entertainment and use ID number 74438769.
- To purchases by phone, call 800-565-3712, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (ET) and use ID number 77438769.

This program also allows members to earn “Advantage Points” on purchases that can be redeemed for free entertainment. Members are credited with 200 “Advantage Points” upon signing up and can earn one additional point for every dollar spent on purchases.

Visit www.unionplus.org/entertainment for additional information about the Union Plus Entertainment Discounts program.

A notice to employees subject to union security clauses

EMPLOYEES WORKING UNDER collective bargaining agreements containing union security clauses are required, as a condition of employment, to pay either monthly dues or fees to the union. This is their only obligation to the union, regardless of the wording of the clauses. Individuals who are members of the Boilermakers pay monthly dues. Individuals who are not members pay fees.

These dues and fees, which are authorized by law, represent your fair share of sustaining the broad range of programs offered by the Boilermakers in support of you and your fellow workers. The most important job right you can have is the right to collective bargaining. The working conditions of all bargaining unit employees are improved immeasurably when the union gains higher wages, better health care and pensions, fairness in the disciplinary system, overtime pay, vacations, and many other improvements in working conditions at the bargaining table.

Because they negotiate together through their union, employees who are represented by a union typically receive higher wages and better benefits than nonunion workers doing similar jobs in the same industry. Strength in numbers is what makes this possible. The stronger your union, the better your contract. We urge all employees to participate and become part of your labor organization.

An objectioning nonmember who is subject to a union security clause has a legal right to file objections to funding expenditures which are not germane to the collective bargaining process. For a nonmember who chooses to file such objections should advise the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in writing, in the form of a letter, signed by the objector, and sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, 753 State Ave., Suite 565, Kansas City, KS 66101. The letter must contain the objector’s home address and local lodge number, if known.

Upon receipt of the objection, the International President shall provide a description of the procedures to be followed. This objection must be filed every year during the month of November, or within the first 30 days in which the objector is required to pay dues or fees to the union, or within 30 days after the objection becomes a nonmember.

Examples of expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for the negotiation, enforcement, and administration of collective bargaining agreements, meetings with employer and union representatives, proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, arbitration proceedings, servicing the bargaining units that we represent, internal union administration, and matters related to these activities. Examples of expenditures not germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for political purposes, for general community service, for nonunion-related legislative activities, for nonworker-related legislative activities, for members-only benefits, and for certain affiliation costs.

In considering these matters, you should be aware that only members have the following rights:

- to vote on the terms of your collective bargaining agreement
- to participate in the development of contract proposals
- to nominate and vote for local union officers
- to attend the International Convention as a delegate
- to participate in strike votes
- to numerous other benefits available only to members, such as those described above and at right.

It is clearly to your advantage to continue to be a full, active member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Only through unity and solidarity can we better our working conditions and reap benefits for ourselves and our families.

Members Only

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

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

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

**EDUCATION SERVICES**
For college and job skills training, Education tools and resources.
Call: 1-877-881-1022

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

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

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

**ACCIDENT INSURANCE**
Call: 1-800-899-2782

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

**CAR RENTAL DISCOUNTS**
Call and give the ID number:
Avis: 1-800-698-5685
AWD: #672700
Budget: 1-800-455-2848
BCD: #86100

**UNION-MADE CHECKS**
Call: 1-888-864-6625

**FLOWER SERVICE**
Call: 1-888-667-7779

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

Go to our web site for more information:
www.unionplus.org

**Boilermakers Union Privilege Benefits**

Includes retired members. Program restrictions apply to members outside the continental United States. Phone 1-800-452-9452 for clarification of eligibility. Not all programs are available in all states.
Sloan sends congratulations for successful affiliation

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO IVP Joe Stinger, IR Steve Eames, and anyone else who was involved in the affiliation vote of the Shipyard Workers Union (San Diego). You have delivered a valuable and necessary segment of the shipyard industry to this International union.

The irony is that I have been unable to be there to help. My sincere congratulations for a job well done.

