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## Local 502 excels for PSF at Shell turnaround

**Members complete job ahead of schedule, with no lost-time or recordable injuries**

"YOU'RE ONLY AS STRONG as your weakest link," the saying goes, but Jeff Brown, construction manager for PSF, says he could find no weak link on the job when PSF used Boilermakers from Local 502 (Tacoma, Wash.) to complete a turnaround project at Shell Refining FCC in Anacortes, Wash.

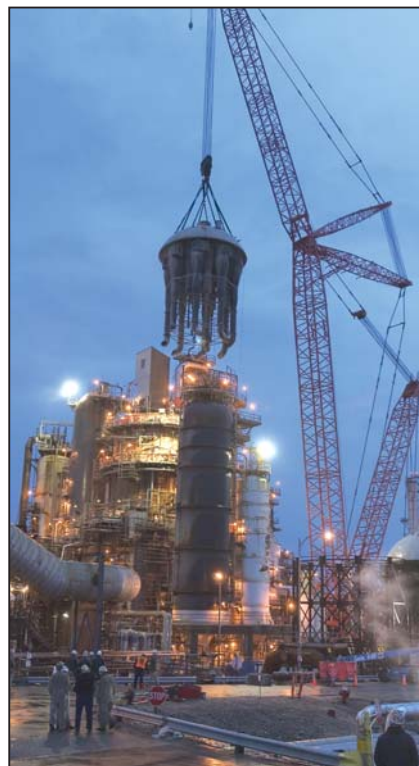
The Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) shutdown was completed two days ahead of its 31-day schedule, with no lost-time or recordable accidents. Boilermakers replaced the regenerator head and did maintenance work on the reactor-regenerator, including the duct work. They also completed some extra maintenance work they discovered along the way, yet still finished ahead of schedule.

With 120 Boilermakers on each 10-hour shift, working six days a week, the job racked up 70,000 man-hours in less than a month. Local 502 BM-ST Randy Robbins said, "It was a very well-managed job. The client was hands-on and provided a safety trailer and gifts and awards each week."

Incentives such as gift cards, gas cards, and round-trip airline tickets made working safely pay off in more than one way. "The best part of the job was that it was completed with no injuries," said Robbins. "That was not easy considering the size of the job and the heavy work involved."

Brown gave special recognition to Robbins for his help in manning the project, superintendents Larry Mustian and Tim Schwartz, and to project foremen Steve Bogge, Ron Burns, Rob Callahan, Rick Cowell, Rory Davis, John Durkin, Robert Giop, Lynn Hockstrauser, Will Johnson, Jim Lamont, Gene Lish, Todd Ore, Dale Roppe, and Don Todd.

"It is working with such a high-caliber craft as the union Boilermakers that ensures successful projects like this," Brown said. □



**A crane lifts the head into place at the Shell cracking unit turnaround.**

## ENR recognizes Joe Maloney

**BCTD Helmets to Hardhats program matches returning vets with union construction jobs**

WHEN JOE MALONEY became a fitter-rigger apprentice in Boilermaker Local 128, Toronto, in 1974, he had no idea how high that job would eventually take him. At 17, Maloney only knew he preferred climbing on steel to sitting in a classroom.

Pretty soon, he was climbing more than steel.

On finishing his apprenticeship, he became intrigued by the union's business and quickly rose within the union's leadership, being appointed chief steward, getting elected trustee, then president, becoming a full-time business agent, and finally being elected Local Lodge 128 business manager/secretary-treasurer in 1990. The energetic Maloney soon caught the eye of then-International President C.W. Jones, who

made him an International representative in 1992. Four years later, he left the Boilermakers to work for the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department's (BCTD) Canadian office. His success in promoting the BCTD's organizing efforts led to his appointment in 2000 to become BCTD secretary-treasurer under the new president, Edward C. Sullivan.

Somewhere in there he sat in class long enough to get a high school equivalency and some college credits, which soon came in handy, as did a trait he shares with thousands of Boilermakers — the ability to work hard until the job is done right.

The BCTD that he and Sullivan took over had financial problems and an ineffective organizing program. Only the pair's ability to launch new training and education programs, along with pilot pro-



**Joe Maloney's support for Helmets to Hardhats is putting vets to work on union construction jobs.**

*See Maloney, page 3*



"Shame, Shame, Shame on you, Wabash Alloys" reads the banner carried by Local 1240 members as they march to protest being locked out.

## Lockout heats up at Wabash Alloys

### Union charges firm with provoking picketers

MOLTEN ALUMINUM ISN'T the only thing that's hot these days at the Wabash Alloys plant in Wabash, Ind. Some 190 Boilermakers who have been locked out of the plant since March 16 are also getting hot under the collar.

And they have a lot to be angry about.

After eight negotiating sessions between Boilermakers Local 1240 and Wabash Alloys earlier this year, the company declared that contract talks had stalled. On March 16, two days after the contract expired, the company locked out its union employees. It brought in replacement workers and an outside security firm notorious for union-busting activity.

Wabash Alloys, which makes aluminum alloy from recycled scrap metal for die casters, had demanded major concessions of the union, including wage and benefit cuts totaling \$3.5 million. Workers at the top rate, earning \$18 an hour, would see a pay cut of about \$4 an hour under the company's proposal. "We costed-out everything," said Local 1240 President Preston Miracle, "and the company's proposal would result in a 46 percent wage and benefit cut, including a 28 percent wage reduction."

Wabash Alloys told union negotiators before the lockout that its proposal was a "last, best, and final offer." The Local 1240 negotiating team did not bring the offer back to the membership.

Miracle said the company's extreme concessionary demands were perplexing. "They (the company) had told us we were the only one of their plants making money. The others were either breaking even or losing money. In negotiations with the other plants, the company actually increased their wages and benefits. But they want to slash ours. It doesn't make sense."

Wabash Alloys operates eight plants in Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Since the lockout began, the two sides have met several times to continue negotiations, once with a federal mediator present. Little progress resulted. Another meeting between the two parties is set for July 11.

