Narrow-groove welding agreement ups man-hours

ON DEC. 17, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones signed a pre-hire agreement with PCI Energy Services LLC. Designated the Boilermakers National Specialty Agreement (NSA), this contract covers specialty work performed in the United States. PCI signed a similar agreement with the United Association (UA).

"This is a good agreement which guarantees not only negotiated wages and benefits, but also a substantial increase in man-hours for our..."

See PCI ENERGY, page 2

Boilermakers sign with PCI Energy

Senator Democratic Leader Tom Daschle rallies delegates before they go to Capitol Hill, saying, “Real recovery means jobs, good jobs, manufacturing jobs.”

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle rallies delegates before they go to Capitol Hill, saying, “Real recovery means jobs, good jobs, manufacturing jobs.”

Boilermakers IP Newton B. Jones (c.) joins hands with UA General President Martin Maddaloni (l.) and PCI President Jim Noyes after signing new agreements.

Local 502 supports walk for cancer cure

Cancer survivors, families walk 24 hours in Alaska ‘Relay for Life’ fundraiser

AT MIDNIGHT on May 17, a single bagpiper led a procession around the dusky lanes of the Colony High School track near Palmer, Alaska. The only lights glowed from 500 decorated luminaries lining the track’s course. Each luminary represented the soul of a loved one, lost to cancer.

In 1995, cancer became real for Jim McPherson, a 30-year, second-generation member of the Alaska branch of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash. His mother, Pearl LaVerne McPherson — wife of retired member James B. McPherson — died of colon cancer. Nine years before, Jim’s wife, Janell, faced the loss of her father, Wyley Bennett, to lung cancer. In 2000, Janell would learn that two of her sisters and her mother, Elsie Mayr, were diagnosed with breast cancer. The three women have beaten the cancer so far.

But with heartache also came a gratitude for life. With Jim’s support, Janell decided to organize a team to participate in the American Cancer Society’s (ACS) international community fundraising effort, Relay for Life. With the help of local branches of the ACS, Cancer survivors make the first lap to kick off the Matanuska Valley Relay for Life, May 16.

See LOCAL 502, page 16
Local 104 signs pre-hire contract with Lincoln Industrial’s new marine division

Ship repair Boilermakers get boost from Puget Sound facility

WITH THE HELP OF INTL REP. DAVID BUNCH, SEATTLE LOCAL 104’S NOEL BULLOCK AND DICK WOLF NAGGED DOWN A CONTRACT WITH LINCOLN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION’S NEW MARINE DIVISION LAST YEAR THAT PUTS LOCAL 104 MEMBERS BACK IN A UNION SHOP.

The small, family-run company is located in Port Angeles, Wash., at the mouth of Puget Sound, a prime location for picking up repair work. Some Local 104 members had been working for Lincoln on various jobs, but without a contract.

Wolf has worked as a crew superintendent with Lincoln on many jobs over the years. When the company decided to open the marine division, Wolf said, they knew right away they wanted a contract with Local 104.

“More work is coming into our port from tanker companies and with government contracts with the Coast Guard and Navy,” says Will Possenger, president of Lincoln Industrial. “The qualified Boilermakers in Port Angeles didn’t want to work for a nonunion marine trade group, so we decided to get a contract with the Boilermakers.”

Lincoln sends crews to where the work is, small or large jobs. Members do both repair work and modifications to the boats, such as hydraulic and boom changes and moving parts from one space to another. The members also work replacing pipes and deck and doing bulk head repair. Recently they completed a repair job for the U.S. Coast Guard in Astoria, Ore.

Bunch, a Boilermaker general organizer, said Bullock and Wolf were instrumental in the negotiations. They did the leg work, gathering practical knowledge about the company and keeping the ball rolling among the men.

“Organizing is about establishing a relationship and getting information about the company: who they are, what they want,” he says. “These guys had the willingness to gather information and work with the owner. If they don’t portray the Boilermakers in a positive light, then I am not going to get very far.”

The ship repair business is intermittent, Bunch says. Once the boat is fixed, your job sails away with it. Winning contracts like these ensures at least some stability for the members. Bullock, Wolf, and Bunch continue their organizing efforts with Washington Marine.

“We were there to get a decent contract and get the boats, and subordinates really need so they don’t start losing their pensions,” Bunch said.


Union Industries show offers ‘America at its best’


PHASE II AND III TRIALS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN OVER THE NEXT YEAR. IN PHASE II, RESEARCHERS WILL TEST VEGLIN’S EFFECTIVENESS IN SHRINKING THE TUMORS OF PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED CANCERS. TO PLACE YOUR NAME ON A LIST FOR THIS AND OTHER TRIALS, E-MAIL GERRY GOROSPE, RESEARCH NURSE FOR THE CLINICAL TRIALS, AT gory@msu.edu, OR CALL 523-465-302.

THIS RESEARCH IS BEING FUNDED, IN PART, BY THE MESOTHERAPIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA. TO SPEAK TO DR. GILL ABOUT THE TRIALS, OR TO MAKE A DONATION TO MESOTHERAPIA RESEARCH, CONTACT ELIZABETH PAUL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MESOTHERAPIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, AT 800-909-MESO OR VISIT THE WEB SITE AT www.mesorfa.org.

Volunteers needed for trials of promising anti-cancer drug

RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ARE COMPLETING PHASE I TRIALS OF A NEW ANTI-CANCER DRUG, VEGLIN, IN PATIENTS WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF CANCER. IF THE DRUG TESTS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE, IT COULD BE A SAVIOR FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM A RARE CANCER, MESOTHELIOMA.

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lining of the lung caused by exposure to asbestos. Only about 4,000 people contract the cancer every year; most are workers in the construction trades, including Boilermakers.

Because mesothelioma is such a rare disease, any union member, family, or friend with mesothelioma who is interested in participating in clinical trials should contact the research center.

“Mesothelioma is a very good disease on which to test this drug,” said Dr. Parkash Gill, professor of medicine and pathology at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. “I expect it to have a direct effect on both tumor growth and production of fluid.”

Phases II and III trials are expected to begin over the next year. In Phase II, researchers will test Veglin’s effectiveness in shrinking the tumors of patients with advanced cancers.

To place your name on a list for this and other trials, e-mail Gerry Gorospe, research nurse for the clinical trials, at gory@msu.edu, or call 523-465-302.

This research is being funded, in part, by the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. To speak to Dr. Gill about the trials, or to make a donation to mesothelioma research, contact Elizabeth Paul, executive director of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America, at 800-909-MESO or visit the Web site at www.mesorfa.org.

PCI Energy

Continued from page 1

construction members,” he said. PCI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westinghouse, performs specialty welding, primarily in the nuclear industry. In 2003 they worked 800,000 man-hours — all nonunion. They project more than one million man-hours in 2004.

The majority of the work will utilize PCI’s proprietary narrow-groove welding process. PCI will employ composite crews — Boilermaker and UA — and application of the agreement must be approved on a site-by-site basis.

“The Boilermakers look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with PCI and with the United Association,” Jones said. “Both United Association General President Madaloni and I are committed to ensuring that these agreements, and all work performed under them, are successful.”

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Local 169 restores Rouge Steel blast furnace

Michigan steelmaker up and running again after fire and explosion

AFTER A JUNE 21 EXPLOSION and fire at Rouge Steel’s “C” blast furnace in Dearborn, Mich., Local 169 Boilermakers found themselves geared up for a big job.

A water leak in the blast furnace led to the explosion, blowing the tip of the dust catcher off the top of the blast furnace, and moving the attached downcomer pipe 12 feet off center. No one was injured but Rouge saw a major loss in production and income, as well as employment for workers.

Workers used ingenuity and creative welding to join newly-fabricated sections to the existing fixtures. Rouge returned to its rated operating capacity on July 22, making its average 8,000 tons of steel per day at the plant.

“These members feel especially proud of this project, knowing their work will benefit so many sick children,” said Intl. Rep. Al Watts.

Erecting the tower are NTL members Gary Day, Albert Dietrich, foreman Michael Dietrich, Curtis Springman, and Tim Vaughn.

Kyle Petty, CEO of Petty Enterprises, and his wife, Pattie Huffman Petty, are building the Victory Junction Gang Camp in honor of their son, Adam Petty. Adam, 19, the first fourth-generation NASCAR driver in Winston Cup history, was killed May 12, 2000, during practice at the New Hampshire International Speedway.

The camp will be located in Level Cross, N.C., on property donated by Adam’s grandparents, Richard and Lynda Petty. It is the seventh in the network of Hole in the Wall Gang Camps founded by Paul Newman, joining camps in Connecticut, Florida, New York, California, Ireland, and France.

Kyle first visited the Florida camp, Camp Boggy Creek, in 1997, and returned with his wife on a charity motorcycle ride in 1998. Upon seeing the camp, Pattie said, “We need to bring this kind of miracle to the children back home.”

The vision crystallized following Adam’s death, when his brother Austin chose to spend his summer as a lifeguard and counselor at Camp Boggy Creek. The entire Petty family became regular visitors to the camp on trips to visit Austin, and strengthened their commitment to build a camp in North Carolina.

The Boilermakers in particular were under the gun, and they really saved us with their dedication to getting the job done. But everybody cooperated and came through for us.”

The “C” blast furnace was built in the 1940s at the Ford Rouge Plant, which was once the largest industrial complex in the world. Rouge Steel is independent of the Ford Motor Co. and is the nation’s sixth largest integrated steel manufacturer.

Building trades workers have enjoyed good employment from the Rouge plant for more than 80 years,” said iron worker Andy Payne, vice president of construction for Metro Industrial Contracting, the prime contractor on this project that has a long history with Rouge Steel. “Now we were able to help Rouge Steel, a good customer, in their time of need. I think the union trades did something that no one else would have been able to do. I’m proud as hell of these people.”

Adapted from a story by Marty Mulcahy, published in Building Tradesmen Photos also by Mulcahy.

NTL members build tank for special-needs camp

These NTL members are working at the Victory Junction Gang Camp, a retreat for seriously ill children.

Family of NASCAR driver Adam Petty funds camp for children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses

WORKING FOR CALDWELL TANK, members of the National Transient Lodge (NTL) are building a 150,000-gallon water tower for the Victory Junction Gang Camp, a retreat for seriously ill children scheduled to open in the summer of 2004.

“These members feel especially proud of this project, knowing their work will benefit so many sick children,” said Intl. Rep. Al Watts.

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A needs assessment, completed by the Center for Research on Chronic Illnesses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Nursing, identified more than 235,000 children in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia who might benefit from a medical camp.

The Victory Junction Gang Camp will serve children in these three states with a full summer camping program as well as family retreat weekends throughout the year. It is scheduled to open this summer.
IUC Conference
Continued from page 1

working balance among the claims of stockholders, employees, customers, and the public at large.

“...But something went wrong. Today, Americans are working harder than ever before — more hours per year than workers in any other industrialized nation on earth. American workers are living up to their responsibility.

“You’re playing by the rules and you’re trying to build up our country,” Daschle said. “But some corporations don’t think the rules apply to them.”

He told about an accountant who advised some clients about the advantages of off-shore tax havens. The accountant mentioned the downside of these off-shore accounts is they threaten United States patriotism.

“But without taking a breath, he finished, ‘Profits need to come before patriotism.’”

Daschle blamed this attitude on the president.

“Big businesses are walking jobs out of the country, and the White House has decided to hold open the door,” he said. “[The White House has been working on behalf of these companies. They’ve been setting policy to benefit the companies that...move] jobs and tax dollars overseas. Three times, Democrats have tried to close the offshore tax haven loophole. Three times, the president and House Republicans said no.”

Daschle’s formula for rebuilding the economy so that it provides opportunity for workers includes protecting the jobs we have, retraining workers who lose jobs in plant closings, extending unemployment benefits, making the minimum wage a living wage, and undoing Bush’s Medicare bill, which opens the door for the privatization and eventual destruction of Medicare.

“[Medicare] has been a basic right of workers for 65 years, and we’re not going to rest until it’s restored.”

Manufacturing jobs matter
A RECURRING THEME during the conference was that manufacturing jobs are important for the future of our country. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi explained that each manufacturing job creates at least four other jobs. “We cannot ensure a strong military and protect the American homeland without a strong industrial and manufacturing base,” she said. “Manufacturing matters to the financial security of millions of families because union wages can make the difference between living in poverty and living the American Dream.”

