

# the Boilermaker Reporter

Vol. 44 No. 2  
Apr • May 2005

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

<http://capwiz.com/boilermaker>

<http://www.boilermakers.org>

## 37th Annual LEAP Conference



International President Newton Jones (I.) makes a point to Tony Harrison, from the staff of Rep. Al Green (D-9th TX).

**COVERAGE OF THE Boilermaker's 37th annual LEAP Conference in Washington, D.C., begins on page five of this issue.**

This year's conference featured a keynote address from Paul Begala, co-host of CNN's popular political talk show "Crossfire," along with many notable Republican and Democrat members of Congress.

Delegates to the conference heard about upcoming legislation that can affect the lives of our members and learned successful political action techniques from other Boilermakers and from professional lobbyists and political activists. Most important of all, though, they got a chance to speak directly to members of Congress and those members' aides. In politics at every level, nothing is more important than face-to-face meetings.

**See page 5**

## Local 363 members complete "cat" cracker at Wood River

### ConocoPhillips pleased with safety, job performance

LOCAL 363 MEMBERS and other Building and Construction Trades union members have completed outage work on a catalytic cracker at the ConocoPhillips Wood River refinery in Roxana, Ill.

At the beginning of the job, International President Newton B. Jones and UA General President Bill Hite toured the facility.

A total of about 300 tradesmen worked on this job for five different contractors — Construction Turnaround Incorporated (CTI), Washington Group Incorporated (WGI), Miller Industrial Service Teams Incorporated (MIST), and Delta Nooter. L-363 Pres. Bill Mulconnery estimates the job resulted in 150,000 man-hours.

There were no lost-time injuries on the job.

The Wood River facility has had several owners since it opened in 1918, but it has always been 100 percent union.

The ConocoPhillips Web site reports that Wood River is capable of refining about 286 million barrels of crude per day, creating 155 million barrels of gasoline and 75 million barrels of distillate. That figure represents about 13.5 percent of



IP Newton Jones listens as ConocoPhillips Wood River plant manager Herman Seedorf explains a point about installing catalytic crackers. In back is Great Lakes Section IVP Larry McManamon.

*See Local 363 at Wood River, page 3*

## Construction leaders meet

### Speakers stress leadership, teamwork to get through hard times

"NEVER QUIT," THAT'S the advice Lt. Gen. Hal Moore gives. It's what kept him going when others thought the battle was lost. It's what could keep us going during difficult times.

As a guest speaker to the Boilermakers Construction Division meeting, Moore defined his "never quit" attitude as knowing there is always one more thing you can do, and then one more, and so on.

"Trust your instincts," he said. "Three strikes and you are not out."

Moore was commander of the first major battle of the American phase of the Vietnam War. Dropped off by helicopter, his feet were the first to touch the ground and the last to leave the three-day battlefield. He wrote a book about that historic conflict — "We Were Soldiers . . . and Young," and his role in that battle was depicted by Mel Gibson in the movie "We Were Soldiers."

NACBE Exec. Admin. John Erickson introduced Moore to the delegates. Fighting emotion, Erickson tried to describe the character of the man standing beside him — a 1945 graduate of the West Point Military Academy, a master paratrooper, a commander of two infantries, a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, and recipient of two Combat Infantryman's Badges and the Distinguished Service Cross.

But it was when Erickson showed a clip from the movie that the crowd began to feel the magnitude and strength of the man standing before them.

Moore talked of personal struggles, of how he would tell his men that he would leave no one behind — dead or alive, of the guilt he felt for living when so many of his soldiers had died, and he spoke of what



Lt. General Hal Moore receives a standing ovation for his moving remarks.

makes a good leader. Two principles he learned at West Point, he said, have carried him through life: a positive attitude and teamwork.

"It takes trust to build a good team," Moore said. "The rank must trust the leader, they must trust each other, and the leader must convince the rank that he trusts each of them."

His advice for leadership can be applied to all walks of life, including that of a union leader. "To succeed," he said, "you must have a clearly-defined goal and a workable plan. Supportive leaders must understand the goal, the plan, and their role, and you must have plans for all the 'what if's.'"

*See Construction leaders, page 2*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Long Prairie, MN  
Permit No. 100

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Boilermaker Reporter*  
753 State Avenue, Suite 565  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

# Construction leaders

continued from page 1



**Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones** tells delegates the Boilermakers union is a sound organization.

## IP Jones discusses our union's goals and plans

LIKE GENERAL MOORE, International President Newton B. Jones knows what it takes to be a good leader. At the annual winter meeting of the Construction Division at the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort in Marco Island, Fla., Feb. 14-18, Jones talked about union goals, plans, and the roles we each must play.

He spoke of the great pressure our companies face in trying to compete with a nonunion sector that is not going away. But one way we can stay competitive is by providing the owner with a safe job site.

Citing a 94 percent reduction in our lost-time injury rates, Jones explained how working safely can keep us competitive. "Our safety records tell the industry that we are a good partner, that we work safe, and that we can be competitive," Jones said. "Our safety records also tell the Department of Labor (DOL) that the Boilermakers are doing something right."

So right that the DOL formed a workplace alliance of building trades unions that emulates our MOST safety and substance abuse programs. So far, the Ironworkers, Carpenters, and Operating Engineers have joined the Boilermakers and the DOL in this alliance to promote drug-free workplaces.

He reported that while man-hours are down right now, the outlook is promising.

"We are working on a deal with Exelon, the parent company of several utility companies with both nuclear and fossil fired plants in the Great Lakes, Northeast, and Texas areas," Jones reported. "The Pipefitters, IBEW, and the Carpenters failed in their negotiations with Exelon, but the Boilermakers' pending proposal with that company would meet both our needs. It will include 97 percent of their agreements and every new facility they build in the Great Lakes and Northeast areas," Jones said. "We've asked them to consider adding Texas, and they agreed to consider it when they see

how this agreement works in the other areas, which should start in August."

Jones also predicts that in six or seven years work will be so abundant that we will be looking at manpower shortages. To meet those needs, he advised that subcommittees are looking at ways to improve our apprenticeship programs. "Whether that will be shortening the length to get members in the workplace quicker, or moving those with welding experience through quicker, or some other solution, the problem is being studied to meet the changing needs," Jones said.

As another way to increase our apprenticeship numbers, Jones asked the lodge leaders to support Helmets to Hardhats — an AFL-CIO building trades program for former military personnel.

He then discussed the hardships our union currently faces with a decrease in membership and union revenue.

"Multiple plant closings, with 15,000 fewer members in shops in the last two years, combined with a loss in construction man-hours, has made these times difficult. Fewer members and man-hours have also placed a burden on the pension and health & welfare funds," he said.

"But this organization is a sound organization, despite financial difficulties and the loss of membership," Jones said, showing the kind of determination that has kept our union alive for 125 years. "The financial problems will be solved. The pension problems will be solved. And the health & welfare problems will be solved."

## Agenda expands to include Canada-specific topics

THE ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION Division meeting included department and industry updates. Delegates heard reports on safety, MOST, tripartite efforts, national agreements, and referral changes.

In addition to the regular reports of the Government Affairs Department, the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program (BNAP), and the Boilermakers' national funds for U.S. members, this conference also featured reports on the Canadian legislature, apprenticeship program, and national pension fund.

International Representatives Ed Power and Corey Channon described the political lobby platform in Canada, outlining priority legislation. They also announced the dates of the first Boilermakers legislative conference to be held in Ottawa, May 30-31.

They expect about 250 delegates to attend the two-day conference, which will include remarks from political representatives, workshops, and time for delegates to lobby their representatives in Parliament.

Grant Jacobs discussed the ongoing initiatives of the Canadian apprenticeship program. They will be holding



**Marlin McCurdy, Local 242 BM-ST, second from right, accepts the national safety award** from, l. to r., John Erickson, Newton Jones, and Joe Stinger.

## NACBE recognizes lodges for excellent safety performance

EACH YEAR, NACBE recognizes the local lodge in each U.S. vice-presidential area with the best safety performance and the local lodge with the best safety record in the nation. This year was no exception with Local 242, Spokane, Wash., of the Western States, earning the national award.

Other area winners included Local 193, Baltimore, for the Northeast area; Local 454, Chattanooga, Tenn., for the Southeast; Local 374, Hammond, Ind., for the Great Lakes; and Local 531, Amarillo, Texas, for the Central Section.

NACBE Exec. Administrator John Erickson reported that of 55 construction lodges, 29 finished the year with zero accidents. He estimates that since NACBE began recording the safety index in 1991, 21,843 lost-time injuries have been eliminated, avoiding over \$655 million in direct costs and \$3.276 billion in total costs.

NACBE, the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers, was established in 1975 and has over 90 contractors in industrial construction and maintenance activities as members. The NACBE safety index is used to measure our success in eliminating workplace injuries.

their 12th annual national competition in June, with contestants participating from seven Canadian lodges. He estimates that 42 percent of our trade will be eligible for retirement by 2008. To meet the manpower needs of the future, they have developed a career awareness program at their Web site ([www.Boilermaker.ca](http://www.Boilermaker.ca)) to encourage youth in Canada to consider the Boilermaker trade as their career.

Susan Bird, administrator of the Boilermakers National Pension Plan (BNPP), reviewed the fund that covers members in all Canadian provinces except British Columbia and Quebec, which fall under a different plan.

The BNPP has \$800 million in assets and is one of the largest pension plans in the Canadian building trades. Their 2004 rate of return was 9.6 percent, with an annualized five-year rate of return of 3.25 percent and 10-year annualized rate of return of 8.48 percent.

When IP Jones called for the meeting's adjournment, he reminded the delegates that the Boilermakers union is a sound organization. "This is not an easy industry, and every day, your leaders are rising to the challenge," he said. "The International Brotherhood works hard for you. The International Executive Council is working together for you. We all work for the members, and we need to keep that in mind." □



Apr • May 2005

Vol. 44 No. 2

**Newton B. Jones,** International President and Editor-in-Chief  
**Jerry Z. Willburn,** Intl. Secretary-Treasurer

### International Vice Presidents

**Lawrence McManamon,** Great Lakes  
**Sean Murphy,** Northeast  
**Sam May,** Southeast  
**George Rogers,** Central  
**Joe Stinger,** Western States  
**Richard Albright,** Western Canada  
**Alexander MacDonald,** Eastern Canada  
**Jim Hickenbotham,** At-Large  
**Othol Smith Jr.,** At-Large

### Editorial staff

Donald Caswell, Managing Editor  
Carol Almond, Asst. to the Managing Editor

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

The Boilermaker Reporter  
753 State Avenue, Suite 565  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
(913) 371-2640; FAX (913) 281-8104

Web sites: [www.boilermakers.org](http://www.boilermakers.org) and <http://capwiz.com/boilermaker>

PUBLICATION AGREEMENT No. 40010131

Printed in the U.S.A.

*A prize-winning newspaper*



UA General President Bill Hite (second from left), plant manager Herman Seedorf, and IP Newton Jones clasp hands to kick off the cat-cracker job. They are joined by ConocoPhillips staff and UA and Boilermaker representatives, including Great Lakes IVP Larry McManamon (between Seedorf and Jones).

## Local 363 at Wood River

continued from page 1

ConocoPhillips's total crude processing capability in the United States

Wood River refines crude from domestic sources, the Gulf of Mexico, and Canada. Recently purchased assets will enable it to refine lower-cost, heavy crude oils, including from the Athabasca tar sands in Canada. □



L. to r., IP Newton Jones, L-363 BM-ST John Passiglia, Local 363 member and job general foreman Sam Stassi, IR Tony Palmisano, and IVP Larry McManamon.

## Refinery fined \$10 million for explosion

### Motiva Enterprise's negligence killed Local 13 Boilermaker

AN OIL REFINERY in Delaware City, Del. has taken the blame for a deadly explosion in 2001. After a U.S. Department of Justice investigation, the refinery pleaded guilty on March 31st, 2005, to negligently endangering workers. Motiva Enterprises, owned by Shell Oil Company and Saudi Refining Inc. also admitted negligently releasing sulfuric acid into the air and discharging pollutants into the Delaware River. They received a \$10-million fine and three years probation.

Fifty-year-old Jeffrey Davis of Falls, Delaware, a member of Boilermakers Local Lodge 13 and father of five, was repairing a catwalk between the tanks when vapors from a spent sulfuric-acid tank reached a heat source and exploded. His body was never recovered. "Davis had spent the previous 25 years working for U.S. Steel at its Fairless Works Plant in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania," said Local 13 Business Manager Jim Banford. "He became a [Boilermaker] apprentice after the U.S. Steel Mill started eliminating jobs. Davis's co-workers Ken Creamer, also an apprentice, and Steven Spera, a Boilermaker since 1981, suffered debilitating injuries and are no longer working

the trade. Six other workers were injured in the explosion."

In 2003, Motiva pleaded no contest to negligent homicide in Davis' death and in 2004 agreed to pay the family \$36.4 million. It also had to pay \$46,000 in fines and \$250,000 to the Victim Compensation Fund.

According to the *Bucks County Courier Times*, tank 393 had a history of leaks that prompted repeated warnings from workers, which were ignored by Motiva.

"When we heard about the explosion in 2001," Banford said, "all the officers were on their way to the International Convention, where we took up a large collection for the family. Later we named our new training facility the Jeff Davis School of Welding. Mary Davis, Jeff's wife, donated \$50,000.00 to a vocational scholarship fund. She wanted to see a scholarship fund established for people who have skills other than scholastic."

The family's lawyer, Thomas R. Kline, said this week that the family was pleased that the Department of Justice stuck with the case. The \$10-million judgment was the largest in Delaware history.

Last May, Motiva sold the Delaware City refinery for a reported \$800 million, according to a company statement. □

## Oil companies want to use foreign labor in Alberta oil sands

### Local 146 leads fight to use Canadians on all jobs

WITH WORLD OIL prices at record highs, it's boom time in the oil sands region of northeast Alberta. Here in the rugged, often frigid interior of Canada, oil companies will spend an estimated \$60 billion over 10 years in an effort to extract "heavy oil" from an area containing a third of the world's known oil reserves — the Athabasca oil sands. The potential profits are enormous, described as "walls of cash" by the oil companies themselves. However, to succeed, the oil firms will need the skills and labor of thousands of construction trade workers, including Boilermakers from Local 146 in Edmonton.

But all is not well with organized labor in Alberta, says Local 146 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Warren Fraleigh. In fact, Local 146 and other members of the 40,000-strong Alberta Building Trades Council (ABTC) are up in arms over a plan to bring in 680 temporary foreign workers for new construction projects. Although the number is relatively small, the ABTC believes such a precedent could spell trouble down the road.

The oil companies, construction contractors, and some in government argue that there is a shortage of skilled workers in Canada and that foreign workers will be needed to fill that shortage.

Not so, says Fraleigh. For proof, he points to Canada's unemployment rate in the construction industry. In Alberta, the rate is six percent. Across Canada, it's 14 percent. In some provinces, the rate is 30-40 percent.

"As oil companies build new plants and refineries, they need to look to Alberta first for skilled construction employees, then across Canada, and then to the U.S., if needed," he says. Fraleigh adds that it does not make sense to bring in workers from third-world countries where training standards are lower without first tapping into more immediate sources.

Local 146 and the two dozen other trade union locals making up the ABTC want an answer to how the federal government came to consider approving big oil's request for foreign workers in the first place. Fraleigh cites a federal-provincial foreign worker agreement that governs the conditions under which foreign workers may be used to do oil sands construction work.

The agreement's protocols may have been violated, given current unemployment figures in the construction industry. Fraleigh and other ABTC

unions presented the unions' case to Canada's Deputy Prime Minister, Anne McClellan.

"She was appalled," Fraleigh says, after seeing the unemployment statistics and the implication that skilled Canadian workers might be bypassed if foreign workers were imported.

Local unions of the ABTC fear the effort to hire foreign workers is part of an overall strategy to undermine collective bargaining agreements between the unions and the contractors doing work for the big oil companies. Indeed, Local 146 is encountering pressure to make wage and schedule concessions for upcoming projects.