Miracle noted that the company is not claiming poverty, but is blaming its concessionary bargaining on pressure from nonunion competitors. The union has made a number of proposals to address the company's cost-cutting demands, offering to accept wage freezes for the life of the contract and higher medical insurance contributions from the members.

However, union negotiators want to see cost information on contracts at the company's other plants as well as information about nonunion companies that compete with Wabash Alloys. The company has not yet provided that information.

At a June 9 meeting, union negotiators presented the company with a proposal regarding consolidation of job classifications. Wabash Alloys is demanding a reduction in job classifications from 33 to nine. The union has offered to accept a reduction to 15. "This is a key item for us to resolve," said Miracle. "We need to know where we are with this before going on to other issues."

### Guards provoke picketers

THE COMPANY'S concessionary demands and the lockout are not the only reasons Local 1240 members are steaming. They are upset about the tactics of Huffmaster Crisis Management, a notorious strike-breaking company based in Troy, Mich. Huffmaster guards have repeatedly attempted to provoke picketers, said Miracle. In one incident, guards used an obscene term when referring to a picketer's wife. At other times, guards sing tunes with insulting lyrics. A scuffle between guards and picketers led to two members and the wife of a member being charged with disorderly conduct. Other incidents involved a severed telephone line leading into the plant (the union disclaims any involvement) and allegations of blocking traffic.

In the wake of such unrest, Wabash Alloys succeeded in obtaining an injunction that limits the union to only four picketers at one time in the immediate vicinity of the front gate, although there are no restrictions on the number of picketers outside that area.

Despite such isolated incidents, the lockout and picketing have been rela-

tively peaceful, said Miracle. He noted that Local 1240 members have shown remarkable restraint in dealing with Huffmaster guards, replacement workers, and scab truck drivers.

### Public supports union

THE WABASH ALLOYS lockout has drawn attention from the local community as well as other unions in the area. "We got unexpected support from the Wabash City Council," said Miracle. "In fact, they voted 6-0 to support the Boilermakers. It really surprised us, because many of those holding office are Republicans. I think they see that taking \$2 to \$3 million (annually) out of the local community would really hurt."

In late April, a rally held for the locked-out Boilermakers drew about 1,500 people from half a dozen states. Among those attending from the Boilermakers International were Great Lakes IVP Larry McManamon; Leonard Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services; and Jim Pressley, International representative.

Miracle said the rally was a great boost to morale. "We had unions from as far away as St. Louis and Chicago attending," he said. "Some of the speakers were union leaders from the Steelworkers and the UAW."

The rally raised about \$8,000 for the Local 1240 Defense Fund. The local raised another \$2,500 at a tenderloin fry. "We're using these funds for emergency situations," said Miracle, "in cases where members are about to see utilities disconnected. And some of the money goes to extend our picket lines to other plants."

Financial pressures were somewhat alleviated when unemployment checks began arriving at member homes in recent weeks.

Local 1240 Vice President Sam Smith, a 31-year employee at Wabash Alloys, remembers going through a brief strike at the company in the 1980s. He said that experience was not nearly as stressful as the current situation. "(But) our morale is as good as it can be. It's great the way the guys are sticking together. Everybody's so mad about the company wanting to cut (our wages and benefits) so bad. Everybody's sticking together like glue."

Donations to assist Local 1240 during the lockout can be sent to Local 1240 Defense Fund, 590 Congress Street, Wabash, IN 46992. Visit [www.local1240.com](http://www.local1240.com) for more information about Local 1240 and the lockout.

## the Boilermaker Reporter

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A prize-winning newspaper



# Maloney recognized for H2H program

Continued from page 1

grams to ease workplace disruptions and jurisdictional disputes, kept them in their jobs.

And, of course, Helmets to Hardhats (H2H), a program that links active and discharged military service people with construction trade apprenticeships and jobs. The idea had been tried before, but never worked. Maloney's role in developing that idea into a successful, national, Web-based program won him *Engineering News-Record* magazine's 40th annual Award of Excellence.

Since its launch in 2003, H2H has matched more than 22,000 veterans with apprenticeship and job opportunities. Much of its success can be credited to Maloney, who has been described as a bulldog, a brilliant salesman, an effective politician, and a man with a fire in his belly.

## It takes three to network

MALONEY TRACES H2H's success to a day in early 2001 when he was a last-minute substitute speaker at a workshop where consultants discussed ideas to help veterans move back into civilian life. There he learned that many vets were having trouble finding jobs with a good career path. Returning vets had a 15 percent unemployment rate.

Knowing that the construction industry was struggling to recruit a new generation of skilled craft workers, Joe Maloney went to work — right then and there. He brainstormed with two other participants, retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Matthew P. Caulfield, then working as a work force consultant, and Kenneth E. Hedman, then labor relations manager at Bechtel Construction Co. and chairman of the North American Contractors Association.

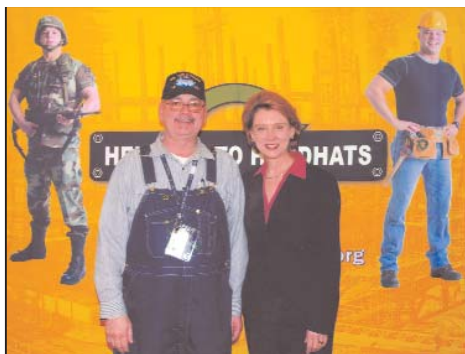
During these sessions, Maloney developed the idea to use a new technology to promote the program — the Internet.

"General Caulfield and I met again a few days later, and again a few days after that. I learned that veterans rank second-highest in the population in computer literacy, just behind college students. It made sense to set up a central system on the Internet in which apprenticeships, and vets could be paired with a digital handshake."

Within months, Maloney, Caulfield, and Hedman brought their contacts to the table. Maloney brought the 15 building trades unions of the BCTD, Caulfield brought his military contacts, and Hedman was key in lining up employment opportunities.