She told the story of an autoworker in Michigan who lost his job in 2001 and has been unable to find anything that will let him support his family.

“For more than two years, Marc looked for work. He and his wife had a baby on the way. Then his unemployment insurance ran out. He sent out dozens of resumes. For a while, he delivered pizza. The mortgages, medical bills, they all piled up. Now he and his wife are $170,000 in debt. They filed for bankruptcy, and the bank is foreclosing on their home. Last month, Marc finally found a job — with a competitor of his old company. It’s not a union job yet, but Marc and his co-workers are in negotiations.”

And yet, despite his hardships, Marc hasn’t given up on America’s promise. “This country was built on hard work,” he told Pelosi. “I know it’s cheaper to make [things] someplace else. But I deserve my chance [at] the American Dream. Someone has to stand up and do something for our country.”

She went on to explain how President Bush is destroying the American Dream for Marc and millions of other workers.

“With his dangerous economic plan and distorted budget priorities,” she said, “President Bush is undermining the values that define our country — he is limiting opportunity, he is evading responsibility, and he is destroying community.”

The economy — then and now
BILL LUCY, PRESIDENT of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, contrasted the U.S. economy under Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush.

“For eight years, we enjoyed the longest economic expansion in 60 years. Family income was up. Net spendable income was up. Home ownership was at an all-time high. Twenty-two million new jobs were created. Unemployment was 3.7 percent — the lowest in 50 years. Crime declined for five consecutive years. Bankruptcies — business and personal — were declining. Poverty was decreasing...
“More sons and daughters of working people were going to colleges and universities than ever before. The national budget was balanced for the first time in decades, we had a $236 billion surplus, and we were paying down the national debt.”

Lucy then compared the United States of three years ago to today.

“Now, income is stagnant or declining. Unemployment is 5.9 percent, and in double digits for people of color. Bankruptcies are at record levels — personal and small business. Foreclosures are escalating. Crime is on the rise. Poverty is on the increase — 1.7 million in three years, many from middle class. College tuition is escalating beyond the reach of many. Two-and-a-half million manufacturing jobs are gone. Eight hundred and fifty thousand federal jobs are being downsized and privatized, [yet we have] a federal budget deficit of $500 billion [and a] $500 billion trade deficit.”

Lucy rejected the commonly heard opinion that Bush’s war on terror is causing all this job loss, pointing out that between Bush’s inauguration and Sept. 11, 2001, the country lost 900,000 jobs; since the “war on terror” began, the rate of job loss has actually slowed.

“[Our situation is not an accident of economic planning and policy, but rather a direct result of decisions to de-industrialize this nation, to force our workers to compete with Pakistan and Czechoslovakia and the maquiladoras of Mexico,” Lucy said. “They are continuing to use NAFTA, while moving forward with CAFTA and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) to continue this race to the bottom.”

When manufacturing jobs disappear, workers must work for lower wages in the service sector, Lucy said. All of the recent job gains President Bush is crowing about have been in service industry, most of them in fast-food restaurants.

“[W]e will not remain the strongest nation on the face of the earth with the highest standard of living by frying chicken and hamburgers and selling them to each other,” he said.

He warned that we must not let our fear of terrorists distract us from the damage our own politicians are doing to this country through “the continued malapportionment of our national resources and opportunities.”

‘Blind loyalty’ begins to crack

TRUMKA ENDED the conference by pointing out that many business owners are beginning to support our position on trade.

“[Manufacturing] is the productivity leader in the economy,” Trumka said. “It accounts for two-thirds of all research and development investment and is a primary source of innovation. It is the leading purchaser of new technology, financial, and technical services, and it has been a ladder to the middle class for tens of millions of American families. And Bush and his buddies say [it] doesn’t matter.”

“Blind loyalty to free trade [is] beginning to crack. Splits [are] growing in the business community between multinational corporations and smaller domestic manufacturers,” he said. “We found conservative Republican allies, under siege from local manufacturers, joining with Democrats.

But he warned that the “Bush administration’s assault on workers has been relentless . . . eliminating the 40-hour work week . . . eliminating overtime pay for eight million workers and health care.”

And he showed a videotape illustrating how riot police attacked some of the 20,000 trade unionists, seniors, environmentalists, and community organizers who were demonstrating at the FTAA meetings in Miami in November.

“We saw the heavy hand of homeland security come face-to-face with our freedom of speech, our freedom of assembly,” he said. “This administration has spent $8 billion in the Iraq budget for security at the FTAA ministerial. They used our money to try and crush our civil liberties.”

Still, the demonstrations were successful, as FTAA negotiations ended early with no agreement. Now it is up to workers to stop CAFTA — the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

“CAFTA is coming soon. It must be stopped dead in its tracks as well as any other agreements such as FTAA, Thailand, and others that refuse to include meaningful protections for workers rights,” Trumka said.

Referring to industrialized nations like Denmark, Germany, and Japan that support their manufacturing base in order to preserve good-paying jobs for their citizens, Trumka said, “This nation is not committed to manufacturing in the same way our competitors are. Corporate interests that place the ‘free market’ and their interests above employment and national security concerns dominate the government.”

Trumka outlined the multi-level approach the IUC is taking to protect manufacturing jobs in the United States. Key to their plan is the upcoming presidential election, which will be decided in several battleground states that have lost hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs — Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Florida, and Washington.

But politics is not the entire strategy.

“The Industrial Union Council . . . will continue to pursue an aggressive strategy on trade inside and outside of Congress, including seeking alliances with like-minded businesses,” he said.

In the end, the only way to ensure that good-paying manufacturing jobs stay in the U.S. is to make America understand how much they are needed.

For more information on the IUC and manufacturing in America, visit www.aflcio.org/manufacturing/
Local 502 crew excels in Alaska

This L-502 crew demonstrated the Boilermaker Advantage to Crowley Maritime by completing a quality job ahead of schedule and accident free. L. to r., foreman Roy Vorhoff, Ernie Vorhoff, Ken “Corner Weld” Little, Jay Brassfield, Craig Stewart, Dan Evans, John Erickson, Dan Fountain, and Dan King.

Members build tanks under budget, ahead of schedule, accident free

THE CROWLEY MARITIME Corp. knows all about the advantage of hiring Boilermaker contractors. They learned first-hand when they hired the Morse Construction Group to build their tanks, and members of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash., showed up at the job site. In just six weeks, this Boilermaker crew built six bulk-fuel tanks, keeping the job under budget, ahead of schedule, and accident free.

“This is another good example of Boilermakers finishing ahead of schedule in a competitive market with nonunion contractors,” said Local 502 BM-ST Randy Robbins.

According to Ray Maw of the Morse Construction Group, part of the job’s success is due to their relationship with the client and their ability to work together as a team with Local 502.

“Local 502 provided quality individuals whose craftsmanship was outstanding,” Maw said. “This type of a partnering relationship allowed us 100 percent selectability, making for a successful project.”

Robbins said the crew built two 60-by-40-foot tanks and four 73-by-40-foot tanks for Crowley’s new tank farm in Bethel, Alaska. This farm can now store about five million gallons of bulk petroleum products, including jet fuel, aviation gasoline, heating oil, and unleaded gasoline for commercial, aviation, government, and individual consumers.

Local 105 completes SCR

Members of Local 105 are in Moscow, Ohio, completing an SCR project for B&W, AEP, and Cinergy. They are using one of the largest cranes in North America to work on the SCR project.

Members unload and assemble hundreds of tons of ductwork

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 105, Chillicothe, Ohio, have earned kudos for their work on the Zimmer Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) project in Moscow, Ohio.

Jeff Lacey, a Local 105 member who worked as a supervisor for Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) on the project, said the crew performed the work “in an unbelievable time frame. This type of excellence is very profitable to our customers, contractors, and our craft in general,” he said.

Using one of the largest cranes in North America — an 88 D-Mag that was shipped from Germany for this project — the Local 105 crew unloaded and assembled several hundred tons of huge, awkward ductwork that arrived on the site on barges. They then set the ductwork and dissembled the crane with a 21,000 and 2250 Manitowoc.

“Speaking on behalf of B&W, AEP, and Cinergy, we thank these men for their safe, quality craftsmanship that resulted in a very profitable job,” said Lacey.

Local 105 members identify air leaks, minimize downtime

AFTER THREE GRUELING days searching the condenser for points of air in-leakage, station personnel identified and repaired leaks on the condenser’s piping attachments on Oct. 30, and brought the station back to full power on the evening of Oct. 31.

I want to express my appreciation to the leadership of Local 60 and to the Boilermakers who fully manned the job on extremely short notice. Your team’s timely support of our request to man our project with 44 Boilermakers on Sunday, Oct. 26, with only a 36-hour notice, was a formidable task that was done very well. The Boilermakers were requisitioned to repair or replace the condenser by BSB. Should the boot seal be found to be the culprit for the air in-leakage. Fortunately for the station, the leaks were found to be in piping adjacent to the condenser and the downtime for the outage was minimized. I have confidence that should the Boilermakers have been called up to repair the boot seal, they would have been done expeditiously.

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support in manning the job on short notice and your management of the problems that came along with the difficult task.

DAN BROWN, site manager
The Venture
Newberg-Perrini Stone & Webster, JV
L-30 members excel in valve replacement job

Working for NBW, members participate in nation’s largest SCR project

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 30, Greensboro, N.C., have earned high praise from National Boiler Works, Inc. (NBW) for a job they performed at Duke Power’s Belews Creek Steam Station in Belews Lake, N.C. “Boilermakers performed the tasks safely while maintaining the highest level of quality,” wrote NBW Pres. Burgess J. Holt. “Their rigging and welding talents were second to none throughout the project.”

“The Boilermakers Local 30 dispatched were highly skilled and qualified,” Holt reported. “We had 10 welders take a v-tub stringent test and everyone passed. This is a most unusual feat.”

Not only did Local 30 send talented Boilermakers, but BM-ST Richard Chilton also recommended 29-year member Richard Barber Jr. as project superintendent. “Our workload at the time the project was planned to start was extremely heavy and we did not have any supervision available to manage this project,” wrote Holt. “[Chilton] mentioned that he knew of an excellent superintendent who was just finishing a job in North Dakota.”

“We contacted Barber and in a phone interview immediately hired him to manage the project,” Holt said. “Richard met with Duke Power personnel, developed a project schedule, equipment list, and employed all the Boilermakers for the project work.”

It was the first time NBW had worked for Duke Power, and NBW hired Local 30 members to replace two 18-inch heavy wall valves during the station’s 2003 SCR outage. “Some people in Duke’s system would have rather had a valve specialty contractor, but we completed that job and are 80 percent completed on our next job for this customer,” Barber said. “I believe we will leave Belews Creek with the four things all successful jobs require — zero accidents, on-time completion, a customer that is glad he hired a union contractor, and a contractor that makes a profit.”

“If more contractors would take a look at the work in the Carolinas, they would see that there is a market and we have the people who will get the job done,” Barber said.

Chilton couldn’t agree more. “This shows that money can be made on small jobs in North Carolina,” Chilton said. “We have tons of work like this and no contractors to bid it. If you are interested in loads of small jobs, then it’s like the game show, The Price is Right. ‘Come on down’ and we’ll make sure you don’t regret it.”

Locals 106, 433 add to juice tank technology

Enerfab credits Boilermaker ingenuity for helping create award-winning storage equipment

WHEN OHIO-BASED Enerfab needed to face competing technologies in the juice storage business, president and CEO Wendell Bell counted on Boilermakers to do the job right.

From fabrication by Local 106 in Cincinnati to on-site assembly by Local 433 in Florida, the Boilermakers constructed aseptic storage tanks for Tropicana, the world’s largest orange juice producer.

In Enerfab’s shop in Cincinnati, Local 106 fabricates the parts. Components are then shipped to the Bradenton, Fla., work site where they are assembled by members of Local 433, Tampa, Fla., and NTL members.

The most recent tank they completed can hold 1.5 million gallons of Tropicana’s juice. The tank is 61 feet in diameter, assembled on a concrete bed in seven successive courses, or “rings,” reaching a final height of 77 feet. The head with jig weighs over 60,000 pounds and is set in place on top of a 14-inch compression.