Fraleigh says some of that pressure is caused by the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC). CLAC is an employer-oriented union that Fraleigh calls a "union of convenience." Contractors who choose not to be affiliated with traditional building trade unions become signatory with CLAC so they may bid on union projects. CLAC members work for lesser terms and working conditions. Big oil has been giving CLAC larger shares of its available work. CLAC's inability to fully staff some of these projects may have been a factor in the plan to import foreign workers, in Fraleigh's view.

Local 146 and the ABTC know their struggle to keep out foreign workers and beat concessionary pressure is just beginning.

The unions are quickly mobilizing and attacking the problem from different angles.

"We are getting more politically active than ever before,"

says Fraleigh. "We are meeting with provincial as well as federal officials. We are also making our case to the media and beginning grass-roots efforts to inform the public about the negative impact foreign workers will have on them, such as taking money out of the country instead of spending it locally."

Certainly the construction trades feel frustrated and bitter over the oil companies' tactics. Says Fraleigh, "At a time when our skills are in more demand than ever before, even in more demand than a generation ago, the oil companies are seeking [to use foreign labor] to lower their costs so they can make even higher profits."

More ominous to the construction trades is a feeling that recent events are an opening salvo in more aggressive efforts by the oil industry to lower labor costs, efforts that could reduce the ABTC union workforce and keep union workers from enjoying the economic gains that the oil sands promise to bring the region. □



In front of the provincial legislative

assembly building in Edmonton, 1,500 Alberta tradesmen rally April 27 to use only Canadian workers on oil sands jobs.

# Senator Durbin is the Boilermakers' 2005 Legislator of the Year

**Son of Illinois union members, he fights for justice and fairness for workers**

SENATOR RICHARD "DICK" Durbin is the Boilermakers' 2005 Legislator of the Year. As Democratic whip, Durbin works closely with the Senate Democratic leadership to determine their legislative strategy. First elected to the Senate in 1996, he is serving his second term and has a career labor voting record of over 90 percent.

"But it is more than just his votes that makes Senator Durbin such an important voice for working families," says Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin. "Whether he is fighting to provide Social Security disability benefits for a Boilermaker member of Local 60, grilling one of the administration's extremist judicial nominees, taking on the tobacco industry, standing up for civil liberties, or fighting against the president's budget, Senator Durbin is always on the frontlines as a champion for justice and fairness."

Durbin accepted his award at the 37th annual conference of the Boilermakers' Legislative Education Action Program in Washington, D.C., March 15. Addressing the delegates, he spoke of his own labor background.

"If you wonder how I happened to become a strong supporter of labor unions, you only have to look at my home where I grew up," he said. "We have had a lot of union membership in my home. My mother, my father, my two brothers, and I were all members of the Railway Clerks Union. I was a member of several unions as I was going through school and growing up. Even my daughter, who is an artist, is a card-carrying union member in the city of Chicago, where she did sidewalks and gutters one summer."

"My dad was a union organizer back in the 1940s in East St. Louis, Ill., and we understood that unions gave my family a voice — a voice in the workplace, a voice in America. The Boilermakers have been that kind of union. They have been a voice for men and women across America for years and years. Thank goodness you have used that voice and used it effectively."

## Education is at risk

DURBIN SAYS WE should be looking at what our legislators are doing today, and thinking twice about that, too.

"What the Bush Administration is proposing for this country is something that I think is absolutely terrible," he said. "The budget resolution before the Senate right now is going to make dramatic cuts in areas where we need help. Instead of providing money for education so that our kids can get the skills for the jobs of the 21st century, Pres. Bush's budget eliminates vocational and technical education."

"A lot of kids go to community college, some go to college, maybe even beyond, but there are a substantial number of students who are not going to take that career path. They want to pick up the skills to help them get jobs.

And where are they going to get them? Through vocational and technical education. Obviously, the president believes we can afford to eliminate that education. He is wrong. He is certainly wrong."

"And when he cuts back on education, he is not just denying our country its future, he is denying our families their future. I wouldn't be standing here today without my education. My mom and dad kept pushing me, pushing me, pushing me. Many of you are in the same predicament with your kids and grandkids. You know that the ticket to success is school and this administration is cutting it."

## Health care is the real crisis

ACCORDING TO DURBIN, health care — not Social Security — is the real crisis this nation is facing.

"If the Boilermakers are like every other union that I have spoken to in the last several years, and every business I have spoken to, large and small across Illinois, a major concern that you have is the cost of health insurance," Durbin said. "Every single year, almost without fail, your coverage goes down and your costs go up. And labor leaders say to me, 'How in the world am I going to tell the rank and file that they are not going to have any more take-home pay this year, that they are going to have to put it all into health insurance and there will be less coverage?'"

"But Pres. Bush is going on a motorcade, a whirlwind tour across America, to visit 60 cities in 60 days to talk about privatizing Social Security. I wish this president was going on a 60-city, 60-day tour to talk about health care in America to make sure that every family has affordable and adequate health care coverage."

"Instead, he looks down the tracks at Social Security and sees a distant light, 40 or 50 years away — literally, 40 or 50 years away — and says, 'We've got to do something about Social Security now.'"

"I can see that light in the distance — 40 years away. Yes, we need to do something. I don't argue with him. We can and we should do something. But while he is looking at that light in the distance there's a locomotive coming right on top of him that says health care. And that's really the crisis in America — a crisis which this administration is ignoring."

## Fight for veterans' benefits

"I WANT TO tell you something else that troubles me greatly," Durbin said. "We are involved in a war now; some of you have members of your family over there fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. I voted against that resolution to go to war because I thought we needed a stronger coalition — more countries that would send soldiers and send money and be there to help fight this war with Saddam Hussein. But I lost that vote."

"And I made up my mind at that moment, as did every other member of the United States Senate, that that debate was behind us and we were not going to make the same mistake we



**Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) accepts the 2005 Boilermakers Legislator of the Year Award.** Pictured, l. to r., LEAP delegates from Illinois, Jesus Fernandez, Ben Kosiek, Jim Grosse, Frederick Swiatko, IVP Larry McManamon, L-1234 Pres. Robert Smith, IP Newton B. Jones, and GAD Bridget Martin.

made in Vietnam. From that point forward, we were going to stand by our troops. We've been with them every moment and for every dollar that they've needed."

"So when I see cutbacks in Veteran benefits — benefits for the people who protect our country — it just doesn't make sense."

"The president's budget calls for \$32 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest. One tax cut, if your salary is over \$1 million a year, will give you a \$35,000 tax cut a year."

"Why would we want to give a tax cut to the wealthiest Americans when we have a deficit, when we can't afford health care or veteran benefits? This senator is going to make sure that the hard questions are asked."

"You have stood with me time and time again. When I have asked you for help, you have been there. Now I am here to help you."

## Legislative accomplishments

### ★ Improving Health Care

SENATOR DURBIN RECEIVED a lifetime achievement award from the American Lung Association for his work in the House to ban smoking on commercial airline flights, and for his work in the Senate to protect children from the harm caused by tobacco.

Durbin has also worked successfully to increase federal funding to prevent childhood asthma, increase immunizations, and expand medical research.

He has successfully fought to increase the share of federal funding dedicated to combating AIDS worldwide. He has also been a leader in promoting organ and tissue donation.

In the spring of 2004, Durbin put forth a plan to give small businesses affordable choices among private health insurance plans and expand access to coverage for their employees.

### ★ Protecting Consumers

CONSUMER PROTECTION IS high on Durbin's list of priorities. Continuing an effort spurred by a meeting with the mother of a Chicago six-year-old who died after eating contaminated hamburger, Durbin led the effort to modernize the fragmented federal food safety system under a single food-safety agency.

He has introduced legislation to require manufacturers of dietary supplements to ensure their products are safe before they are sold. He secured \$2.8 million for the implementation of new safety standards to protect patients from injuries related to re-use of medical devices that are intended to be used only once.

### ★ Working for a Fair Tax Code

DURBIN'S TAX CUT agenda includes tax credits for small businesses buying health insurance for their low-income workers, estate tax relief for family-owned small businesses and farms, tax incentives to promote charitable giving, and tax credits for long-term care insurance, child care, and college tuition. □

## Biography

**Senator Richard Durbin** was born in East St. Louis, Ill., on November 21, 1944, and graduated from Assumption High School, before heading east to Georgetown University, where he earned a B.S. in 1966 and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown's prestigious law school in 1969.

In 1983, he was elected to the House of Representatives to represent the people of Illinois's 20th Congressional District. In 1996, the people of Illinois elected him to the Senate; in 2002, they elected him to a second term.

In 2001, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) appointed Durbin to the Senate's leadership team as the assistant Democratic floor leader. In 2000, Durbin served as co-chairman of the Democratic platform committee.

In December 2004, his fellow Democratic senators elected Durbin to serve as assistant minority leader, also known as the Democratic whip, the Senate's second-highest-ranking Democratic leadership post.

Durbin is also the first Illinois senator to serve on the U.S. Senate's appropriations committee in more than a quarter of a century. He is the state's senior senator and convener of the bipartisan Illinois delegation.

Senator Durbin is married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin. They have three children and one grandchild.

# 37th Annual LEAP Conference

March 14-18, 2005

## Election may be over, but our work has just begun

**Speakers outline lessons to be learned, what's at risk for workers**

NEARLY 200 DELEGATES to the 37th annual conference of the Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) met in Washington, D.C., March 14-18, to discuss legislative strategies to advance and protect working family issues.

They heard from a variety of guest speakers, including Democratic Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) — the Boilermakers' 2005 Legislator of the Year; members of the U.S. House of Representatives: Neil Abercrombie (D-1st HI), Harold Ford Jr. (D-9th TN), and Steven LaTourette (R-14th OH); and political analyst Paul Begala, co-host of CNN's "Crossfire."

Delegates also heard from members of two panels — one made up of professional lobbyists, one of Boilermakers members whose efforts have been successful at the local lodge level. They shared their experiences and insights into how union members can influence legislative representatives at all levels of government. (See separate story on page 8)

In his conference-opening speech, International President Newton B. Jones thanked the members for their efforts in the 2004 election, which resulted in many more Boilermakers volunteering, contributing, and voting. While we fell short of winning an important election, Jones says we

are still charged with the role of protecting our members and their working lives. That is why we must continue to fight and to speak out against the unfair policies and political ideology that have targeted the labor movement for destruction.

"We must remain politically active," Jones said, "and become even more so, to fight for our issues today — whether it be for fair asbestos legislation to help those whose lives have been so horribly affected by exposure to this fiber, or to speak out against unfair trade agreements that undermine the strength of our nation and the gainful employment future of our members and their children."

He pointed out that only a few more votes in Ohio could have made a world of difference in the 2004 election and for our country, our position in the world, and the working lives of our members. Jones blames Kerry's loss on the political ideologues of the far right and their allies in big business who targeted for destruction the very foundation of the labor movement — good paying jobs.

"This right-wing machine of workers' rights destruction found a way to divide workers and union members. How? By introducing and fomenting hot-button issues that distracted workers' attention from issues affecting their daily lives to issues that played to our fear and prejudice."

Many of the issues that got voters to support Bush were never really at risk, Jones said.

But American jobs were — and still are — at risk.

"While executive orders threatened overtime pay, no legislation threatened to take away the right to bear arms. But the right-wing wrecking machine made it seem as though that would surely happen if John Kerry won the presidency," Jones said.

"And while Congress and the White House advanced the negotiation of CAFTA and other trade agreements that further threaten the working lives of our members, the Bush administration distracted many of our members with a ploy to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban the marriage of gay couples."

Those issues and others used by the Bush administration throughout the 2004 campaign are important to many of our members. That is why Republicans used them to distract us from their real agenda — to weaken our unions and to hold the reigns of power as long as possible, Jones said. They use these hot-button issues to win elections, but between elections, they ignore them.

It is the labor movement's job to champion and protect the working relationship between our members and their employers, and policies that affect whether or not our members will have good-paying jobs.

"We must maintain working relations with legislators on both sides of



**Delegates to the 37th annual Boilermakers' Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) Conference gather in front of the nation's capitol.**



**International President Newton B. Jones**

*"The right-wing machine found a way to divide workers and union members with hot-button issues that played to our fears."*

— Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones

## ...our work has just begun

(continued from page 5)

the aisle, Republicans as well as Democrats," Jones said.

He pointed out areas where we can work together with our political adversaries, including President Bush's Clear Skies legislation.

He then encouraged the delegates to take their voices to the Hill — to let our legislators know why pensions, health-care, the right to organize and be represented, and the promotion of fair trade so we can have good-paying jobs are all worth protecting.

"Let them know we will continue our fight as long as it takes and as long as we are able," Jones said. "And when you are up there talking with those who are steering our nation, keep in mind this quote from Mark Twain: 'Loyalty to the country, always. Loyalty to the government, when it deserves it.'"

### Lessons to be learned

PAUL BEGALA, LEAP Conference keynote speaker and co-host of CNN's "Crossfire," said he thought of General George Armstrong Custard while he covered the 2004 election. Only instead of asking, "Where did all these dang Indians come from?" he was asking, "Where did all of these dang Republicans come from?"

He says the 2004 campaign taught him a few things.

"First," he said, "negative campaigns work. That's the biggest lesson from the 2004 election. From the beginning to the end, George W. Bush attacked John Kerry every day. They knew they would lose if Bush was on his own, so they went after Kerry on a personal level, not attacking his stances, but claiming he couldn't make up his mind, that he was an 'elitist,' and that despite earning the Silver Star in Viet Nam he was an unpatriotic coward."

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, didn't want to say anything bad about anybody. "Our party actually had a rule at the convention that said, 'Thou shall not speak ill of a Republican,'" he said.

Begala believes if Democrats had done a better job of attacking Bush on his record and on the issues, they could have won.

But they didn't. And they didn't attack back when Republicans began their campaign to smear Kerry. Instead, all America heard was Bush's clear and focused message: I am strong and steady, and he is weak and wobbly.

"If you ask the 61 million Americans who voted for President Bush, they will tell you they voted for him because he is strong and Kerry is weak," Begala said. "If you ask the 58 million of us who voted for John Kerry why we voted for him, you'll get 58 million reasons. The Democrats were unfocused."

"I can't believe that we had a certified, bona fide war hero who was made to look weak by a man who spent the war in Alabama," Begala said. "Because that's what happened, and Democrats need to learn from that. A party that will not defend itself won't be trusted to defend the country. We need to acknowledge that war matters and be strong on national defense and



Paul Begala, political analyst and co-host of CNN's "Crossfire"

strong against terrorism. We don't have to invade every country on Bush's list, but we need to show America that Democrats are strong."

Now that the election is over, Begala believes that the Democratic Party and the labor movement need to get back to their roots, back to the things that are relevant to people's lives. We have to focus on economic issues.

"We have real problems in this country," he said, "and it turns out that attacking John Kerry won't solve any of those problems. It was a good strategy for '04, but it ain't going to work in '05. We have a huge problem with the federal deficit. We have enormous problems with health care. We have 150,000 of our boys and girls stuck, stranded in a desert without enough allies, without enough armor, without enough ammunition, without any clue of how we are going to win this thing and bring them home. Attacking John Kerry won't solve any of those problems. We must return to the issues."

In talking about Bush's plan to "fix" Social Security, Begala recalled the time when his father took their dog, Major, to the vet to get "fixed."

"You know what that procedure is," Begala said, "that which used to work real well don't work no more. Major wasn't real happy with the procedure or the outcome. So when Bush says that he wants to fix Social Security, that he wants to fix Medicare, just remember that he wants to fix you, too. I think we ought to stand up to him and fight him on that."

### Abercrombie stirs up crowd

REP. NEIL ABERCROMBIE (D-1st HI) continued the theme of focusing on economic and workplace issues and uniting to speak — and vote — with one voice.

"Every labor union in this country needs to remember the fundamental adage of labor organization — all for one and one for all; an injury to one is an injury to all," Abercrombie said. "Labor cannot afford to divide its own house against itself. That's the lesson that has to be learned from [the 2004 elections]."

"What is more fundamental than your own job and your own future, the prosperity of your family and your brothers and sisters of this union and working people all across this country? That's the kind of unity that we've got to have."

*"We have real problems in this country, and it turns out that attacking John Kerry won't solve any of those problems."*

- Paul Begala

behalf and that is what Social Security is all about.

