Edwards drops in on Local 105

By Tom Brochu

Vice-presidential candidate visits local, talks to members

WHAT DO YOU SAY when a candidate for vice president phones your local and asks if it would be all right if he dropped by to meet the members?

Van Stephens, business manager-secretary-treasurer of Boilermakers Local 105, Piketon, Ohio, said, “Come on down,” and Local 105 members got to see what John Edwards is like — up close and personal.

John Kerry’s running mate was on his way to a rally in Portsmouth, Ohio, when his staff told him how much work Local 105 was doing to get out the vote in their part of southern Ohio. Edwards made a detour and gave a brief speech at the hall to thank Local 105 President Wyndham D. Sparling.

John Edwards wades into a crowd of Local 105 Boilermakers at their union hall.

Leap Coordinator Garry Ledford, and the members for their hard work.

U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, Democratic congressman from Ohio’s 6th district, introduced the senator from North Carolina, who spoke for about 15 minutes. Strickland represented Piketon before his district was redrawn two years ago. Edwards hit on a key issue for Boilermakers and other workers in the area when he spoke about jobs at Piketon’s uranium enrichment plant.

“Sen. John Kerry and I are going to make sure the Piketon plant stays open and that the new Piketon plant is built and built on schedule,” he told them. “Not only that, we are going to make sure the workers who are sick get the help they need.”

The uranium enrichment plant is Piketon’s largest employer. At one time, it employed 2,500 workers, but is down to 1,200 today and constantly faces the threat of closure.

Edwards hit another hot topic for Ohioans when he talked about health care and prescription drug costs.

See KERRY-EDWARDS page 7

MOST offers first project management class

Program gives Boilermakers chance to advance careers

MEMBERS CAN NOW become project managers through the newest MOST program — the Boilermakers’ Project Management program.

“The Project Management for Boilermakers program is not just a seminar,” explained Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones. “Our singular focus is to create and build business-focused project managers.”

Members are selected to participate in the program based on their exceptional work history and potential to become leaders in the boilermaker trade.

“We will take these members beyond project scope, schedule, and budget, and open their eyes to the business of project management,” Jones said.

The course idea came from a tripartite alliance meeting in which over 300 union leaders, contractors, and owners discussed the benefits of customizing a project management program.

All three partner groups of the tripartite alliance will profit from the Boilermakers’ Project Management program.

See PROJECT MANAGEMENT page 3

Eastern Canada hosts first tripartite

‘The Boilermakers are leading the way again to keep the building trades strong in Canada’ — John Schel, BCA president

THE BOILEMKERS SPONSORED our first tripartite conference in Canada, Aug. 18-19, at the Muskoka Delta Grandview Resort in Huntsville, Ontario.

“The purpose of this conference is to bring the three players — the union, contractors, and owner/clients — together to create an atmosphere of respect for the interest of the other parties involved in any one project,” said Intl. Vice Pres. Sandy MacDonald.

“Respect will enable us to overcome prejudice and solve problems with mutual satisfaction.”

Working with MacDonald, Intl. Rep. Ed Power set up the tripartite meeting for industry leaders in Eastern Canada. Over 80 participants attended the meeting, with representatives from nine owner/clients, 16 contractors, and five Boilermaker lodges.

“I was very pleased by the attention the program received,” Power said. “It was our first conference of this kind in Canada, but we had a tried-and-true template from the U.S. conference to work from, terrific support from Intl. Pres. Jones, JVP MacDonald, and Tripartite Director Jim McCormick, plus the support and dedication of the Eastern Canadian business managers.”

Joining MacDonald and Power at the podium were Bruce Ashton, retiring co-coordinator of Boilermaker apprentice training in Canada, and guest speakers John Schel and Jack Brochu of the Boilermaker Contractors

See CANADIAN TRIPARTITE page 2
Canadian tripartite

Continued from page 1

Association (BCA), Tony Fanelli of Comstock Canada, Keith MacDonald of Kimberly Clarke — Nova Scotia, Glenn Pickel of G.P. Consulting, and Bob Blakey of the Canadian Building Trades.

During the two-day meeting, the delegates discussed five issues: absenteeism, respect, safety, outage schedules and manpower, and an agenda for the future.

Members of each partnership group met to discuss industry concerns in separate workshops. Coming back to the general session, a representative from each workshop presented their ideas to the full conference for additional discussions. Each partnership group then met again to formulate plans to proceed, with a final presentation to the general session outlining their strategy.

Take a closer look at the tripartite concept

BOILERMAKERS IN THE U.S. have hosted tripartite conferences for more than 18 years, with representatives of the construction industry — owners, contractors, and labor — meeting to develop programs to make our efforts more productive and our employers more competitive. From these meetings have come national drug testing, welder testing and certification, safety training, craftsmen identification, and manpower reserve programs. Some of these programs have crossed the border to Canada, but this was the first time that Canadian leaders in the construction industry had an opportunity to meet in a partnership group and formulate plans for themselves.

AIP James McCormick, who serves as director of the tripartite alliance programs in the U.S., attended the Canadian meeting. He was impressed by the interaction of the owners, contractors, and Boilermakers. “It was quite evident that all attendees were enthused and eager to address the issues confronting our industry,” McCormick said. “I feel the Eastern Canadian Tripartite will grow to resolve many issues.”

Senior labor advisor for New Brunswick Power, John Cole, called the meeting “a good start to improve industry labor relations. Success will be shown in the work to be done in the coming year, addressing the issues raised, such as training,” Cole said.

Murray Sanderson, labor relations manager for Babcock & Wilcox (Ba&W), believed the meeting was informative, thought-provoking, and instructive. “There were many good discussions on a number of issues important to the industry,” Sanderson said.

Ba&W’s national construction manager, Howard Constable, was also impressed by the willingness of all three parties to get involved and work together for the betterment of all concerned. “To that end, I look forward to contributing over the next year to insure we all can continue to improve and be successful.”

“Participating in the first Eastern Canadian tripartite conference is a positive step to a better working relationship between the parties involved,” Cotter said. “The number of participants at the conference demonstrates the interest and the resolve to make our industry better.”

Tinney believes providing a safe, productive work site is the number one priority on all agendas. He said, “The tripartite creates a good opportunity to discuss and find solutions to items of concern for the owners and contractors, and most important, for our membership.”

Villemure found the conference to be well organized. “Topics on the agenda were well chosen and the work session with owners and contractors was very interesting and productive,” Villemure said.

Walse described the meeting with the following well-used adage: You can’t change history, but you can create it. We believe we will have a better working relationship with the owners and contractors as a result of this meeting.

The groups with differing interests and agendas came together at Muskoka, and left realizing that a lot of our goals are not in conflict and that by working together we can achieve a lot more than by being antagonistic with each other,” Walsh said.

Participants see more tripartite meetings in future

A WEEK AFTER the meeting ended, BCA President John Schel wrote his thanks to the Boilermakers for bringing the tripartite concept to Canada.

“In Canada, we participate in regional multi-trade conferences where we listen to each other’s criticisms and concerns without any focus on actively strengthening our relationships. The Boilermakers decided to take the risk for the possible reward by putting together a conference where owner/clients, Boilermaker contractors, and the union could meet,” Schel wrote.

“We seem to have succeeded. Going forward, we are creating subcommittees with strong owner/client support and participation to address issues. Other building trade unions are calling together with building trade contractor associations, to inquire if the rumors are true. They are. The Boilermakers are leading the way again to keep the building trades strong in Canada.”

Western Canadian Vice President Rick Albright was also impressed by the meeting. “Owner/clients, contractors, and union leaders alike displayed a keen willingness to work as true partners to address and remedy weaknesses and to adopt initiatives to improve our product,” Albright said. “I congratulate Sandy and Ed for organizing such a highly-successful and productive conference.”

Tripartite attendees

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED the following owner representatives: Jim Scott-Anderson and David M. Galvin of Bruce Power; Stew Stevenson of Dofasco; Terry O’Neill of Esso Nanticoke; Keith MacDonald of Kimberly Clarke; Dexter Bothwell of Nova Chemicals; Gary Currie and Bill Small of Nova Scotia Power; John Cole, Charlie Ryan, and Rod Eagles of New Brunswick Power; Arin Del Pino of Ontario Power Generation; Ian Nolans of Petro Canada.

Contractor representatives included Marty Albright, Ron Takacs, Roger Howells, Bastien Audet, and Jack Holiday of Alstrom Power; Harlan Anderson of Anderson-Webb Ltd.; Don Douglas of AECON Industrial; D. Murray Sanderson, Tom Griffin, Howard Constable, and George Thiessen of Babcock & Wilcox; Steve Corkum and John Brining of Black & McDonald; John Schel and Jack Brochu of the Boilermaker Contractors Association;

Tony Fanelli, Bill Patterson, and Brian Rielly of Comstock Canada Ltd.; E. Spencer Fox and John Brison of E.S. Fox Ltd.; Marc Beauregard and Chist Franckom of Horton CBI; Gord Duggan and Reg Thibeault of Jacobs Consultancy.; D. Stevens of Demouchel of Lornville Mechanical; Phil Bibby and Joe Ramkissoon of Mainway Industrial; Paul Young of Sunny Corners Enterprises; Mike Pouliot of Tiw Steel Platework; Ed Duquette of TSM-Mechanical; and Steve Smillie of the General Presidents Maintenance Committee.