The tanks are then sandblasted and sprayed inside with Lastiglas/Munkadur, a chemical-resistant epoxy tank lining, based on a 100-percent-solids, two-component epoxy, capable of being applied in a one-coat, high-build application. It cures to a smooth, glass-like finish, averaging 20 mm in thickness, and provides acid and alkaline resistance in a wide range of applications.

According to L-433 BM-ST Edgar “Crab” Lariscy, 28 Boilermakers have been putting in 60-hour weeks since July 1 on the project. The workers are dedicated to the project, he said, because their contractor consistently provides challenging work. “Enerfab is one of my favorite contractors,” Lariscy says. “It is a pleasure to have them in my territory.”

Formerly known as Bishopric Products, Inc., Enerfab developed patents for aseptic bulk storage with Purdue University in 1972. In 1976, the patent earned Bishopric and Purdue the Institute of Food Technologists’ (IFT) Food Technology Industrial Achievement Award. In 1989, the IFT selected aseptic processing as the most significant innovation in food science since 1939. Boilermaker ingenuity, Bell says, has contributed to evolving development of this technology.

“For this particular product and industry, the Boilermakers work with us as a team to be able to come up with a way to compete with new technology,” Bell says. “Now we are able to get our system going less expensively than the competing technology and our feeling is at a higher quality.”

Bell, a former field construction Boilermaker and chairman of the National Association of Boilermaker Employers, has been with Enerfab for 13 years and says that his company is “joined at the hip” with Boilermakers. “They have been one of the most innovative crafts out there for years,” he says.

Local 584 builds heat exchanger

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 584 have finished construction of the largest-diameter heat exchanger ever constructed at Southern Heat Exchanger in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Built for Rohm and Haas Texas, Inc., a specialty chemical company, the unit weighs 134,250 pounds, is 33-feet long, and has a diameter of 155 inches, reports Intl. Rep. Warren Fairley. It is made out of stainless steel and has 4,153 one-inch diameter outside tubes.

Local 584 has represented employees of Southern Heat Exchanger since the lodge was chartered in 1964. A year ago, the members ratified a labor agreement with Southern Heat gaining improvements in both wages and pension. According to Fairley, the local has maintained a 100 percent union membership rate at this right-to-work site since at least 1986.
AFL-CIO study shows nonunion programs graduate fewer, less-qualified apprentices

Building and Construction Trades Department calls for apprenticeship program investigation

THE RESULTS of a study conducted by the AFL-CIO’s Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) has confirmed what trades members have known for years: union programs are far more successful at training apprentices than nonunion apprenticeship programs.

The study of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) apprenticeship programs, one of the highest-profile nonunion training programs in the trades, covered 1997 through 2001 and 36 states. The findings show that, on average nationwide, union programs train 72 percent of all construction apprentices. In contrast, the nonunion ABC programs tend to produce, overall, twice as many drop-outs as they do graduates.

BCTD President Edward Sullivan has called on US Labor Secretary Elaine Chao to investigate the nation’s construction apprenticeship program system.

“The strength of America’s construction industry depends on skilled craftsmanship,” Sullivan said in his letter to Chao. “Any misuse of the apprenticeship system undermines the industry’s future and potentially defrauds construction workers.”

Apprenticeship programs are regulated by the US Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship, Training, Employer, and Labor Services (OATELS) and various state apprenticeship councils. All registered programs are eligible for federal and state allocations and grant money. The BCCTD and other labor groups want more stringent standards to regulate programs that take advantage of these funds and have access to these lower-paid workers.

“The call for the investigation comes at a time when Rep. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., is sponsoring the Apprenticeship Enhancement Act of 2003, legislation backed by the ABC. It would “streamline” the Labor Department’s apprenticeship approval process and create loopholes for contractors to get certified apprenticeship programs without adhering to federal apprenticeship standards. This legislation would jeopardize the overall quality of the program.”

Dale “Skipper” Branscum, director of the Boilermakers’ Construction Division, says Sullivan’s call to action is necessary to maintain the integrity of the title of journeyman.

“It is incumbent upon the construction industry as a whole to demand the highest standards in our training and apprenticeship programs.”

— Dale “Skipper” Branscum
Director of Construction Division

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The results mesh with a similar study from 2002 of West Virginia building trades apprenticeship programs conducted by the Institute for Labor Studies and Research at West Virginia University. This study, commissioned by West Virginia’s Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation (ACT), found that of the 3,194 apprentices trained in the state’s 17 trades during 1990s, 95 percent of them were in union-related programs. During the 1990s, union programs graduated 1,180 apprentices, whereas nonunion programs graduated only seven. One-third of programs receiving funding are nonunion, the study noted, but only about a half of a percent of graduated apprentices come from nonunion programs.

Raymond “B.B.” Smith, legislative representative for the ACT and a member of Local 667, said the ACT felt compelled to establish hard evidence that nonunion programs are not generating the same quantity of apprentices.

“When we graduate apprentices, they come out with a living wage, a pension program, with a job with health care and safety training,” Smith says. “If there are X amount of dollars divided up for training, we are saying that [nonunion programs] don’t deserve that money if they are not producing the product.”

In December, Anthony Swoope, administrator of the OETELS, responded to Sullivan’s letter. Swoope marked after the Chao is “committed to expanding and building on the quality of the apprenticeship training program” through the department’s work with the Advancing Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI) and the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA).

Swoope noted that George Bliss, director of training for the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry, is “ably representing the building and construction trades as vice chair for labor on the ACA.”

“I am pleased to learn about the good work being performed by George Bliss,” said Sullivan.

How to Apply for a Boilermaker Scholarship

Winners are chosen based on a variety of criteria that include grades, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, and a written essay on an assigned topic.

The 2004 essay topic is “How can the Boilermakers union be marketed more effectively?”

Applications for the 2004 awards are available from your local lodge and will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2004. Applications postmarked after March 31, 2004 deadline cannot be considered for the competition.

Contact your local lodge to get an application. The International will not mail applications to individuals.

Some local lodges have their own scholarship programs. Scholarships are also available through the Union Plus credit card program and some state and regional labor councils.

For information on their scholarship programs, contact these organizations directly.

Harvard Professor Emeritus John Dunlop passes away

AT LEAST THREE generations of labor leaders worked with and sought the counsel of John Dunlop, an economist and labor negotiator who passed away Oct. 2, 2003, of complications from heart and kidney disease.

Dunlop, a founding faculty member of the Harvard Trade Union Program in Cambridge, Mass., served as dean of Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1969 to 1973, and as labor secretary in the Ford Administration from March 1975 until January 1976.

In March 2003, Intl. Rep. Marty Stanton (l.) and union leaders and senior staff. It is comparable to the advanced education that Harvard University offers to executive-level individuals in business and government. It teaches the essential skills for the management and leadership of unions, as well as provides a unique opportunity to explore key issues for the labor movement.

The program is an intensive, six-week residential session designed for union leaders and senior staff. It is comparable to the advanced education that Harvard University offers to executive-level individuals in business and government. It teaches the essential skills for the management and leadership of unions, as well as provides a unique opportunity to explore key issues for the labor movement.

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New training center reenergizes Local 263

Instructor Bob Branan guides welders from high school through Boilermaker apprentice program

LOCAL 60 apprentices Joe Eppy and Brandon Allonby won first and second prize, respectively, in the combined trades division of the Peoria Section American Welding Society welding contest last March.

Contestants had 90 minutes to prepare and demonstrate techniques in SMAW (stick), GMAW (MIG), GTAW (TIG), and a combination division that included these three with flame and/or plasma cutting, and layout. Welding in both the combined trades and high school student divisions included flat and out-of-position joints, plate and sheet, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and straight and circular welds. The contest was held on the Illinois Central College campus.

L-263 apprentice Marlena Potts (left) welds beams for a new rigging pad.

Ed Hebert, BM-ST for Local 60, says, “Anytime we need him, he is here for us.” Branan says, “Bob has been a godsend to us,” adding, “Thanks to Sam, Newton, and the BNAP [the Boilermakers National Apprentice Program], we feel like we have a first-class training center here.”

L-263 apprentices Brandon Allonby (l.) and Joe Eppy (r.) for earning second and first place, respectively, in the Peoria-area American Welding Society (AWS) contest.

L-60 apprentices win area AWS awards

Local 263 apprentices Joe Eppy and Brandon Allonby won first and second prize, respectively, in the welding division of the Peoria Section American Welding Society welding contest last March.

Since 2000, according to May, Local 263 has had 52 apprentices, 27 who graduated this year. The local’s instructors, J.D. Liner and Clyde Brown, relate well with the apprentices, Allen says.

May says Allon has followed in the footsteps of other local business managers, stepping up enrollment by staying upbeat and connected with his members while pushing the apprentices to finish.

Allen was appointed business manager in 2000. He tries to maintain a good relationship with his members; it shows in the volunteer turnouts he has had for training center projects.

“Entertainment and training are the biggest things. Educate your members and show them the opportunities they have to go out there, to make money and travel.”

Allen credits May and IP Newton Jones, then IVP for the Southeast region, for getting Local 263 the financial support and guidance it needed to develop the program.

“Thanks to Sam, Newton, and the BNAP [the Boilermakers National Apprentice Program], we feel like we have a first-class training center here,” Allen says. “We have been reenergized. We’ve got a good brotherhood here. We’ve got good people, and we want to be able to educate and train them.”

L-29 graduates apprentices

RAY DARR AND DENNIS YORK, second and third from left, receive their certificates of graduation from the Local 29 apprenticeship program from, l. to r., Intl. Rep. Marty Stanton, L-29 Pres. Kevin Noyes, and L-29 BM-ST Gerald Williams. The two were honored at the local’s monthly meeting in March 2003.

Chartered in 1928, Local 29 represents approximately 350 workers in both shops and the construction industry in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

MEMBERS OF Local 263, Memphis, Tenn., used persistence, hard work, good communication, and the help of District 57 and the International to give their apprentice training program a new lease on life.

“With the help of District 57 and the International, we became the active program we needed,” says Mike Allen, Local 263 business manager. “We had volunteers doing everything from pouring concrete to doing carpentry in the building.”

In the late 1990s, the local was turning out fewer than 10 apprentices every year. Almost all training, including hours of rigging workshops, classroom work, and welding practice, had to be completed at other facilities.

“Pardon us for wanting to train our apprentices on our own,” says Allen. “We were not going to put our apprentices to the work of other unions.”

Since 2000, member volunteers have rolled up their sleeves and donated their skills to turn an old welding shop into a first-class training center, meeting hall, office space, and Local 263’s hub.

“We went from nothing to a training center with 10 welding booths, rigging pads, modules, and training classrooms,” says Mike Allen, Local 263 business manager. “We had volunteers doing everything from pouring concrete to doing carpentry in the building.”

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NEARLY 300 PARTICIPANTS from across Canada attended the Canadian Legislative Conference of the Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) held Oct. 22-24. Cana-
dian BCTD Exec. Board Chairman and Boilermaker Intl. Vice Pres. Rick Albright served as co-chair.

Delegates heard from speakers, partici-
pated in panel discussions on the future of trades training, and attended workshops on pension solvency, shareholder activism, and political action. A significant portion of the con-
ference was devoted to lobbying activ-
ities, including individual visits with Parliament members and a closed re-
ception with Labour Minister Ed Stelmach. Delegates met and discussed issues with over half of Canada’s Parliament members and senators.

It’s time to update your membership voter lists! You can’t be effective politically if you don’t know your membership

ESTABLISHING A LEAP committee is easy; knowing what to do with it can be more difficult.

A simple place to start — especially important in election year — is updating your membership list, a process used to track and keep current voter registration of the members.

Begin with posting a list of mem-
bers and their phone numbers from the Boilermakers’ Government Affairs Department. The department staff will match your list with a national voter reg-
istration list provided by the AFL-CIO.

The next step is to look it over care-
fully. Use local lodge member records to correct the list, giving special atten-
tion to members who have moved, retired, or changed their status. Submit copies of the updated corrections on your list to the Government Affairs Department, the Intl. secretary-treasi-
urer’s office in Kansas, and your state or local AFL-CIO office.

Another option is to get a voter list from the local election office, registra-
tion office, county office, or secretary of state’s office. These lists are public information and usually can be obtained for a small fee, or by going to the offices of members you need. Your state or local COPE office will assist you in locating the list.