"Social Security is not a system for gambling. You want a personal account? Open one up at Bellagio [casino]. Social Security is a way to look after the least among us. Are we going to have a society that we can say looks out for the least amongst us?"

"This union was organized and every labor organization in this country was organized so that we look out for each other. There is only one way we can do it. We've got to have people in the Congress of the United States whose first and foremost duty and obligation and object of their legislative life is to look out for the working people of this country. Everything comes through that."

"Politics is the key. Politics is what's at the bottom and what fundamentally counts. And what counts most in politics is numbers."

"We've got to have more people in Congress — up to a majority that can elect a speaker and have a share of the committees that will act on your behalf. And the only way to do it, the only way to accomplish it is to do two things."

"First, see to it that every member of the union and their families and their eligible kids are registered to vote and that they vote in the interest of the working people in this country. That's the number one fundamental thing that has to be done."

"Second, you've got to support your political action committee. I don't care if it is a dollar a month. I don't care if it is five dollars or ten dollars out of your pocket. The only way that working people in this country can fight the big money is with little money from all of us, put together. That's what these political action committees are all about."

*"Social Security is not a system for gambling. You want a personal account? Open one up at Bellagio"*

- Rep. Neil Abercrombie

"We could solve this whole thing, not by raiding the Social Security trust fund anymore than it's already been robbed, but by removing the cap."

"You need people looking out for you. To try to make our way in this world we have to reach out for one another. You have to have a community of interest. That's what the pension fund is all about. That's why you have to have leadership that's worthy, that's why you have to pay attention to who your leadership is. Because they have the responsibility of acting on your



Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-1st HI)



*"If you think you can make gadgets or widgets cheaper in Mexico, you have every right to do so. But I won't give you a tax break to do it."*

- Rep. Harold Ford

Rep. Harold Ford Jr. (D-9th TN)

### Ford brings refreshing views

REP. HAROLD FORD JR. (D-9th TN) said President Bush's proposed budget is \$400 billion in deficit before we spend a dollar.

"It cuts all the programs that are meaningful to the people in my state of Tennessee, and I dare say to all the states across the country," Ford said. "The president said his motto for this budget was to keep what's working and get rid of what's not, and I have no problem with that. But he ought to apply that same standard of spending to tax cuts.

"Tax cuts that are working we should keep; tax cuts that are not working we should discard.

"If you think you can make gadgets or widgets cheaper in Mexico, you have every right to do so. It's the American way; it's how capitalism works. But I won't give you a tax break to do it. You are not going to take taxes out of our country to go and make a gadget or widget or product elsewhere.

"We can comb the tax code and find a shelter and find other tax cuts that are benefiting a small, narrow group of Americans and discard those much like we do in spending programs that don't work. Because we will never get our budget in line or balance it like governors all across this country are forced to, unless we are willing to make the tough choices on taxes and make some choices on spending.

"I suggested to the president that his real focus this time shouldn't be Social Security, it should be Medicare and tax reform. Medicare will run out of money in 2018. We passed a prescription drug benefit without the key component to save money. If we had just allowed Medicare to negotiate with the drug companies, we would have lowered drug prices for everybody in the system, from seniors on down. But the drug companies, every time they make a drug, we buy it.

"And when I say we, I literally mean we, because the government buys it. The biggest purchaser of drugs in the country, if not the world, is the United States government. They make the drugs, see if it works, and we taxpayers

buy it. That issue should be one focused on by the president and this administration, far more than Social Security, because Medicare is going to run out of money much quicker.

"The second is tax reform. I believe that if you go to work each day and you support your family that you deserve a break. When the president says he is cutting taxes at the federal level, and he cuts funding for education, guess where the burden falls? On local and state governments. In my county in the city of Memphis, we are going to see our property taxes go up in the next six months. Why? Because we don't have enough resources coming in to meet the rising needs of our schools, of our health care system. You cut taxes here (at the federal level), taxes go up at home. And who's affected the most? The middle-class.

"I believe that you shouldn't have to pay a larger share of your income in taxes if you make \$40,000 versus someone making \$400,000. If we were serious about tax reform, we would pass a bill that said the first \$40,000 of income — work revenue, not investment income — in this country was tax free. The first half-a-million dollars of business revenue for any business in the country that provides health insurance for its workers — that have at least three workers and provides health insurance at an 80/20 split — would pay no taxes on that first half-a-million dollar revenue. Why? Small businesses are the backbone of the country. And if we don't find ways to create more incentives in lowering the regulatory burden on their backs, we are not going to create jobs.

"The third thing I would do is to say any employer who has an employee who is deployed to go overseas to fight for your country and mine will get a \$100,000 above-the-line tax break to make up the difference between what the U.S. military is paying and what the employee lost leaving their job to protect you and me.

"The fourth piece concerns estate tax. The president believes we should give a complete tax break to the wealthiest of Americans to pass their estate on to the next generation. We can't afford to do that. I do believe it is unfair to ask people who built their business, or their farm, or convenience store, or cleaners, or auto dealership, or whatever it may be and the next generation has to sell

the company to pay the taxes once someone dies in the family. It is completely unfair.

"But we can solve that problem by simply raising the exemption and making it where anybody with a business that is valued at \$7.5 million or less will pay no taxes if they pass it to the next generation. Anything above that should be taxed at 27.5 percent.

"Let the law work so people can plan their estates and let people run their businesses and not have to worry about accountants coming up with gimmicks, ways to avoid paying taxes, or ways to avoid losing your estate when they pass.

"If the president was serious, and if this administration was serious about helping working people, the people who make this country work day in and day out, these are the kinds of things that would be proposed."

### LaTourette says Republican labor committee will work with unions

REP. STEVEN LATOURETTE (R-14th OH), one of a small number of Republicans who support labor unions on many issues, provided important insights into how workers can get Republican support for our legislation.

"On any given issue there are between 25 and 50 Republican House members who can and will stand up and be counted when it comes to issues that are important to organized labor," LaTourette said. "And those labor organizations that get it recognize that there are 435 members of Congress and it takes 218 votes to get anything done or to keep something bad from happening. As it is, I think it's worthwhile for this organization and other organizations to reach out to those 25 or 50 Republicans.

"I want to give you a couple examples of where that has worked rather well in the past week. We just passed the six-year transportation bill out of the House. As that bill came up, there were a couple of issues that were real important to labor. We received some emergency telephone calls during the bill's consideration. One had to do with Davis Bacon, the federal prevailing wage law.

"There is a constant assault by some members of the Republican Party on Davis Bacon protections. Davis Bacon protections can be applied not only to the transportation bill, but also to the water resources bill, energy bills, and some other bills that are coming along. The Republican labor group went to the leadership and said, 'If you do not make sure that Davis Bacon protects everything in the transportation bill and everything in the water bill and everything in the energy bill, we are going to take a walk on some important legislation to you.'

"I will tell you that as a result of that meeting, we have a commitment today that there will be no Davis Bacon fight on the highway bill.

"Another good thing that happened that week was an amendment that was going to be filed on a bill that wouldn't have 13c protection. Paragraph 13c is the labor protection provision that applies to people who are engaged in the transit industry. And again as a result of pressure put on them by Frank, and me, and this group of 25 or 50, that amendment not only didn't

succeed, it wasn't even made in order. We never even had to debate on it. And that again, I think, is the direct result of having open minds and communication between organizations such as yours and guys like me and Frank LoBiondo and others.

"What we have is the opportunity to keep really, really bad things from happening to you as a result of misguided policies by some of the right-to-work states and some of the Republican leadership that is very, very conservative.

"I am here to thank you for your past support. You have my pledge that as we move forward I am going to be watching out for the issues that are important to you. And I would encour-



Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-14th OH)

*"I encourage you to reach out to your member of Congress, whether Democrat or Republican."*

- Rep. Steven LaTourette

age you, as you go back to your states that you make sure that you reach out and be interested — whether you are from Arizona, or North Carolina, or any other part of this country — that you be interested in whether your member of Congress is somebody who is approachable on your issues, whether or not your member of Congress has his head closed or is going to listen to your issues. I would be happy to steer you in the right direction. I appreciate your support, and God willing, we are going to work together in the future."

Other speakers at the conference included Communication Director Don Caswell, who discussed ways to promote our legislative agenda, and members of the Government Affairs Department — Director Bridget Martin, Asst. to the Director Shannon Brett, and Legislative Representative Abe Breehey — who discussed LEAP, fundraising for CAF and LEF, legislation concerning working families, and their Web site that can be accessed by clicking on the LEAP tab at the Boilermakers' site of [www.boilermakers.org](http://www.boilermakers.org). □

# Panelists share valuable experience

## Panels report on effective grass-roots lobbying

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Bridget Martin lined up two panels to address delegates at the 37th annual conference of the Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP), March 14.

"We wanted you to hear from other members of the union and other union leaders," Martin explained. "You can hear from me all day long until I am blue in the face, but it just won't have the same impact as hearing from someone else in a similar position that you are in."

The first panel of five Boilermaker lodge representatives discussed successes they have had in lobbying legislators at the local and state levels.

The second panel of professional lobbyists from the AFL-CIO and electricians union (IBEW) stressed the impact members back home can have on legislators at all levels of government.

## Five local lodge leaders speak of grass-roots efforts

### Gunderson on getting out the vote

INTL. REP. LEN GUNDERSON has learned on more than one occasion the importance of being involved with local politics. He credits that involvement with saving hundreds of Boilermaker jobs.



**Len Gunderson, International representative**

"I represent employees at Local 650 in Lake City, Minn.," Gunderson said. "The company was and still is making piles of money. It wanted more. They contacted the union and told us they were moving to Mexico and we would be losing 450 jobs unless we found a way to take \$4 million out of our operating costs."

Because of the good relationship Gunderson and Local 650 have built with members of the city and state legislatures, they were able to get a \$1.8 million grant. Combined with the \$2.2 million they found in the labor agreement, they met the company's demands and secured their guarantee to stay in Lake City, Minn., for four more years.

Fort Howard Steel is another example of how important it is to be involved in local politics, Gunderson said. "The

company told us on Feb. 1 they were closing on Feb. 11. They had sold to a competitor, Newport, who decided to close the Green Bay facility. We found a buyer and are now working on the funding. Again we contacted our city and state legislators. The city's economic development board is giving us \$600,000 and if there is more, we'll find it. We've got four banks on board with us and we hope to reopen the plant this spring."

Gunderson encouraged the delegates to be involved in elections at all levels, whether it is their town chairman, city council, mayor, or president of the United States. He told them to, "Work on every campaign, no matter how big or how small it is. If it is a school board, it is important. Our presence needs to be known. Our local officials are every bit as important as the president."

### Smarra on working with Republicans

TONY SMARRA OF Local 154, Pittsburgh, talked about the good relationships Local 154 has built with Republican members of Congress.

"To understand how we got to this point, you have to understand Pennsylvania politically," Smarra said. "Once, this region had a great industrial background. Politically, that translated into Democratic majorities in all phases of government. But with the decline of the steel industry, the demographics of the region changed drastically. Working with Republicans in Congress became a necessity."

Smarra credits a politically-active membership for their success. Political activism is stressed at every union meeting and members are involved in phone banks, voter registration drives, door-to-door campaigns, and letter writing. They even ratified a contract with a voluntary CAF donation in it.

"With the CAF contribution, every member has a stake in the political process," Smarra explained. "We also pass on information on the issues to our membership and keep them informed on how their elected officials — whether they are Republican or Democrat or Independent — are voting."

Not all GOP members understand labor's goals and it is up to us to educate them, Smarra said. "We need to keep the line of communication open. Just because a member of Congress can't support us on every vote or every issue doesn't make them the enemy."

When Republican Tim Murphy sought a seat in the 18th District, he courted labor's vote. He came directly to Local 154 and said, "Look, I need your guys help and in return I'll help you." Local 154 supported Murphy and he has been receptive to some of their ideas and concerns ever since.

Phil English of Pennsylvania's third district is another friend to Local 154, as is Sen. Arlen Specter, who is leading the charge on a \$30 million earmark for a new IGCC power plant. "Realistically, Arlen Specter has a better chance of securing that funding than any Democrat on the Senate. So we need to realize and pass on to our membership that Republicans, now more than ever, are

vital to our job creation priorities," Smarra said. "Whether it is energy issues, defense, or manufacturing, Republicans can be helpful in advancing our agenda."

### Carpenter on getting members active

KEVIN CARPENTER, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 19, Philadelphia, says now is not the time to grow numb; it is the time to look at things in a greater perspective. "All we need is right here in this room," he said. "It's right here in the legislative facts."

Carpenter said his union president approached him two years ago about what he thought it would take to get a spark under the membership. He sent Carpenter to the 35th annual LEAP conference where Carpenter said his own spark was lit.



**Tony Smarra of Local 154, Pittsburgh**

Carpenter took his inspiration from one of the conference speakers — Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii. "Now that guy just fires you up. I took that charge back with me and we spread it through our membership. That's how we do things. We have to lead by example. I had to get out there. When people see you involved, then they start to get involved."

Carpenter went home and started with himself. "I had to develop a passion for what I was doing because I didn't believe I could get a message across or be very persuasive to others if I didn't really have that passion in myself."

He began by educating himself about LEAP and current legislative issues. Then he and the other Local 19 LEAP committee members started a get-out-the-vote drive. First they divided their membership list between registered and non-registered members. Then they began contacting the non-registered members at lunch breaks, timed breaks, and before and after work, handing out registration cards they got from the Post Office.

"We got a lot of people registered to vote," Carpenter said. "We had picnics, and the first thing you would see when you arrived was registration cards. We also gave away

turkey cards for Thanksgiving, and before a member could get his or her turkey card, they got a registration form. It's amazing how quick someone will fill out just about anything for a turkey."

It worked for Local 19, and it can work for you, Carpenter said. "Just take the knowledge that is provided here back to your membership and stay informed. It really works."

### Connolly on supporting CAF and LEF

JERRY CONNOLLY, BUSINESS Manager of Local 5, New York, said he came to his first LEAP conference in 1983. Years ago, he said, you not only learned in the conference room, but in the bar as well.

"This used to be a big lobbying hotel," Connolly explained. "I would go in the bar and say, 'You know that I am talking to these people but they are not responding.' After three years of this, a railroad lobbyist asked me, 'Well, kid, do you got any juice?'"

"Juice, what do you mean?"

"Money," he said. "There are only two things they understand down here — votes and money."

"After being embarrassed for three years, I decided to go back home and get something done. I started with a LEAP committee. We got in our contract a one-tenth of one percent contribution. That was in 1987. Since then we have probably contributed over \$300,000."

What that did for Local 5 was enable Connolly to go out and sell working issues to different politicians, both Democrat and Republican. He spoke of Al Barkan, the national chairman of the Committee on Political Education (COPE), who once said, "There is nothing more important than job and good living wages."

"That has to be our focus," Connolly said. "We have social issues that some people think are more important. But if we can't communicate to our members how important it is to have a job, the rest of this is really not going to mean that much. If you come from a local that has not been successful in giving money to CAF or LEF, redouble your efforts. It doesn't have to be a lot of money. You don't need to be in the top ten, you just need to be in the game. If we are all in the game, it makes it easier. So I ask you again, go back home, educate your members. You will find resistance. But in the end, if you work hard, they'll appreciate what you are doing."



**Kevin Carpenter ST of Local 19, Philadelphia**

### Jacobs on getting members involved

TONY JACOBS, PRES. of Local 169, Detroit, reiterated what Connolly said in his own, straightforward manner: "Money talks, bullshit walks. If you have the money, you'll get the votes."

He explained how Local 169 starts educating their members at the apprentice level, and of how they preach the need to be politically active at every apprentice advancement.

"If we can get them involved, then we get them involved," Jacobs said. "We all come down to do the phone banks, and I have six delegates here with me today who all came out of the apprenticeship program. They are taking over the local and what I tell them is this, 'Only one thing counts and that is her.' And right now for them that her is Local 169."

If you stay viable in politics, you have to stay involved and you have to be in control, he said. Politics is what the world goes around with, and if you don't give a damn, next time, he guarantees our man-hours will be even less.

Jacobs talks votes to Republicans and votes to Democrats. He is involved in grass-roots politics. Local 169's efforts resulted in six Republican county commissioners and six Republican state house members losing their seats at the last election. A Republican still controls the state house and another controls the state senate, but Local 169 is working to get that changed around.