Labor representatives included International Vice Presidents Sandy MacDonald, Rick Albright, Larry McManaman, and Sean Murphy; Assistants to the Int'l. Pres. James McCormick and Stan Petronski; Intl. Reps. Corey Channon, Andree Fleury, Ed Power, and Mike Watson; and local lodge representatives Kent Oliver, Gary Morris, Jean-Yves Poirier of Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Jim Tinney, John Petronski, George McGeechie, Andy Holder; Dale Quinn, Reg White, Ed Prenotte, and Steve Silversides of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario; Tom Walsh of Local 203, St. John’s, Newfoundland; Guy Villemure of Local 271, Montreal, Quebec; Carl Ellisworth of Local 359 Vancouver, British Columbia; Grant Jacobs, the new national co-coordinator for the Boilermakers apprenticeship program; and Patrick Delain of the Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council of Ontario.


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Keith MacDonald, chief engineer of Kimberly Clark, presents a report from the owner caucus.
L-154 holds 3rd annual tripartite meeting

We should all take advantage of the opportunity to talk and listen. Keep asking yourself the question, “What can I do to make it better?”

Larry Wargo, FirstEnergy

LOCAL 154, PITTSBURGH, sponsored its third annual tripartite conference at its facilities, January 27-28, with over 100 representatives of the construction industry in attendance. Members from each of the tripartite alliance groups participated — owner, contractor, and union.

Leading the meeting were owner co-chairman Larry Wargo of FirstEnergy, contractor co-chairman Lyle Fischer of the Simakas Company, and union co-chairman Local 154 BM Ray Ventrone. “We used feedback and comments from last year’s conference to plan this meeting, and we will receive updates on a wide range of activities of interest which affect all of us,” Wargo said. “We should all take advantage of the opportunity to talk and listen. Keep asking yourself the question, ‘What can I do to make it better?’”

Fischer said, “This was the third year we have met to talk about our industry. We are developing relationships that will help us to make our lives better. What can I do to make it better? The same things we all can do: listen to each other, respond to each other, share what we have learned with each other, and serve each other.”

“The main objective of this conference, on our local level, is to find solutions and establish new approaches to the concerns we encounter within our geographical jurisdiction,” Ventrone said. This year’s conference theme, “What can I do to make it better?” was supported by guest speakers and became the focus of group caucus meetings.

Each alliance group met separately to develop avenues to make the construction industry better.

Chris Cox of FirstEnergy reported on the owners’ caucus meeting, where they discussed increasing the quality of wash room facilities, shift changes, job site respect, communicating manpower needs ahead of schedule, pre-job meetings, and rewarding contractor safety.

Fischer talked about the contractors’ caucus meeting, where they discussed communication, health care costs, superintendents, worker attitude, absenteeism, and meeting the high standards of safety, workmanship, and productivity.

Local 154’s Tony Smarra discussed the union caucus reporting on accomplishing goals through safety, training, supervision, workplace respect, and dispatch procedures.

“It is encouraging to see that many of the points raised in each group overlapped with the others,” Ventrone said. “Based on this input, we will make improvements and find solutions that will positively impact all of us and our industry.”

Guest speakers included Neil Borck, impartial secretary for the National Maintenance Agreement Policy Committee (NMAPC). Borck explained partnerships among labor, contractors, and owners where each party shares equally in the responsibilities as well as the rewards these programs generate.

“AIP Mike DiCicco addressed the importance of the National Maintenance Agreements and how they impact the boilermaker trade, specifically through the promotion of work opportunities for the unionized construction industry.”

Ventrone provided a manpower update, announcing plans to expand the local’s recruitment resources to satisfy these needs with highly-skilled workers.

“The effectiveness of our local’s strong position in the construction industry is strengthened because of the members of Local 154,” Ventrone said.

“We have built a reputation by dispatching skilled and productive craftsmen to every job. We have demonstrated that we are prepared to work in a changing and competitive industry.”

Representatives of the Local 154 political committee gave a report on legislative issues that affect each segment of the tripartite alliance.

Local 154 safety instructors then discussed the benefits contractors and owners realize from the local’s comprehensive safety training programs.

“At the conclusion of the conference it was evident that we all share the hope and optimism to make it better,” Ventrone said. “If we all take the momentum and energy from this conference and apply it to our everyday jobs and responsibilities we will make it better.”

Project Management

Continued from page 1

the program. Owners will benefit by gaining valuable employees with a new level of performance.

Contractors will benefit by working with highly-skilled and experienced Boilermakers who are proficient in project management techniques, ensuring mutual success in meeting and exceeding industry expectations.

And Boilermakers who participate in this program will gain more stabilized work opportunities by proving to the contractor and owner they are worth inviting back for the next job.

The program is open to all Boilermakers who demonstrate exceptional abilities and are recommended by either a contractor or the union. At least two classes will be held each year during slow construction months.

Pilot program a success

THE FIRST PROGRAM for the Boilermaker Project Management program was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Kansas City, August 23-27.

Twenty Boilermakers attended the seminar. Ten selected by the union (two from each vice presidential area), and ten were selected by the employers who participated — APCOM Power, B&W, Enerlab, G-UB-MK, Foster Wheeler Zack, the Washington Group, Nooter Construction, MCI, Day & Zimmerman, and Sterling Boiler.

The seminar is sponsored and funded by the Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training (MOST) program, a joint labor-management trust established to provide exceptional value and services to the Boilermaker industries.

The five-day program was developed with the help of FMI Consulting, one of the leading consulting firms in the construction industry. FMI instructors Mike Putzer and Dennis Doran conducted the pilot program with future instructors — Chuck Connor of Connor Consulting and Les Seydel of Graycor — in attendance.

Course topics included behavioral preferences, estimating and budgeting, planning and scheduling, motivation, turnover process, logistics, safety, conflict resolution, trade jurisdiction, labor agreement interpretation, cost control and tracking, managing customer expectations, commercial contract administration, diversity, quality assurance and quality control, close-out, and action planning.

The project management program is an excellent career path for selected Boilermakers, providing them with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the industries we serve.

And Local 454’s Steve Trotter already has proof that the industry is looking for Boilermakers with these skills. Within days of completing the pilot course, he had already used what he’d learned to land a job.
Construction workshop focuses on future growth

Plan pushes education, access to resources, better craft relations

CONSTRUCTION LODGE LEADERS from all across Canada and the United States met in Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 28-July 1, to attend workshops sponsored by the Boilermakers Construction Division (CD).

CD Director Dale “Skipper” Branscum led the event, where nearly 200 local lodge representatives participated in a four-day education program covering such topics as air cooled condenser jurisdiction, manganese poisoning, and changes in national agreements.

Branscum’s assistants, Intl. Reps. Clay Herford and Mark Vandyver, worked one-on-one with members, demonstrating the new CD online database.

“This database was three years in the making,” Branscum explained. “A lot of credit should go to retired CD Director Joe Meredith, Mark, Clay, and Intl. Rep. Cory Channon for making this great resource a reality.”

The database contains board decisions, assignment letters, and the jurisdiction books for the UA, Millwrights, and Ironworkers. Every piece of equipment on jurisdiction drawings has been indexed and can be searched by craft, equipment, resolution, and year making this database one of the most valuable resources a construction lodge leader can access.

Intl. Pres. Newton Jones addressed the conference, announcing the retirement of International Vice President for the Northeast Section Michael Murphy and introducing his successor, Sean Murphy.

Gene Crouse, second from right, displays the framed art he earned for his safety work, with (l. to r.) District 57 BM-ES Ed Vance, L-453 BM-ST Vince Harper, and AIP Jim McCormick.

L-453’s Crouse recognized for his safety efforts

GENE CROUSE, a 32-year member of Local 453, Knoxville, Tenn., has earned recognition from G-UB-MK Constructors for his efforts to help reduce injuries at the Kingston job site.

Crouse worked as a job site representative where members of the Kingston outage team completed 1,185,796 man-hours, July 2000 through January 2004, without a lost-time injury. This outstanding safety performance earned G-UB-MK the Washington Group International Safety Award, an award that has only been presented 134 previous times in the award’s 42-year history.

Brian Barker, operations and labor relations manager for G-UB-MK, wrote the Tennessee Valley Trades & Labour Council about Crouse’s efforts to reduce and eliminate injuries.

“Gene Crouse participates in the G-UB-MK Kingston safety meetings and provides leadership to identify and solve issues with a practical approach to the situation,” Barker wrote.

“He also is proactive in identifying and communicating other job issues, promotes harmony, and is well respected by both staff and craft at the Kingston job site.

“Please communicate G-UB-MK’s appreciation to Gene Crouse for his efforts to reduce and eliminate injuries, which contributed to improving our overall performance for everyone’s mutual benefit,” Barker wrote.

Over 20 local lodge leaders attend training sponsored by the GLAIC#1.

Affiliated lodges include Locals M6, M10, D12, M24, D81, M94, 158, 357, 524, 1234, 1240, 1247, 1256, 1509, and 1600.

Great Lakes members train for success

OVER 20 LOCAL lodge leaders of the Great Lakes section attended a full-day training in Chicago, June 11, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars facility.

Professor Bob Breving and Local Lodge Secretary-Treasurers Robert Wilcox (L-1255, Chicago) and Randy Sondgeroth (L-1600, St. Charles, Ill.) conducted the classes for lodge representatives affiliated with the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council (GLAIC#1).

Breving, of the DePaul Labor Education Center, discussed Robert’s Rules of Order, a guide to smooth, orderly, and fairly conducted meetings. Wilcox and Sondgeroth outlined the preparation of financial reports, presenting examples of Crouse said government forms.

Intl. Rep. Howard Cole, who serves as the council’s business representative, was impressed by the presentations and the members’ participation.

“They are a double agenda, dealing with both the rules of order and financial reports,” Cole said. “When the session concluded, they all stood, joined hands, and sang the union song, ‘Solidarity Forever.’ It was very moving.”