“Comparing these lists can be a time consuming chore,” says Bridget Mar-
tin, director of government affairs, “but there is no other reliable way to know who is registered and who isn’t.”

One approach is to assume that all members are registered and plan a registration drive accordingly. Even if a member is registered, there is no penalty for re-registering to vote.

“Many members flaky because regist-
ted to vote but they may have been purged from the voter registration sys-
tem if they have not voted in as few as two local elections,” Martin cautions.

Certain information is critical to managing and assembling a member-

You may not be.

IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED in as few as two local elections, you may have been purged from the voter registration system. Register again, then vote, in every election!

Think you’re registered to vote?

• Are you a political or legislative activist?
• Are you willing to help with grassroots lobbying efforts such as phone calls, door-to-door, labor-to-neighbor canvassing, and attending rallies?

This information will not only gain you updated information, but it also provides information about possible volunteers. Plan to update the list every six months; it will make the “chore” easier while also raising your members’ political awareness.

Voter registration forms can be obtained from the Boilermakers’ Gov-
ernment Affairs Department, your local or state AFL-CIO, or the secretary of state’s office. Mail every member and their spouse two voter registration forms. Ask each member to fill out a voter registration form when they join the union or come into the union hall. Also, plan a voter registration drive at the work site.

Don’t forget to mail your updated information to your local or state AFL-
CIO and to the Boilermakers’ Government Affairs Department.

Once you have compiled the list, determine your percentage of regist-
ted voters, then work to increase that number by 10 percent over the next year. Setting small goals makes the work more manageable and the goals more attainable.

Canadians hold legislative conference

Delegates discuss issues, meet Parliament members

Complementing the Canadian BCTD Legislative Conference were speeches from a number of high-profile labour and government representatives.

BCTD Sec.-Treas. Joe Maloney, a member of Local 128, Toronto, stressed the importance of grassroots political action and membership involvement in the political process. Robert Blakely, conference co-chair and BCTD director of Canadian Affairs, walked the delegates through an am-
tibious legislative agenda that included such issues as national standards in trades training and apprenticeship, mobility assistance for tradepersons, and the continuing fight against the underground economy.

Several Cabinet ministers and Parliament members also addressed the participants, including the Minister of Labour Claudette Bradshaw, Sec. of State for Crown Corp. Steve Mahoney, Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, and Minister of Human Resource Develop-
ment Jane Stewart.

Bradshaw discussed health and safety in the workplace, employment equity, and her initiatives to alleviate the plight of the homeless.

Mahoney described a new initiative dealing with contractor accreditation and certification of workers performing renovation work on national heri-
dage buildings.

McLellan addressed the govern-
ment’s progress in improving Canada’s health care system, thanking the BCTD for their continued support.

Stewart also thanked the BCTD for contributing to Canada’s Innovation Strategy, stressing the importance of apprenticeship as an ideal model for workplace training and recognizing the value of joint labour-management human resource development bodies, such as the Construction Sector Council.

Dick Proctor, parliamentary labour critic of the New Democratic Party (NDP), reminded delegates of the strong bond between the NDP and the labour movement, as well as their common interests in several major issues facing Canada.

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Pres. Ken Georgetti outlined the CLC’s training policy, thanking the BCTD for its help. He stressed the importance of concerted political action initiatives to further the interest of workers and to advance issues of importance to the labour movement.

After discussing the outstanding work being performed by his company, Habitat for Humanity Canada, CEO and Pres. David Hughes signed a memorandum of understanding with the BCTD and its affiliated unions that pledged cooperation in providing homes for needy families.

Representatives from provincial BCTD councils discussed political and legislative developments in their areas, and delegates also learned of the ongoing activities of the Construction Sector Council and Canadian Appren-
ticeship Forum from their respective executive directors, George Griziotes and Keith Lance.

Following the conference, delegates participated in a National DAD’s Day Golf Tournament, raising $10,000 for the Diabetes Islet Transplant Program at the University of Alberta.

Local 146’s Jerry Donnelly (left) discusses upcoming legislation with Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan at the BCTD Canadian Legislative Conference in Ottawa.

Sea Power Ambassador

The United States faces a national security crisis as we allow our naval fleet to shrink. The Navy recently has 295 ships in the fleet. That number will drop to 290 by next year.

Based on previously enacted bud-
gets, this country is on its way to a 250-
ship Navy. Current budget practices of providing an average of six ships a year will shrink the fleet to 180.

Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Vern Clark, has testified before Con-
gress that the nation needs a naval fleet of 375 ships to meet present and emerg-
ing threats to our homeland.

This legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate to draw attention to this crisis. You can help by becoming a Sea Power Ambassador.

The American Shipbuilding Association’s SeaPower Ambassador program is intended to educate the American public and elected officials on the need to rebuild the fleet of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard to meet America’s secu-

rity requirements in the 21st Century.

Rebuilding America’s sea services will only be achieved through active, organized, grassroots education.

The Sea Power Ambassador pro-
gram is Web based. At the Sea Power Web site, you can get the latest facts, articles, and opinion pieces on the state of our sea services, and draft letters you can send to elected representatives and political candidates. You can also sign up to receive Action Alerts.

To reach the Sea Power Ambas-
sadors Web site, go to the Boilermakers Web site at www.boilermakers.org, click on LEAP, and then click on “Register to be a Sea Power Ambassador.”
A lesson in lobbying for members, locals

Complain and gain nothing, or take action to change things

WE’VE ALL DONE IT. In the dark morning of trash day, we haul boxes and bags and building materials and busted refrigerators and leaked water heaters to the curb. Then we drive off to work with our fingers crossed and pray the trash collectors take it all away.

Part of your mind says, “Well, it’s their job. That’s what my tax dollars pay for. They’d better take it.” But then there is that voice that says, “I swear I’ll make them Tolled you fresh-squeezed lemonade myself if they’ll just help me out this one time.”

Political lobbying isn’t much different from trash collection day. As voters and constituents, we have expectations about public servants and feel that they should be doing and what our tax dollars pay for. But in our hearts we know that without making friends with our representatives, without thanking them for their efforts, they may not get our message through.

To lobby, simply, is to act. It is the vehicle that drives your message home. When you act, you show the world — your friends, neighbors, and representatives — that each one of us has a say in policy decisions.

Fear not; fear is normal

 LOBBYING IS AN INTIMIDATING CONCEPT for most regular folks. Very few of us, even when we are seriously outraged about something, will leap up off our sofas and stomp off to Capitol Hill to exchange words with our representatives. Let’s face it: many of us don’t even know who our representatives are.

Being intimidated into not lobbying is just another way to skirt our American responsibility to democracy. One person can make a difference, no matter what people will tell you. You just have to start the ball rolling. Tony Jacobs, Local 169 president, assistant business manager, and co-chairman of the local’s political action committee (PAC), has been working election polls since he was 12. He has seen the benefit of courtship and organizing politicians, keeping them informed.

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A local lodge is one of the best places to start lobbying. Fortunately, Boilermaker lodges have what it takes to get started: people who care. As union members, you are in a unique position to understand your neighbors’ needs. You are already organized. You have the strength and the fortitude to follow through.

All you need is five people

 FOR A BOILERMAKER LOCAL, you’ll find that five people are better than one when forming your committee. They are energy, enthusiasm, and time. If you ask someone if they will help you with your campaign, they will often say yes, but if you do not show up, they may not get your message through.

Local 169 sends members to lobbying conferences. You are in a unique position to understand your neighbors’ needs. You are already organized. You have the strength and the fortitude to follow through.

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2004 Legislative Issues

Asbestos Injury Resolution

ASBESTOS MAY BE the most lethal substance ever widely used in the workplace. Boilermakers in a variety of industries — construction, shipbuilding, manufacturing, and railroad — are among the victims of asbestos exposure. The Asbestos Injury Resolution Act, S.1125, seeks to create a system for resolving asbestos exposure claims.

Amendments have improved it over last year’s version, but many critical issues still need to be resolved. The legislation’s adversarial court-based process contains inadequate awards for victims, doesn’t ensure fund solvency, fails to address the separate treatment of pending claims and settlements, lacks a sufficient medical screening provision for high-risk workers, and preempts asbestos-related compensation for railroad workers covered by Federal Employers’ Liability Act (FELA).

Apprenticeship Enhancement Act

WE CONTINUE TO oppose any effort to “streamline” the Department of Labor’s apprenticeship and training certification process. This legislation creates loopholes in the apprenticeship and training certification process for companies and contractors trying to certify their apprenticeship programs without adhering to federal apprenticeship standards.

Nonunion apprentice programs have routinely graduated fewer apprentices and show lower standards. This measure would lower skill standards further and allow contractors to get their apprenticeship programs certified even though federal standards have not been met.

Employee Free Choice Act

THE EMPLOYEE FREE Choice Act allows for National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) certification on the basis of signed authorization cards, provides for mediating first contracts, and sets stronger penalties for NLRA violations during organizing or negotiating a first contract.

Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)

WORKERS AND THEIR allies are mobilizing for the next battle in the struggle for fair trade — to stop the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), signed Dec. 17 by the United States and four Central American countries.

If approved by Congress, CAFTA would eliminate tariffs from the United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. CAFTA does not include protections for workers’ right to form a union or safe work conditions.

It would extend to Central America the disastrous job loss and environmental damage that 10 years of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have brought.

CAFTA is another step toward passage of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and future bilateral and regional agreements. CAFTA is the first bilateral or regional agreement the Bush administration has pushed, a fierce opposition from workers in North and South America and their community allies. Opposition stymied trade agreements last month from consolidating FTAA, which would eliminate tariffs from 34 countries with a population of more than 800 million.

National Naval Force Structure Policy Act

AMERICA FACES A SECURITY crisis. The fleet of the U.S. Navy has dropped from 594 ships in 1987 to 294 ships today. This represents the smallest Navy since 1917. The nation has been ordering just six new ships a year on average, for the past 12 years. This is the lowest build rate of naval ship production since 1932, and if continued, our Navy will shrink to a fleet of 180 ships.

Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, has testified to Congress that the Nation needs a fleet of no fewer that 375 ships to meet the present and emerging threats. If the U.S. does not begin to invest in our sea power fleet, shipbuilding industrial base, suppliers, and skilled shipbuilding workers, America may never be able to overcome a decade of underinvestment. If America does not keep building ships at a sufficient pace, many of these companies will cease to exist and thousands of highly-skilled workers will be laid off, and their skills lost.

Ship Loan Guarantees

THE TITLE XI PROGRAM, administered by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), guarantees bank loans for new and medium-sized operating companies wanting to build commercial ships in the United States.

Commercial orders have been critical in sustaining highly-skilled jobs in the defense shipbuilding industrial base. They also reduce the cost of naval ships by allowing shipbuilders to spread their overhead cost across both commercial and naval shipbuilding projects.

In March 2003, the Department of Transportation recommended reforms to the administration of the Title XI Program. The Department of the Treasury found funds were made contingent upon the inspector general’s certifying that MARAD had implemented the reforms. Despite MARAD’s Compliance Review, no funds were appropriated in 2004.

Instead, MARAD was directed to use the $25 million that is on hold until the appropriation of new funds for Fiscal Year 2004. The $25 million on hold will be distributed quickly because of the lengthy backlog of pending applications; therefore, we feel it is vital that funds for new guarantees be appropriated in Fiscal Year 2005.

Political Briefs

DOl goes ahead with overtime take-away

ABOUT EIGHT MILLION workers could lose overtime pay under new rules issued by the Department of Labor (DOL). The regulations redefine which workers are eligible for time-and-a-half for working more than 40 hours in a week.

The DOL claims the new rules actually make more workers eligible than before, but their claim has been disputed by the Economic Policy Institute, a nonprofit foundation.

The Labor Department is also issuing tips to employers on how to avoid paying any overtime at all.

House and Senate members passed an amendment to a federal spending bill to prohibit the Labor Department from implementing the new rules. But in November after Bush threatened to veto the legislation, the amendment was dropped.

President Bush avoids Senate vote on judge

IN 2002, THE SENATE Judiciary Committee rejected Charles Pickering for a federal judgeship because of his mediocre record and numerous questionable votes on civil rights cases. Last year, President Bush nominated him again, but a filibuster kept him off the bench. This January, Bush finally succeeded by cleverly dodging the will of the Senate and using a recess appointment to put Pickering in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He will serve until January 2005.