Maloney and General Caulfield knew it would only work, however, if all branches of the military and all 15 trade unions gave it their wholehearted support. That meant a year's worth of back-to-back meetings with military officials, union presidents, and representatives of every affiliate.

"The early challenge was trying to get people to agree that the concept was workable," says Maloney. "This had been tried before, but not involving



U.S. Marine and L-104 member Pat Boettger poses with Washington Governor Christine Gregoire to promote Helmets to Hardhats.

every entity of the military and construction trades."

And not using the Internet. They worked fast to build a Web site so they would have something tangible to demonstrate how the system would work. At the same time, Maloney was in constant contact with the trade unions, making sure that the local lodges would support the program.

"The last thing we wanted was to send vets in large numbers to local unions and have them standing at the office hearing, 'Give me your name and I'll call you back.' We didn't want it to fail before it got started."

It took hard work for Maloney to get H2H accepted by both the military and trades. "Change means work. Sometimes people fall into a mode of getting along the way things are. You've got to keep moving the ball down the field. People may put up barriers, but you've got to keep your eye on the goal," says Maloney.

Maloney's "hectic year" paid off when he spoke to Congressman John P. "Jack" Murtha (D-12th PA). The congressman "fell in love with the concept," ultimately winning the project a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense.

## Just give your name, rank, and MOS

USING THE WEB site couldn't be simpler. Unions and contractors post their apprenticeship or job opportunities with the service. Veterans seeking careers go to the program's Web site at [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org) and complete an electronic questionnaire. It's as simple as entering your name, rank, date of discharge, and MOS (military operations specialty).

The computer compares their information with opportunities, informs employers of possible matches, and the employer contacts the applicant to determine if there is a good fit.

"If a guy was dropping tanks from helicopters, he might be a pretty good rigger," says Maloney, explaining the simplicity of the program. The registration process also reveals where the veteran lives or would like to live. "Maybe a trade union in Buffalo needs a guy with these qualifications, so when he shows up, he starts right then."

The process worked well for ex-Marine Patrick Boettger, who found the Helmets to Hardhats site while surfing the Web. A welder with 30 years experience, his work had dried up. Three years ago, surfing the Web in search of

jobs, he found the H2H site and filled out their online form.

The H2H program not only matched him with Local 104, Seattle, Wash., but it also paid his initiation fee. The local lodge was able to get him certified on copper-nickel and dual shield. He is now finishing work on an aircraft carrier at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and hopes to begin work soon on a three- to five-year ferry-building project.

"I wish there had been something like this available when I came out of the service in 1972," he says. "One day you're in the military, and the next day you're out, with no place to stay and no job." The G.I. Bill wasn't much help. The \$311 per month it paid barely covered tuition. "Anything you can do to help with the transition from military to civilian life is a good thing," he says.

Maloney praises Ed Sullivan for giving him tremendous latitude to develop the H2H program. He credits the union presidents who worked tirelessly to push the program through. "Not once did anyone who understood the concept and its benefits for the construction industry and for veterans throw up barriers," says Maloney. "It couldn't have happened without all of them pulling on the same rope together."

The H2H program is now expanding to include management of unionized contractors, and it is also expanding to include disabled veterans who are now able to use new technology to continue working.

L-128 President John Petronski says Maloney's rich family culture in the Boilermakers prepared him well for the spectacular career he has had. "To take on the responsibilities and problems of management, you have to have the heart for it. You have to have a fire in your belly."

That's a good way to describe Joe Maloney — fire and heart — for the good of the industry. □



Charles H. Vanover, retired BM-ST of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., is recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash award.

## Vanover receives governor's award

CHARLES H. VANOVER, a retired member of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., has received the Sagamore of the Wabash award from former Indiana Governor Joseph Kernan.

In his letter of presentation, former Governor Kernan thanked Vanover for his efforts to make Indiana a better place to live and raise a family.

"You have distinguished yourself by your humanity in living, your loyalty in friendship, your wisdom in council, and your inspiration in leadership," Kernan wrote. "Thank you again, Charles, for the contributions you have made to your state. Indiana is better off today because of your dedication to it and your fellow Hoosiers."

The term "Sagamore of the Wabash" was used by northeastern United States Native Americans to describe a lesser chief or other great person among the tribe to whom the chief would look for wisdom and advice. The award is the highest honor that the governor of Indiana bestows.

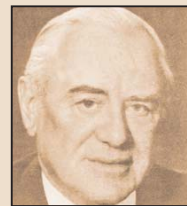
Vanover joined the Boilermakers union in 1978 and served as business manager and secretary-treasurer of Local 374 from 1995 until his retirement on June 30 of this year. □

## Retired IVP John D. Carroll passes

RETIRED International Vice President John D. Carroll passed away on June 21, 2005. Carroll joined Boilermakers Local 378 in 1949. He was an apprentice in the Canadian National Railway (CNR) Shops. He later served as president of the Moncton District Trades and Labour Council, CNR general chairman covering the Atlantic Region, and president of District 30. He was also appointed to the National Productivity Council by the Canadian government as one of five representatives for labor in Canada.

"Brother Carroll was an icon in the labor movement in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s," said IVP of Eastern Canada Alexander MacDonald of Carroll's career in the labor movement.

Carroll was appointed to International staff in 1957. He served as the International vice president of Eastern Canada from 1967 until his retirement



John D. Carroll

in 1987. IVP MacDonald told *the Reporter*, "Brother Carroll was a smart, dedicated negotiator and represented the members in Eastern Canada and the International well. He brought to Canada the Canadian National Health & Welfare and Pension Trust Funds

and was responsible for the National Construction Agreement that covered eight out of ten Canadian provinces. He was also very instrumental in the Canadian Labour Congress being formed in Canada, as well as the Canadian Building Trades."

IVP Carroll is survived by his wife, Eunice; his daughters, Heather Carroll and Kathryn McKenzie; son-in-law, Max Contasti; grandchildren, John, Michael, Andrew, Ian, and Callie; his sister, Winnifred "Winnie" Bourgeois; and brother, Ralph "Bud" Carroll.