Political action is at the forefront in the U.S., and Jones applauded the members’ efforts thus far, asking for their continued support to get Kerry elected president.

Bridget Martin, director of the Boilermakers’ government affairs department, and her assistant, Shannon Brett, spoke about educational materials available to members and the importance of getting out the vote. They reminded members that Election Day is the last day to vote. They encourage members to vote early, especially those who travel for a living and will most likely be away from home on Election Day.

Paul Meade of Local 29, Boston, and retired AIP Bill Carey discussed air cooled condenser jurisdiction. They asked business managers Gerry Connelly of Local 5, New York, and Gerald Couser, of Albany, N.Y., to share their experiences.

Couser said they lost a job just because it was an Ironworker contractor doing the work and they were not going to give any of the work to Boilermakers.

“Charlie also is proactive in identifying and communicating other job issues, promotes harmony, and is well respected by both staff and craft at the Kingston job site. He also is proactive in identifying and communicating other job issues, promotes harmony, and is well respected by both staff and craft at the Kingston job site. Please communicate G-UB-MK’s appreciation to Gene Crouse for his efforts to reduce and eliminate injuries, which contributed to improving our overall performance for everyone’s mutual benefit,” Barker wrote.

“We are trying to provide you with the tools and resources to help you do the best job you can to serve our members.’

Newton B. Jones, International President

‘We are trying to provide you with the tools and resources to help you do the best job you can to serve our members.’

Newton B. Jones, International President

Great Lakes members train for success
Kibbey, Postlethwait win SAJAC contest

Nine apprentices compete for 36th annual Paul D. Wedge trophy

THE SOUTHEAST AREA Joint Apprentice Committee (SAJAC) sponsored its 36th annual Paul D. Wedge Memorial Award competition, August 9-10, at the training facilities of Local 108, Birmingham, Ala.

Michael V. Kibbey of Local 105, Chillicothe, Ohio, walked away with first place, and Carl B. Postlethwait of Local 667, Charleston, W.Va., placed second, earning each the right to represent the Southeast Area at the national competition in Kansas City, Sept. 14-17.

Other contestants included Glenn R. Buckner of Local 26, Savannah, Ga.; Bridgette G. Seargraves of Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky.; Kevin E. Bensonhaver of Local 45, Richmond, Va.; Joshua D. Nelson of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.; Jonathan R. Ellis of Local 108; Casey C. Jones of Local 263, Memphis, Tenn.; and Johnny E. Osborn Jr. of Local 454, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The fourth-year apprentices were judged on how well they performed on written and hands-on tests. The written test covered such subjects as by-laws. Hands-on testing included rigging, tube welding, block reeving, knot tying, rope splicing, tube rolling, carbon arc gouging, and tool use.

Contestants spent two grueling days under the careful watch of judges representing the union and Boilermaker contractors. Union judges included Int'l. Reps. Barry Edwards and Steve Speed, SAJAC lead instructor Mike McClusky, and retired representatives William Elrod and Lou Novak. Contractor judges included Randall James of B&W Const., Bill Kunkel of Common Arc, Mike McGinnis of ENERFAB, Bob Righter of APCOM Power, Jeff Sutherland of APCOM Power, and Scott Szeghi of ENERFAB.

Following the second day of testing, Local 108 held a barbeque for all the participants. The next night, participants attended the awards banquet at the Winfrey Hotel where each contestant received $500 and a plaque. The runner-up received an additional $500 and a small engraved crystal presentation bowl; the winner received a larger bowl and an additional $1,000.

SAJAC Director Mike Peterson was impressed with the contestants’ ability to perform under pressure, calling each of them a winner for being selected to represent their local lodges at the area competition.

L-13 opens the Jeffrey C. Davis School of Welding

Training center named to honor apprentice killed in refinery explosion

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 13, Philadelphia, attended a grand opening of their new training facility on May 22. They dedicated the building in memory of Jeffrey C. Davis.

Davis was killed in an explosion at the Motiva Refinery in Delaware City, Del., in June 2002. Although Davis, 51, had been a Boilermaker apprentice for less than a year, he had been a strong union member most of his life, working several years at the U.S. Steel Plant in Fairless Hills, Pa.

The Davis family is grateful for the support they received from Local 13, its sister locals, and the other trades working at the refinery. To show her appreciation for this support and for naming the facility after her husband, Mary Davis presented the local with a $50,000 check for scholarships to the sons and daughters of Local 13 members.

Others honored at the dedication included Frederick Weber, a 20-year Local 13 member who passed away in 1993. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Peters, attended the dedication, where Local 13 BM-ST Jim Banford praised Weber for his contributions to the local.

“We not only honor Jeffrey Davis at this dedication, we honor Frederick Weber and all those who gave so much for this organization,” Banford said.

“This facility is exactly the kind of state-of-the-art facility we need to provide training for our apprentices and journeymen. It will enable us to educate our members on the fundamentals and many skills required of our trade, as well as keeping us up-to-date on the latest technological advances in our industry,” Banford said. “The erection of this facility would not have been possible without the love of our members, the love of our union, and the love of our trade.”

Local 374 opens Dale training center

Members can now choose between two state-of-the-art facilities

MEMBERS OF LOCAL LODGE 374, Hammond, Ind., can boast of two high-tech training facilities, one at their headquarters in Hammond, and a new facility 30 miles south in Dale, Ind.

The Dale facility is being used to train members in all welding processes, from plate to orbital tube welding. It opened in August 2003 and hosted its first graduating class in September 2004. The 6,000-square-foot building has two classrooms and 20 welding booths, with room for expansion. It also houses the offices of Asst. Bus. Mgr. and Zone 3 dispatcher Jerry Tempel, apprentice instructor David Weatherholt, and welding instructor Jon Neu.

Win your union dream ride

Register now to win one of six union-made vehicles

YOU COULD WIN a Ford, Chrysler, or GM car or truck (made by UAW workers) or one of two Harley-Davidson Sportster motorcycles (made by PACE and IAM members) just by taking advantage of member-only Union Plus programs.

● Earn 15 entries by calling the Union Plus Auto Buying Service at 1-877-800-2924 and getting a referral to a car dealer in your area. This service will help you find the right vehicle at the right price. For more information, see www.unionplus.org/autobuying.

● Earn an entry every time you use your Union Plus Credit Card through December 1, 2004. Apply for the card at www.unionpluscard.com.

Official rules and regulations are available at www.uniondreamride.com, where you can also enter. Limit one online entry per person.

www.unionplus.org
Local 11 defends its work in Montana

Company is using Bulgarian welders to build a tank

OUTSOURCING — the practice of sending jobs overseas to save labor costs — has been headline news this year. In the past few years, outsourcing has put millions of American workers on the unemployment line.

Most construction Boilermakers have felt safe. You can’t ship construction jobs overseas.

But members of Local Lodge 11 in Helena, Mont., have learned that even construction jobs aren’t safe. All you need to do is take advantage of immigration laws to bring foreign workers here, where you pay them far less than what American workers earn.

International Malting, Inc. (IMC) used Express Personnel to hire Bulgarian workers to build a tank in Montana, members of Local 11 were outraged. There was no reason to bring workers from another country to do a job Local 11 members have performed in the past.

Immigration laws allow companies to use foreign workers on American soil only when no American workers can do the work. And that was simply not the case.

“Express Personnel imported these workers so the company could make a bigger profit,” said Bob Hall, BM-ST of Local 11.

The work has always been performed by members of the Boilermakers union. These workers were brought here, not based on how well they could perform the job, but based solely on the fact they would save the company money by working for subsstandard wages,” Hall said.

Hall and his assistant, Ben Steliman, went to work gathering evidence to support their case. They filed unfair labor charges against IMC and Express Personnel Services with the National Labor Relations Board.

But the Board would not stop IMC from using the Bulgarians. They ruled that the company had used the same Bulgarian subcontractor on similar projects in other states.

However, Hall’s own investigation showed that IMC had tried this practice only one other time — in Minneapolis, but the state of Minnesota had put a stop to it. Express Personnel was not offering employment. They did not have a job. Instead, IMC just used Express Personnel to get visas so they could hire the Bulgarian workers instead of using qualified U.S. workers.

Taking the next step

HALL THEN CONTACTED the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Employment and Training Administration. Three months after Express Personnel received certification for their temporary alien employment application, a DOL certifying officer requested that Express Personnel’s labor certification be revoked and Bulgarian workers deported from the U.S.

Certifying officer Jenny Elser requested the revocation based on the “compelling evidence” she received.

Elser wrote in her letter recommending the deportation. “The employer intentionally misrepresented facts on the application in an effort to usurp the H-2B process to bring Bulgarian workers into the United States.”

But Local 11 is still not satisfied. The INS has been slow to start the deportation process. Hall’s attempts to find out what’s going on through the Freedom of Information Act have been hampered by the Department of Homeland Security.

Where it stands now

“We HAVEN’T GIVEN up,” Hall said. “If anything, our efforts have slowed down the job and we have definitely cost the company a lot of money in lawyer fees. We can’t help but feel the state of Montana let us down when they did not stop this job like Minnesota did when IMC tried this in Minneapolis.”

Asst. to the Intl. Pres. John A. “Tony” Gallo, who acts as a service representative for Local 11, commends Hall and the Local 11 members for their efforts to stop this nonunion work.

Local 45 members take specialty welding classes

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 45, Richmond, Va., are participating in specialty welding classes to prepare for work with a new signatory contractor, PCI Energy Services, LLC.

The first week of July, Local 45 members Michael Harris, Craig McCrackin, David Friddle, and Michael Hurst went to a PCI facility in Ashland, Va., where they trained in automatic orbital welding processes.