States change labor laws at high rate

AN ANNUAL REVIEW of state labor legislation shows a greater volume of change in 2003 than in recent years, including raises to state minimum wage laws. Of the 43 states with minimum wage laws, only two now have rates lower than the federal rate of $5.15 an hour.

Iraq war makes Halliburton big bucks

DESpite a defense department investigation into an auditor’s allegations that defense contractor Halliburton is overcharging the government for fuel in Iraq, Vice President Dick Cheney’s former employer has been awarded another contract worth $1.2 billion.

In 2002 and 2003, Halliburton won government contracts worth more than $2.5 billion. Income from Iraq made up 22 percent of the company’s income in the third quarter of 2003 and 15 percent of its profits.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which wrestled the windfalls of war keep on coming.

For a look at who is making money in Iraq, visit their Web site at www.publicintegrity.org.
Will the new Medicare act be a bitter pill for retirees?

The New Medicare Law
Frequently Asked Questions

Because these rules are still being written and clarified, the Boilermakers cannot guarantee that all the answers given below are entirely accurate. For clarification or further information, consult the Medicare Web site (www.medicare.gov) or call your local Medicare office.

Q WHEN WILL MEDICARE begin paying for my drug costs?
A MEDICARE WILL NOT pay your drug costs. Beginning in May 2004, you may choose to purchase a Medicare-approved drug discount card from a private insurance or drug-benefit company. In January 2006, these cards will be discontinued and you may choose to buy special, Medicare-approved drug insurance from a private insurance company.

Q HOW MUCH WILL I save by using the prescription drug card?
A NO SPECIFIC amounts are set by law. Each card will be different and you will need to compare cards to see which one is best for you. Card sellers estimate you will save 10 to 25 percent, but nothing is guaranteed.

Q WILL I BE ABLE to use my discount card at any drug store?
A NO. THERE MAY be many cards available. Before you purchase a card, check with your pharmacy to make sure you can use it there.

Q TO SAVE MONEY, I buy my drugs through the mail. Will I be able to keep doing that?
A IT DEPENDS on the card. To help you decide, cards will be required to list the prices they charge for specific drugs. However, if you buy your drugs by mail from Canada, forget it.

Q HOW MUCH WILL the drug insurance cost in 2006?
A NO PRICE is set by law. Insurers estimate you will pay $35 a month, but costs will vary region to region.

Q HOW MUCH WILL I have to pay for my drugs?
A PARTICIPANTS WILL pay the first $250 in drug costs. Between $250 and $2,250, participants pay 25 percent of drug costs. Participants pay 100 percent of the costs between $2,250 and $5,100. Above $5,100, the government pays all but five percent of drug costs.

Q IS HELP AVAILABLE for people who cannot afford the drug card or insurance premiums?
A YES, IF YOU EARN (in 2003) less than $12,123 for an individual or $16,362 for a married couple, you will get a $600 credit on your drug discount card and will not have to pay for the card. This earnings limit changes every year. A similar benefit will apply to the cost of the insurance and deductibles after January 2006.

Q MY STATE HAS drug coverage for residents. Will that continue?
A IT DEPENDS on the state. States may find ways to augment the Medicare program, but how much they can do so is unclear. The Medicare law makes it illegal to sell insurance that covers all your out-of-pocket expenses.

Q MY RETIREE HEALTH insurance covers drugs. What happens to this coverage?
A IT DEPENDS on the company. The new law provides $71 billion in direct subsidies and $17 billion in tax savings to companies that keep these programs intact, but it does not require them to do so.

Q CAN I KEEP going to the same doctor and get drug insurance?
A YES. ANYONE ON Medicare can purchase insurance that covers only drug expenses. The only reason you might have to change doctors is if you choose to get drug coverage by joining a Medicare-approved HMO.
The Grievance Process Works

Successful arbitration earns Local D109 president reinstatement, back pay

Prescription diet drug complicates disciplinary action for Mike Smith at Heartland Cement Co.

AN ACCIDENT AND a prescription diet pill nearly cost one local leader his job. But experts in the grievance and arbitration process helped him get it back.

Mike Smith, president of Local D109, Independence, Kan., was discharged in June 2002. His employer, Heartland Cement, claimed Smith failed a drug test, violating the substance abuse policy of the collective bargaining agreement.

Fortunately for Smith, the collective bargaining agreement also allows due process for workers.

As soon as Smith received written notice of his discharge, he filed a grievance and contacted his International representative, Nick Adams. Adams was ill so Boilermakers Safety and Health Specialist Milan Racic stepped in to help.

Through letters, Racic and Smith requested information from the company while a Local D109 committee handled the second step of the grievance. The committee’s request to retest the sample was refused. For 10 months, Racic and Smith exchanged letters with the plant without result. At the third-step grievance meeting, attended by Smith, Racic, and Adams, the company offered Smith a cash buy-out, which he refused. It was time to hire an attorney.

How it happened

MIKE SMITH WAS TAKING Didrex, a prescription weight-loss pill, the day the 4,000-gallon water truck he was driving to a fire turned on its side. He was injured and sent to the hospital, where he was required to take a drug test.

Smith had not reported his use of the prescription drug to the company’s management, and failed to mention it to the nurse administering the test. Those omissions nearly cost him his job.

Didrex is a benzphetamine that, once in the body, breaks down into amphetamine and methamphetamine. Smith said he was drug-free, although he had taken two of the three required daily doses by the time of the accident. His doctor testified that the drug should not have been a factor in the cause of the accident.

Other issues added further complexity to the case. The truck that Smith had driven was found to have a faulty rear axle. In addition, Smith had obtained the drugs from his wife, who was prescribed them by their family doctor. Although the doctor had suggested that Mike also try the weight-loss drugs, he had not written a separate prescription for him.

“It is very important if you are taking prescription medication that you insist your physician give you a statement to that effect,” Smith said. “I prescribed these and I don’t believe it will affect job performance. That goes for any prescription drug regardless of what it is for,” says Mike Manley, the Blake and Uhlig attorney hired by Local D109 to handle Smith’s case.

Lesson learned: Report your prescriptions

ANY ARBITRATION involving drugs promises to be difficult to win, says Adams. Adams is currently working with another case involving a member’s use of an over-the-counter nose inhaler that may have led to a positive drug screen.

“Cases involving drugs are very hard to win, even when a guy may be right,” Adams said.

This case reminds us, Manley said, of the importance of the grievance process in the collective bargaining agreement.

“Members tend to focus only on the economic provisions when it comes time to ratify a collective bargaining agreement,” he said. “But if you are the guy in the box, like Smith was, the right to a grievance process is even more important than the economic.”

The right to binding arbitration is one of the most important rights that you can acquire through collective bargaining and one of the best reasons to have union representation and pay dues on time,” he continued.

“You pay the dues to have the grievance process, the grievator’s fees, fees for experts, and for an attorney, if you need one.”

With the support of Manley, Adams, Racic, and Local D109 Vice-President Ceasar Martinez, Smith was able to come out on top in his grievance process.

“Without these guys, I would be without a job,” Smith said. “I would really like to thank them, and Intl. Pres. [Emeritus] Charles W. Jones and [Intl. Vice Pres.] Jim Hickenbotham for allowing me to remain as president of my local during this process.”

Arbitrator Philip Denver ruled that Heartland did not have “just cause” to terminate Smith, and that Heartland misinterpreted and misapplied their substance abuse policy in Smith’s case.

Local 667 conducts steward training

Members get three opportunities to attend one-day training class

LOCAL 667, CHARLESTON, W.Va., held three, one-day steward training programs at their office and training center in Winfield, August 22-24.

Conducted by Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, and Construction Division Director Dale Brunscum, the classes covered such topics as duty of fair representation and what it takes to be a union leader.

Beauchamp reviewed area and national agreements, the grievance procedure, union structure, and the International’s Constitution.

Brunscum discussed craftjurisdiction, dispute resolutions, and covered such subjects as boilers, heat recovery steam generators, and generation and emission controls.
Lafarge thanks Local D6 workers for no-loss-time

IN NOVEMBER, THE LAFARGE Corporation hosted an awards dinner to honor workers at the Davenport, Iowa-area cement plant who had worked five years without a lost-time accident. Jim Hickenbotham, International vice president of the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers (CLGAW) Division, delivered a speech honoring the workers’ dedication to safety.

“I worked in a cement plant in Virginia for 16 years. I know how hard it is to go two months, not to mention five years, without an accident,” Hickenbotham said. “I commend each and every employee here at the Davenport, Iowa, plant for having the ability to stay alert on those very dangerous jobs and to return home to your loved ones the same way you went to work.”

Carey Allen, CLGAW director, also attended the dinner, along with representatives from Local D6. Allen said that the achievement of 1,000-plus hours without a lost-time accident is remarkable.

“They do production and maintenance of the plant and its equipment,” he said. “When you look at the equipment they use every day — large grinding mills with 4,000 horsepower motors — it’s an amazing accomplishment not to have a lost-time accident. They are really focused on safety.”

The 140 Boilermakers of Local D6, Buffalo, Iowa, were also presented with a recognition award from the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council.

Pictured above, l. to r., are Allen, Lafarge Human Resources Manager Jan Baker, union safety representative Ollen Stephens, Local D6 President Charlie Hopwood, plant manager Allen Pfaff, and Hickenbotham.

Local 453’s French earns kudos for inspection program

Dawn French, center front, gets recognition from (l. to r.) project mgr. Larry Russell, safety rep. Harry Foss, general foreman Ron Meacham (behind French), steward Gary Newby, and superintendent Michael Fielden for her rigging inspection program at the Day & Zimmerman Bull Run Fossil site.

Dawn’s program is one of the best in TVA system

DAWN FRENCH, a 23-year Boilermaker, has earned recognition from Day & Zimmerman NPS, Inc., for implementing a rigging inspection program at the Bull Run Fossil site. Zimmerman representatives reported that “Dawn’s program was rated one of the best in the TVA system.”

According to L-453 BM-ST Vinson Harper, Knoxville, Tenn., “French is an exceptional Boilermaker who takes pride in the work assigned to her.”

Inspector Jeff Stovall and Joel Stallings complimented her program highly and were very impressed with French’s inspections, out reports, maintenance, storage applications, and records.

“Her overall efforts and emphasis on maintaining a safe rigging department merit recognition for a job well done,” wrote Zimmerman representatives, site manager Larry Russell, general superintendent William Flynn, superintendent Michael Fielden, general foreman Ron Meacham, and FTS rigging engineer John Braunbeck.

French, who joined Local 687 Charleston Heights, S.C., in 1980 before transferring to Local 453 in 1995, is a certified tube welder. She has also served as a steward for Local 453.

MAKE IT SAFE

HAZARD ALERT: Welding fumes and manganese poisoning

Exposure to welding rod fumes could mean risk of Parkinson’s-like symptoms

EXPOSURE TO METAL fumes from welding, cutting, and brazing — especially in confined spaces — can cause brain damage. A major culprit is manganese, a component of all steel and welding materials.

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, along with many major AFL-CIO unions and the Building Trades Department, have petitioned The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct a study of the link between welding fumes, manganese, and brain degeneration. Washington University in St. Louis is expected to conduct the study, which could involve as many as 5,000 welders.

A recent study found 40 percent of welders showed signs of disorder called manganese poisoning, commonly called manganism. Although its symptoms are classified as similar to those of Parkinson’s Disease, studies show that there are many differences between the two.

Many doctors are unaware of manganism or the risks of diseases in steel making and welding. Information about these risks are listed on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). If you are a welder, you should discuss manganism with your doctor. The MSDS sheets index the harmful chemical compounds and include properties, handling details, precautions, and first-aid procedures. Every company is lawfully required to keep them on file for their workers. Your shop steward or crew superintendent can provide you with copies of them.

What is it?

MANGANESE is an essential trace element. Eating a small amount from food or water is needed to stay healthy. Manganese can be found in trace amounts in some grains and cereals and in higher amounts in foods such as tea.