Yet, Local 169 has Republicans who sometimes call Jacobs on the phone from the floor to see which way they should vote on a building trade issue. That's why it is so important to get to know all of your representatives.

"Get involved," Jacobs said. "Get your young people involved. When we do our phone banks, my members know who the Republicans are. But they still listen to them and most still give money to the PAC. We didn't start with ten-cents-an-hour overnight. That was after 20 years. We have



**Tony Jacobs, Pres. Local 169, Detroit**

can make a bigger impact on that representative than a professional lobbyist he may see every day.

"Whether you know it or not, each one of you is a community leader where you live," Power said. "The members on the Hill see me and Bridget and Abe all the time. Sometimes familiarity brings attention, but sometimes familiarity just brings, 'Let's get this done so I can get to the next meeting.' That's why your presence here is so crucial."

But it's just as important to make your presence known at home, he said.

Power said you might be surprised to discover the influence you have. When there is a bad article in the paper, there should be an organized effort to have all the unions write back to that paper. When a talk show bashes the union, there should be an orchestrated effort to have union members call that station.

"It may influence them," Power said, "but I'm not so naive that I don't know that in many cases it won't. But if they go unanswered they won't remember the most important thing — that organized labor is a vital part of their community and in a positive way in terms of the collective bargaining agreements they negotiate to obtain a decent living standard for the families and children in their communities."

Power said it is critically important to make your presence known at home and on the Hill. The AFL-CIO has ten full-time lobbyists on staff. Among their affiliates, there are probably 40 lobbyists on the Hill on any give day. But the banking industry, just the banking industry in Washington, has 800 full-time lobbyists.

"That's what we are up against. That's why you are our secret weapon. We need you to come up to the Hill," Power said. "When we have success, it's because the members of Congress have been visited and visited by members like you from back home. Local labor is part of the community and they need to listen, even if they don't agree. It is crucial to our success."

### Walker gives insight on state level lobbying

NAOMI WALKER, AN AFL-CIO state issues representative, said Congress is not going to do much to help working families anytime in the near future. That's why the AFL-CIO is putting a lot more attention and resources into the state level.

She said winning at the state level is not only good for working families there, but the more action that states take, the more pressure it puts on Congress to take action and make uniform rules.

One example is the minimum wage. Connecticut is talking about raising the minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour. Other states are talking about raising it to \$6.15 an hour. "The more this happens," she says, "the more the business community is going to say, 'Hey we don't want to pay all these different wages in all these different areas,' and they are going to push for a uniform wage that will hopefully raise the goal for everyone."

Another example is Social Security. "While our state legislators don't have any real say over what happens to the Social Security program," Walker said, "one of the things that we are trying to do is make sure that state legislators pass resolutions urging Congress not to privatize Social Security." So far these resolutions have been introduced in 27 states.

The AFL-CIO is also trying to stop the export of good American jobs at the state level. She said many state contracts go to companies who take state taxpayer dollars, then ship the jobs offshore.

They are also working on a model healthcare disclosure bill to let taxpayers know exactly which companies shift their workers onto state-funded healthcare.

In each of the 11 states that already do this reporting, Wal-Mart has the most employees on state-funded

healthcare. "That means Wal-Mart can make \$9 billion in profits — just profit — and say, 'I'm not going to pay healthcare for my workers, let the taxpayers pick up that cost,'" Walker said.

In Georgia alone, 10,000 children of Wal-Mart employees are on state-funded healthcare, which costs the state \$6.5 million a year. To meet those costs, the state is now talking about cutting services and education. "It is ridiculous that one of the most profitable companies is doing this," Walker said, "and we are trying to stop it."

### Burton on building legislative relationships

BURCE BURTON, AN IBEW legislative representative, said his coming to D.C. to work full-time as a lobbyist wasn't any part of a grand plan.

"Like all of you, I come from the tools," Burton said. "I worked 17 years as a journeyman electrician. But even as an apprentice in the 80s, I knew I wanted to do something for the union. It's just a matter of putting back something that had been given to me."

The IBEW, says Burton, looks at the union movement as a three-legged stool — organizing, collective bargaining, and politics. "The three of them are very much linked together right now," he said. "In fact, right now like never before."

We need to organize or we will never start the union movement, he said. Collective bargaining, for the vast majority of union members, is really where it is all about. But politics plays a role in influencing both of these.

To make that third leg work for the first two, Burton suggests you build a relationship with your elected officials. "You pick the official," he said, "whether it is a state representative, state senator, or your congress people — even Republicans. Never be afraid to talk to these people."

It is because of good relations that the AFL-CIO was able to work with the Clinton administration even on legislation we disagreed on.

"It's true we disagreed with the Clinton administration on the trade issue. But here is a very, important difference. When President Clinton's representative sat down and negotiated a trade agreement, people from the AFL-CIO sat outside that negotiation. During breaks, the U.S. trade representative would come out and say, 'Hey, what do you guys think of this agreement?' Aside from not liking it, we were allowed input. Now we get absolutely nothing from an administration that wants to roll us back to the time of Calvin Coolidge."

Burton says media reports on splits in the labor community are an exception to the rule. "Don't listen to Fox news and that kind of stuff. We are all working people. We are all proud of it. And we all work very hard together." □



**Bruce Burton, IBEW legislative representative**



**Naomi Walker, AFL-CIO state issues representative**



**Jay Power, AFL-CIO senior lobbyist**

fundraisers. We pass the hat. Every dollar counts."

### Professionals say members make the best lobbyists

#### Power provides lobbying tips

JAY POWER, A SENIOR lobbyist with the AFL-CIO, said a union member from a representative's home district

# Awards highlight annual conference

## Capitol dome award honors members' fundraising efforts for CAF, LEF

THE ONLY WAY unions can contribute funds to candidates for federal office is through a political action committee (PAC), which collects voluntary donations from its members and employees. The Boilermakers' Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) is our PAC.

Raising money for CAF is essential if our union is to have any impact on what happens in Washington. That's why at each LEAP conference, awards are presented for outstanding contributions to CAF during the previous year.

The vice-presidential section and local lodge contributing the most money to CAF receive awards, as does the local lodge having the highest CAF contribution per member. This year, awards were also presented to the vice-presidential area and local lodge with the most improved contribution in 2004.

The Northeast Area won the award for the highest CAF contribution by a vice-presidential area in 2004, contributing \$114,077.72. Local 154, Pittsburgh, won for the largest contribution by a local lodge, raising \$44,667.07. Local 744, Cleveland, Ohio, won for highest contribution per member at \$148 per member.

Local 74, Houston, Texas, won the award for the most improved lodge, raising their CAF contributions from zero dollars in 2003 to \$6,251.11 in 2004.

The Central Section won the award for the most improved region, increasing their CAF contributions from \$794.31 in 2003 to \$9,955.95 in 2004.

Retirees were the single group of contributors who donated the most money in 2004, with \$96,901.11 from all retirees combined. International staff and officers contributed another \$36,913.25.

In all, \$459,245.30 was donated to CAF in 2004, yet only 56 locals out of 287 represent contributing members. Nearly all of the locals forwarding large contributions have included a CAF payroll deduction in their contract. Payroll deductions are the easiest way to raise money. Most people hardly notice a payroll deduction of \$2 a week. Yet donating a couple dollars a week to CAF can raise more than \$100 over a year's time — putting you among the members donating the most money.

And every dollar is put to good use, supporting pro-worker candidates.

To learn how you can begin contributing to CAF and how to include a voluntary CAF payroll-checkoff clause in your contract, call the Government Affairs Department at 703-560-1493.

## Awards honor top LEF donors

THE BOILERMAKERS' LEGISLATIVE Education Fund (LEF) pays for virtually all Boilermaker political education activities and is funded entirely through contributions from local



**ABOVE: Members of the Northeast Section, pictured with IVP Sean Murphy, and IP Newton Jones, accept the award for the highest CAF contribution by a section.**

lodge. Local lodge members use their vote to determine how much of their dues money goes into LEF.

This was only the second year that awards were presented at the annual LEAP conference to the highest LEF contributors.

For the second year in a row, the Southeast Area won the award as the highest LEF contribution by a vice-presidential area, contributing \$29,666.30 in 2004. Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky., won the award for the highest LEF contribution by a local lodge, contributing \$11,636.40 last year.

Local 40 also won the award for the most improved lodge, raising their LEF contributions from \$766.50 in 2003 to \$11,636.40 in 2004.

The Central Section also won the award for the most improved region for LEF contributions, increasing their donation from \$8,174.35 in 2003 to \$14,685.74 in 2004.

## Delegates to conference raise money for CAF, LEF

DELEGATES TO THE LEAP Conference were constantly reminded of the importance of raising money for legislative education and political donations. Nearly every speaker pointed out how expensive U.S. political campaigns have become. Delegates also see first-hand the expertise and research needed to keep up with legislation. So it isn't surprising that the delegates raise money for LEAP while at the conference.

Delegates bought raffle tickets, raising \$3,926 in cash for CAF.

Local 455 member Allen Phillips also donated a percentage of his proceeds from T-shirt sales he made at the conference to the fund.

Phillips, who sells his shirts at every LEAP Conference, also donated a quilt made from his T-shirts. IVP Othal Smith auctioned the quilt off, with the proceeds going to LEF.

Bidding for the quilt became very spirited, with District 57 finally buying the quilt for \$1,200.

In all, \$7,290 was donated to LEF at the conference, and CAF took in donations totalling \$19,291. □

**AT RIGHT: Local 40 BM-ST Jimmy Porter, second from left, accepts an award for the highest LEF contribution by a local with, l. to r., IP Newton Jones, IVP Sam May, and GAD Dir. Bridget Martin.**



**ABOVE: Local 744 VP Jim McManamon (l.) accepts the award for the highest CAF contribution per member from, l. to r., IVP Larry McManamon, GAD Dir. Bridget Martin, and IP Newton Jones.**



**ABOVE: Members of Local 154 accept the award for the highest CAF contribution by a local from IVP Sean Murphy and IP Newton Jones (third and fourth from left), and GAD Dir. Bridget Martin (far right).**



**Members of the Southeast Area, pictured with IP Newton Jones, IVP Sam May, and GAD Dir. Bridget Martin, accept the award for the highest LEF contribution by a section.**



## Top Local CAF and LEF Contributors

### Top ten locals sending to CAF

Local	Location	2004 Donation
Local 154	Pittsburgh	\$44,667.07
Local 744	Cleveland	43,222.53
Local 105	Chillicothe, Ohio	25,494.31
Local 5	New York	25,448.51
Local 13	Philadelphia	20,250.00
Local 453	Knoxville, Tenn.	16,825.34
Local 92	Los Angeles	13,624.28
Local 40	Elizabethtown, Ky.	12,839.22
Local 108	Birmingham, Ala.	11,917.68
Local 263	Memphis, Tenn.	9,848.21

### Top ten locals donating to LEF

Local	Location	2004 Donation
Local 40	Elizabethtown, Ky.	\$11,636.40
Local 85	Toledo, Ohio	8,209.14
Local 154	Pittsburgh	7,695.00
Local 5	New York	5,823.50
Local 27	St. Louis	5,779.50
Local 19	Philadelphia	5,300.40
Local 693	Pascagoula, Miss.	2,499.10
Local 92	Los Angeles	2,400.00
Local 455	Sheffield, Ala.	1,825.70
Local 682	Freeport, Texas	1,749.65

### Locals with large one-time LEF donations

Local	Location	2004 Donation
Local 40	Elizabethtown, Ky.	\$10,000
District 57	Chattanooga, Tenn.	10,000
Local 5	New York	5,000
Local 19	Philadelphia	5,000
Local 27	St. Louis	5,000
Local 154	Pittsburgh	5,000
TVIC	Franklin, Tenn.	5,000
Local 92	Los Angeles	2,400
Local 85	Toledo, Ohio	1,200

## Phillips donates quilt, portion of T-shirt sales to CAF

ALLEN PHILLIPS HAS a unique way of supporting the Boilermakers Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF). For ten years, he has donated 20 percent of his profits to CAF from T-shirt sales he makes at the annual LEAP conference.

This year was no exception, but he also donated T-shirts and ball caps for the CAF raffle and a quilt for an auction. The quilt, crafted by his neighbor, has 16 of Phillips' T-shirts in its design. Intl. Vice Pres. Othal Smith Jr. conducted the auction, raising \$1,200 for CAF from District Lodge 57's winning bid.

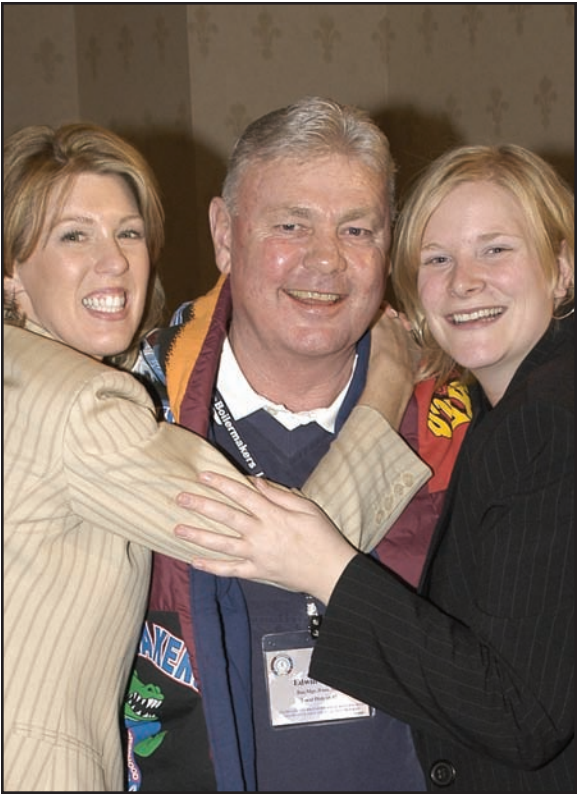
Phillips, 44, a 24-year member of Local 455, Sheffield, Ala., not only sells the T-shirts, he designs them as well. What started out as a small hobby for Phillips has turned into a part-time business called Creative Design (256-767-4098), with Phillips selling in excess of 10,000 shirts a year.

"Many Local 455 members like to wear shirts that display their union affiliation," Phillips explained. "I gave an idea of a T-shirt design to an artist friend and a local union printer made some shirts for me. The people I worked with at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant really liked them. Those who travel wore them to different job sites, and soon I had people from other Boilermaker lodges calling me for shirts. Once I started selling them at the LEAP conference, business really picked up as members brought the shirts back to their home locals. Combined with the exposure I got from selling shirts at the 2001 Boilermaker convention, I now get orders from all across the country."

Phillips currently has 32 T-shirt designs to choose from. He sells a few ball caps and sweat-shirts, but by far, it's his T-shirts that receive the most demand.

"People usually wear just one or two of their favorite ball caps, but they will wear a different T-shirt every day. I've already had requests for more designs, so I'm thinking of retiring some to make room for new creations," Phillips said.

Phillips is a fourth-generation Boilermaker. He and his brother, Larry Carl, who joined Local 455 in 1979, still enjoy listening to the stories their grandfather, Carl, 90, tells about his 20-plus years as a Local 455 business agent. However, Allen's great-grandfather, A.V., and his father, Larry, are deceased. A.V. worked as a Boilermaker in the Tennessee area, passing away at the age of 94. Larry, also a Local 455 member, served as the Southeast Area apprentice coordinator for 25 years. □



Our hero! That's how GAD Dir. Bridget Martin (l.) and GAD Asst. Dir. Shannon Brett (r.) described Ed Vance, wearing his cape of many colors - a Boilermaker quilt District 57 won in the LEF auction.



Local 455 member Allen Phillips sells T-shirts to raise money for CAF at the annual LEAP conference.



IVP Othal Smith Jr., at podium, conducts an auction of a quilt made from 16 T-shirts designed and donated by Local 455 member Allen Phillips.

MANY MEMBERS TAKE FOR GRANTED the educational information they receive from the Government Affairs Department and International headquarters. They do not consider how much time and expense goes into researching issues, preparing materials, and organizing and holding the annual LEAP conference.

A small donation to LEF — only 25 cents per member, per month — provides an excellent return in educational materials and legislative support.