Local 45 instructors Frankie Price and Daryl Almond conducted the classes so the members can acquire the skills needed for both nuclear and conventional power plant industries.

“Many of our members would not be able to get this type of specialized training without the efforts of our International and the company making a commitment,” said M. Frank Hartsoe, L-45 BM-ST. On Dec. 17, PCI signed the Boilermakers National Specialty Agreement and a similar agreement with the United Association (UA) for specialty welding primarily in the nuclear industry. The agreements call for a composite crew of Boilermakers and Pipelifters on all specialty work performed by PCI, with fringe benefits paid into their respective trust funds.

Local 45 members participating in specialty welding classes at the PCI Energy facility in Ashland, Va., are, l. to r., Michael Harris, Craig McCrackin, David Friddle, and Daryl Hurst, and instructor Daryl Almond. Not pictured is instructor Frankie Price.
Injury forced Morehouse to trade his welding tools for political clout

ONCE A WELDER out of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., David J. Morehouse is now a senior advisor to the man who could be the next president of the United States.

Morehouse became an apprentice in 1979 and injured in 1982, when a beam he was welding at the W. H. Sammis Power Plant in Ohio broke under the pressure of the hydraulic jack he was using.

The beam swung around and hit Morehouse in the head, knocking him unconscious, 30-feet above the ground.

He spent weeks recovering in the hospital, and the rest of the year he had to write everything down in a notebook because he couldn’t remember doctor appointments or plans he had made to meet friends.

His accident and recovery became a turning point in his life, and he didn’t take long deciding what to do next. He headed straight for the Community College of Allegheny County to get an Associate’s Degree.

In 1991, he began work at the Allegheny County register of wills office as a docket clerk in inheritance tax. He found the job boring, but it was here that he started to hear about a man named Bill Clinton.

More the he learned, the more he wanted to help him get elected.

Morehouse got involved with Clinton’s campaign on a volunteer level, even driving Clinton’s motorcade in Pennsylvania. Then he took a paid job doing advance work for the campaign.

Family and friends thought Morehouse was nuts to give up his county clerk position to take the low-paying campaign job, but Morehouse couldn’t have been happier.

Or more successful.

By the time he organized his second event, he drew the largest crowd the campaign had seen thus far for vice-presidential candidate Al Gore.

Morehouse is still facing challenges.

In 1996, he left Washington to begin work for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in Los Angeles. He also returned to school and earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration through the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In 1999, he became Al Gore’s senior counselor and trip director during his bid for the U.S. presidency.

And this year, he’s back in the thick of politics again, as U.S. presidential candidate John Kerry’s communication director. Morehouse spent the early months of Kerry’s campaign working from his home in Boston, where he lives with his wife, Vanessa, and their 17-month-old son, Jackson.

Friends have told him he should run for office himself, but he says the time away from his family is too much of a hardship and once he gets Kerry into office, he’s done.

Done with campaigning? We’ll see.

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Kerry-Edwards

Continued from page 1

"Why in the world would the people of Ohio rehire as their president the man who has cost them 230,000 jobs, who [has] driven up health care costs?" he asked.

"Health care costs are up $3,600 right here in Ohio in the last four years. That’s real money for most people."

Edwards urged residents not to just listen to the speeches but also to judge candidates on their records.

"He [Bush] said one thing at his convention that I actually agree with," Edwards told the crowd. "He said he wants to be judged on his record. I say he’s right. We want George Bush to be judged on his record. During the time Bush has been president, 5 million Americans lost their health care, 4 million Americans have gone into poverty, and 1.5 million private sector jobs have been lost (30,000), or one out of five, lost right here in the state of Ohio."

Richard Holland, a member of Local 105, told a Chillicothe Gazette reporter at the rally that he worries most about losing his job to outsourcing.

"This country is so polarized right now," he said. "Either you have the wealthy CEOs who are making millions or you have the middle class that has seeped into the working poor. We need someone who can bring back the working middle class. That’s what this country was built on."

His fears are well-founded. The most recent employment data show Ohio’s unemployment rate is now 6.3 percent, nearly one full percentage point above the national average.

In southern Ohio, the situation is even worse. Pike County, where Local 105 is located, has an 8.2 percent unemployment rate. To their south, Scioto County’s rate is 8.9 percent, and in Adams County, 10.9 percent of the workforce is unemployed.

"Having Edwards stop by the hall was a great opportunity for our members," said Local 105 BM-ST Stephens.

"Our members work hard to keep involved so the politicians will hear from us, and when he [Edwards] came to the hall it showed that John Kerry and John Edwards are paying attention to what we have to say," Stephens had many good things to say about the vice-presidential candidate. "He shook hands with every person there and thanked them for their support. He came across as someone who genuinely cares what happens to workers. He had good things to say about health care and jobs."

Ohio will be a key state in the 2004 election. Bush won the state by four percent in 2000, but since then the state has lost 230,000 jobs and lost tax revenue is forcing education cuts.

In the campaign jet, Morehouse [r.], coordinates calendars with John Kerry.

Overtime rules are not a dead issue yet

House, senate committee vote to block Bush effort to take away overtime pay

WORKERS WON BIG in Congress in September when the House of Representatives and the Senate Appropriations Committee both voted to derail new Bush administration regulations that could deny overtime pay to six million U.S. workers.

The measures added language that would make the Bush administration rescind the rules that went into effect August 23. The White House has vowed to veto this funding bill unless the language is removed.

"We won the battle, but not the war," Boilermakers Director of Government Affairs Bridget Martin said. "When the House-Senate joint committee votes to override this version of this bill, they will probably drop this language. GOP leaders and the White House dominate that part of the legislative process, and Bush has vowed to veto any bill that blocks his overtime pay takeover."

Hundreds of thousands of workers have sent e-mails and faxes to the president and members of Congress, asking them to rescind Bush’s new rules. The high profile of these rules could explain this vote — it gives many members of Congress a pro-worker vote to exploit in the last weeks of the campaign, but can easily be undone after the elections. The Bush administration claims the new rules merely clarify who is entitled to overtime and will reduce lawsuits. But Bush’s critics point out that the rules expand the ranks of workers not qualified for overtime protection by at least six million workers.

Under the new rules, many chefs, nurses, police officers, journalists, athletic trainers, computer employees, and low-level supervisors may be denied time-and-a-half for overtime.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) estimates that employers spend $2 billion a year battling lawsuits by employees who feel they have been cheated out of overtime pay. They say their new rules will reduce this litigation.

But doubt regarding their intentions has grown since March of this year, when the DOL offered workshops to show companies how they could legally avoid paying overtime.
Election 2004

Boilermakers’ Endorsements

Kerry & Edwards

**Election day is the last day you can vote**

VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN. So goes the old joke. Truth is, you only get one vote, and that is exactly why you should vote early.

There is no good excuse for failing to vote. Elections offices are making it easier and easier to vote regard less of where you are on election day.

The 2004 election is expected to be one of the closest ever. Every vote counts, so don’t wait until the last minute to vote. Think of November 2nd as the last day you can vote.

Some states allow you to come into the elections office and vote before Election Day, and every state allows absentee voting. So if you think there’s a chance you won’t be home on Election Day, you should vote early.

**Vote early in person at the elections office**

MOST STATES ALLOW you to vote early simply by going to the elections office and filling out a ballot.

It’s good to take advantage of early voting, because something may come up on Election Day that keeps you from going to the polls. You only get one chance to vote — make it good.

Get started early to vote by mail using an absentee ballot

IF YOU ARE going to vote by absentee ballot, you need to make arrangements ahead of time — in some cases, several weeks before Election Day.

In order to use an absentee ballot in some states, you must indicate that you will be out of town on Election Day or unable to come to the polling place for some other reason.

But other states will only allow you to vote by absentee ballot simply because you choose to. Check with your elections office for your state requirements.

Absentee ballots must be completed and mailed back to the elections office by Election Day. Late ballots are not counted. Since mail typically slows down near Election Day, you should fill out your ballot the day you get it and put it in the mail immediately.

For more information, go to the Boilermakers’ Web site (http://www.boilmakers.org) and click on LEAP, or contact the Boilermakers’ Government Affairs Office at 703-560-1493.

Share this information with your family and friends.

The only way to ensure that the voices of America’s workers are heard loud and clear on Election Day is to make sure everyone who can vote does.

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**When we all vote together we can make a difference.**

THE CANDIDATES LISTED on these two pages have been selected by the leadership of the local lodges in their areas and the International’s Department of Government Affairs.

We endorse candidates only after they have undergone close scrutiny. To earn our endorsement, a candidate must show a willingness to work with us — not by their statements, but by their actions. They must vote the way we want them to vote on key issues before Congress, and they must sit down with us to solve problems we are having in their district or state.

Study this list. If you do not understand why we are supporting a particular candidate, ask your local lodge leaders or the Department of Government Affairs for clarification.

Our strength comes through solidarity. Your brothers and sisters who are losing jobs to outsourcing, losing pensions to accounting tricks, and losing their health care because Congress and the president are looking out for HMOs and drug companies, not working families. You owe it to them — and to yourself and your children — to vote for the candidates listed here, who have demonstrated they will support workers.

Take this list of endorsed candidates with you to the polls and make sure you cast your vote for pro-worker candidates.

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**Boilermakers endorse candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate, and House**

Candidates for the House of Representatives are listed by congressional district. Endorsements are also included for statewide elections. Races where no candidate earned our endorsement have been left out of the list.