Exposure to excess levels of manganese may occur from breathing air where manganese is used in manufacturing, and from drinking water and eating food. At high levels, it can cause damage to the brain, liver, kidneys, and the developing fetus. This chemical has been found in at least 603 of 1,467 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Where it is found

OCCUPATIONAL exposure to manganese may occur in industries such as arc welding, mining and refining of manganese ore, dry battery manufacturing, iron and steel industries, fertilizers (manganese is used as an essential element for plant life), pesticides, and chemical industries. Manganese is used as a catalyst for many chemical processes, including the manufacturing of sulfuric acid. It is also associated with iron deposits.

If you are or have been either employed as a welder or work around industrial welding, you have been exposed to manganese contained in welding rod fumes. Research studies indicate that individuals who inhaled manganese fumes from welding rods have an increased risk of developing manganese poisoning.

Symptoms

THE FOLLOWING symptoms may be seen in the early stage of manganism:

- Tremors in hands, arms, legs, feet
- Blinking and/or lack of facial expression
- Difficulty in maintaining balance
- Slow movement or delay in movement
- Rigidity or stiffness of the limbs
- Sleep disorders

Loss of voluntary and involuntary muscle control produces a number of secondary symptoms associated with manganism. These include:

- Difficulty swallowing
- Excessive sweating
- Excessive salivation
- Slow response to questions
- Loss of bladder and/or bowel control
- Constipation

If you have any of these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately. Take a copy of your MSDS specifications and a copy of this article with you to the doctor’s office.

In the case of a combination of symptoms will appear, including small, cramped handwriting; uncontrolled laughing or crying; anxiety, depression, isolation; scaling, dry skin, particularly on the face and scalp; a soft, whispy voice; slurred speech; and dementia.

Prevention

IF YOU DO NOT have any of these symptoms but are exposed to welding fumes, OSHA recommends investing in air-purifying respirators for your welding hood. Check with your employer to see if they will provide the respirator for you.

Check with your employer about ventilation. Ask your employer to verify that air-monitoring controls are suitably positioned by showing exposures below the threshold limit value for manganese.

Trades workers are often exposed to occupational health risks. Tell your doctor about your job and request a personal health risk evaluation.
L-374 builds bird perches

FOUR MEMBERS of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., have earned a certificate of appreciation from the Illinois Raptor Center, a nonprofit wildlife and environmental education center located near Decatur in central Illinois.

Boilmakers Dan Arrington, Shaun Estes, Ken Jennings, and Bob Lietz built two perches the center can use to rehabilitate and educate birds of prey. One of the perches is pictured above.

The center presents educational programs with live birds to thousands of people each year. Twenty-one permanently injured birds live full time at the center.

L-1 hits DAD’s Day grand slam

Softball tournament raises money for diabetes research

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, the members of Local 1, Chicago, have participated in an annual softball tournament as a way of raising funds for Dollars Against Diabetes (DAD). This year was no different, with Local 1 members turning out for a day at the ball field playing against other area building trades members.

“We played respectable, but did not win the tournament,” said Jack Benz, Local 1 president. “However, we did help the Diabetes fundraiser reach its goal.”

The event is part of a nationwide fundraiser spearheaded by the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Traditionally held the Saturday before Father’s Day, this year’s event was held July 3.

DAD’s Day was created in 1987, over $17 million has been raised by thousands of union members, their families, and friends. Members raise funds from passing motorists, through walk-a-thons, raffles, golf and softball tournaments, and other events to benefit the Diabetes Research Institute, located at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

The Local 1 team includes, from left to right, front row: Mike Goecking, Jim Goecking, Chris Zemke, Pat Summers, Tom Maher, John J. Benz, Jack Ruby; middle row: Gene Forkin, Rich Burton, John Riel, John Beckwith Jr., Jeff Hartley, Chris Lundquist, Jack W. Benz, Ron Kowalski Jr.; back row: Mike Murphy, Troy Livingston, John Skermon, Isaac Rayes, Jim Martin, Joe Brendler, Gary Conboy, Roscoe Morgan, Pete Bukiri, and Eric Davis.

L-502 shows support

Continued from page 1

volunteers organized teams to raise money for and participate in a 24-hour walk that honors cancer victims and survivors and contributes funds to cancer research.

Relay for Life began in 1985. A Tacoma surgeon walked and ran 83 miles in 24 hours, raising $27,000. Since then, the event has grown: in 2002, 2.5 million people participated across the world, raising $243 million.

This year, Janell’s 42-member team brought in $2,733, more than 11 percent of the $23,400 raised in the event.

A luminary commemorates the life of Local 502’s Pearl LaVerne McPherson

ON JULY 31, more than 100 members of Local 4, Page, Ariz., officers, and dignitaries attended the dedication ceremony of Local 4’s new union hall.

Chartered in 1999, Local 4 started with 300 members. The construction lodge now represents 900 workers, with 300 members. The construction lodge now represents 900 workers, mostly from the Navajo Nation, and is the largest Boilermaker local in the western states.

Mayor J. Dean Slavens attended the ceremony, welcoming the Boilermakers to Page.

“We believe it’s a real asset to have the union here, to have them represent the Navajo Nation Boilermakers. We promise to be good neighbors.”

Slavens praised the local’s apprentice program and training facility, housed next door to the new hall.

Thirty-five welder apprentices recently graduated.

“That means there are 35 people who can go out there and get a job — a decent-paying job — to support their families,” Slavens said. “If this were not here, that may not have happened.”

Former City Councilman Michael Anderson described the union as a “new and different” calling for young people.

L-587 fires up barbecue

ACTIVE AND RETIRED members of Local 587, Orange, Texas, celebrated another year of boilmaking by attending their annual barbecue following their July monthly meeting.

Local 587’s BM-ST Clay Herford and President James Kirkland took advantage of the gathering to present membership pins to five Local 587 members who represent over 200 years of membership: Woodrow Talbert (55), Wilson Trahan (55), Seth Shelton (40), Frederick Dodd (35), and Joe Khoury (20).

Chartered in 1952, Local 587 represents members in the manufacturing, shop, construction, forging, shipyard, and marine industries.

Above, gathering in front of the Local 587 barbecue pit, are Local 587 officers, L to r., Inspector Darwin Wood, Vice President George Dronett, Herford, Rec. Sec. Chris Romano, Kirkland, and Trustee J. R. Wilson.

L-4 dedicates new hall

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Former City Councilman Michael Anderson described the union as a “new and different” calling for young people.

“There’s a calling out there. We just need to listen to it,” he said. “They’re asking us to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

Western States Intl. Vice Pres. Joe Stinger attended the dedication, pledging that the union will continue to train and take in Navajo Boilermakers, as well as others, and provide them with work opportunities, whether it’s locally or in another part of the country.

“My commitment is that we’re going to continue to grow,” he said.


“The Boilermakers met with officials from Free Industries, who said they didn’t need the Boilermakers, they just dialled 1-800-NAVAJO,” explained Evenson. “Well, they should never have given us the number, because we called them, and you all answered that call.”

Phil Russell, of the Navajo Nation president’s office, told the dedication crowd that the union has a great leadership base.

“You’ve got great people here leading you,” Russell said. “Follow them. If you work together, you’ll see accomplishments like what you see here today.”

Source: Lee Pulaski of the Lake Powell Chronicle.
Near-fatal fall turns into new job

L-146’s Jason Kaye turns life around after accident

WHEN PEOPLE ask Jason Kaye how he came to be involved in the planning and scheduling of multimillion-dollar projects on oil refinery sites, he tells them he fell into the job. Did he ever.

For years, Kaye, a six-year member of Local 146, Edmonton, was perfectly happy dangling high up inside darkened pressure vessels and tumblers. Working as a Boilermaker was exciting and highly specialized. The job had taken Kaye across western Canada and into the northern United States.

“I loved it,” Kaye said. But then one wintry December night he fell from a scaffold ladder outside the broken tumbler he was working on in Fort McMurray.

“I was climbing the scaffold and had only gone up two rungs when I felt the ladder shake,” he recalled. “I let go with one hand, and leaned back to look up. Then I fell back below the man cage and that was it.”

His co-worker recalled seeing a “pair of coveralls” shoot by as he crashed onto a handrail high up on the vessel, landing on his back. Suspended, he sawed there before continuing to fall headfirst. With a final thump, Kaye landed on his stomach, draped over a 12-inch pipe, between two other pipes that had exposed valve stems. Half a meter in either direction and he’d have ended up with a two-inch hole through his torso — paralyzed or dead.

“I looked up and I couldn’t believe I had lived through it.” As he crawled off the pipe, his co-workers raced to his side. At the hospital Kaye learned his shoulder was separated, his ankle severely twisted and swollen, and his torso was covered with deep bruises.

Fortunately for Kaye, his company — Jacobs Catalytic — had a well-established and effective modified return-to-work program. Under the care of his doctor, Kaye was back on the work site, performing light duties without missing any time from work.

The modified work program capitalized on Kaye’s brains, while his body recovered. He took on more of an advisory role, helping the engineering team conduct inspections of on-site equipment.

During his time in the northern Alberta job site office, the 36-year-old took advantage of an opportunity to learn specialized turnaround and scheduling and planning software and discovered he had a passion for it.

Kaye’s role at Jacobs quickly evolved into a brand new career. He recently wrapped up a multimillion-dollar turn-around planning project on the gigantic Shell Scotford site near Fort Saskatchewan.

“Without the program, Kaye may not even be with us anymore, and it would have been our loss. Turn-around planners are hard to come by,” said Ken Lange, Jacobs Catalytic project manager.

Lange takes pride in the company’s commitment to attracting — and keeping — its people. In these boom days when there’s plenty of work to go around, it’s doubly important that “Jacobs be seen as professional, safe, and caring,” he said.

“I’m thankful for what Jacobs did for me and lucky to be here,” Kaye said, recalling how often he would look up at the tumbler after the fall and make the sign of the cross. “Jacobs Catalytic was extremely helpful — they turned a negative into a positive.”

Local 146 BM-ST Warren Fraleigh calls Kaye a “shining example” of the Boilermaker Advantage.

“His training and expertise as a certified Boilermaker was adapted to overcome adversity and contribute to the ongoing success of our contractors, craft, and caregivers,” he said. “My hat goes off to Jason.”

Source: WCB Insight, story by Wendy Thibege.

Retired welder, wife build fourth home from scratch

From block to wood to steel, the Scotts invest their lives in homebuilding process

IT ALL STARTED back in the 1970s, when Phyllis and Frederick “Kelly” Scott moved from Southern California to Phoenix. Tired of living in a little home, Kelly, Local 627, Phoenix, decided that it would be more economical to build a house than to buy one.

From these humble beginnings came a trail of hand-built homes with a Boiler maker Advantage.

Jerry Dillon and Kelly Scott weld support beams for the garage.

Phyllis calls it, was also constructed from steel beams and rafters.

Building their own home on their income. The program allows the Scotts to customize the space. They are adding a vacuum system and intercoms. The floors are all 2x6-inch tongue-and-groove planks that were salvaged from the roof of a factory. They amended the deck so that it will surround the house and include a screened-in area off the kitchen for alfresco dining on warmer evenings.

Kelly is converting an under-appreciated storage space above the garage into a 24x24-foot craft room for Phyllis. The coronavirus pandemic has provided the Scotts with Phyllis’s mother-in-law — an apartment with a galley kitchen, bathroom, living space, and two bedrooms. Phyllis is creating stained glass — her hobby — to add an artistic touch to the home.

“The inside of the house is completely different than the plans we received,” Phyllis says. “It’s a really good feeling, building your own home, because if you have your imagination, then you can have anything you want, anything you take the time to do.”

Phyllis’s brother, a contractor, estimated the house would be worth more than $350,000 when it is completed. The Scotts estimate they will spend less than $100,000 building it. The construction began in 1996; the couple expects to be finished by the end of the year.

The Scotts, now in their 60s, find their projects take longer now, but that does not bother them. They still share the work load, according to Phyllis, with Kelly as the “brains” of the operation, and Phyllis the “gofer.”

“He does all the heavy lifting,” she says, “but when we were doing the roofing, I was right up there on the scaffold, handing him materials.”

“It was a lot easier when we were in our 20s and 30s. Now that we are 60, we are a little slower and more careful. Neither one of us can afford to get hurt because, as Kelly says, we are the crew.”