Without LEF, we cannot inform our members about issues before Congress. It is the duty of each local lodge to help us keep our membership informed on issues that affect their members; however, only 101 of 287 lodges donate to LEF. If your lodge is not already contributing to LEF, make a motion at the next meeting to get started.

# We Represent the



## Members of Congress



**Rep. Celia Jackson Lee (D-18th TX), center, with**  
Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, and the Director of  
Government Affairs, Bridget Martin.



**Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-2nd MD), third from**  
left, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, IVP Sean Murphy,  
and Local 193 BM-ST Ernest Dorsey.



**Rep. Gene Green (D-29th TX), center, with Intl.**  
Pres. Newton Jones, and Government Affairs Director  
Bridget Martin.



**Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-5th OR), fourth from left, with Washington delegates,**  
I. to r., L-104 BM-ST Chuck Hughes, L-290 BM-ST Kevin Cavanagh, John Kosinski (L-  
290), Dean Calhoun (L-104), Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, and Richard Jones (L-502).



**Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-2nd NC), center, with, I. to r., Intl. Pres. Newton Jones,**  
Local 905 Sec.-Treas. Albert Meadowcroft, L-905 President Freddy Lewis, and  
International Rep.-General Organizer Steven Beal.



**Rep. Corine Brown (D-3rd FL), second from right, with, I. to r., IVP Sam**  
May, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Local 199 Pres. Jerry Rhoden, and Local 199  
Business Manager-Secretary Treasurer Larry Snellgrove.



**Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-10th NY), fourth from left, with, I. to r., Intl. Pres.**  
Newton Jones, Local 5 Pres. Tom Cook, Local 5 Bus. Mgr.-Sec. Treas. Jerry  
Connolly, Kevin O'Brien (L-5), and Local 5 VP Tom Klein.

# The Best of America



**Rep. Eliot Engel (D-17th NY), center, with, l. to r., L-5 Pres. Tom Cook, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Local 5 BM-ST Jerry Connolly, and L-5 member Kevin O'Brien.**



**Rep. Timothy Bishop (D-1st NY), third from right, with, l. to r., L-5 member Kevin O'Brien, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Local 5 BM-ST Jerry Connolly, L-5 Pres. Tom Cook, and L-5 VPTom Klein.**



**Rep. Al Green (D-9th TX), second from left, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin, and Tony Harrison, a staff member in Rep. Green's office.**



**Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th NJ), center, with, l. to r., L-D432 Pres. Steve Martin, L-28 BM-ST Raymond Cushing Jr., IP Newton Jones, Nick Gabriele (L-19), Local 19VP Dave Gaillard, and L-28 delegates Jay Brophy, Scott Van Wagner, and John Devlin.**



**Rep. Brian Higgins (D-27th NY), third from left, with, l. to r., Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, IVP Sean Murphy, Local 7 President Joseph Brown, and the General Secretary of the Ironworkers International, Michael Fitzpatrick.**



**Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-39th CA), center right front, with, l. to r., Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, L-1998 Pres. Robert Godinez, L-290 BM-ST Kevin Cavanagh, L-290 delegate John Kosinski, and IVP Joseph Stinger.**



**Rep. Ron Kind (D-3rd WI), center, with, l. to r., IP Newton Jones, L-696 VP Dale Carlson, Robert DeFaut (L-449), IVP Larry McManamon, L-696 Pres. Steve Gromala, L-449 VP Diane Ehlers, IR Len Gunderson, and L-699 Pres. Joyce Allgeyer.**



**Rep. Sander Levin (D-12th MI), center, with, l. to r., Nathan Anderson, Michael Card, Robert Hutsell (all L-169), IP Jones, William Wibby (L-169), L-169 Pres. Tony Jacobs, IVP Larry McManamon, L-696 Pres. Steve Gromala, Brian Sandefur (L-D408), L-699 Pres. Joyce Allgeyer, IR Len Gunderson, Paul Neil (L-D408), and Mark Wertz (L-169).**



**Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-9th MA), center, with, l. to r., L-29 Rec. Sec. Mike Fogarty and Local 29 members Tom Saccoach, Steve Goodhart, Jack Meade, Joe Birolini, and Jack Johndrow.**



**Rep. Jim Marshall (D-3rd GA), center, with, l. to r., L-29 BM-ST Stanley Bashor, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, L-26 Pres. Robert Walker, and his wife, Leslie Walker.**



**Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-4th NY), center, with, l. to r., L-5 VP Tom Klein, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, L-5 BM-ST Jerry Connolly, Northeast Section IVP Sean Murphy, L-5 Pres. Tom Cook, and L-5 member Kevin O'Brien.**



**Rep. Donald Payne (D-10th NJ), center, with, l. to r., Jay Brophy (L-28), L-28 BM-ST Raymond Cushing Jr., IP Newton Jones, Nick Gabriele (L-19), L-19 VP Dave Gaillard, Scott Van Wagner and John Devlin (L-28), and L-D432 Pres. Steve Martin.**



**Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-8th PA), center, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, fourth from left, and delegates from Locals 13 and 19, Philadelphia.**



**Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-13th PA), center, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, fourth from left, and Pennsylvania delegates.**



**Rep. Tim Ryan (D-17th OH), center left, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, IVP Larry McManamon, far right, and Ohio and Pennsylvania delegates.**





**Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18th FL), represented by Muffy Lewis, third from left, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Local 199 BM-ST Larry Snellgrove, and IVP Sam May.**

*We're always  
delighted to see  
Congressional staff*



**Rep. John Barrow (D-12th GA) represented by Roman Lavit, center, with I. to r., Local 26 Pres. Robert Walker and Intl. Pres. Newton Jones.**

WHEN A SENATOR or representative is unable to attend our reception, often he or she will send a staff member in his or her place.

We are always delighted to see these Congressional staff members. First, they signify that the senator or representative wants to ensure that he or she continues to have a relationship with our union.

Members of Congress get invited to many receptions, dinners, and other meetings. In addition, votes may be called at any time. It isn't always possible to attend all functions in person. Sending a surrogate

ensures that we know the member of Congress wants to keep the lines of dialogue open.

Second, experienced lobbyists know that developing relationships with a senator's or representative's staff is every bit as important as developing a relationship with the member. Members of Congress do not have the time to learn the intimate details of every bill that comes before them. They rely on staff to keep up with legislation, to understand its impact, and to advise them on whether to support it.

By developing relationships with the staff, we open

avenues for discussing the details of proposed legislation that a member of Congress, who is usually looking at broad stances and policies, might overlook.

Lawmaking is a complex business. Changing one word or sentence in a law can have enormous impact on what it does. Close relationships with Congressional staff make us the experts they need to see the minor changes that can make big differences. □



**Rep. Robert Simmons (R-2nd CT) represented by Jonathan Martin, center, with IP Newton Jones, and Director of Government Affairs, Bridget Martin.**



**Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), represented by Arran Haynes, center, with Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, sixth from left, IVP Larry McManamon, seventh from left, and Ohio delegates.**



**Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), represented by Jason Gleason, fourth from left, with delegates from Locals S50 and 193, I. to r. Paul Carter, L-S50 Pres. Alex Poling, L-193 BM-ST Ernest Dorsey, Michael Jacobs, L-S50 Rec. Sec. John Butrim, L-S50 ST Terence Garnett, and L-S50 VP Wilton Barnett.**



**Rep. Robert Cramer (D-5th AL), represented by Mike Harney, fourth from left, with, I. to r., IVP Sam May, IP Newton Jones, and delegates from Alabama.**



**Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), represented by Greg White (second from left) Justin French (second from right), and Garret Murch (far right), with L-29 and L-920 delegates, I. to r., L-29 Rec. Sec. Mike Fogarty, Steve Goodhart, Jack Meade, IR Steve Beal, L-290 Sec.-Treas. James Chase, L-290 Pres. Don Dinwoodie, Jack Johndrow, Tom Saccoach, and Joe Birolini.**



**Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. (D-9th TN), represented by Diana Oo, center left, with IVP Sam May, third from left, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, fifth from left, IVP Othal Smith, far right, and delegates from Tennessee and Alabama.**



## Other guests



**AFL-CIO President John Sweeney (second from right) and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka (fourth from left) with (left to right) IVP Sam May, IVP Othal Smith, IVP Sean Murphy, IVP Larry McManamon, IP Newton Jones, and IVP Joe Stinger.**



**Jon Cardin, Maryland State Delegate, fifth from left, with, l. to r., L-S50 Pres. Alex Poling, L-S50 ST Terence Garnett, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Michael Jacobs (L-193), Paul Carter (L-S50), Government Affairs Dir. Bridget Martin, L-193 BM-ST Ernest Dorsey, L-S50 Rec. Sec. John Butrim, and L-S50 VP Wilton Barnet.**



**SMWIA Railroads and Shipyards Dept. Director Dewey Garland (center) with Intl. President Newton Jones and Dir. of Govt. Affairs Bridget Martin.**



**Intl. Pres. Jones talks with Celia Jackson Lee (D-18th TX), center, and Director of Government Affairs Bridget Martin.**



**Cindy Brown, president, American Shipbuilding Association, Brown and Company, center, with, l. to r., Labor Relations Dir. at MGSF, Mel Adams, Director of Boilermakers Shipbuilding Division Warren Fairley, IVP Sam May, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, Pres. of Electric Boat John Casey, Roosevelt Barrett (L-693), SMWIA's Dir. of Railroads and Shipyards Dewey Garland, L-693 BM-ST Frank Ludgood Jr., Marshall Stork (L-693), and AIP Dennis King.**



**Ron Ault, president of the AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department, fifth from left, and Jim Saddle, Metal Trades East Coast Rep., third from right, with, l. to r., Gary Gaydosh (L-19), Nick Gabriele (L-19), L-614 BM Ken DeLaCruz, Mark Wilson (L-19), L-19 Pres. Stephen Lalumera, Intl. Pres. Newton Jones, L-19 VP Dave Gaillard, Director of the Shipbuilding Division Warren Fairley, and IR Phillip J. Evans.**



**Tony Harrison (right), a staff member in the office of Rep. Al Green (D-9th TX) listens intently as Intl. Pres. Newton Jones makes a point.**

# WORKING THE HILL



**Local 696 President Steve Gromala makes a point to one of Sen. Debbie Stabenow's aides.** LEAP delegates from all of the Boilermaker lodges representing members in Michigan go to the Hill as a group to show the full strength of our membership in the region.



**Sometimes a busy Congressman will only have time for a brief chat in the hallway, as happened when Local Lodge 154 LEAP delegates met Rep. Timothy Murphy (R-18th PA) on his way back from a vote.** Left to right, Local 154 Pres. Thomas O'Conner, Murphy, Tony Smarra, Kevin Miller, Raymond Doria, and Michael Ventrone were able to discuss a few issues before his next appointment.

## LEAP delegates take Boilermaker message to Congress

**The most important work of the week occurs when members meet their members of Congress**

AFTER ALL THE INSPIRING speeches comes the real work of the LEAP Conference: lobbying on behalf of our members.

Lobbying means meeting members of Congress and their staff in person, in their offices, to discuss the issues most important to Boilermakers and our families.

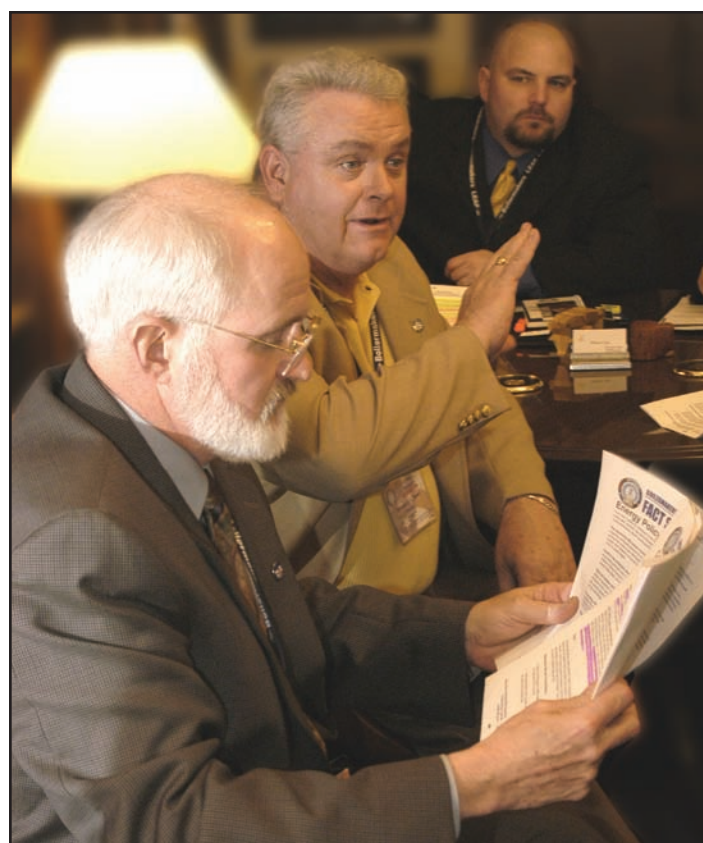
As those who are most successful at it always remind us, "All politics is local." All politicians know who elected them to power and who they must satisfy to keep their seats or to advance to a higher level.

Prior to coming to Washington, LEAP delegates will have begun contacting the representatives and senators they hope to see, requesting appointments. Members of Congress attend many meetings and votes; last-minute appointments are not easy to arrange.

During the conference, the Boilermakers Department of Government Affairs (DGA) distributes background sheets to explain the issues that delegates will discuss with their senators and representatives. By focusing on a few of the most important issues, we can have a significant impact in the short time we're in Washington.

The DGA encourages members to study these background sheets before going to the Hill, to have a copy handy for reference, and to leave a copy so the Congressman's staff can study the issue.

But the LEAP delegate's job is not done when he or she leaves the Hill. Once home, it is important to follow up with phone calls, letters, and visits to the Congressional home offices. An effective lobbyist is one who develops relationships. □



**Local 154 President Thomas O'Connor makes a point to Rep. Melissa Hart (R-4th PA), while L-154 members Stanley Wolfe (L.) and Michael Ventrone listen.**



**L-263 members Marlena Potts (L.) and Nellie Potts, a mother-and-daughter lobbying team, make use of the issue background sheets provided by the Boilermakers Department of Government Affairs (DGA) while speaking with an aide to Rep. Roger Wicker (R-1st MS).**



**Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) listens to Intl. Pres. Newton Jones during a special caucus for LEAP delegates focusing on problems and opportunities in New Jersey.**



**Rep. William Delahunt (D-10th MA) speaks with L-29 member Jack Meade beneath a map of the Congressman's district.** Politicians are ever mindful of exactly who elects them and who they need to please to get re-elected.

# Contract Transmittal Reports

The following local lodges announce recently-ratified contracts with their employers

## Local 5 — New York, N.Y.

Effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2006, for five members who work in production at **Quickway Metal Fabricators, Inc.**

## Local S7 — Belleville, Ill.

Effective Jan. 15, 2005 to Jan. 14, 2009, for 182 members who make gas heating appliances (floor, wall, and room furnaces under the product line name of White Mountain Hearth) at **Empire Comfort Systems, Inc.**

## Local S16 — Belleville, Ill.

Effective Oct. 12, 2004 to April 15, 2006, for 35 members who fabricate enamel for manufacturers of cooking appliances and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at **Roesch, Inc.**

## Local 27 — St. Louis, Mo.

Effective Dec. 1, 2004 to Nov. 20, 2007, for eight members who perform maintenance work for **Nooter Construction Company's** field services.

## Local 72 — Portland, Ore.

Effective Sept. 8, 2004 to Aug. 31, 2006, for 15 members who perform marine boiler repair for **C. H. Murphy / Clark-Ullman, Inc.**

## Local D76 — Sun City, Kan.

Effective July 16, 2004 to July 16, 2007, for 10 members who mine gypsum rock for the **National Gypsum Co.**

## Local 83 — Kansas City, Mo.

Effective Aug. 30, 2004 to Aug. 29, 2007, for members who perform steel fabrication for **Sauder Custom Fabrication.**  
Effective July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007, for 16 members who perform steel fabrication for **Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, Inc.**

## Local 106 — Cincinnati, Ohio

Effective Aug. 26, 2004 to July 31, 2008, for 110 members who work at **Enerfab, Inc.**, a multidivisional company providing products and services for the food and beverage, chemical and pharmaceutical, and power and utility industries.