**ALABAMA**

1st Judy Belk (D)

3rd Bill Fuller (D)

5th Bud Cramer (D)

7th Artur Davis (D)

**ALASKA**

Sen Tony Knowles (D)

1st Don Young (R)

**ARIZONA**

1st Paul Babbitt (D)

2nd Randy Camacho (D)

4th Ed Pastor (D)

7th Raúl Grijalva (D)

**ARKANSAS**

Sen Blanche Lincoln (D)

1st Marion Berry (D)

2nd Vic Snyder (D)

3rd Jan Judy (D)

4th Mike Ross (D)

5th Barbara Boxer (D)

1st Michael Thompson (D)

5th Robert Matsui (D)

6th Lynn Woolsey (D)

7th George Miller (D)

8th Nancy Pelosi (D)

9th Barbara Lee (D)

10th Ellen O. Tauscher (D)

12th Tom Lantos (D)

13th Fortney “Pete” Stark (D)

14th Anna Eshoo (D)

15th Mike Honda (D)

16th Zoe Lofgren (D)

17th Sam Farr (D)

18th Dennis Cardoza (D)

20th Jim Costa (D)

22nd Lois Capps (D)

24th Britt Wagner (D)

27th Brad Sherman (D)

28th Howard L. Berman (D)

29th Adam B. Schiff (D)

30th Henry A. Waxman (D)

31st Xavier Becerra (D)

32nd Hilda L. Solis (D)

33rd Diane E. Watson (D)

34th Lucille Roybal-Allard(D)

35th Maxine Waters (D)

36th Jane Harman (D)

37th Juanita Millender-McDonald (D)

38th Grace Flores Napolitano (D)

39th Linda T. Sanchez (D)

40th Joe Baca (D)

42nd Louis Vandenbergh (D)

40th John W. Thomas (D)

40th Jim Brandt (D)

40th Loretta Sanchez (D)

40th Michael P. Byron (D)

51st Bob Filner (D)

**COLORADO**

Sen Ken Salazar (D)

1st Diana DeGette (D)

2nd Mark Udall (D)

3rd John Salazar (D)

7th Dave Thomas (D)

**CONNECTICUT**

Sen Chris Dodd (D)

1st John Larson (D)

2nd James Sullivan (D)

3rd Rosa DeLauro (D)

4th Diane Farrell (D)

5th Theresa Gerratana (D)

**DELAWARE**

Gov Ruth Ann Minner (D)

Lt Gov John C. Carney (D)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Del Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)

**FLORIDA**

Sen Betty Castor (D)

2nd Allen Boyd (D)

3rd Corrine Brown (D)

5th Robert Whittem (D)

6th Dave Brudeler (D)

11th Jim Davis (D)

13th Jan Schneider (D)

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**Key to 2004 Recommendations**

AL At Large

AG Attorney General

Aud Auditor

Del Delegate

Gov Governor

LtGov Lieutenant Governor

Sec Secretary of State

Sen Senate

SPI Superintendent of

Treas Treasurer

Public Instruction

Continued on page 9
Boilermakers endorse candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate, and House

Continued from page 8

MAINE
1st Tom Allen (D)
2nd Mike Michaud (D)

MICHIGAN
1st Bart Stupak (D)
2nd Kimon Hickey (D)
3rd Mike Kildeary (D)
5th Dale Kildee (D)
11th Phillip S. Truran (D)
12th Sander Levin (D)
13th Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D)
16th John Coles (D)
15th John Dingell (D)

MINNESOTA
1st Joe Mayer (D)
2nd Teresa Daly (D)
4th Betty McCollum (D)
5th Martin Olav Sabo (D)
6th Patty Wetterling (D)
7th Collin Peterson (D)
8th Jim Oberstar (D)

MISSISSIPPI
2nd Bennie Thompson (D)
4th Gene Taylor (D)

MISSOURI
1st Jay Nixon (D)
2nd Robin Carnahan (D)
5th Nancy Farmer (D)
1st Wm. “Lacy” Clay Jr. (D)
3rd Russ Carnahan (D)
4th Ike Skelton (D)
5th Emanuel Cleaver (D)
6th Charlie Broomfield (D)

MONTANA
1st Mike McGrath (D)
4th John Murtha (D)
5th Bill Szymas (D)
6th Carl O’Dell (D)
7th Harry Packard (D)

NEBRASKA
1st Matt Connelly (D)
2nd Nancy Thompson (D)
3rd Donna Anderson (D)

NEVADA
1st Harry Reid (D)
1st Shelley Berkley (D)
3rd Tom Gallagher (D)

NEW HAMPSHIRE
No Recommendations

NEW JERSEY
1st Robert E. Andrews (D)
2nd Frank A. LoBiondo (R)
4th Christopher H. Smith (R)
6th Frank Pallone, Jr. (D)
8th Bill Pascrell Jr. (D)
9th Steven R. Rothman (D)
10th Donald M. Payne (D)
11th James W. Buell (D)
12th Rush Holt (D)
13th Bill Pascrell (D)
15th Frank Pallone (D)
16th Steve Israel (D)
17th Rush Holt (D)
18th Bill Pascrell (D)
19th Bill Pascrell (D)
27th Bill Pascrell (D)
28th Bill Pascrell (D)

NEW MEXICO
1st Richard Romero (D)
2nd Gary King (D)
3rd Tom Udall (D)

NEW YORK
6th Chuck Schumer (D)
1st Andrew Cuomo (D)
4th Carolyn McCarthy (D)
5th Gary Ackerman (D)
6th Gregory Meeks (D)
7th Joseph Crowley (D)
8th Jerold Nadler (D)
9th Anthony Weiner (D)
10th Ed Towne (D)
11th Major Owens (D)
13th Frank Barbaro (D)
15th Charles Rangel (D)
17th Eliot Engel (D)
18th Nita Lowey (D)
21st Michel McNulty (D)
22nd Maurice Hinchey (D)
23rd John McHugh (R)
24th Sherry Boehe (R)
26th Jack Davis (D)
27th Brian Higgins (D)
28th Lois Slaughter (D)

NORTH CAROLINA
1st Roy Cooper (D)
2nd Mike Easley (D)
5th Bev Perdue (D)
6th Elaine Marshall (D)
8th Enskine Bowles (D)
1st G.K. Butterfield (D)
2nd Dan McCready (D)
4th David Price (D)
7th Mike McIntyre (D)
8th Beth Troutham (D)
10th John Cole (D)
11th Patsy Keever (D)
12th Madeleine Dean (D)
13th Brad Miller (D)

NORTH DAKOTA
Son Byron Dorgan (D)
Al Earl Pomeroy (D)

OHIO
4th Ben Konop (D)
6th Ted Strickland (D)
9th Marcy Kaptur (D)
10th Dennis Kucinich (D)
11th Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D)
13th Sherrod Brown (D)
14th Steve LaTourette (R)
17th Tim Ryan (D)

OKLAHOMA
Sen Rick Bishop (D)
1st Doug Dood (D)
2nd Dan Boren (D)

OREGON
AG Hardy Myers (D)
Sen Bill Bradbury
Sen Ron Wyden (D)
11th Tom Udall (D)
17th Ron Wyden (D)
21st Peter Fiscareau (D)
5th Darlene Hooley (D)

PENNSYLVANIA
Sen Arlen Specter (R)
1st Joe Sestak (D)
2nd Chaka Fattah (D)
3rd Phil English (R)
6th Lois Murphy (D)
11th Paul Kanjorski (D)
12th John Murtha (D)
13th Allyson Schwartz (D)
14th Mike Doyle (D)
15th Joe Driscoll (D)
17th Tom Holden (D)
18th Tim Murphy (R)

RHODE ISLAND
1st Patrick Kennedy (D)
2nd Jim Langevin (D)

SOUTH CAROLINA
5th Inez Tenesbaum (D)
5th John Spratt (D)
6th Jim Clyburn (D)
7th James Green (D)
10th Joe Wilson (D)
12th Joe Wilson (D)

SOUTH DAKOTA
Sen Tom Daschle (D)
Al Stephanie Herseth (D)

TENNESSEE
4th Lincoln Davis (D)
5th Jim Cooper (D)
6th Hal Rogers (D)
7th John Tanner (D)
9th Harold Ford, Jr. (D)

TEXAS
1st Max Sandlin (D)
2nd Nick Lampson (D)
9th Al Green (D)
11th Wayne Raasch (D)
15th Ruben Hinojosa (D)
16th Silvestre Reyes (D)
17th Chet Edwards (D)
18th Sheila Jackson Lee (D)
19th Charles Stenholm (D)
20th Charlie Gonzalez (D)
21st Rick Smith (D)
22nd Richard Morrison (D)
25th Lloyd Doggett (D)
27th Solomon Ortiz (D)
29th Gene Green (D)
30th Eddie Bernice Johnson (D)
31st Joe Porter (D)
22nd Martin Frost (D)

UTAH
2nd Jim Matheson (D)

VERMONT
Al Bernard Sanders (I)

VIRGINIA
1st Jo Ann Davis (D)
2nd Rob Riggle (D)
3rd Bob Scott (D)
6th James Moran (D)
10th Jim Sosac (D)

WASHINGTON
Deborah Seinn (D)
Aud Brian Sonntag (D)
Gov Christine Gregoire (D)
LtGov Brad Owen (D)
Sen Laura Ruderman (D)
Sen Patty Murray (D)
11th Mike Murphy (D)
15th Jay Inslee (D)
2nd Rick Larsen (D)
2nd Ron Wyden (D)
2nd Jim Matheson (D)
6th Ron Wyden (D)
21st Peter DeFazio (D)
5th Darlene Hooley (D)

WISCONSIN
2nd Tammy Baldwin (D)
3rd Ron Kind (D)
6th Jerry Kleczka (D)
8th David Obey (D)
8th Mark Green (R)

Make Election Day a family affair

Take your children to the polls to experience democracy in action

VOTING RUNS in families, according to a study by the Council for Excellence in Government. Children who go to the polls with their parents are more likely to vote when they become adults.