Jack Sloan
Retired IVP Western States

Local 374’s Lynn remembers foreman, crew from 1989 job

THE STORY OF Joe Giles, Local 69, getting his 50-year pin brought back memories of when I worked for him in 1989 at Potoau, Okla. He had one of the best rigging gangs I ever was a part of as a boomer.

We hung the top half of four units with a two-inch slings and Highland eight-part lines and riding the loads up to pin them off then riding headache balls on 4100 Manitowocs. I was the one Joe called “the smart-slick Yankee.”

And, yes, I’m guilty. I threw a lot of that water at Joe. I hope Joe and every member of his crew is doing well.

Danny Lynn, Local 374
Hammond, Ind.

Local 242’s Dan Cooksey is grateful for union support

I WISH TO acknowledge and thank all of my coworkers both inside and outside of Local 242 [Sparton, Wash.], ApComm, and Energy Northwest. Your thoughts, prayers, support, and collection following the unexpected death of my wife, Lisa, did more for me than you know. It is reassuring to know that in a time of need, the Brotherhood is there.

Dan Cooksey, L-242
Lewiston, Idaho

Local 112’s Wilson wants to send claims by fax, e-mail

WHY DOESN’T THE Health & Welfare Funds office accept insurance claims electronically or by fax? This would free up letter-openers and data entry to process claims, reducing operating expenses.

Acy Wilson, L-112
Clinton, Miss.

Local D465’s Hill reminds us of the importance of unions

AN ARTICLE BY the Oklahoma AFL-CIO on factory workers being kept virtually as slaves was posted on our bulletin board, reminding us all of the importance of unions today and every day. Someone scribbled a note on the article that this was a job for law enforcement, not the union.

But most protection laws arose from a long history of abuses, and unions, with its roots in worker protection, brought these injustices to light so that multitude of God-given abilities and efforts that made America number one in the world.

Every year, American labor shows more comprehension, skill, and adaptive power. Looking over the cessation of corporate America today, one can only cringe at the greed that dominates the landscape. The corruption of a number of executives has cast a cloud over the entire community.

They have bankrupted companies, stifled shareholders, and walked away with millions stuffed in their pockets. It is an embarrassment for people who try to make an honest living.

I look forward to Labor Day each year with enthusiasm, motivation, and a drive for the future. And to my fellow American workers, I say, “Hold your heads up high!”


Local 37 boomer wants a better way to get on ‘B’ list

WE NEED A PLAN for boomers to get on a “B” list without having to travel all over to sign a book. Who can afford this system?

The 800-MOST line does help, but it is not fail-proof, and most of the jobs are for tube welders. I started in the trade as a tanker with the NTU and never got the chance to receive that type of training. I also live far from my hall so it is not possible to get my training at my own hall.

Would our brother representatives please address this issue so we can all work and prosper at our trade?

Donald W. Brown, Local 37
Iron Mountain, Mich.

L-73’s Yvette is grateful for work out of other locals

IN RECENT YEARS, the work picture in eastern Canada has not been the best, but thanks to locals across Canada and the eastern United States, we continue to work and feed our kin. It’s good interaction with members.

Maybe someday, we can repay you.

Robert Myette Jr., L-73
Halifax, Nova Scotia

B&W foreman praises L-374

AS GENERAL FOREMAN on the SCP project for Babcock & Wilcox at IKE/AEP in Madison, Ind., I would like to thank all the Boilermakers who worked the day and night shifts — Local 374 members and boomers. It was a job well done!

We started August 20, 2001 and finished July 13, 2003. We began with a beef-up of the precipitator and hoppers, then the demolition of the old gas recirculating ducts and fans. Unloading of material began in March 2002, and the first duct went up in April 2002. All five units were completed on time and under budget. There were no major accidents, and only a few minor ones.

The job posted 281,000 man-hours for the Boilermakers and they can be proud of the job they performed.