## Local 132 — Galveston, Texas

Effective Feb. 1, 2005 to Jan. 31, 2007, for 33 members who make pressure vessels for **Farmers Marine Copper Works, Inc.**

## Local 154 — Pittsburgh, Pa.

Effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2005, for 34 members who make steel pressure vessels and storage tanks for **Witherup Fabrication & Erection, Inc.**

## Local S185 — Belleville, Ill.

Effective Jan. 6, 2005 to Jan. 5, 2008, for 11 members who work in the warehouse of **Three States Supply Co.**, where they store spiral pipe, down spouts, and guttering.

## Local 242 — Spokane, Wash.

Effective Dec. 1, 2004 to Nov. 30, 2008, for 60 members who make metal steel buildings for **Garco Building Systems, Inc.**, the Northwest's largest building systems manufacturer.

## Local D375 — Paulding, Ohio

Effective Dec. 16, 2004 to Dec. 15, 2008, for 63 members who produce Portland Cement at **Lafarge North America.**

## Local D397 — Foreman, Ark.

Effective Aug. 1, 2004 to Aug. 1, 2010, for 126 members who produce Portland and Mason Cement in bulk and bag form at **Ash Grove Cement.**

## Local 483 — Alton, Ill.

Effective Nov. 1, 2004 to Oct. 31, 2007, for 29 members who perform steel fabrication at **Kopetz Mfg., Inc.**

## Local 486 — Litchfield, Ill.

Effective Oct. 15, 2004 to Oct. 15, 2007, for 44 members who produce industrial and farm equipment at **Worksaver, Inc.** They make over 360 products designed and engineered for farmers, ranchers, construction contractors, custom landscapers, and acreage owners.

## Local D523 — Sandersville, Ga.

Effective March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2008, for 25 members who perform mining work at the **Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co.**

## Local 583 — Birmingham, Ala.

Effective Nov. 1, 2004 to Oct. 31, 2007, for four members who manufacture pipe at the **U.S. Pipe Co.**  
The unit is now represented by Local 584 in Tuscaloosa, Ala., following lodge consolidation on Dec. 31, 2004.

## YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU DESERVE...

UNION LEADERS, like these pictured here, work long hours to negotiate the best benefits they can for our members.



**Negotiating a three-year contract for Local 1247** members at A. Finkl & Sons are, seated, l. to r., Wendell Baumstark, Jim Green, James Bishop, standing, l. to r., Steve Nelson and Theodore "Ted" Daniels.

## ...YOU GET WHAT YOU NEGOTIATE!

## Local 667 — Charleston, W.Va.

Effective Nov. 6, 2004 to Nov. 4, 2005, for 12 members at **Sistersville Tank Works, Inc.**

## Local 744 — Cleveland, Ohio

Effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2007, for members who perform steel fabrication at **Eagle Mechanical, LLC.**

## Local 1086 — Cleveland, Ohio

Effective Oct. 21, 2004 to Oct. 22, 2007, for 16 members who work at **Forge Products Corp.**

## Local 1247 — Chicago, Ill.

Effective Nov. 21, 2004 to Nov. 21, 2007, for members who work at **A. Finkl & Sons**, the world's leading supplier of forging die steels, plastic mold steels, die casting tool steels, and custom open-die forgings. □

## Settlement HIGHLIGHTS

### Same-Sex Domestic Partner Health Care Coverage

MEMBERS OF LOCAL D375, Paulding, Ohio, approved a contract at Lafarge North America that extends their health care coverage to include same-sex domestic partners. Most Lafarge health care plans include this feature. Giving same-sex partners the same benefits as husband and wife is a growing trend in the United States.

Mellon, a financial services company, conducted a "Nontraditional Family Benefit Coverage Survey," in 2001 and 2004, contacting more than 550 U.S. employers with an average of more than 5,000 employees.

In 2001, only 19 percent of the companies studied offered domestic partner benefit coverage. In 2004, that number increased significantly to 31 percent, of which 60 percent have offered the coverage for less than five years.

## THE TRICKS & TRAPS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING agreement is a tool used by unions and companies to establish ground rules for the terms and conditions of employment. It is impossible to address every potential problem that may arise in a collective bargaining agreement.

Often, grievances arise from situations where contract language is not clear or precise, or when employers change well established past practices that were discussed in negotiations but not specifically listed in the contract.

*way to understand* information when it is presented. Second, it is *a way to gather and evaluate* information. Third, it is *a way to store* information for future use.

**Here are some guidelines for taking notes during negotiations:**

**Do not try to take verbatim notes.** Studies show that notes that look like verbatim transcripts are too cumbersome and do not adequately convey the ideas discussed. Besides, no one can write as fast as most people talk.

That's why good note-taking and recordkeeping skills are so important.

Notes can be used to clarify contract language and resolve grievances.

Note taking fulfills three basic functions. First, it is *a*

**Take clear notes.** Don't take vague or sketchy notes. The idea is to take adequate notes that cover the main ideas or concepts that are being discussed.

**File in a safe place.** If you can't find the notes when you need them, they won't do you any good.

If your notes are on napkins, scraps of paper, or not organized and filed, they are of no practical use.

### Helpful Tricks

1. **Provide** legal or letter-sized notepads to every committee member.
2. Have every committee member take notes — make sure they clearly convey the ideas being discussed.
3. **Write down the date, meeting location.**
4. **List the name of each union and management attendee.**

### 5. Keep a time record in the left margin:

- a. Write down the **meeting's start time** next to the first line of your notes.
  - b. **Every 15-minutes**, write down the time in the margin corresponding with the notes you are currently taking.
  - c. Write down the **meeting's end time.**
6. **File all notes** (or copies) in a negotiations folder and keep in a **safe place.**

### Traps to Avoid

1. **Lack of notes.**
2. **Lack of identifying markers;** i.e., date, time, location, attendees.
3. **Loss of notes.**
4. **Lack of time.** Have the lead union spokesperson stop the meeting when necessary so your committee can discuss important issues or to instruct the committee to take notes by saying, "Let the notes reflect . . ."

# Locals 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** – Emil Priesol Sr., Wm. Segiet;  
**40 YEARS** – Arnold Carlson;  
**35 YEARS** – Charles Caffrey, Daniel Durkovic, James Hess, Ray Stryzalski;  
**30 YEARS** – Gary Ames, Daniel Bastick, Richard Carlson, Roy DiNovo, Robert Eisenhammer, Ernest Gossett, Charles Hayes, Theodore Heda, Barry Jelesniewski, William Kidd, James Kirby, Robert Knowles, Alvin Lewis, William Morrin, Lawrence Nolan, Emil Priesol Jr., Fred Promis, Jack Ruby; and  
**25 YEARS** – Kevin Brogan, John Burns, Mike Christy, Mike Cooley, John Finnerty, James Gismondi, Pat Hess, Betty Jordan, Bob Lowe, Charles Mig-gins, Bob Rizzo, Wayne Samborski.



**ABOVE: L. to r., Bill Segiet receives a 50-year pin from L-1 Pres. Jack Benz (in back) and BM-ST John Skermont. To Skermont's left are 30-year pin recipients Roy DiNovo, Gary Ames, Bill Morrin, Robert Knowles, and Emil Priesol Jr.,**

**BELOW: L. R. Padgett (35), IR L. D. Smith, R.R. Woods (35), M. W. Owen (35), R. S. Meaders (35), and D69 Pres. Jerry Fellers.**

## Local D69, Waco, Texas

INTL. REP. L.D. SMITH and Jerry Fellers, president of Local D69, Waco, Texas, report the following pin presentations:

**40 YEARS** – Y.D. Goodwin; and  
**35 YEARS** – L.N. Davis, B.A. Johnson, J.L. McDonald, R.S. Meaders, M.W. Owen, L.R. Padgett, J.D. Williams, R.R. Woods.



## Local 169, Detroit

JOHN MAREK, BM-ST of Local 169, Detroit, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

**60 YEARS** – Joseph J. Strharsky;  
**55 YEARS** – Victor E. Borowiak;  
**45 YEARS** – James J. Little;  
**40 YEARS** – Fred J. Abbato, David K. DeBlaey, Dale L. Foster;  
**35 YEARS** – Thomas Aitken, David Angle, Avner Bashman, John W. Curtis, Charles E. Gaskin, David Grace, Edward L. Kowalski, David R. Krzyzanski, William A. Taylor;  
**30 YEARS** – Roger L. Arend, Michael J. Audia, Wallace Barron, Earl L. Bushong, Michael Byrnes, John J. Castonguay, Larry K Chilcote, Peter J. Gan-non, Daniel I. Godrey, Raymond Gollach, Gregory W. Guidry, Dennis L. Jackson, Joseph M. Jones, Allan W. Kidd, Terry Kuzala, Andrew C. Law-son, Roy J. Lewis, Archie R. Long, Jr., Mark J. Mankowski, John A. Marek, Patrick W. Miller, Randy F. Mitter, Floyd L. Montie, Jr., Dave J. Rinna, James J. Robb, Clinton A. Strawn, David Tacie, Charles L. Taube, Dwight A. Tobaison, George J. Tromp, Gerald W. (Skip) VanBuren, Jr., Barrie D. Var-don, Nelson D. Wallaker; and  
**25 YEARS** – Timothy W. Brewster, Larry B. Bushong, Stephen W. Buys, David L. Campbell, Marvin L. Cartwright, Kent M. Damron, Steven M. Dunn, Richard N. Jenerou, Dale M. McElvany, Daniel G. Rheume, William R. Ricards, Jeffery R. Rokuski, Richard A. Sevrey, David P. Schmitt, William R. Schultz, Jr., Rainer Trousdale.

## Local 374, Hammond, Ind.

CHUCK VANOVER, BM-ST of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

**55 YEARS** – Matthew Meneghetti;  
**40 YEARS** – Philip Faucett, Lester Quates;  
**35 YEARS** – Bobby Quisenberry;  
**30 YEARS** – David Brosz, Roy Fleck, Don Syrek;  
**25 YEARS** – Paul C. Davis, Robert J. Flores, Jackie L. Good, James F. Heeke, David C. Memmer, Orville J. Merkel, Timothy A. Merkel, Terrence Nord, Randall Sallee, Larry Sparks, Danny Turner, Anthony R. Williams;  
**20 YEARS** – Jim R. Tisdale, Louis Zollman; and  
**15 YEARS** – Gregory Airington, Ronald Cap, William DuFault Jr., John Monroe, Keith Skoglund, Walter Wesley.



**ABOVE: Harold Sinclair (r.) receives his 30-year pin from L-580 Pres. Chris Scott.**

## Local 580, Halifax

CHRIS SCOTT, president of Local 580, Halifax, Nova Scotia, reports the following pin presentation:

**30 YEARS** – Harold Sinclair.

## Local 647, Minneapolis

PAUL PENDERGAST, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, Minn.,

reports the following partial list of pin recipients:

**60 YEARS** – Gene Archambault;  
**50 YEARS** – Wes Bengtson, Wm. Shape, Ken Shilts;  
**45 YEARS** – Bob Moe, George Shilts;  
**40 YEARS** – James Guss, Roy Heiska, Arthur Jackson, Curtis Kragero, Don Myers, Duane Omdahl, Thomas Quick, Gary Streed;  
**35 YEARS** – Rich Allord, Wayne Brenke, Duane Carlson, Harold Christensen, Jerry Duden, Dorance Halverson, Jack Eilefson, James Hedeon, Berlyn Howe, Don Klimmek, Roger Kolbrek, Russell Mehrman Jr., Ken Miller, Rex Novek, Lawrence Pruter, David Riley, Doug Sargent, Bob Staskivige, Roger Thomas, Lawrence Yoakum;  
**30 YEARS** – Don Adkins, Wm. Adkins, Greg Anderson, Jay Arendt, Brian Backer, David Bearinger, Neil Cedergren, Bruce Cedarholm, Wayne Cooper, Doug Cummins, Randy Duke, Mike Erickson, James Esterbrooks, Bob Folk, Jon Hartin, John Hauer, Arnold Helwick, Mel Hertel, Mark Hickman, Dennis Hill, Bernard Hilla, Mike Horsch, Mark Jackson, Darrel Jans, Gene Johnson, Bob Larson, John Legore III, Charles Leimgruber, Wm. Leingang, Rick Leinius, Terry Lind, Alan Maas, Steven Machovsky, Archie Maki, Mike Mans, James Mercer, Rudolph Morgando, Mike Papesch, Jerome Petsche, Gerald Piatz, Darrell Rathjen, Maynard Rathjen, Lonney Rolland, Dan Schultz, Paul Severson, Mark Shape, Ken Sidbeck, Rolf Sondergaard, Alvin Subanto, August Tribbett, Carey Tribbett, Wesley Tribbett, Ron Trottier, Steven Waletko, Melvin Wappula, Thomas Will, Duane Willhelm, Glenn Wood;



**ABOVE: L. to r., Clayton D. Sharp (60) and James A. Nix (50) receive membership pins from NTD Director Bill Almond.**

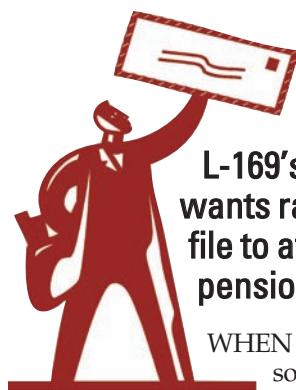


**ABOVE: L. to r., NTL members Brook Fincham (35), Larry Hedrick (35), and Danny Jensen (25) receive membership pins from NTL ABR Gary Scott.**

## National Transient Lodge

NTD DIRECTOR BILL ALMOND and NTL ABR Gary Scott report presentation of membership pins to the following National Transient Lodge members:

**60 YEARS** – Clayton D. "Red" Sharp  
**50 YEARS** – James A. Nix  
**35 YEARS** – Wesley B. "Brook" Fincham, Larry Hedrick; and  
**25 YEARS** – Danny Jensen.



## L-169's Stickney wants rank and file to affect pension decisions

WHEN IT COMES to something that affects all of our

lives, like the pension fund does, wouldn't it be fair to respect input from those of us who have invested a considerable amount of our lives to it?

We are told and informed; changes are dictated and made. Input from the rank and file has not been an option; we are not asked or considered.

The democratic process is still the best way. Why not use it within our union membership? Why not a think-tank type system from each local with the most reasonable ideas brought before the pension board?

DENNIS STICKNEY, L-169  
Detroit, Mich.

## L-13's Suter wants U.S. to be energy independent

IN THE NOV-DEC Reporter, I read with interest Pres. Jones' message to our members. One paragraph impressed me with its wisdom:

"We can and will work with any government proposal that truly benefits our members."

The current administration wants to make this nation energy independent. This would entail research of alternative fuels and exploration and development of gas, oil, and coal deposits, of which we have ample, now untapped supplies. These efforts have traditionally been blocked by environmental zealots. With today's technology, environmental damage can be controlled from minimal to none. Our nation badly needs a program of upgrading and enlarging existing refineries and building new refineries and tank farms. We are now importing more and more refined products. It is evident that more generating stations, conventional steam and atomic, are badly needed.

Our nation and all building trades would benefit greatly. Think jobs, jobs, jobs.

ARNOLD "TIM" SUTER, L-13  
Gibbstown, N.J.

## L-627's Brown wants emergency fund

I WAS PUT in the hospital in June 2004 with my sixth heart attack, in July to get a pacemaker, in August and then again in September with pneumonia, in November for testing and x-rays, and then again in December for a back surgery.

I didn't get a call or a card from any local or a Boilermaker except Scott Magness, a member of L-627 I have known since our apprenticeship in 1976. He called every two weeks just to see how things were going. Then in January, he sent me a get well card with \$50 in it. What a man. I don't know why he did it — I'm sure he could have used the \$50 at home — but we were sure thankful.

I have filed for bankruptcy. They have already come and got my truck. The travel trailer is next. I feel it is more important to pay the doctor and hospital bills before the truck and trailer.

I have been approved for Social Security disability. I have filled out and sent the paperwork to the Boilermaker funds office. I think things are going to get better.