The study found that 75 percent of the young adults who grew up in an environment that included political discussion were registered to vote. Only 57 percent of young adults from homes that did not include political discussions were registered to vote.

The Boilermakers union has always stressed the importance of making sure every voting-age person in your family is registered to vote, knows the issues, and votes for candidates who support workers. Our strength is determined by the number of pro-worker voters we get to the polls.

As the percentage of Americans who vote continues to decline, it is more important than ever that we pass along to our children the importance of being involved in the political process by voting. Only one in five young adults votes, according to the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Let’s reverse that trend. This year, take your children with you when you go to the polls. What they learn by your example will stay with them a lifetime.

Governor, U.S. Senate, and House

No Recommendations
Political action takes members from front porches to high places

Boilermakers are running for office

Boilermakers from Local 37 (New Orleans) and 1814 (Bridge City, La.) held a front porch meeting with Congressman William Jefferson (D-La. 2nd) on Labor Day. Left to right are Boilermakers IR Lyle Grimes, George W. Berthaut (face hidden) and Marvin Cuselich (L37), Jefferson, Melvin Odenwald (L37), pipefitter Harry Thompson (Vote! shirt), and Patrick Stewart (a health care worker). The group discussed the Bush attack on overtime pay, the future of pension plans, and John Kerry’s health care plan.

September 8, 2004
Newton B. Jones
International President
Int’l Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers
753 State Avenue, Suite 570
Kansas City KS 66101-2511

Dear International President Jones:

It was good to talk to you about the Presidential election, the state of the Boilermakers’ union, and the plight of working families around the country. I appreciate your support and the commitment your organization and your members have made to the Kerry-Edwards campaign.

From the power houses that supply our nation’s energy needs, to the construction of iron ships to respond to threats abroad and ensure our shores are protected, and the manufacturing industrial base that America depends on to provide good jobs and preserve a skilled workforce, your members, along with your brothers and sisters in the labor movement, built the America we live in today.

Now, I am asking the Boilermakers to join Senator John Edwards and me in our effort to build tomorrow’s stronger America. Together we can build an America that once again values its workers, protects their rights, and ensures their families’ futures.

In the stronger America we build together, Boilermakers will have the good jobs they deserve, the high-quality, affordable health care their families need, and the futures and pensions they have earned. In the stronger America we build together, the rights you have fought for, like the prevailing wage, project labor agreements, and overtime pay, will be safe once again. In the stronger America we build together, the Boilermakers will again have a friend in the White House who understands their needs, cares about their futures, and fights for their families.

John Edwards and I will fight every day for this stronger America. We are glad to have union Boilermakers standing and fighting with us. Together we can build a better country for all our families.

Regards,

John F. Kerry

Kerry Edwards
A STRONGER AMERICA

BOILERMAKERS ARE NOT ONLY helping candidates with their campaigns, but some of them are also running for office themselves. That is good for working families. No one understands what we want from our government better than we do ourselves. This year, at least two Boilermakers have risen to the challenge.

International Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Willburn is running for County Commissioner in Leavenworth County, Kan., and Local 374 member Joseph Kasper is running for a similar position in Porter County, Ind.

Willburn, 56, wants to put his union experience to work for the people of Leavenworth County, where he and his wife Beverlee have lived for six years. He wants to address the infrastructure problems of Southern Leavenworth County. Roads, water, sewage, schools, and a long-range zoning and development plan are his top priorities. County Commissioner is a part-time position, so he will remain Boilermaker IST if elected.

Joseph Kasper, a 23-year member of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., is running for the Porter County council-at-large position in Portage City, Ind.

“I feel this election year will be a critical path for the future of unions and the shape of America as a whole for working men and women,” Kasper said.

Kasper wants to use his council position to encourage job growth, improve management of the county’s finances, and ensure accountability of all elected and appointed officials.

As a union member, Kasper is concerned with the grasp corporate America has on working Americans. “There’s been a decline in the middle class,” he said. “Too many workers have lost their pensions and do not have adequate health care.

“It is important that every union member, their family and friends, get out and vote this presidential election,” Kasper said. “The Republicans in Washington are out to break unions and if we don’t get out the vote, we will see a rapid decline of the union.”

Political action takes members from front porches to high places
ASK ANY ATHLETE who has ever been recruited for college or the pros and he’ll tell you the advantages of being noticed and in demand. Well, guess what? America’s sportsmen and sportswomen have been noticed and both of the big teams want us.

Both the Democrats and Republicans are courting and counting us. Candidates have come to realize, and more importantly, this recognition tells us that TRCP and all of our partners, like the Boilermakers, are on the right track. By joining together and speaking with a unified voice — a voice that clearly identifies improved access to places to hunt and fish, better conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and increased conservation funding as the top priorities of the nation’s hunters and anglers — we are making it clear to every candidate, whether they are running for local, state, or national office, that America’s sportsmen have specific expectations.

And while TRCP and its partners have been busy addressing a number of important issues like conservation of wetlands and funding for CRP and state wildlife programs, ACCESS and “guaranteeing you a place to hunt and fish” have been front and center. That’s because hunters and anglers know that without good, convenient, and affordable places to hunt and fish, our American sporting traditions will fade away and the conservation of our nation’s fish and wildlife will suffer.

The need to maintain and even increase access is why TRCP and its many partners like the Boilermakers have focused on proposed federal legislation called “Open Fields” and why the TRCP has rallied all of its partners to support the bill. In early 2004, thousands of you began writing, e-mailing, and calling your elected officials in Washington, asking them to become cosponsors of Open Fields. Others of you met with your representatives, attended meetings, and wrote letters to the editor. Still others of you have gotten friends and family members to join TRCP, increasing our collective voice’s volume and strength.

Open Fields has not been passed yet, and it may not even get done in this session of Congress. However, largely because of you and your fellow partners, Open Fields has 37 cosponsors in the United States Congress, including Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, all this in a session that has been particularly partisan and divided.

In an atmosphere of often-crippling polarization, Open Fields has picked up strong bi-partisan support. To quote the bill’s author, Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND), “In my 18 years of service in the Senate, I have never gotten a stronger, more positive reaction to legislation that I’ve introduced than to the Open Fields bill. We currently have 19 sponsors in the Senate and 17 sponsors in the House. . . . The support for this bill is totally bipartisan, totally bicameral.”

This is very good news for America’s hunters and anglers. It tells us a number of things:

✔ With your continued involvement, Open Fields, or a similar bill has a good chance of becoming law; either this session or next;
✔ Open Fields has bi-partisan support in both the Senate and House;
✔ Elected officials are listening to the collective voice of America’s hunters and anglers;
✔ We can guarantee us all places to hunt and fish.

The TRCP is a non-profit, non-political, and non-partisan organization. Its goal is to keep its partners informed about issues important to the future of hunting and fishing and to encourage them to make public comments and potentially introduce legislation to strengthen walk-in access programs and to encourage other states to establish them.

As Election Day nears, the TRCP encourages you to learn as much as you can about the candidates and where they stand on issues important to you and the future of hunting and fishing. You have heard it before and you will certainly hear it again, your participation in the democratic process is essential. And if you haven’t yet joined the TRCP, remember . . . IT’S FREE. Just go to www.trcp.org or call toll free at 1-877-770-8722.

Join now and you’ll be entered into a drawing, whose winner will receive a Ruger rifle, Bushnell optics package, a $500 fishing package from BASS, and hunting clothing from Drake.

TRCP’s Hunting & Fishing News

Good news... We’re being courted and counted!

Kerry-Edwards issue their ‘Sportsmen’s Bill of Rights’

Candidates vow to protect gun rights, improve access to game land

THE KERRY-EDWARDS campaign has issued a “Sportsmen’s Bill of Rights” that they believe will “ensure the basic rights of all Americans to legally and safely hunt and fish are protected.” Their six-point program is summarized here.

1. The Right to Own Firearms

John Kerry and John Edwards will always support the Second Amendment right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms, such as rifles, shotguns, and semi-automatic firearms. Gun rights are fundamental for the sport of hunting, and they will vigorously support those rights.

Like President Bush, and sportsmen and law enforcement officers across this nation, John Kerry and John Edwards also support the extension of the current assault weapons ban.

2. The Right of Access to Areas to Hunt and Fish

One of the greatest challenges facing hunters and anglers is the dwindling access to nearby places to hunt and fish. A Kerry-Edwards administration will work to open millions of new acres of land to public hunting and fishing by providing better funding for state walk-in access programs. Some states pay landowners to voluntarily open their lands to the public for hunting and fishing. Kerry and Edwards support the “Open Fields” bill to provide $50 million each year to state agencies to strengthen existing walk-in access programs and to encourage other states to establish them.

3. The Right to High Quality Fish and Wildlife Habitat

A Kerry-Edwards administration will focus the efforts of the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on conserving and restoring habitat throughout the country. Some of this work will entail expanding the use of voluntary, incentive-based land and water conservation programs, enhancing upland habitat, and protecting the wetlands that are so vital to hunting and fishing.

4. The Right of the Protection of Wildlife from Irresponsible Oil and Gas Drilling

Under a Kerry-Edwards administration, federal land management agencies will ensure that fish and wildlife resources are not sacrificed to irresponsible drilling. Lands that are better used for hunting, fishing, and camping will be set aside, and sufficient protective conditions will be applied to lands leased or used for drilling.