# BCTD Conference sets tone for year of activity

## Construction trades unions unite to lobby

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 15 unions making up the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) met in Washington, D.C., April 18-20, to hear from BCTD leaders and members of Congress on the issues facing union construction workers and to lobby Congress for laws beneficial to working families.

Delegates also took part in workshops on protecting retirement and recovering investment losses, the Helmets to Hardhats program, and a national program of construction education. Boilermakers' Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin and staff members Shannon Brett and Abe Breehey assisted in conducting a workshop on recent developments in legislative issues.

In his keynote address, BCTD President Ed Sullivan said that political action and union organizing "are interdependent... one cannot succeed without the other." And both are needed to guarantee a future for the unions that have done so much to improve the lives of working families.

"Political action without increased organizing will leave us with a shrinking base," he said. "Organizing without more effective political action will leave organizers vulnerable to anti-union legislation."

Sullivan stressed the need to employ new strategies and form new coalitions as the political and economic climate changes. He praised the BCTD Helmets to Hardhats program as an example of a new initiative that creates a new coalition by helping returning veterans become members of BCTD unions.

## Speakers address transportation bill, economy

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS who addressed the conference were unanimous on several issues: the need to pass the transportation bill, the need to preserve Social Security, and the need to address rising health care costs.

U.S. Senator and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) called passage of the transportation act "one of my highest priorities." He affirmed his long-held position that "the cost of health care is just too high" and called for cutting costs, improving quality, and expanding coverage through a series of changes to current law.

U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO) told the audience that he gave his maiden speech in the Senate from the desk once used by John F. Kennedy "because I believe what he believed... that American labor wants to end poverty and discrimination. I believe working families built this country and keep it strong. That's why I will fight for the transportation bill... and health care and Social Security."

Explaining why passage of bills addressing rail, highway, and aviation issues are so important, Congressman Nick Rahall (D-3rd WV) talked about the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), passed while Bill Clinton was president. He called it the "greatest public works initiative in our nation's history."



Illinois Senator Barack Obama: "Who will stand up for workers? You will."

TEA-21 funded rural highways, increased mass transit use, improved highway safety, funded law enforcement, and created educational campaigns. Combined, these initiatives put millions of people to work. "For every \$1 billion we spend on transportation, 47,000 jobs are created... good, high-paying jobs," Rahall explained. "That same billion generates \$6.1 billion in economic activity."

Passed in 1998, TEA-21 contributed to the economic boom that lasted until 2001. Congress is now considering a transportation bill that builds on TEA-21, but the White House has issued a veto threat if any more than \$284 billion is allocated, threatening the future of the bill and the economic development it would stimulate.

"So this morning as your tax dollars... rebuild the wetlands of IRAQ — and Americans are told we cannot afford to fully fund a federal transportation program to keep America moving, even though you have already paid and paid and paid at the gas pump for that program — I hope you will join me in wondering what in the heck is going on?" he asked.

Many others echoed his sentiments, including U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), who said, "They want to empty the treasury to give tax money back to people who earn over \$200,000 a year while missing opportunities to strengthen our economy by creating jobs with investments in our infrastructure: highways, transit systems, energy projects, off-shore drilling, and water projects."

Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-14th OH) said that he will work to keep Davis-Bacon protections in the transportation bill, calling them the bill's "Holy Grail." "We must ensure that good jobs at good wages are there for people in communities where projects are being done so you know where to find them if something goes wrong. We have to stop the low paid 'roving labor' that goes on in America."

## Pensions, health care get spotlight

THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS was a recurring theme throughout the conference. U.S. Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH) made a prescient comment when he told the tradesmen that "General Motors is making more cars in Canada than in the U.S. because health care for workers is there." Less than two months later, General Motors announced that they would lay off



Democratic National Chair Howard Dean: "Labor unions built America and can fix what is wrong with it."

25,000 workers over the next three years, citing growing economic pressure from health care costs as a major cause of the layoffs.

As the only industrialized nation without a nationalized health care system, the United States is at a significant disadvantage versus manufacturers in other countries. Whether you calculate it as a percentage of gross domestic product or on a per-person basis, health care spending is higher in the U.S. than in any other nation. One reason is that millions of Americans do not have insurance and therefore do not receive preventive care, leading to long-term health problems and emergency room visits whose costs are passed on to insured workers and government programs.

Most unionized workers have health care insurance, especially in the building trades. Former Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards told the tradesmen that if his brother has health insurance because of the IBEW union and his mother has health insurance because she was a union letter carrier, "there is no reason why every American should not have health insurance."

Edwards linked the health care crisis to the growing gap between what the wealthy get from the government and the economy and what working, middle class families get. "It's not right to have two economies, one for the wealthy insiders and one for everyone else," he said. "It's not right to have two Americas. It's not right to have two sets of standards for schools and health care... It's not right to have soldiers back from Iraq and Afghanistan who have to beg for back pay and to get health benefits."

In addition to the health care system, speakers addressed the government's role in ensuring that workers will be able to retire with dignity. Support for preserving Social Security was unanimous, and nearly every speaker also addressed the need to enact legislation that will protect workers' pensions.

Many pension plans are facing serious funding problems over the next few years, caused to a great extent by poor investment performance in recent years. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is a federal agency created to assist pension plans unable to meet their obligations — or to take them over, if necessary. But analysts now agree that they lack adequate funds to bail out all of the pensions currently facing insolvency. In 2004, Congress passed legislation that solves some of the problems single-employer

pensions face, but did nothing for the multi-employer funds that construction unions have.

Currently, 1,600 multi-employer plans cover over 10 million participants and survivors. Since 1974, fewer than 35 of these plans have fallen under guaranteed protection of the PBGC. While most construction union multi-employer plans were able to weather the poor investment performance of 2001-2003, nearly one-third still face serious funding problems.

Ensuring the fiscal security of these plans is one of the most important issues for BCTD unions. To do that, they are seeking pension reform that will allow their multi-employer plans to make the changes necessary to meet their obligations and to provide a mechanism for providing financial relief for any plans that are unable to recover.