Kelly retired from Local 627 in 2001. His father was a shop Boilermaker. Phyllis’s father, Louis “Red” Niccum, now deceased, and his brother Richard, were both NTL hands. Red Niccum later transferred to Local 92, Los Angeles.

When the Scotts complete the house in Peeples Valley, they will move on to the next project: renovating the 800-square-foot home across the street. They purchased it to live in while building their retirement home, and decided to fix it up.

“There is a misconception that unless a Boilermaker has a 10-pound beater in his hands, he isn’t very handy,” Phyllis says. “Boilermakers can build anything. We’ve done all the work on these houses ourselves. If we didn’t know how to do something we took a class or bought a book.”

APRIL AND SCOTT PETRIK, a member of Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y., are the proud parents of triplet boys. On October 6, they greeted their first born, Bennett Richard, who weighed 4 lbs., 4 oz. Coming in second (or rather, coming out second) was Noah Scott, who weighed an even 4 lbs. Their youngest son, Evan Michael, weighed 3 lbs., 11 oz. All are doing well, although Mom and Dad are very busy. Picture: 1 to 3, are Bennett, Noah, and Evan Petrik.

It’s a boy, boy, boy
Local lodges award service pins to members

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

50 Years – Bobby Petralia;
45 Years – Henry Dilday;
35 Years – John Beckwith Sr., James Flanagan, James Hogan, Michael Havis, James McIntyre, Thomas Patterson, Rick Rickey, William Robison, Robert Schwartz, James Stewart, Robert Williams;
30 Years – Thomas Hartley, William Holmes, Michael Lowe, John McCaulay, Munir Mashni, Terrence Murphy; and
25 Years – Enrique Benitez, Stanley Maduzia, Greg Vernhagen.

Local 45, Richmond, Va.
M. FRANK HARTSOE, BM-ST of Local 45, Richmond, Va., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

80 Years – James Garfield Gaunce;
55 Years – Cameron Marsh, Junior L. Gaunce;
50 Years – Edward Dowell Sr. A. Eugene Walser, Dale Haggerty Sr.;
45 Years – William B. Fernt Jr.;
40 Years – George Hanks Sr., Ronald Musselwhite, Jackson Skeens, William A. Simmons;
35 Years – Thomas Cockrell, Alfred Cox, Paul Davis, William Deckman, Ralph Epple, Grant C. Morris, James R. Stevens, Arnold James Wiggins II, Eugene Williams;
30 Years – Dennis Blevins, David H. Ellis, Ronald B. Glunt, Joseph Howell, James A. Miller, Ervin Pence, W. J. Ratchef, Earl Woolton;
25 Years – William Zeke Burnett, Billy Church, David Haggerty Jr., Ronald Harris, Glenn H. Vance Jr., Obad Wimerley Jr.;
20 Years – Curtis Crayton, James O. Thompson, Donovan Morrow; and
15 Years – Edward Davis Jr., George Hanks Jr., Jerry A. Maxey, Jeffrey R. Morris, Kenneth Scaggs, and Roger Scaggs.

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

55 Years – Boyd Bonnevile;
45 Years – Earl Gum Jr., Gerald Miskell, Thomas W. Quinlan, Ronald Waters, John Westbrook;
40 Years – Vern Campbell, Gerald Goodwin;
35 Years – Jack Lewis, Donald Miskell, Mark Neben, Verne Siemens;
30 Years – Floyd H. Wood;
25 Years – Larry Baumgartner, Richard Bonnett, Paul Bosnick II, Anthony Chavez, Nicholas Chavez, Richard Cruz, Mark Granger, Darren Huddleston, Michael Quinlan, Gary Roberts, David Sadnick, Brian Wachs, Michael Weaver; and
15 Years – Rodney Walk.

Local 107, Milwaukee
JAMES GARFIELD, BM-ST of Local 107, Milwaukee, reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

60 Years – Wally Hein, John Thorpe;
55 Years – Alex Bartshewich, Ed Churchill, Fred Delahay, James Gigstad, Roswald Heizley, Gorman Hilson, Dale Landvatter, Floyd Vertz;
45 Years – Dave Alley, Darrell Bistodeau, Ken Bosman, Samuel Hawpetose, Harold Kirschner, Ron Krizek, Milton Merath, Guy Moede, Ira Moody, Ronald Penkalski, Donald Thomas, Ramon Witz Sr.;
40 Years – Donald DeBaker, George Fockens Jr., Raymond Gralla, Larry Maley, Ralph Poeswelt, Richard Resser;

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

40 Years – John J. Warr Jr.;
30 Years – Richard Biggs, Roy Delligers, Thomas Dennis, Joseph Dreager, Steven Hagedorn, Gary Hamblin, Mike Hildebrand, Albert Jones, Paul M. Keller, Michael Meyer, Daniel Morris, William

Local 587 BM-ST Clay Herford (I) and Pres. James Kirkland (r) present membership pins to l. to r.: Wilson Trahan (55 years), Seth Shelton (40), Frederick Dodd (28), and Woodrow Talbert (65).

L-433 Pres. James Barnes Jr., l., presents a 55-pin year to J. R. West, c.. and a 20-pin year to J.R.’s son, Stanley West.

This group of Local 433 members receive service pins at their October union meeting. Together, they represent over 340 years of union membership.

Morris, Tom Newlin, Richard Robby, Gary Swain, Bernard A. Will; and

Local 433, Tampa, Fla.
EDGAR E. LARISCY, BM-ST of Local 433, Tampa, Fla., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

55 Years – J. R. West;
50 Years – George Gunter, Marvin Parker;
35 Years – James Denmark, Stanley West;
25 Years – Ted Baysing, Robert Kelley, Elijah Lucas Jr.; and
20 Years – Ezekiel Bain, Donald Exum, Richard (Mike) Moore, Wady Salter.

Local 587, Orange, Texas
CLAY HERFORD, BM-ST of Local 587, Orange, Texas, reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

55 Years – Woodrow Talbert, Wilson Trahan;
40 Years – Seth Shelton;
35 Years – Frederick Dodd; and
20 Years – Joe Khoury.
New contract summaries

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

L-5 – New York
THOMAS KLEIN, vice pres. and asst. bus. mgr. for Local 5, New York, N.Y., reports contract ratification, effective Oct. 14, 2003 to Oct. 14, 2006, for five members of Local 5 who work in the shop at Steel Style, Inc.

L-M7 – Grand Rapids, Mich.
IntL Rep. REN VEN reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 7, 2003 to Nov. 6, 2006, for members of Local M7, Grand Rapids, Mich., who work at Atwood Corp.

L-83 – Kansas City, Mo.

L-85 – Toledo, Ohio
IntL Rep. Ren Vren reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 7, 2003 to Nov. 6, 2006, for members of Local 85, Toledo, Ohio, who work at Riverside Marine Ind., Inc. (Hansen).

L-107 – Milwaukee
James Garfield, bus. mgr. for Local 107, Milwaukee, reports contract ratification, effective May 1, 2003 to April 30, 2006, for five members of Local 107 who repair boilers for the PBBs Equipment Corporation.

L-151 – Erie, Pa.
IntL Rep. Ren Vren reports contract ratification, effective Sept. 1, 2003 to Aug. 31, 2006, for 180 members of Local 151, Erie, Pa., who make water wall panels, elements, headers, tubes, and burners at RAlley Power, Inc.

L-175 – Oswego, N.Y.

L-D263 – Clark, Nev.

L-D271 – Martinsburg, W.V.

L-D485 – Selma, Mo.
Carey Allen, director of the CLGAW Division, reports contract ratification, effective Sept. 1, 2003 to Aug. 30, 2008, for 114 members of Local D485, Selma, Mo., who make Portland cement at the River Cement Company.

L-D479 – Invermere, B.C.
Rui LAUZON, BM-ST of Cement District Lodge D11, reports contract ratification, effective May 22, 2003 to May 22, 2006, for 20 members of Local D479, Invermere, B.C., who mine magnesite at John Wolfe Construction Co. Ltd.

L-482 – Wood River, Ill.

L-D503 – Kamloops, B.C.
Rui LAUZON, BM-ST of Cement District Lodge D11, reports contract ratifications, effective Nov. 1, 2003 to Oct. 31, 2007, for five members of Local D503, Kamloops, B.C., who work in a limestone quarry for Plateau Construction, and for 16 Local D503 members who make Portland cement at Lafarge Canada, Inc.

L-D505 – Winnipeg
Don MAES, asst. bus. mgr. for Cement District Lodge D11, reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 1, 2002 to Oct. 31, 2006, for seven members of Local D505, Winnipeg, Manitoba, who work in a terminal shipping bulk of cement for Lehigh Inland Cement Ltd.

L-D513 – Edmonton

L-D583 – Richmond, Calif.

L-752 – Plaisiotw, N.H.

L-1247 – Chicago
IntL Rep. Howard Cole reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 17, 2003 to Nov. 18, 2005, for 68 members of Local 1247, Chicago, who make forgings at Cornell Forge.

L-1509 – Cudahy, Wis.
IntL Rep. Howard Cole reports contract ratification, effective Sept. 29, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2006, for 151 members of Local 1509, Cudahy, Wis., who work with large forgings at the Laddish Co., Inc.

L-1626 – Champaign, Ill.

L-1851 – Springfield, Mass.

A Summary Analysis of these Contract Settlements

This analysis of the 23 agreements above, covering about 1,900 employees, provides a perspective in trends for Boilermaker collective bargaining. It is based on information provided by contract summaries and transmitted report forms and was prepared by the Research and Collective Bargaining Services Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Wage Increases</th>
<th>Vacation</th>
<th>Shift Differential</th>
<th>Pensions</th>
<th>Other Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 2.16% or $0.43/hr. (16 facilities)</td>
<td>20 of 23</td>
<td>2nd Shift – 22 of 23 Total</td>
<td>8 of 23</td>
<td>23 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 2.52% or $0.43/hr. (19 facilities)</td>
<td>23 of 23</td>
<td>20 use cents-per-hour ($0.41 avg.)</td>
<td>12 of 23</td>
<td>8 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 2.42% or $0.50/hr. (18 facilities)</td>
<td>22 of 23</td>
<td>2 use percent of wage (7.5% avg.)</td>
<td>8 of 23</td>
<td>18 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 2.67% or $0.59/hr. (6 facilities)</td>
<td>21 of 23</td>
<td>3rd Shift – 21 of 23 Total</td>
<td>10 of 23</td>
<td>23 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid Holidays</td>
<td>12 of 23</td>
<td>20 use cents-per-hour ($0.48 avg.)</td>
<td>Offer some kind of pension plan</td>
<td>20 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 of 23</td>
<td>1 uses percentage of wage (10%)</td>
<td>Offer 401(k)</td>
<td>Offer Boilermakers-Blacksmith National Pension Trust</td>
<td>10 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 of 23</td>
<td>Life Insurance/AD&amp;D</td>
<td>11 of 23</td>
<td>Contribute cents-per-hour,</td>
<td>12 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 of 23</td>
<td>22 of 23</td>
<td>20 of 23</td>
<td>Canada averages $2.50/hr. in</td>
<td>8 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 of 23</td>
<td>Fixed – $23,333.33 avg. first year</td>
<td>10 of 23</td>
<td>first year, U.S. averages</td>
<td>9 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 of 23</td>
<td>Fixed – $22,411.76 avg. first year</td>
<td>11 of 23</td>
<td>$1.49/hr. in first year</td>
<td>14 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 of 23</td>
<td>Based on annual salary</td>
<td>2 of 23</td>
<td>Other Provisions</td>
<td>17 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 of 23</td>
<td>Fixed – $25,411.76 avg. first year</td>
<td>22 of 23</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 of 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 of 23</td>
<td>Based on annual salary</td>
<td>20 of 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You don’t get what you deserve... you get what you negotiate

Union leaders, like those pictured here, work long nights to negotiate the best benefits they can for Boilermaker members.

Negotiating a three-year agreement for L-151 members at Riley Power are, l. to r., IM Marty Stanton, Jerry Grays, Jeff Frum, Fred Newland, Ed Unger, Wendel Watters, and Jim Young.

Negotiating a three-year agreement for L-263 members at Eagle-Pitcher are local officers, l. to r., Vice Pres. Rick Sinnette, Sec.-Treas. Dale Palmer, IR Atchison, Pres. Ken Flores, and Mike Little.