5. The Right of Wise Management of the National Forests

Many fish and wildlife species depend on the wise management of the national forests. Kerry and Edwards will undertake legitimate thinning projects to reduce the risk of fire around communities while protecting the remaining wild places and critical spawning habitat.

6. The Right to Fair Share of Federal Funding for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Sound stewardship of the nation’s fish and wildlife, and the habitat on which they depend, relies on a consistent commitment of resources to federal and state natural resource agencies. Kerry and Edwards support guaranteed and increased funding for federal and state fish and wildlife programs and for public land conservation.


‘As a life-long hunter and fisherman, I am proud to be among the millions of American sportsmen and sportswomen who are dedicated to conserving fish and wildlife and passing along the American hunting and fishing heritage to the next generation.’

John Kerry

This column will appear regularly in the Boilermaker Reporter to advise our members on the latest news in conservation and sportsmen’s rights.
Local 74 and Local 92 members earn kudos from ARB, Inc. for their work at American Electric Power in Old Ocean, Texas.

Local 74’s skill and desire impress ARB

THE MANAGEMENT OF ARB would like to take this opportunity to inform you about an exceptional group of Boilermakers dispatched by Herman Sullivan, BM-ST of Local 74, Houston, Texas.

Recently we completed a Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) retrofit project for American Electric Power’s (AEP) co-generation facility located adjacent to the Conoco-Phillips Refinery in Old Ocean, Texas. The scope of work included the installation of three Peerless Manufacturing Company (PMC)-supplied SCRs, ammonia storage, vaporization, and delivery systems.

Both ARB and AEP view this project as a great success due primarily to both the high level of craftsmanship and motivation of the Local 74 Boilermakers dispatched to this project. With the help of Local 74 manned this project, we were able to finish on schedule, well within our budget, and with a perfect safety record. Of particular interest, this project was completed with the following achievements:

- Zero lost-time accidents, zero recordable injuries, zero incidents, and zero first aids
- Each phase of the project, including shut downs, was completed on or ahead of schedule
- The Boilermakers consistently beat the estimated man-hours

The willingness of the management and members of Local 74 to negotiate mutually equitable solutions to modify work rules to better suit this project.

It is this type of working relationship between contractor and the union that induces management within our organization to stand up and take notice that the utilization of local area union Boilermakers can in fact help give us the competitive edge we need, even in a predominantly nonunion contracting environment. Local 74 members can rest assured that ARB is confident about both their ability to supply an excellent labor force and that ARB will continue to pursue more work in this geographic region.

A special thanks to the Boilermakers of Local 74 for a job well done — Phil Atkins, Darrin Batchelor, Gary Dutton, Rick Evanicky, Foreman Matt Evensole, Herman Foraker, steward Steve McDaniel, Maheswa Mongroo, apprentice Jeff Neisig, Juvenal Nunez, Adam Packard, Manual Perez, Cesar Rios, Larry Spence, Mike Thibodeaux, and John Watkins.

Also thanks to Local 92 Boilermakers (Los Angeles) general foreman Daniel Roehrick, Richard Smith, Matt Whisnand, and Steve Woodward.

LARRY JANSSEN
industrial group mgr.
ARB, Inc.

ENERFAB praises L-744 members at Eastlake

The management of ARB would like to take this opportunity to inform you about an exceptional group of Boilermakers dispatched by Herman Sullivan, BM-ST of Local 74, Houston, Texas. As well as the many other craftspeople who came from across the country in support of our Phase I Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) project for Texas Genco.

Looking back at the planning phase of this project, you (Lone Star District BM-ES Ronnie Keck) and the Boilermakers Central Region Vice President George Rogers met on several occasions with us to discuss the project requirements for safety excellence, quality craftsmen, schedule compliance, and cost effectiveness.

We are very pleased to acknowledge that the craftsmen who were assigned to our project carefully fulfilled the commitment that you and George made on behalf of the Boilermakers. Peak workforce reached approximately 800 Boilermakers in November and December 2001. A safety record of RF = .85 (recordable incident rate) and LTIR = .23 (lost-time incident rate) was achieved, all schedules were met, quality was excellent, and the planning and productivity led to a cost effective project.

Please relay our thanks to the supporting locals’ business representatives and craftsmen for a job well done.

We look forward to our association with the Boilermakers and will continue to build on our successes.

L. BURT GUY, JR., Texas Genco
general mgr - maintenance services
DON M. POWELL, Texas Genco
mgr. - contractor services

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2000, Babcock & Wilcox Construction Company, Inc. (BWCC) and Boilermaker Locals 74 (Houston) and 132 (Galveston, Texas) began construction of the Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) systems for Texas Genco (formerly Houston Lighting & Power). The first phase of the SCR program was to complete four SCR systems at the W.A. Parish Generating Station and one SCR system each at the Cedar Bayou Generating Station and the P.H. Robinson Generating Station.

In January 2000, the project at W.A. Parish started with large unit outages including air preheater modifications, installation of the SCR bypass damper systems, and the installation of a low NOx burner system on Unit 6. These large unit outages occurred consecutively until December 2001, when Unit 7 was completed and brought back on-line. All of these outages were completed safely and on time. The SCR systems were started at the W.A. Parish Generating Station in the summer of 2001 and were all completed and operational by March 25, 2004. To grasp the sheer magnitude of this project, Boilermaker Local 74 ground fabricated and erected over 11,000 tons of ductwork and related components.

In the fall of 2000, the SCR project at the Cedar Bayou station began and was completed safely and on time in the spring of 2002. Boilermaker Local 74 ground fabricated and erected over 11,000 tons of ductwork and related components.

Also in the fall of 2000, the project at P.H. Robinson began. The project was completed safely and on time in the spring of 2002. Boilermaker Local 132 ground fabricated and erected over 11,000 tons of ductwork and related components.

In a four-year period, approximately four million man-hours were expended by all crafts on the first phase of the SCR program in the Texas Genco system. The best part about the project was that it was completed with a recordable incident rate of .85.

By this rate, Texas Genco, Boilermakers Locals 74 and 132, and Babcock & Wilcox Construction Company Inc. have demonstrated their dedication to maintaining a safe work environment.

KENNETH E. WASLEWSKI
BWCC Eastern regional construction manager

L-744, 132 earn double praise at TexasGenco

WE WANT TO TAKE this opportunity to extend a very special thank you to the Boilermakers of Locals 74 (Houston) and 132 (Galveston, Texas), as well as the many other craftsmen who came from across the country in support of our Phase I Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) project for Texas Genco.

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KENNETH E. WASLEWSKI
BWCC Eastern regional construction manager

L-744 praised for on-time, on-budget jobs

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS our appreciation to you (L-744 BM-ST Pat Gallagher) and the members of Boilermakers Local 744 for your efforts that contributed to a safe and successful outage while performing the challenging scope of work for Eastlake Unit #4 this past spring.

You should be very proud of the team effort your membership demonstrated in all facets of the work. From battling severe weather conditions while rigging the low temperature superheater, to a rejection rate of less than one percent for 2800 x-ray welds, your members exhibited pride in craftsmanship.

Once again, we would like to thank Local 744 for a job well done.

DAVID PATOSKY, project supt.
DAVID HUGHES, supt.
STEVEN HARRISON, Pittsburgh region VP
ENERFAB, Inc.

ON BEHALF OF BABCOCk & WILCOX Construction Co., Inc. (BWCC), I would like to thank you (L-744 BM-ST Pat Gallagher) and the members of Cleveland Local 744 for the support on the following outages recently completed by BWCC.

1. Reliant, Niles Unit #1 – Overfire Air Project
2. FirstEnergy, Eastlake Unit #5 – NOx and Boiler Maintenance
3. Reliant, Avon Lake – Low NOx Project
4. Reliant, Niles Unit #2 – Overfire Air Project

All of these projects were successfully completed safely, within budget, and on schedule. The Reliant Avon Lake and Niles Unit #2 projects were completed with zero recordable incidents. The FirstEnergy project involved 3,400 tube-to-tube welds and all were 100 percent radiographed with only two rejections. The Reliant Avon Lake project had approximately 900 tube welds and zero rejections. The success of Local 744 and their willingness to work with BWCC contributed to making these projects a success for the owners, BWCC, and the members of Boilermakers Local 744.

J. B. (John) SCHUMACHER
construction mgr. – Eastern Operations
Babcock & Wilcox Construction Co., Inc.
On tire-plant shutdown, they wear ice vests to keep cool

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 83, Kansas City, Mo., have completed repairs in the gussets and support ribs inside the top head of a tire processing pressure vessel at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Topeka, Kan. Working for North Point Boiler and Combustion of North Kansas City, Mo., 18 Local 83 members performed 6,332 man-hours with no lost-time injuries.

With support ribs about 20 inches apart and gussets spaced two to six feet between the ribs, Local 83 members did not have much room to arc gouge, grind, and weld. On top of that, all of the repairs were made with a 300°F preheat.

“Because members had to work as close as six inches to heated surfaces, they wore ice vests and helmets with forced cooled air,” steward Jim Crawford said.

During the emergency shutdown, 3,030 pounds of electrodes were consumed and 8,047 inches of weld were excavated and repaired using 10,707 cubic inches of weld metal.
Employees working under collective bargaining agreements containing union security clauses are required, as a condition of employment, to pay either monthly dues or fees to the union. This is their only obligation to the union, regardless of the wording of the clauses. Individuals who are members of the Boilermakers pay monthly dues. Individuals who are not members pay fees.