## Speakers issue call to action

SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN (D-DE) warned against falling for the softened rhetoric of many people who Biden believes have a hidden, anti-worker agenda.

"It's not about fixing Social Security," he said, "it's about eliminating it. It's not about tort reform, it's about limiting consumer's recourse against corporations... It's not about minimum wage or picketing, it's about destroying unions, period."

He advised labor unions to "recognize the stakes" and take the strong measure necessary to protect our unions and our middle class way of life.

U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) sounded a similar theme, asking the audience, "Who will stand up for minimum wage? Who will stand up for Davis-Bacon?... Who will stand up for people who worked 30 years only to have the rug pulled out from under their pensions? Who will stand up for Social Security? I'll tell you who. It's up to you!"

Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean pointed out that in the 2004 election many workers and union members "voted against their own economic interest because they're afraid of what's going to happen to their kids." He said labor unions built America and it's up to unionized workers to fix what's going wrong.

And he encouraged all union members to voice their political opinions, regardless of how they might be perceived, saying "There's no political downside to standing up for what you believe in!" □



# Political activity pays off

## L-154 LEAP committee members meet with Republican leaders

IN EARLY MAY, Ray Ventrone, business manager of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., received a letter from Congressman Tim Murphy (R-18th PA) inviting him to attend a breakfast in Washington, D.C. The breakfast was being hosted by the Republican Working Group on Labor. Rep. Murphy said they would be discussing how policy decisions made in Washington are impacting Local 154 members.

An active LEAP committee member since 1993, Ventrone knew immediately the importance of such an invitation. A group of Republicans in Congress — including Murphy, the representative for the district in which L-154's hall is located — were reaching out to organized labor. This invitation provided a rare opportunity for Local 154 Boilermakers to discuss their issues with Republicans who are willing to listen.

"This invitation meant they are willing to help us with our issues," Ventrone explains. "Not all Republicans are lined up against us. This meeting was an opportunity to sit in a room of Republicans who are willing to listen and to tell them what our members need from them."

Ventrone knew the meeting would be productive when he saw who the co-chairs of the Working Group are: Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd NJ) and Steve LaTourette (R-14th OH). Both of these congressmen are strong supporters of working families with long track records of standing up for workers and for labor unions. Both have been speakers at recent Boilermakers LEAP conferences.

And the invitation couldn't have come at a better time. Several bills Congress will address this year could have significant immediate and long-term effects on Lodge 154 members, among them the transportation bill, the energy bill, health care, and pension reform. Ventrone had a schedule conflict, so he sent LEAP committee chairmen Tony Smarra and Mike Ventrone (L-154 VP).

"It was a good meeting," according to Smarra. "They wanted to let us know that even though they can't always be with us, when it comes to our core issues, they can get things done that we'll never see happen if the only people in our corner are Democrats."

That statement speaks to the heart of the situation America's labor unions face today. Historically, the Democratic Party has been the party that supports labor issues and which, in turn, labor unions support. But the Republican Party now has firm control of both houses of Congress. If labor unions are going to get our issues addressed in Washington, we need to find ways to talk with Republicans and get them to help us.

"This meeting was a chance to open some doors," Ventrone said. "We have good relationships with a lot of Republicans in our area, including Tim Murphy. [Senator] Arlen Specter has been very good to labor over the years, too. All we were looking for was a chance to



**Face-to-face meetings are the best way to get to know your members of Congress.** L. to r., Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd NJ), L-154 member Mike Ventrone, Tim Murphy (R-18th PA), and L-154 LEAP committee chair Tony Smarra.

talk to this group about what our issues are, how those issues affect us, and what we need them to do. When we can get them in the same room with us and they're willing to listen, we have a chance."

Some of the things they had a chance to discuss at the breakfast meeting were keeping Davis-Bacon protection in the transportation bill, clean coal incentives in the energy bill, protections for multi-employer pension plans, and Rep. Murphy's plan to drive health care costs down by diverting federal money into community health centers.

Smarra said, "Decisions are being made every day at every level — city, county, state, and federal — that affect us directly as union members and workers. If they don't hear from us on a regular basis, they make those decisions without us."

"Some of the most important things that happen are things that most people never hear about. Someone put language in the transportation bill that would have done away with Davis-Bacon protections. A group of Republicans said, 'No way. We're not going to vote for a bill that doesn't keep Davis-Bacon in place.' You never heard about that on the news, but that small group of Republicans protected wages for construction workers all over the country."

### A rare invitation

MOST LOCAL LODGES are satisfied when they can get an appointment to speak with a congressman in his or her office. Getting an invitation to meet with a group of them is unheard of.

But Lodge 154 is not your typical lodge when it comes to LEAP activities. They have had an active LEAP committee since 1968, and with the continued support of L-154 leadership, they are one of the more active LEAP committees in the entire Boilermakers union.

"Our predecessors paved the way for us," said Smarra. "Every business manager has supported LEAP. The level of support [BM Ray] Ventrone gives the LEAP committee is amazing."

That support from the top officer of the lodge translates into hard

work by the committee on behalf of the members.

"We attend town meetings and meet with state and local politicians as well as the people in Washington," Smarra said. "We go to fundraisers. We keep up on all the issues at every level. When there is a public meeting on an issue affecting our members, we make sure someone is there. We get letter-writing campaigns going. We knock on doors. We talk to anyone who will listen about our issues."

All that activity pays off.

"We can pick up the phone and make an appointment to talk to anybody at any level and they'll see us and listen to us," said Ventrone. "Our local people have a line to everybody, at all levels."

Keeping the line of communication open is the key to success in politics. That line of communication must also extend to the membership. Before they will support the LEAP committee, they need to understand the issues and know what the committee is doing.

"Members respond positively to LEAP activities when they know what you are doing," explained Ventrone. "When they understand how LEAP activities help them get more and better jobs, they pay attention."