Negotiating a five-year agreement for L-455 members at River Cement are Vernon Able, Wayne Turley, Kevin Dixon, Bob McVey, and Carey Allen.


Negotiating a three-year agreement for L-1509 at Ladish are, l. to r., front, Dave Kulinski, John Stiert, and Randy Jungkutz; back, Frank Bunec, Roger Reading, Daniel Seng, and Jeff Latus.
National Archives welcomes two new faces

Boilermaker women use chat group to stave off isolation

Boilermaker women share sorrows, joys, and family pictures via Web site

Wives use chat group to stave off isolation

A little love from home
Credit counseling should be education, not business

Debt managers may have money for you, but can you find straight answers?

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED that the number of debt consolidation commercials you see on TV late at night seems to be in direct correlation with the number of bills you have yet to pay? The heavier and more complex the debt, the more appealing are such “easy money” solutions.

According to Jon Ross, vice-president of communications for the Union Plus Program, it is important to distinguish between those who just want your business and those who use a financial expert’s eye to offer the best advice for your situation.

“Loans are strictly loans,” Ross says. “Consolidation loans can help reduce monthly payments and save money, but if you are in financial trouble, you may need more help.”

One gray area, Ross says, is the difference between credit counseling and debt management services.

Credit counselors play an educational role. They collect your information and advise you on choices available for reorganizing and paying down your debt while best satisfying your creditors. They have no vested interest in one choice over another. Their interest is consumer protection.

Debt management specialists are often mistaken for credit counselors. They may offer some “credit counseling,” but their primary goal is to help you move your debt to their company or organization. They usually offer to move your debt into a single payment while promising to “handle” your creditors. Some use home equity to manage the debt. The options they offer will generally be limited to their own products and services, they often charge a fee, one that isn’t always disclosed.

“A lot of times what they offer, for a fee, is something you can do on your own,” Ross says.

Ross first advises you to call your creditors. They are often able to help you if you acknowledge and explain your difficulties.

“A lot of consumers don’t like to face their debt problems, but they would be better off to take action,” Ross says. “They think it is easier to avoid dealing with the problem, but they would be better off if they did.”

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) offers information and education. Founded in 1951, it is commonly known as Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) and has more than 1,000 community-based offices nationwide.

Union Plus will launch a CCCS-affiliated credit counseling and debt management program this spring, with credit specialists who can help union members see their way through financial difficulties.

Meanwhile, Union Plus continues to offer assistance and exceptions for participating union members. Their Credit Card and Loan programs offer a Layoff Helpline (800-551-2873 and 800-365-1328) for members experiencing difficulties making payments while unemployed.

Help from both programs includes skip payment options, interest rate reductions, short- and long-term hardship programs, and account settlements. The Mortgage Assistance Program offers similar options such as flexibility with late fees and interest-free loans to help make payments. These programs are for Union Plus loan, mortgage, and credit card customers only.

For information on these and other Union Plus programs, visit the Web site www.unionplus.org. For credit counseling help, contact CCCS at 800-388-2227 or online at www.nfcc.org.

AmeriDebt’s questionable practices spur consumer alert

IN OCTOBER, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a consumer alert for those seeking help from tax-exempt credit counseling organizations. They are concerned that some organizations are using their nonprofit status to circumvent consumer protection laws.

In Illinois and Missouri, state regulators are suing AmeriDebt, saying it charges excessive fees and diverts money to for-profit companies that are affiliated with it. Though AmeriDebt advertises no up-front fees for consumers, Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon says the company downplays or hides that a consumer’s first monthly payment goes to AmeriDebt and its affiliates. That fee, according to Nixon, is typically three percent of the total debt, or an average of $827.

Timothy Muris, chairman of the FTC, suggests consumers who are struggling financially should be wary of quick fixes. “[They] need to be careful not to lose even more money to someone offering a quick and easy way to fix credit problems.”

The FTC offers the following tips to evaluate a credit counselor.

❑ Read any written agreement. It should describe services provided, payment terms for these services (including cost), the length of time it will take to achieve results, any guarantees, and the organization’s name and address.
❑ Watch out for “voluntary contributions” and fees that may increase your debt.
❑ Remember it is illegal to represent that negative information, such as bankruptcy, can be removed from your credit rating.
❑ Make sure your creditors are willing to work with the agency you choose.
❑ Follow up with creditors to ensure the debt is being paid off.
❑ Check an organization’s record with state agencies and Better Business Bureaus.

For information on these programs and other member-only benefits, go to www.unionplus.org

*Retired members are eligible. Some programs are not available to members outside the continental United States, and not all programs are available in all states.

Phone 1-800-452-9425 for clarification of eligibility.
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Continued from page 22

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM K. "BILL" HOLT, 86, past president and board member of the Bremerton Metal Trades Council (BMTC) and 61-year member of Local 290, Bremerton, Wash., passed away Dec. 8, 2003.

Holt worked as a shipfitter and machinist at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for 34 years, retiring in 1981. He served 17 years with the BMTC and was a member of the AFL-CIO’s Kitsap County Central Labor Council.

Survivors include his wife of 29 years, the former Nancy Aldrich; a son, William K. "Peter" Holt Jr.; a daughter, Karen Collins; a brother, John Holt; six grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

DICK HARDIN, 55

DICK HARDIN, 55, an International Representative for the National Trans-

The Boilermakers National Archives Needs Your Support

THE BOILERMAKERS UNION occupies an important place in the history of North America, and we are working to preserve that history through the Boilermakers National Archives, a museum located one block west of International headquarters in Kansas City, Kan.

National Archivist Tom Wands has been collecting and restoring items for display. He is also creating databases for a perpetual historical record and dates of local lodge charters, names of local lodge officers, and biographies of international officers.

You can help us continue the work of the archives through your donations. To help raise much-needed funds, the National Archives is offering the gifts pictured at right to donors.

Only U.S. funds can be accepted. Please make checks or money orders payable to the Boilermakers Archives, indicate your gift choice on the memo line, and mail to:

The Boilermakers National Archives
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All donations are tax-deductible less $1 for each decal/sticker received; $5 for each ornament; $10 for a Black Beauty watch or clock; $18 for a sports watch; $20 for a dress watch. Tax ID #48-114-537.


HOMER E. PATTON, 89


Patton joined the Boilermakers union in 1935, becoming a member of Local 72 in Portland, Ore. He later transferred his membership to Local 6, Oakland, Calif., earning his 65-year membership pin in 2000.

Patton served the International for 32 years, first as an Intl. representative, then as an Intl. vice president, becoming International secretary-treasurer in 1958.

A friend to Pres. Harry Truman and other presidents, Patton was invited to several inaugural festivities and was appointed a member of the Air Quality Advisory Board by Pres. Richard Nixon. On three different occasions, he represented the United States at international labor meetings.

He was made Ambassador of Good Will for Arkansas by Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller, a Distinguished Jayhawk by Kansas Gov. John Anderson, and a Colonel and Aide-de-Camp by Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen. He received a citation of outstanding achievement by Oregon’s American Legion Americanism Program and served as chairman of the board of directors for the Brotherhood State Bank during the 1960s and early 1970s.

Patton is survived by his wife, Deborah; four sons, Billy, Jason, and Brandon; three daughters, Sandra Linson and Sharon Rivers; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM K. HOLT, 86

WILLIAM K. "BILL" HOLT, 86, past president and board member of the Bremerton Metal Trades Council (BMTC) and 61-year member of Local 290, Bremerton, Wash., passed away Dec. 8, 2003.

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DICK HARDIN, 55, an International Representative for the National Trans-
When Congressmen Dick Gephardt withdrew as a candidate for president of the United States, working families lost their strongest champion in the race. It was a great honor to endorse and work on behalf of a man of such honor and integrity — a true hero to working men and women, union and non-union alike. Dick Gephardt has been a pillar of strength and dignity his entire political career, and it is the country’s loss that he won’t be the next president.

But our support for Gephardt was not in vain. Your hard work made a real difference. The other candidates have adopted Dick Gephardt’s positions on trade and economic justice, and the huge voter turnouts we are seeing in the primaries show the great strength and determination of the Democratic Party to reclaim the White House.

Dick Gephardt will dedicate his remarkable personal story to Congressmen who represent working people. Every day of his working life he has sought to bring positive change to the hard working men and women of this country, and his efforts will not cease in these final months.

In a conference call with Congressman Gephardt shortly after he announced he was withdrawing, the 18 unions that make up the Alliance for Economic Justice (AEJ) — including our union — vowed to stay focused on continuing to promote our message to the American people. Congressman Gephardt promised to consult with the AEJ before he endorsed a candidate, and the AEJ vowed to strongly consider endorsing Gephardt.

Over the next few weeks, presidents from unions affiliated with the AEJ met with the leading contenders still in the race — John Kerry and John Edwards.

John Kerry will listen to workers’ needs and work with us to address our concerns

When it comes to jobs and the economy, they just don’t seem to get it. An example of how little this administration cares about American workers came on Feb. 11, when Gregory Mankiw, chairman of President Bush’s Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), told members of Congress that the trend toward outsourcing is “just a new way of doing international trade... It’s a good thing.”

“No, it is not a good thing.”

Over the past three years, the United States has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs. Most of the American workers who have lost these good-paying manufacturing jobs are either still unemployed or have taken lower-paying jobs in service industries.

Not only is that a bad thing for their families, but it has a ripple effect on their communities. When you’re out of work, you can’t buy new cars, new appliances, new homes, or new clothes. You can’t go out to eat or to the movies. You can’t afford health care for your family. So those businesses in your community get hurt.

When you don’t spend money, you don’t pay sales tax or gas tax, so your community’s tax revenue drops.

Losing 2.8 million good-paying jobs is not “a good thing” for the people who have lost their jobs, for the families of those people, for the communities they live in, or for the country as a whole. The fact that a high-level member of the Bush administration could even suggest it could be good indicates how far out of touch this administration is from the American people.

And it isn’t just trade. There’s over-time pay, which the Bush administration is taking away from eight million workers. There’s union protection, which the Bush administration has denied to more than 600,000 federal workers, and civil service protection, which they are denying to millions more. There’s the $500 billion deficit that the Bush administration created by giving huge tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans — a deficit that our children will end up paying off.

And a lot more.

John Kerry has a better plan.

The Kerry plan includes reviving American manufacturing by putting American companies on an even playing field with their foreign competitors. The Kerry plan includes tax breaks for manufacturers that create jobs in the United States, instead of tax breaks for those who move jobs overseas.

The Kerry plan will provide tax relief for middle-income workers while trimming the tax cuts the Bush administration gave to the wealthiest Americans. The Kerry plan includes closing tax loopholes that benefit corporations at workers’ expense and making corporations keep honest accounting records.

Although the project is now going fairly smoothly, in October the project was quickly becoming behind in hours, and management was slow in moving on improvements to safety and production issues. Morale got low, so they finally decided to hire the members and all trades in improving the whole program. (We are now on our third project superintendent.)

To all the brothers and sisters out there, keep using your union voices! Together, we can make things better! With thanks to Billy Morrison and shop steward Brother Ed “Two Shoes” Lamley.

DARCY BAXTER, Local 191
Victoria, B.C.

Local 191’s Baxter encourages you to ‘keep using your voices’

IT WAS GREAT to see the article on Local 191’s 47-foot motor lifeboat program (Oct-Dec 2003). As one welder from the project, I’d like to mention that as of January 4, 2004, we are on boat 11 in the final outfit phase.

Newton B. Jones
International President

The Kerry plan will protect American workers through stronger health and safety laws, better overtime rules, and laws that keep corporations from raiding pensions.

Most important of all, John Kerry’s plan includes listening to workers. He will listen to our needs and search for ways to address our concerns.

As you search for a presidential candidate to support, give John Kerry a long, hard look. In February, the presidents of the unions who joined together to form the AEJ voted unanimously to endorse Kerry because we believe he will continue to listen to our concerns and will work with us.

By uniting behind this candidate, Boilermakers can have a significant impact on this year’s elections and on the future of our country.

Learn more about John Kerry and his vision for America at his campaign Web site: www.johnkerry.com

Send a Letter to the Editor

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:

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- tax relief for middle-income workers
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- closing tax loopholes that benefit corporations
- making corporations keep honest accounting records
- a balanced budget
- not “a good thing” for American workers