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

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

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

Upon receipt of the objection, the International President shall provide a description of the procedures to be followed. This objection must be filed every year during the month of November, or within the first 30 days in which the objector is required to pay dues or fees to the union, or within 30 days after the objector becomes a nonmember. Examples of expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for political purposes, for general community service, for charitable activities, for non-worker related legislative activities, for members-only benefits, and for certain affiliation costs.

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

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

It is clearly to your advantage to continue to be a full, active member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

Only through unity and solidarity can we better our working conditions and reap benefits for ourselves and our families.
THE DEATH BENEFIT PLAN under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the beneficiaries of the following deceased members who were covered by the plan since the last issue of our publication.

### DEATH BENEFITS

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### OBITUARIES


**ED MATTOCKS, 63**


A former Local D494, Burlington, Ontario, since 1973, Mattocks earned a plaque in recognition of his outstanding years of service at the June 2003 Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers (CLGAW) Division conference.

In accepting his request for retirement, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones praised Mattocks for his service, calling him an outstanding citizen and a good man to work with.

Intl. Vice Pres. Jim Hickenbotham said he could always rely on Mattocks. “Ed set an example for all to follow through his exceptional representation, always going far beyond the call of duty,” he said.

Local D494 officers Tony Skokun, financial secretary, and Stanley Young, president, considered Mattocks a personal friend: “We have lost a valuable brother who has served this union with much passion and dedication. He stood his ground for what he believed in.

“Ed’s accomplishments in negotiating new contracts to achieve gains in language, benefits, and retirement pensions, and his handling of grievances will be remembered by many union members in future days,” Skokun and Young said.

Mattocks is survived by his wife, Beverley; five children — Cherryly, Michael, John, Anna, and Katrina; and four grandchildren — John, Eric, Karleigh, and Emileigh.

### Corrections

**Federal Correction**


On page 20 of the same issue, members of Local 169, Detroit, Mich., who received membership pins were incorrectly identified as being from Local 69, Little Rock, Ark. We regret the mistake and will reprint those names in the November-December issue.

### Save On Health Care

ALL AMERICANS are struggling with high health care costs. Even those with health care insurance often lack coverage in crucial areas or have high out-of-pocket copays.

The Union Plus Health Savings Program in conjunction with our program provider, MedAdvantage, can help. For less than $15 per year, union members and their families (including parents) can save on expenses for prescriptions, vision care, diabetic supplies, and more. For a little more, your family can also get discounts on dental care services, plus access to a special nurse help line.

For more information phone 1-800-228-3523 or visit Union Plus online at www.unionplus.org

### Mail form to:

**Mail form to:**

**Publications Department**

753 State Avenue, Suite 565
Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

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Not available for members living outside the United States.
Actions speak louder than words

Bush vowed to protect the American people, but his policies protect only the rich

In politics, you learn early that you can’t judge a candidate by his words. Every candidate says we need a strong economy, good schools, and affordable health care. Every candidate says he hates terrorism, loves economic opportunity, and wants to provide a comfortable retirement for our senior citizens.

To choose between the candidates, we must look at their actions and their proposals, not their sentiments and their promises.

Accepting his nomination at the Republican National Convention, George W. Bush said many things that I believe we all agree with.

He said, “I believe the most solemn duty of the American president is to protect the American people. . . . I believe in the energy and innovative spirit of America’s workers. . . . I believe we have a moral responsibility to honor America’s seniors.”

I would not argue with a single one of these sentiments. I would only ask, What do you plan to do about them? How will you lead our country?

Only one day after this speech, Bush raised Medicare premiums by 17 percent. Is this how he would lead our country?

He also vowed to privatize Social Security, endangering the only guaranteed retirement income that most working Americans have. What happened to that moral responsibility he spoke of?

Bush said he believes in the energy and innovative spirit of America’s workers, yet his Economic Report for 2004 called on outsourcing “a good idea.”

The average displaced worker takes a 21 percent pay cut when their job is outsourced. You’re going to need a lot of that energy to work 21 percent more hours so you can stay even when your job is outsourced.

And what about overtime? Bush’s new rules that went into effect August 23 took that option away from 6 million workers. They will need to be doubly innovative to make ends meet now.

Bush said that the president’s “most solemn duty” is to “protect the American people,” but his record says something else again.

Bush has protected the Enrons and MCI/Worldcom’s in our society, not the employees of those companies who lose their pensions to bogus accounting schemes.

Bush protects companies that incorporate offshore to avoid paying taxes, but not the working taxpayers in this country.

Bush’s Medicare drug program protects drug companies from the foreign “threat” of Canadian imports, but does nothing to protect seniors from the economic ravages of rising drug costs.

The law doesn’t even allow Medicare to use its millions of retirees to negotiate lower prices, the way the Veterans Administration does.

Bush’s tax reforms protect corporations and the wealthy from the inconvenience of paying taxes, and do not protect American families and small businesses from the growing burden of federal budget deficits.

Bush’s appointees to OSHA and the NLRB are more interested in protecting corporations from complying with safety laws or bargaining with unionized employees than they are in workplace safety or workers’ rights.

And the federal judges he has appointed show a clear pattern of favoring corporate interests over the interests of workers and their families.

This last point is especially troubling one. Federal judges serve for life. Dozens are appointed every year.

If re-elected, Bush may be able to appoint one or more Supreme Court justices. The Bush judges will appoint render legal decisions for decades after he is out of office.

John Kerry provides a stark contrast. Throughout his career, Kerry has proposed, co-sponsored, and voted for laws that improve the lives of working families. As president, he will be able to accomplish even more.

Kerry will give working families a voice in future trade agreements by putting a labor representative in the room during negotiations.

Kerry’s health care plan will lower family premiums by up to $1,000 a year, lower the cost of prescription medicines, and extend affordable, high-quality coverage to 95 percent of Americans, including every child.

Kerry was an early co-sponsor and strongly supports the Employee Free Choice Act, which will ensure that when a majority of employees in a workplace decide to form a union, they can do without the obstacles employers now use to block their workers’ free choice.

How do we know he will follow through on these promises? Because he always has in the past.

Kerry has a 91 percent AFL-CIO voting record. Kerry never “flip-flopped” when it comes to workers. Bush’s record is a big, fat zero.

Don’t be fooled by those campaign ads that distort these records. Political analysts at the AFL-CIO follow every single vote in Congress and every presidential appointment. When they tell me that one candidate has supported workers 91 percent of the time and the other has set records for the number of anti-worker executive orders, proposed bills, rule changes, and political and judicial appointments, I have no difficulty deciding who to vote for.

I know that choice is not easy for all of our members, and I do not want you to take your voting responsibility lightly. When we vote, we are not only choosing candidates, we are also determining what direction this country will take over the next four years.

Examine their records and ask yourself which candidate is more likely to lead this country in a direction that will be good for working families and for the future of our great nation.

If you want to continue to allow healthcare, insurance, and drug companies to raise prices, help corporations move more jobs overseas, weaken workers’ rights, increase the national debt to intolerable levels, and privatize Social Security, then vote for George W. Bush. That is what he has been doing as governor of Texas and president of the United States, and that is what he will continue to do.

If you want to keep health care costs down, strengthen workers’ rights, protect Social Security and Medicare, and encourage corporations to keep jobs in the United States, then vote for John Kerry. That is what he has been fighting for during his entire political career of more than 20 years, and that is what we will continue to do.

Newton B. Jones
International President

Letters to the Editor

Do fast food ‘manufacturers’ have unions in their future?

I recently heard the head of the Bush administration’s office of economic advisors suggest that fast food restaurants should be classified as manufacturers.

That may not be as goofy as it first sounds. Both hamburgers and subs get their parts from somewhere else, often from foreign countries, and are assembled on site. If this were implemented, it would greatly advantage President Bush to be able to say his administration created thousands of new manufacturing jobs.

But fast-food workers might benefit, too. After all, if the person on the hamburger assembly line were equated with the auto assembly line worker, they might organize and get their pay raised to $15 an hour plus retirement and health benefits.

I don’t think the supply-side, trickle-down economists would like that.

Please vote.

Kenny Hughes, L-74 retiree
Frankston, Texas

Calpas enjoys retirement

After 40 years of construction work with Pittsburgh Local 154, many collisions with deer going to a job, and working 10-12 hour days, I decided to take an early retirement. I moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in 2004.

I made my way to Myrtle Beach — sunshine, 10 minutes to the beach, golfing, and NO SNOW. Life doesn’t get any better than this.

Bill Calpas, L-154 retiree
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

L-154 retiree Bill Calpas enjoys retirement in the warmth of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Please take Social Security numbers off health I.D. cards

While on vacation this past winter, we were involved in a “smash & grab” incident. Our Boilermakers’ First Health I.D. card was one of the items stolen. We reported this to the Health & Welfare office and the Social Security Administration office because the I.D. on all of our cards is my husband’s Social Security number. Now my husband’s Social Security number is out there somewhere.

I would like Social Security numbers removed from these I.D. cards and replaced by the member’s registration number or ANV number other than a Social Security number.

Bonnie Yablonsky
Wife of L-154 retiree
Herb Yablonsky
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Local 4 grateful for referral documentation

Thank you, Int’l. Pres. Jones, for establishing Local 4’s competencies and qualifications of our members for referral through written evidence from prior work experience.

Local 4 had not been able to properly document our members’ qualifications, causing problems for Local 4 members seeking work and for other locals trying to verify Local 4 members’ qualifications. Extend a special thanks to International Consultants Joseph Meredith and Daniel Everett. Their experience and knowledge has helped Local 4 be in accordance with the Westem States Agreement.

Nathaniel Begay
Local 4 BM-ST

Got something to say?

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

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