"Right now we're knocking on doors, talking to our local politicians about plants in the area that use temporary employees from other states, other communities. They don't pay local taxes, and they don't spend their money locally. We need to take care of our own people first, and our politicians agree. They can quietly pressure businesses to do the right thing. It's helping. When members know you're out protecting their jobs and livelihoods, they give you their support."

"Our LEAP committee reports at every monthly meeting," Smarra said. "We also report on our activities and explain the issues in our newsletter. *The Reporter* is good, but nothing reaches the members like our quarterly newsletter."

An informed membership is an active membership.

"Now we have members bringing us issues," Smarra said. "Recently in a rural community east of Pittsburgh,

two members got invitations to a Republican assemblyman's breakfast. They came to me with letter in hand. 'Should we go?' I told them, 'Yes. Go. Talk about keeping jobs in Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, in the U.S.' I gave them some talking points on issues we are discussing in this area. That's how doors get opened. That's how we get our message to people who can make a difference."

"Legislation that protects workers is not the only benefit of LEAP activity," said Ventrone. "Congressmen and senators — and state legislators and city councilmen — can also help with problems, opening doors, getting you into the office of the person you need to talk to, and sometimes pressuring people to do the right thing — whether a business or an agency of government."

"Members who become disabled often have difficulty getting eligible for Social Security disability, which also keeps them from getting their Boilermakers pension. A phone call to the congressman from that person's district is often all it takes to speed that process up."

"Arlen Specter has helped us get our members' children into the military academies. State and city connections help, too, with problems involving state laws or local agencies."

### Support CAF and LEF

LODGE 154's LEAP COMMITTEE may stress communication, but they are not all talk. As Ventrone says, they know that "money talks and BS walks."

L-154 members have been putting their money behind their words for many years as leading contributors to the Boilermakers Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) and Legislative Education Fund (LEF).

In 2004, they led all Boilermaker locals with over \$44,000 in contributions to CAF. CAF is the International's PAC, a fund used to donate money to the political campaign of candidates who support our positions. All donations to CAF are voluntary. It is illegal to give union dues money to candidates for federal office.

Lodge 154 was also third in donations to LEF in 2004, giving over \$7,600. LEF money is used to provide political education materials to our members and their families. It pays for the LEAP Web site, mailings and flyers for local lodges, and the annual LEAP conference.

Local 154 sends a strong group of delegates to every LEAP conference, drawing from their LEAP committee members Tony Smarra, Jim Steigerwald, Kevin Miller, Ray Doria, Paul Price, Stan Wolfe (retired), L-154 President Tom O'Connor, L-154 Secretary-Treasurer Dan Quinn, business agent Mike Ventrone, and Business Manager Ray Ventrone.

Ray Ventrone has a clear insight into the role that LEAP activities play in the lives of local lodge officers and members.

"We're not politicians," he said. "But what the politicians do affects our members. We need to educate members. If members want to protect their jobs, they should get on with CAF and LEF contributions. There is no substitute for political involvement." □

**"If members want to protect their jobs, there is no substitute for political involvement." — Ray Ventrone, L-154 BM-ST**

# Local 549 "racks up" two more HRSGs for PSF Industries

**Less than one percent weld rejection at Calpine**

WHEN PSF INDUSTRIES was awarded the job of erecting two Nooter-Ericksen HRSG units for Calpine Corporation in San Jose, Calif., they knew that the tight location would make the job difficult. But they also knew the Boilermakers of Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.) were up to the challenge.

PSF construction manager Jeff Brown credits superintendent Dick Cunz with heading the effort that required a high level of resourcefulness and planning. In less than a year, the two units were up, well within schedule and with a high degree of quality and safety.

According to Brown, about 60 Boilermakers worked on the job at its peak. He gave recognition to all of them, with special recognition for Cunz, former Local 549 BM-ST Fred Fields, and Local 549 Assistant Business Manager Frank Secreet.

This job was the first one PSF had done for Calpine, which usually self-hires. All three organizations were pleased with the decision and its outcome.

"Because of a highly successful working relationship between PSF Industries and Local 549, this project was made a success for both PSF and Calpine Corporation," Brown said. □



The first bundle goes into place at Calpine's San Jose HRSG installation.

## Local 60 Boilermakers jump into their work

EVERY OUTAGE at LaSalle Nuclear Station requires the suppression pool to be inspected. It doesn't sound like much until you realize the suppression pool is a 60-foot-diameter concrete tube filled with 20 feet of water. Throw in the only access is through a 40-inch hatch, no platforms to work off of, high humidity, and substantial dose rates, and the job begins to look a bit more difficult. This is where the Boilermakers (Local 60, Peoria, Ill.) come in. Their task is to build the temporary platforms that the divers will work from.

The pool is an FME 1 (foreign materials exclusion) area. To make sure no outside materials are introduced, everything brought into the pool area is logged as it goes in and again when it comes out. That is a full-time job for one Boilermaker.

The pool is also a permit-required confined space, using another Boilermaker as the attendant. The other six members of the crew build the platforms. First a pre-built platform is pushed into the open hatch and secured. After it is in the hoists, fall protection and well wheels are installed on overhead pipes.

Sounds easy — standing on an eight-foot ladder, dressed in a full Anti-C's (anti-contamination clothing), in heat and humidity, with weak lights, hanging over a 20-foot fall into 20 feet of water, to attach the slings to the four-inch and 12-inch pipes over-

head. Now that the easy part is done the real work begins — building the lower dive platform.

Inside the suppression pool there are 40 or so downcomers, 20-inch pipes coming from above and going into the water. These downcomers are braced by 18-inch pipes horizontally connected to the downcomers. The lower platform is built by laying scaffold picks across these braces, a process that begins with a Boilermaker balancing on these braces, taking the pick that is lowered to him, and laying it across the braces. He then ties it down with number nine wire. All the time he is in double Anti-C's with a stay-time of two hours. The lower platform is constructed one pick at a time using a total of 17 picks. It takes a full day's work for the eight-man crew to finish the job.