Mark D. Snedeker, general foreman Babcock & Wilcox

L-27’s Casson wants to hear from Boilermaker Shriners

I RECENTLY PRESENTED a Fez to a new Shriner, Chris Roper, an apprentice from Local 363, in East St. Louis, Ill., and would like to hear from other craftsmen who belong to the Shrine/Masons at Annual2003@AOL.com

David Casson Jr., L-27
St. Louis, Mo.

L-359 thanks U.S. lodges

LOCAL 359, Vancouver, B.C., would like to acknowledge all U.S. construction lodges for finding work for our members at their job sites.

We appreciate the opportunity and experience that we enjoyed while working through your lodges and hope to have similar opportunities in the future.

Phil Hailey
L-359 Vice Pres.

Got something to say?

WE WELCOME LETTERS of fewer than 150 words on topics of interest to our members and their families. We do not publish personal attacks on members or unsigned letters.

Send a letter to the editor: The Boilermaker Reporter 753 State Ave. Suite 570 Kansas City KS 66101 FAX: (913) 281-8104 E-mail: dcalmon@boilermakers.org calmon@boilermakers.org
**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.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGL&amp; NAME</th>
<th>Lodge &amp; Name</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NTL Bailey, Thomas D.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>104 Elder, Norman H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Berard, John R.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>92 Scott, Clifford Joe</td>
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<td>NTL Dale, Robert</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>92 Quintanar, Hector A.</td>
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<td>NTL Duncie, Lawrence E.</td>
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<td>92 Kelley, Lloyd</td>
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<td>NTL Widenman, David L.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>88 Brahm, Sanford W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Keffer, Thomas J.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>85 Ryan, Michael</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Snyder Jr., Harold C.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>72 Weitzel, Michael L.</td>
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<td>4 Lanes, Kee T.</td>
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<td>72 Aust, Richard</td>
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<td>7 Cope, A. C. Francis</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>60 Wood, Floyd C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Hope, Emilie J.</td>
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<td>37 Mayer, Benedict J.</td>
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<td>10 Harris, Howell L.</td>
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<td>29 Spence, William</td>
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<td>M10 Wilson, E.</td>
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<td>26 Loper, Edward M.</td>
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<td>13 Krouse, Robert L.</td>
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<td>13 Siebert, Joseph G.</td>
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<td>13 Nolan, Patrick J.</td>
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<td>6 Smith, Ray E.</td>
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<td>27 Chiles, Charles E.</td>
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<td>30 Lowe, Willie Lee</td>
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<td>6 Hope, Emilie J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Pennington, Robert H.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>28 Burr, Leslie A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>312 Montgomery, Byrd W.</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>26 Loper, Edward M.</td>
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**OBITUARIES**

**LLOYD RUSSELL**


**MCDONALD Rogers J., 90**

McDonald (Don) Rogers, 90, passed away August 22. He served as president of Local Lodge 132, Galveston, Texas, from 1967 until his retirement in 1975. A native of Davilla, Texas, Rogers resided in Galveston for the past 80 years. He joined Boilermakers Local Lodge 132 on August 22, 1941, and worked in the trade for 35 years. During that time he served as lodge dispatcher, then assistant business manager, and finally, lodge president. He also served in World War II in the U.S. Army Calvary Division.

He and friend fellow Boilermaker Gerald Packard said Rogers was never too busy to help another Boilermaker—whether an apprentice, a journeyman, or an officer, or a retiree. “Anybody who needed help, he would help them,” Packard said. “He was intelligent and graceful, and he treated everyone with dignity and respect. Many members wouldn’t have made it without his help.” Survivors include a son, Central States IVP George Rogers, a daughter, Dot J. Jackson, two sisters, three grandchildren, and a great granddaughter.
We must stand and work together

FIRST, LET ME SAY what an honor and a privilege it is to have been elected by our International Executive Council to succeed International President Charles W. Jones as your International president.

The president’s job, and the inherent responsibility of this office, more than any other, requires that I devote my life to the service of our members and to the cause of our union.