I'm telling this story because it is too bad that we, the Boilermakers, don't have some kind of fund to help members out when we are sinking.

ROBERT L. BROWN, JR., L-627  
Duncan, Ok.

## Daughter grateful for L-7's landscape memorial

MY FATHER RECRUITED his brothers John "Red" Evoy, James G. Evoy, and Francis "Duke" Evoy; brothers-in-law George W. Harmon (who served 20 years as L-7's secretary-treasurer), Stanley Melski, and Chuck Zimmer; and nephews William Melski and Raymond Otto to join Local 7. His brother Duke gave his life in the Buffalo Shipyards when he fell from the crow's nest of a ship at the age of 18.

My father worked hard for the Boilermakers and our house was always a-buzz with negotiations. He served as local president from 1947 until his death in 1958.



**The Buck Evoy family:** Marie and Thomas "Buck" Evoy holding twins Thomas Jr. (Butch) and Margaret, with Roberta in front.

The night before my father died, my mother told us to stay home because his Boilermaker friends wanted to visit. They were the last ones to say good-bye to my dad. At his wake, which was one of the last ones held in a home, the Boilermakers gave a great tribute to him.

I am so pleased you (L-7 BM-ST Pat Lyons) have remembered all the deceased and retired members with this memorial landscape.

I am enclosing a photo of our family from 1940.

ROBERTA CRAWFORD, daughter of L-7 member Thomas "Buck" Evoy

## Local 169's Hall is grateful for pension

I'VE BEEN RETIRED now from the Boilermakers going on two years (L-169, Detroit). Every month that I receive my check I think about the old timers before me, who had the fore-

sight to set this retirement program up. I'm glad no one ever paid attention to me when I'd rally and scream, "Put it on the check." I hate to admit that I had very little foresight, but with age and time I understand things a little better. So thanks to the Boilermakers who made it possible for me to retire with dignity.

RICHARD HALL, L-169  
Detroit, Mich.

## Pensioners want a cost-of-living adjustment

THEY SAY SOCIAL Security is going broke. Yet every year they give us a raise. In three years we haven't had a raise in our Boilermaker pension. Yet our insurance premiums were raised and our fee per prescription was raised.

The Boilermakers have the best pension around. It would be difficult to find one better. But after three years without a raise, the retirees need a little help. Boilermakers, business managers, and our representatives in Kansas City have all gotten raises. It's time to remember the Boilermakers of the past. It's time for a raise.

BOBBY EADS AND NUMEROUS  
L-374 RETIREES  
Hammond, Ind

**Editor's Note:** *An annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) would be a blessing for our retirees, but the editors hope that the trustees of the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension are more careful than the Social Security trustees were in establishing their COLA. Like the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension, Social Security did not have a COLA when it was created; Congress simply voted occasional raises, the way our trustees have done since our plan was established. In 1973, Congress created a Social Security COLA to begin in 1975, but did not adequately fund it. By 1983, the Social Security trust fund was depleted. Congress had to raise payroll taxes, lower benefits, and raise the retirement age to bail the fund out. If Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension trustees create a COLA for our pension, we urge them to establish a funding mechanism that will last longer than eight years.*

## L-154's MacNeil finds the true meaning of "brotherhood"

I RETIRED FROM the Boilermakers in November. I am 58 years old. I am a veteran of three tours of Nam. I have worked in steel mills, elevator construction, as a painter, a lumber jack, and a few other jobs. But out of all the jobs I have had, and all the places I have been, I have never met a nicer group of men than the Boilermakers.

In the past 30 years I have found the Boilermakers to have a big heart and to take good care of their own. Now I know the true meaning of brotherhood.

Thanks to everyone and God bless!

BOB MACNEIL L-154  
Kennerdell, Pa.

## Earl Yost appreciates his Boilermaker retirement

THIS RETIREMENT IS something else. I would have never thought I would have to spend the first three or four months of it finding places for all the retirement and annuity checks!

I look back now at when I returned from the Army in 1969 and the only thing that I could get into was construction. At the time I thought I was at the bottom of the work chain, so to speak. Now I see friends that I left behind and see just how small their retirements are, and almost none of them ever earned any annuity. I don't think I started appreciating our retirement until just a few years ago.

Thank goodness construction was the only thing left when I returned home.

EARL YOST, L-667  
New Martinsville, WV

## You get out what you put in

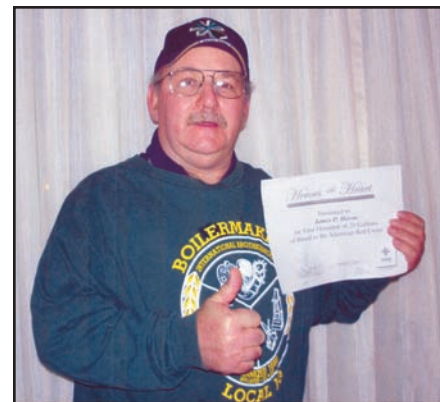
I RETIRED ON January 1, 2005, giving me 38 wonderful years as a field construction boilermaker. During this time, I was elected to my local's Executive Board as inspector. I went to our commonwealth's capitol in Harrisburg, Pa., and I went to Washington, D.C., as a LEAP committee member. I also was elected to the last contract negotiating committee.

I never considered these positions of power or prestige, but as positions of service and a chance to give something back to my union that has given me so much.

I received a certificate from the Red Cross for donating over 20 gallons of blood over the last 38 years. It's better to give it than receive it.

Retirement is one of the great rewards of a union career. My pension lets me spoil my two grandsons, Conner and Brendan. Happy trails!

JIMMY HERON L-13  
Philadelphia, Pa



## Got something to say?

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

SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

**The Boilermaker Reporter**

753 State Ave. Suite 570

Kansas City KS 66101

FAX: (913) 281-8104

E-mail: [dcaswell@boilermakers.org](mailto:dcaswell@boilermakers.org)



## Frequently asked questions regarding programs and policies of the Boilermaker-Blacksmith Pension, Annuity, and Health & Welfare funds

**Q:** Why do members' beneficiaries get different death-benefit amounts? Some of the figures are quite low. Also, why do beneficiaries have to pay income tax on these death benefits? We don't pay income tax on life insurance.

**A:** If a participant in the Boilermaker-Blacksmith Pension dies before retirement and before meeting the eligibility requirements for an Age, Early Retirement, or Vested Pension, the participant's beneficiary will be entitled to receive a lump-sum death benefit equal to the total contributions credited to his account, up to a maximum of \$15,000. If the amount is less than \$10.00, no benefit will be payable.

The death benefit for a participant who dies after retiring is currently \$6,000. Occasionally the Pension Trust becomes aware of deaths that occurred a number of years ago. In these cases, the amount will differ based on the rules in effect at the time of death.

The cash payments may be made to more than one beneficiary. In some cases not all beneficiaries could be found at the same time; *the Reporter* lists only payments that are made.

The death benefit is not a payment from a life insurance policy; it is a benefit payable through a Pension Trust Fund. Like all receipts from pension funds, it is subject to income tax.

**Q:** In the Nov-Dec 2004 *Boilermaker Reporter*, an article titled "Healthcare costs are a growing concern for all," listed our healthcare costs of \$750 per month (or \$9,000 per year) as being below the national average. What is the national average?

**A:** According to a recent national study, the average monthly cost for a pre-65 retiree is \$487 per month or \$5,844 per year. For coverage of both the retiree and spouse, the average monthly premiums were \$1,124, or \$13,488 per year.

The cost of medical coverage varies widely based on the schedule of benefits provided. Based on this study, the monthly self-pay premiums for retirees under the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund are below average, but as important is the level of benefit provided. The real cost of benefits provided by the Boilermakers Plan will be nearly \$700 a month per covered individual in 2005.

**Q:** I had the good fortune to become a Boilermaker apprentice in 1970 and to retire in 2002. Now I am 60 years old and I have insurance that doesn't do much for me. I don't have dental, vision, or prescription drugs other than mail service. I am in decent health but need to go to a chiropractor once in awhile; however, that service is not covered anymore.

**A:** Retail drug benefits were never part of retiree coverage; however, beginning Jan. 2005, retired participants are now eligible for significant discounts from participating pharmacies. While the reimbursement method for chiropractic treatment was changed in Jan. 2004, the benefit was not eliminated.

**Q:** The pension fund has already reduced future payouts by lowering the multiplier (in 2003). Working brothers and sisters can negotiate a cost-of-living raise in their contracts. Retirees are losing income without one. A cost-of-living raise to the pension should be considered for current and future retirees.

**A:** The National Trust Fund is a multi-employer Trust into which individual employers under the provisions of the various Collective Bargaining Agreements make payments. No outside organization is involved in providing Trust Benefits. Benefits are provided from the Trust itself.

The Pension Trust is required to have sufficient assets on hand to pay not only the benefits for

current retirees, but also the commitments that have been made to those currently employed. Each year the Fund's actuaries review the Plan to determine whether its funding objectives are being met. When they do so, they consider the value of the Plan assets, the assumed long-term investment returns, retirement patterns, life expectancies, and other factors. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, investment returns were higher than the Plan's assumptions, allowing the Trustees to make numerous increases to benefits of current and future retirees.

The Trustees of the Pension Trust have been unable to provide increases to retirees over the last few years as a direct result of the stock market decline that began in the year 2000 and continued through 2003. In 2003 the Board of Trustees announced a reduction in the basic pension factor for contributions received for work performed after October 1, 2003. The change in the accrual rate did not reduce in any way the value of the benefits you had accrued through September 2003.

When the Boilermaker Pension Trust recovers from the adverse investment performance of the years 2000 through 2003 and a surplus is again available, the Trustees can consider granting additional improvements to the benefits of both the active and retired members.



The Boilermaker-Blacksmith Pension, Annuity, and Health & Welfare funds generate many questions and comments from our members which, in the past, we have attempted to include in the letters to the editor section. But we believe these questions deserve a more focused approach, since nearly half our members participate in one or more of these benefit programs. With assistance from Funds Administrator Dave Hansen and Participant Outreach Representative Edward J. Wlodyka Jr., the editors intend to make this column a regular feature in *the Boilermaker Reporter*.

If you have a question regarding any of these funds for this column, please direct your question to Funds Q&A c/o *the Boilermaker Reporter*, 753 State Ave Ste 570 Kansas City KS 66101. To protect members' privacy, no names are used in this column.



## Money-Saving Programs for Members Only

The benefit programs listed below are available only to Boilermaker members and their immediate families.\*

### Union Plus Credit Card

Call: 1-800-522-4000

### Mortgage & Real Estate

Also open to children & parents of Boilermaker members.

Call: 1-800-848-6466

### Education Services

Get expert advice on scholarships and other funding sources for college and job skills training.

Call: 1-877-881-1022

### Personal Loans

Credit-qualified members are eligible for loans for a variety of uses.

Call: 1-888-235-2759

### Legal Service

Discounted legal help — first 30 minutes are free.

Visit: [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org)

### Life Insurance

For members, their spouses, and children.

Call: 1-800-899-2782

### Accident Insurance

Call: 1-800-899-2782

### Health Savings

Save on prescription medicines, hearing, dental, and vision care.

Call: 1-800-228-3523

### Car Rental Discounts

Call and give the ID number:

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

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

### Union-Made Checks

Call: 1-888-864-6625

### Flower Service

Call: 1-888-667-7779

### North American Van Lines

Call: 1-800-524-5533

For information on these programs and other member-only benefits, go to

[www.unionplus.org](http://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.**

WITH DEEP SORROW the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer's office, and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

LODGE & NAME									
Intl.	McFadden, Rose	37	McCoy, James	92	Starr, Charles	197	Gendron, Gerald	582	Luna, George
Intl.	Walker, Jeanne	37	Wicker Jr., Eligah	104	Cummings, Lester	203	Cramm, A.	582	Shaffett, Thomas
NTL	Funk, Carl	40	Woods, Ronald	104	Rone, Melvin	203	Parker, Frank	587	Dale, William
NTL	Minnis, John	40	Millard, Ronald	110	Easley, Michael	D209	Korte, John	592	Hamilton, Raymond
NTL	Speegle, Walter	45	Watts, Ralph	110	Thames, Recie	242	Bench, Allen	614	Gillooly, Charles
NTL	Stewart, Norwddo	60	Clary, Roger	117	Volts, John	249	Burroughs, John	614	Krajewski, Paul
1	McGhie Sr., James	72	Bushong, Ronald	128	Beaudoin, Albert	263	McBride, William	627	Perks, Denzel
1	Powell, Arthur	72	Goble, Jack	128	Gallant, Anthony	271	Levesque, Raymond	647	Olson, Richard
6	Aimonetti, Anthony	72	Olson, Chester	128	Mills, Ernie	300	Correale, Frank	647	Salmey, LeRoy
6	Brallier, David	72	Ostby, Lester	128	Vamos, G.	359	Asleson, Robert	656	Clements, Ray
6	Fung, Marvin	72	Salcido, Carlos	128	Warner, Norman	359	Gray, Donald	667	Lovejoy, Robert
6	Natali, Albert	72	Tilgner, William	128	Winiarski, Gerald	359	Karpenko, Paul	667	Sickles, John
6	Relander, Roland	73	Chaisson, Wilbert	132	Santos, Jesse	359	Lirette, Louis	667	Slone, William
6	Smith, Burl	73	Duke, Merel	134	Sahlberg, Gustave	359	Martell, Ernie	684	Mihelcic, James
6	Smith, John	74	Warren, James	146	Comeau, Gabriel	359	Soukeroff, Billy	684	Linwood, Paul
M7	Wesley, Glenna	74	Brown, Arnold	146	Dore, Edward	359	Walsh, Randolp	687	Horne, Gerald
11	Rickett, Archie	74	Jacobs, W. B.	146	Dorey, William	374	Pepall, Anthony	693	Shelton, Clifford
13	Valent, Anthony	74	Turner, Grady	146	Gannaw, Dwayne	374	Armstrong, Donald	699	Biehl, Joan
S14	Collins, Harold	79	Bowman, Wayne	146	King, Joseph	374	Bean, Dewey	S699	Nowak, Franklin
26	Cobb, Earl	83	Deckman, Patrick	146	Masi, Franco	374	Stemper, Richard	748	Palubeckis, Edward
26	Harden, Henry	83	Fitzgerald, Bobby	146	McGrandle, William	D375	Merritt, James	801	Price, William
26	Lee Sr., John	83	Mellen, Wyatt	146	Otsuji, Allan	397	Messerle, Louis	900	Behm, Ronald
26	Strickland, Ivey	83	Scott, Shelby	146	Therrien, Hector	454	Howard, Orvin	900	Bell, James
D27	Runyan, Robert	85	Simpson, Robert	154	Baver, Pelegren	454	Hudgins, Hardin	900	Cart, Emmet
29	Pratt, Timothy	92	Garvin, Zollie	158	Schmidt, Robert	454	Lewis, Paul	900	Gilkey, Merritt
37	Aymami, Melvin	92	Casby, William	169	Gallagher, John	476	Moss Sr., Robert	900	Harris, Charles
37	Delatte, Robert	92	Castro, Amador	191	Sieradzan, Kazimiers	483	Wyatt, Kenneth	900	Smith, Emmett
		92	Maples, Bill	193	Bauer, Stephen	483	Lee, William	903	Smith, Limmie
						483	Weeks Jr., Lloyd	1021	Lamb, Joe
						D533	Morningstar, Robert	1603	Middleton, William
						549	Corona, Fred		

DEATH BENEFITS

THE DEATH BENEFIT PLAN under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the beneficiaries of the following deceased members who were covered by the plan since the last issue of our publication.