As Boilermakers exit the pool area, they are sweat soaked and dehydrated. First they take off those Anti-C's, grab a quick bottle of water, and off they go to decontamination. It's almost impossible to work in those conditions and not get contaminated. After cleaning up, it's time for lunch, then back out to do it again.

Now the fun can start. With the lower platform built, the divers go to work. For four days they go into that dark water and inspect and clean all the penetrations, the floor, and the walls. Using a filter vacuum pump they clean all the debris that has built

up over the last cycle. This means that all the debris is collected on filters, making them highly radioactive. The average radiation dose on a filter was over 20 roentgens per hour (R/hr); the hottest one was over 30 R/hr, meaning it could deliver a lethal dose with about 10 hours exposure. And guess what? It is the Boilermakers' job to get them out of the pool at the end of the job — all 18 of those 50-pound filters.

When the divers are done and the filters are out, the Boilermakers do another series of jumps to take everything out. They do all this without dropping anything into the water and without injuring anyone.

The crew at LaSalle that jumped the suppression pool was Paul Bosnich (foreman), Bobby Barthell, Greg Schultz, Jerry Schultz, Larry Couch, John Robb, Dan O'Brien, Gary Bauer, and Bruce Sack. They all contributed to the success that was achieved through safe, high quality, on schedule work.

The divers, the laborers, the radiation technicians, and the Boilermakers work in the environment for 10 days. It is only through teamwork among each of these groups that the work can be done safely. During this outage, there were no injuries. That alone made the job a success. The job was also completed on schedule, another success.

*Submitted by W. Barry McCue  
field supervisor, Venture*

**Kudos Great Job!**  
**Many Thanks**  
**On Time**  
**outstanding**  
**well done**  
**TEAMWORK**  
**Quality**

### Local 13 performs first-ever hanger support tube repair for Fluor at Exelon plant

WORK ON THE EDDYSTONE unit #1 boiler was not just any repair job. Unit #1 is one of only two such existing units on line in the world. Built in 1954, the unit is described as a coal-fired, 3,600 rpm, tandem compound, supercritical-pressure unit producing 325 megawatts using steam pressure of 5,000 pounds per square inch at 1,150 Fahrenheit. The project of replacing the hanger support tubes has never been attempted.

Fluor would like to thank all Local 13 Boilermakers (Philadelphia) for a terrific job on our fall 2004 outage at the Exelon Corporation's Eddystone plant, unit #1. Superb craftsmanship, as well as great safety practices, allowed the job to be completed on schedule with 150,000 safe man-hours. This would not have been achieved without the Boilermakers' skill and knowledge of their work.

Exelon Corporation was so impressed that at an awards presentation they recognized Local 13, JJ White Inc., and Fluor as contract manager.

DANNY KING, Mid-Atlantic  
Alliance manager  
Fluor/JJ White joint venture

### Bechtel recognizes L-83's Albertson for excellent job

AS BECHTEL NEARS completion of the Condenser Replacement and Nuclear Steam Supply System Refurbishment Projects (NSSSRP) at the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize Scott Albertson [Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.] for the excellent job he did as the General Presidents Maintenance Agreement site representative.

Scott exhibited strong leadership skills in representing the building trades employed on this project. We quickly learned to value and respect Scott's input in resolving issues in a fair and positive manner. He was also a tremendous help to Bechtel in hiring and in processing craftsmen who traveled from 28 states to work on this project.

JOE BICKFORD, site manager  
JACK SENECA, project field  
supt.-NSSSRP  
BILL O'BRIEN, project field  
supt.-condenser



## BIC conducts election workshop

### Six members receive leadership awards

MEMBERS FROM EIGHT Ohio locals affiliated with the Buckeye Industrial Council (BIC) attended a one-day workshop at the BIC Canton office on April 2.

Conducted by Intl. Rep. Ron Lyon and BIC leadership committee members, the workshop focused on the nomination and election procedures for local lodge officers. Using a workbook created by the International's education department, the attendees reviewed a checklist of rules and regulations regarding the nomination and election process.

During the meeting, the BIC leadership committee also presented the Larry McManamon Leadership Award to six members for demonstrating exceptional leadership abilities the previous year. Receiving awards were Jeff Beitel, sec.-treas. of L-1073; Ken Blankenship, president of L-106; Charles Cunningham, president of L-1704; Bruce Jaquay, president of L-1702; Joe Krsak, president of L-1664; and Phil Lewis, president of L-1073.

BIC affiliate lodges include Local 106, Cincinnati; Local 744, Cleveland; Local 908, Wadsworth; Local 1073, Cleveland; Local 1086, Cleveland; Local 1191, Canton; Local 1664, Maple Heights; Local 1666, Dayton; Local 1702, Canton; and Local 1704, Euclid. □



Recipients of leadership awards, l. to r.: Joe Krsak (L-1664); Jeff Beitel (L-1073); Phil Lewis (L-1073); Ken Blankenship (L-106); Bruce Jaquay (L-1702); and Charles Cunningham (L-1704).



BIC workshop attendees (l. to r.): seated, E. Burwell, P. Lewis, V. Kasperczyk, J. Beitel, T. Heiser; standing, R. Lyon, P. Nedeljkovic, J. Krsak, G. Ebsch, J. Lyon, K. Blankenship, B. Jaquay, T. Campbell, C. Cunningham, and J. Elliott.

## Local 587 hosts scaffold training

JANUARY IS OFTEN a slow month for construction Boilermakers, with few jobs underway and most members sitting home. This year, Local 587 (Orange, Texas) took advantage of the down-time to host two MOST scaffold training classes for their members on January 26 and 27.

The one-day class is based on OSHA's 1996 scaffold standards. It provides participants classroom and hands-on instruction in picking the correct type of scaffold for the job, erecting it, and dismantling it.

The class was taught by six instructors from two lodges, all of whom had completed MOST's train-the-trainer scaffold safety class. Local 587 instructors were George Dronett, Tim Warren, and Willie Craft Jr. Instructors Daniel Popovich, Dennis Turner, and Zachary Popovich came from Local 132 (Galveston, Texas) to assist.