I pledge to you that my life is devoted to our cause, and to my responsibilities as your president, just as my life is also devoted to the needs and to the bonds of my wife and my children.

At our last convention, your International officers pledged to you that we would work together in the best interests of our union and our members.

We have worked hard to fulfill that pledge. For the most part, I believe we have done just that.

But we are human. Sometimes, the pressures and responsibilities and differences we deal with every day get the better of us. Like it or not, we must sometimes deal with the political underpinnings of our relationships as your officers, and that is not always easy.

Politics, by its nature, can set us either in pursuit of the same agenda or at odds with our best friends. And as much as we might each feel that we are right and the other is wrong, we all agree on one thing: Our International Brotherhood’s constitution is law and its governance is absolute.

We might, at times, differ on its interpretation, but when our convention is in session and our duly-elected local lodge delegates vote on a constitutional issue, there is no other possible interpretation. Between conventions, there is no other interpretation except by decision of the International president or, ultimately, the International Executive Council.

Your International Executive Council has made a decision to elect and support me as your International president and to move forward in the best interests of our union and its members.

Their decision was not unanimous.

Decisions of a political nature rarely are. But I believe I have the sincere support and good will of all International officers going forward. And I intend to earn your support in my tenure as your International president.

Our recent round of International Executive Council meetings were, by most accounts, some of our best meetings in recent memory. They are just a beginning, but an important one.

I pledge to my fellow officers to respect and work with each of them to do the business of our union. They have made the same commitment. I believe, going forward, we will each do just that in the best interests of our union and its members.

Our union has endured over 120 years of adversity and challenge, from those who would destroy us to those who would mount our trophy head upon their arch wall.

Let me assure you that, if we stand and work together, we will not become some other organization’s trophy, nor will we be destroyed.

Our resilience as a union is what insures our survival in a difficult world. Our strength is drawn from our ability to disagree internally on any given issue, but then to agree to support the will of the majority, even if we continue to disagree. This, truly, is the key to our union’s great history and to our future.

I pledge to you that my life is devoted to our cause.

We cannot change the past. We can only move forward. But we can move forward in a way that makes our local officers, our staff, and our members proud and that sets the pace for each to follow. We can lead. Our International officers agree, to a man, that we must move forward, that we must strive to improve our performance at every turn, and that we must continually do our best and then strive to do better.

All International officers are dedicated to this union and to our responsibilities as International officers. We each love and respect our union. We each want to do the job you elected us to do. And we’re going to work together for our union and for you.

I am pleased to report that we, your International Executive Council, have unanimously elected former International President Charles W. Jones as our International president emeritus, in honor of his distinguished service of over 60 years, 20 of which were served as our International president.

He intends to, among other support activities, help organize new members and new collective bargaining units for our union. What a great example for each of us to follow.

We have much to do. We’re going to do it together. I know your International officers would want me to ask only that you give us your support, your help and your trust. That is what gives us the strength and the ability to do the jobs you expect of us.

And just as we need this from you, so does the candidate our union has endorsed for president of the United States of America. Congressman Gephardt needs our union’s support. He needs each Boilermaker member’s support and the support of each Boilermaker family.

I ask you, now, to give your support to Congressman Gephardt, just as you give your help and support to your union. He is a man of honor and courage. We need him as our nation’s leader. But he can’t get there without our help. So, please, find a way to help. Contribute in any way you can to support his campaign.

Your International officers and I thank each of you for choosing to belong to our great union and for doing all you can to make us stronger.

Executive Council elects Charles W. Jones
International president emeritus

AT THEIR SEPTEMBER meeting, the International Executive Council unanimously elected Charles W. Jones International president emeritus, honoring his lifetime of service to the members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forges, and Helpers.

Jones was sworn in with a brief ceremony conducted in the meeting room of the Executive Council.

Upon receiving the honor, IP Emeritus Jones announced that he would use his emeritus status to begin organizing new bargaining units.

His announcement came as no surprise to the Executive Council and those who know him well. Throughout his career, Jones has emphasized the importance of organizing the unorganized and building the union.