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information, and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101, at the earliest possible date. NOTE: These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT											
			10	Branscum, Herman	6,000.00	74	Plaster, Homer R.	6,000.00	433	Miller, Jack L.	6,000.00
Intl.	Granich, Joseph B.	\$6,000.00	10	Casey, Albert	800.00*	83	Benedict, Daniel A.	580.00	449	Smith, Kyle F.	6,000.00
Intl.	Harden, Henry A.	6,000.00	13	Hamilton, Robert H.	6,000.00	83	Fitzgerald, Bobby L.	6,000.00	449	Wagner, Ralus W.	6,000.00
NTL	Davis, Howard W.	90.00	13	Kacmar, Paul J.	6,000.00	83	Rickett, Archie C.	15,000.00	453	Newton, Robert L.	629.00
NTL	Sherretz, Paul W.	6,000.00	26	Cobb, Earl E.	6,000.00	85	Hedrick, John	6,000.00	454	Howard, Orvin H.	6,000.00
NTL	Tappan, Frederic W.	6,000.00	26	Strickland, Ivey J.	6,000.00	85	O'Neal, John C.	6,000.00	454	Hudgins, Hardin L.	6,000.00
NTL	Walthall, John W.	6,000.00	27	Delp, Mark T.	1,164.00	92	Esparza, Candelario	6,000.00	454	Rutledge, Larry G.	6,000.00
1	Doyle, John J.	993.99	27	Gardner, John	110.50	92	Starr, Charles T.	6,000.00	455	Anderson, Donald L.	17.50
1	Gora, Daniel G.	15,000.00	27	Mabery, Roland P.	6,000.00	104	Bergland, Carl B.	6,000.00	469	Mollett, Eugene	4,500.00
1	Kasper, Anthony J.	6,000.00	27	Roberson, David L.	1,500.00*	104	Charette, Frank J.	6,000.00	483	Lee, William D.	6,000.00
1	Nolan, David	6,000.00	28	Regelsky, Adam V.	6,000.00	104	Constant, Earl James	6,000.00	487	Resler, Orvin M.	6,000.00
1	Petraitis, John	1,364.53	29	Hamant, Harry B.	6,000.00	104	Cummings, Lester	2,000.00	531	Testerman, Hardin	6,000.00
1	Weilbarcher, Robert	6,000.00	29	LaPaglia, Howard J.	6,000.00	104	Keene, Robert C.	6,000.00	568	Kinkela, Anthony	6,000.00
1	Woodward, David	395.80	29	Parent, Philip R.	6,000.00	104	McWillis, Gerald W.	6,000.00	568	McKimson, Robert	6,000.00
5	Archdeacon, John F.	6,000.00	37	Delatte, Robert N.	6,000.00	104	Upsahl, Orvin H.	6,000.00	582	Luna, George	6,000.00
6	Cardana, Joseph G.	6,000.00	37	McGee, Louis J.	6,000.00	107	Sura, Joseph P.	6,000.00	582	Ryan, John S.	6,000.00
6	Catt, Byron Wayne	3,000.00	37	Woods, Ronald G.	6,000.00	108	Pfau, Howard E.	6,000.00	582	Sanders, Thomas	6,000.00
6	Franco, Thomas A.	6,000.00	40	Doyle, Ricky A.	1,500.00	108	Quave, David L.	300.00	582	Shaffett, Thomas E.	6,000.00
6	Frank Sr., Alexander	6,000.00	40	Duplessie, Brian D.	3,480.00	112	Nolen, Richard W.	15,000.00	587	Bornette, O'Neil	6,000.00
6	Fung, Marvin	6,000.00	40	Mercer, Casey W.	7,500.00	169	Booth Jr., George W.	6,000.00	587	Edwards, Milton	6,000.00
6	Jayne, Cecil E.	6,000.00	40	Millard, Ronald W.	6,000.00	169	Gallagher, John B.	3,000.00	587	Flanagan, Harry C.	6,000.00
6	Lara, Raymond J.	6,000.00	40	Watts, Ralph P.	6,000.00	169	Presutti, Frank M.	6,000.00	587	West, Jerry J.	6,000.00
6	Nalley, Lonnie T.	3,000.00	72	Boerger, Leonard E.	3,000.00	182	Black, Ross	1,898.75	592	Hamilton, Raymond	3,000.00*
6	Natali, Albert	6,000.00	72	Breiner, Michael	6,000.00	202	Allen Jr., Harry	6,000.00	627	Perks, Denzel R.	6,000.00
6	Romberg, Charles E.	6,000.00	72	Caldwell, Jay Glenn	6,000.00	237	Smith J. (John)	393.82	638	Macario, James J.	6,000.00
6	Sabin, Charles L.	6,000.00	72	Hamilton, Robert C.	6,000.00	242	Baker, Bryan C.	165.00*	647	Salmey, Leroy A.	6,000.00
6	Smith, Burl Lee	6,000.00	72	Milloy, Nelson E.	6,000.00	242	Tschirley, Robert E.	6,000.00	667	Miller, Harold	6,000.00
6	Smith, John	3,000.00	72	Ramage, Gerald R.	6,000.00	358	Cool, Charles L.	6,000.00	679	Moore, James Don	6,000.00
6	Winch, Ivan A.	6,000.00	72	Thornton, Curtis A.	6,000.00	363	Miller, Steven G.	2,229.80	679	Swanger, Haskel	6,000.00
10	Banuelos, G.	6,000.00	74	Brown, Arnold E.	6,000.00	433	Anderson, Raleigh	6,000.00	687	Horne, Gerald T.	6,000.00

Moving? Tell us where . . .

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ Register No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.)

Mail form to:

Publications Department  
753 State Avenue, Suite 570  
Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

\* Additional benefits paid

# Members erect 3-million-gallon eggs



## 120,000 hours with no lost time accidents

CBI CALLS IT the Brooklyn Egg Shaped Digester Project. It sounds better than the Oblate Spheroid Digester Project, and describes the digesters better. They look like giant eggs. Three-million-gallon eggs, to be exact.

Working for Chicago Bridge & Iron (CBI) in the jurisdiction of Local 5, New York, N.Y., NTL members are erecting eight of these three-million-gallon egg-shaped digesters and two 2.4 million-gallon sludge tanks.

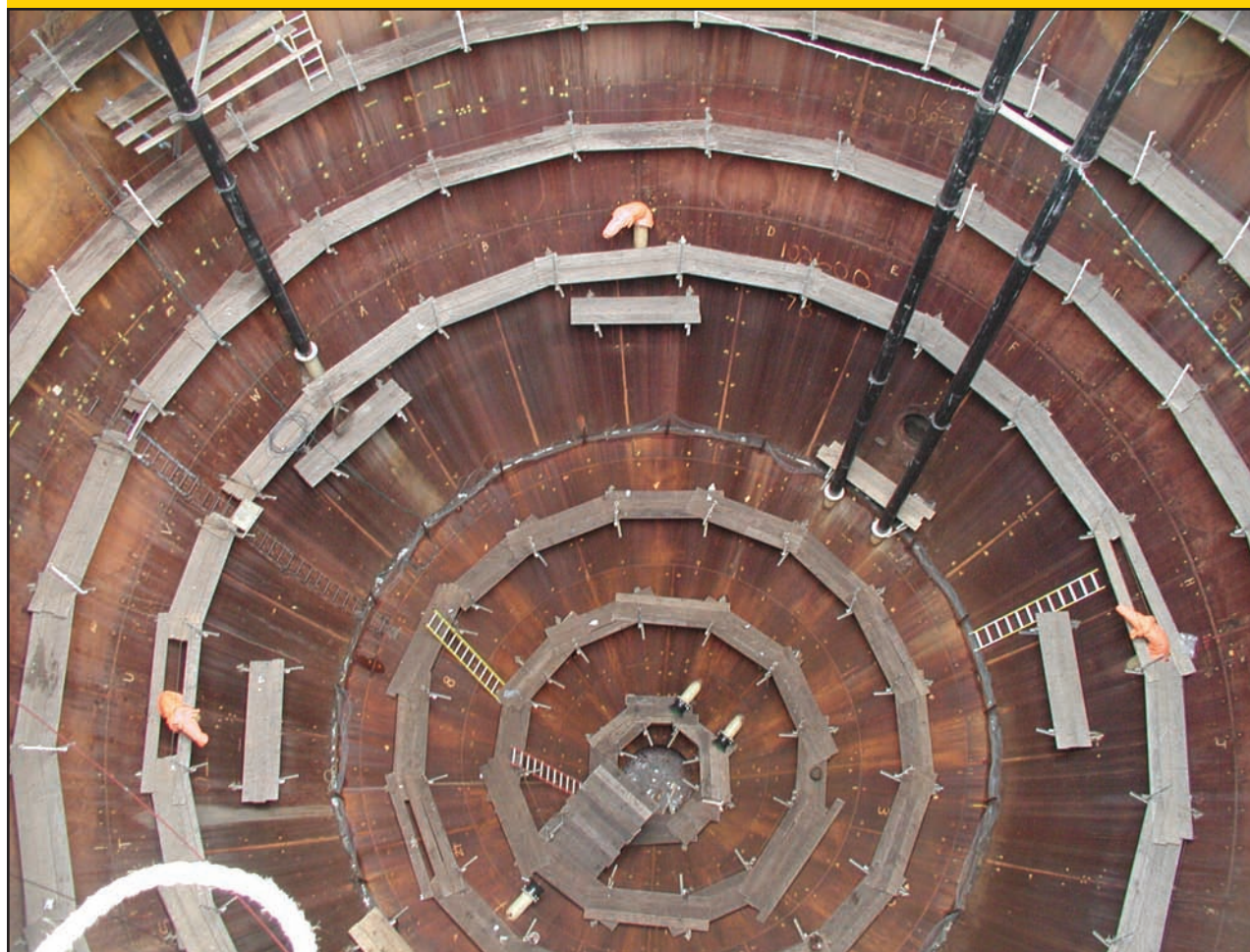
The project is being completed in Brooklyn, N.Y., at the New York Department of Environmental Protection's New Town Creek Water Pollution Control Plant.

NTL members have been on the job since July 2003 and they expect to finish the project this summer.

At peak, there were 69 NTL members on the job. So far, they have worked over 120,000 man-hours with no lost-time injuries and are expected to work another 20,000 hours on the project.

The job site is very tight with limited "lay down" space so nearly all the parts have been off-loaded from the trucks and lifted directly into air — that is, put in place straight from the trucks.

*Source: Dennis Dickinson, CBI Services*



# Administration's budget doesn't offer much for U.S. workers

## Funding makes working families a low priority

IT IS THROUGH the federal budget that a president and his administration show their priorities. The budget for fiscal year 2005 makes it clear that taking care of American workers is not a high priority for this administration.

While the U.S. loses manufacturing jobs by the millions each year, the White House is proposing a 60 percent funding cut for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a program with a proven track record in helping manufacturers modernize, increase productivity, and create and retain jobs.

And even as members of the current administration encourage corporations to outsource American jobs to other countries, the proposed budget would cut the Trade Adjustment Assistance program that retrains workers who lose their jobs because of our trade laws.

While China continues to increase its share of U.S. imports and expand its practice of routinely violating trade laws, the proposed budget eliminates a China-specific trade enforcement and compliance program that Congress enacted in an effort to keep them in line.

The Bush administration's proposed budget cuts two vital program areas so significantly that we could see workers and low-income families fighting each other for scarce funds.

The proposed budget calls for more than \$550 million in real dollar cuts to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Employment Service (ES) programs. These two funding categories oversee a wide variety of job training and labor

exchange programs, including vocational-technical training, employment services for unemployed workers, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

Since 2001, the Bush administration has asked Congress to slash nearly \$2 billion in real dollars from these two program areas. The most recent round of cuts would force unemployed workers and poor children just entering the labor market to compete with each other for government programs to help them get training and find jobs.

## Social "insecurity" takes center stage

WHAT THE PROPOSED budget does not do is reassure working families regarding the two problems they most frequently identify as being serious concerns: healthcare and retirement.

Despite soaring health care costs for employers and workers alike, next year's budget does nothing to shore up employer-based health care, which serves roughly two-thirds of insured Americans. And while states report huge increases in Medicaid spending that threaten their state budgets, the White House's proposed budget calls for slashing Medicaid funding for states by \$45 billion.

The budget's only nod to our country's mammoth healthcare funding crisis is a proposal to expand Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and to offer health care tax credits. HSAs are a poor substitute for healthcare insurance. They rely on taxpayers being able to predict their healthcare costs a year in advance, leaving workers vulnerable to

catastrophic losses when they experience an unexpected medical problem.

And while anyone with medical bills will welcome a tax credit of equal size, few people pay taxes equal to the hundreds of thousands of dollars that any complex surgery costs. These people would need to re-mortgage their homes, borrow heavily, or simply pass up the life-preserving medical treatment in question. No one should be asked to make such a choice.

Even veterans hospitals would get less funding under the proposed budget. While new injured veterans return from Iraq every day and the White House eyes other countries to attack, the proposed budget grants VA hospitals less in 2010 than this year.

But it is when the proposed budget turns to retirement income that we see how radical and reckless it is.

It begins with a plan to privatize Social Security, a plan that has been widely criticized as radical, risky, and expensive — not just by Democrats, but also by key Republicans.

And the budget goes on to propose undermining pension protections for workers by cutting federal pension guarantees, outlawing benefits that help workers in the event of a plant shutdown, and restricting the benefits that workers can earn at companies with financial difficulties.

## Icing on the cake: more rewards for tax avoiders

TOGETHER, THE BUDGET'S inadequate funding for healthcare and retirement programs creates a level of social



Newton B. Jones  
International President

"insecurity" we have not experienced for decades. The Bush administration justifies these cuts in the name of "fiscal discipline." They are necessary, the logic goes, in order to reduce the deficit.

But while the proposed budget cuts funding for programs that help workers, it rewards corporations with tax incentives that do not suggest "fiscal discipline," but giveaways.

In the years 2001-2003, 82 of America's largest and most profitable corporations paid no federal income tax in at least one year. Twenty-eight enjoyed negative tax rates — they got money from the federal government — despite enjoying U.S. profits of \$44.9 billion.

The White House and Congress need to recognize that workers impact the economy at least as much as corporations do. When workers feel uncertain about the future, the economy suffers. Funding federal programs that reduce financial insecurity can stimulate the economy and reduce the deficit. □

# Local S699 presents their last CAF check

WHEN LOCAL LODGE S699 President Joyce Allgeyer came forward to present a check to the Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) on behalf of her members, the moment was bittersweet.

Sweet because it was Joyce Allgeyer's first year attending the LEAP Conference as a delegate.

Bitter because it was also her last. Lodge S699, a good lodge full of hard-working members who care about workers across this nation enough to donate money to CAF, will go out of business later this year when Emerson Tool Company closes its doors.

Emerson joins the growing list of American companies that are moving their factories to other countries.

Since 1969, members of S699 have made vacuum cleaners, filters, and accessories — products consumed by their neighbors across America.

They have been good workers and good citizens of their communities. Their union wages afforded them a respectable living, which meant that they paid their fair share of income, sales, and property taxes.

In addition, the lodge supported the community through donations and volunteer work. They gave regularly to the Salvation Army. When the city of Marinette wanted to rejuvenate a local park, they supported the effort.

They also helped other workers in their community. When members of Local 696 went on strike, they donated to the strike fund.

And when Emerson came to them and said that unless the workers gave back some of their wage and benefit gains, the company would have to close, members of Local S699 said they would work with the company.

But it wasn't enough. Last summer, Emerson said the building was too deteriorated. They had to close it.

Local S699 fought the closure every way they knew how, even bringing in local politicians for a rally to try to find money to rebuild the factory. Nothing worked. Soon it will be gone.

But the spirit of the members of Local S699 will not be gone.

Though they know their days as Boilermakers are numbered and they will soon be seeking other work, Local S699 members still donated money to CAF.

That single act shows a dedication and faith we rarely see. It is at once humbling and inspiring.

And when she had delivered that check and her first LEAP Conference was over, Joyce Allgeyer wrote a letter to the Brotherhood expressing her belief in what we are doing.

"I was told by a friend before I came here (LEAP Conference in D.C.) that I



Local Lodge S699 President Joyce Allgeyer presents the lodge's final CAF check to DGA Bridget Martin, IVP Larry McManamon, and IP Newton B. Jones. Emerson Tools is closing the plant in Marinette, WI, later this year.

was going into the lion's den," she wrote. "After I met all of you, I thought that I didn't see any lions. But I was wrong. You, my brothers and sisters, have the courage of a lion and the unity to work together to achieve a common good. I urge you to continue to fight for the rights of the working families of our

union. Our local's hopes and prayers go with you."

No greater tribute can be given to the brothers and sisters who work tirelessly to promote our legislative agenda. Listen well. And then let's go out and work to bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States. □