Participants in the January 26 class were Local 587 members Allen Dunn, Barry Phillips, Bueford Herford, Cornel Hinson, Dennis Verrett, Douglas Mullins, Gerald VanSchoubroek, James Herford, James Kirkland, James Wilson, Kenneth Taylor, Leslie Tarter, Mark Granger, Randy Jones, Roger Wagstaff, Ronnie Owens, Terry Danos, and Timothy Todd.

On January 27, the class included Local 587 members Bobby Ashworth, Donald Craig, Edward Wannage, Jackie Huffman Jr., Jeffrey Davis, Jesse Esparza, John Bergeron, Keith Kirkland, Larry Wells, Malcolm Wilburn, Martha Wells, Robert L. Holloway, Robert W. Holloway, Samuel Talbert, Terry Ray, and William Allen. NTL member Joseph Brown also participated in this class. □

## Local 60 graduates apprentices



ED HEBERT, BM-ST OF LOCAL 60, Peoria, Ill., announces the graduation of their 2005 apprentice class. Pictured are the new journeymen with local officials, l. to r., front row, ABM & VP Tom Bradley, ABM & Pres. Scott Wilson, Curt Chapin, Rex McMorris, Chad Huizenga, instructor Bob Branan, and Al Williams; second row, Jay Ledergerber, Joe Scalf, Dan Freeman, Dan Danner, Jason Sadnick, and Rick Prince; third row, Justin Olsen, Josh French, Dave Iverson, Ron Chapin, Derek Barclay, and Todd Johns.

Chartered in 1901, Local 60 represents approximately 250 workers in field construction. □

## Local 128 announces graduation



Graduates of Local 128's 2005 Advanced Apprentices Class.

### Bryan Hahn selected for national competition

TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, have successfully completed the Construction Boilermaker Apprenticeship Program of Ontario. The new journeymen graduated following completion of 6,600 man-hours, participation in the Advanced In-School Program, and passage of the Certification of Qualification Exam.

Members of the Advanced Class of 2005 include Shane Faries, Ryan Mayer, Frank Marincic, Patrick Rehel,

Frank Groulx, Shelby Hall, Jeremy Pavey, Matt Mootrey, Lance Alexander, Tom McNeil, Iain Foster, Christian French, Kyle Quinn, James Millette, Jason Warden, Michael Deger, Ken McLeod, Cliff Morreau, Keith Adams, Ryan Hill, Brian Hahn, Dan Hoffarth, Daniel Warner, and Jamie Crossett.

Graduate Bryan Hahn was also selected to represent Local 128 at the Canadian Boilermaker Apprenticeship Competition, June 19-22, in Burnaby, British Columbia. Chartered in 1947, Local 128 represents approximately 1,600 members in shops and field construction. □

## IVP Hickenbotham attends Rainbow/PUSH conference

IVP JIM HICKENBOTHAM (CLGAW Division) attended the 34th annual Rainbow/PUSH Coalition conference in Chicago, June 11-14. The event focussed on voting rights, labor organizing in hostile climates, access for all to quality healthcare and education, and fair business opportunities for women and people of color.

Guest speakers and panelists included 2004 Presidential Candidate John Kerry; 2004 Vice Presidential Candidate John Edwards; President Bill Clinton; AFL-CIO President John Sweeney; Governor/Chairman of the Democratic Party Howard Dean; Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky (D-9th IL); Senator Barack Obama (D-IL); and Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2nd IL), among others.

A breakfast meeting was also held called "Protecting Labor Rights." Labor



IVP Hickenbotham (r.) greets Rev. Jesse Jackson at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition conference in Chicago.

leaders from the Boilermakers and several other unions were in attendance. □

# International awards 33 scholarships

## Grants total \$50,000

THE BOILERMAKERS' International Executive Council (IEC) scholarship committee has awarded \$50,000 to 33 winners of the International's scholarships — \$38,000 to United States students and \$12,000 to Canadian students.

Winners were selected from a pool of 170 applicants, based on their high academic achievement, leadership skills, participation in extra-curricular activities, and performance on a 300-500 word essay on this year's topic: "How can the union get its message out to the rest of society?"

The scholarship committee determines the amount of each grant. This year, the committee awarded one \$5,000 award, two \$4,000 awards, two \$3,000 awards, three \$2,000 awards, and 25 \$1,000 awards.



**Raymond Brogan** \$5,000  
Son of Kevin Brogan, L-1

**Raymond Brogan**, son of Kevin Brogan of Local 1, Chicago, earned the top award of \$5,000. Raymond, who plays both football and hockey, plans to study accounting at the Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo.

"I hope to make contributions someday that prove me worthy of this consideration," Raymond said.



**Tyler Fehr** \$4,000  
Son of Ken Fehr, L-359



**Danielle Nesnadny** \$4,000  
Daughter of Ronald Nesnadny Jr., L-5

**Tyler Fehr**, son of Ken Fehr of Local 359, Vancouver, British Columbia, and **Danielle Nesnadny**, daughter of Ronald Nesnadny Jr. of Local 5, New York, will each receive a \$4,000 grant.

Tyler plans to attend the University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus. He enjoys history, theology, literature, and cycling. A member of the National Honor Society, Danielle has been accepted at the Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J., for a six-year doctorate program in physical therapy.

Selected to receive \$3,000 grants were **Amber Rouse**, daughter of Lonnie Rouse of Local 117, Superior, Wis., and **Rebecca White**, daughter of Daniel White of Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Amber is interested in writing, art, and music, and will be attending the University of Wisconsin in Superior, Wis. Rebecca will be studying chemical engineering at Dalhousie University in Halifax.



**Amber Rouse** \$3,000  
Daughter of Lonnie Rouse, L-117



**Rebecca White** \$3,000  
Daughter of Daniel White, L-73

The following three scholarship winners will each receive a \$2,000 grant: **Cheyenne Hardt**, daughter of Byron Hardt of Local 453, Knoxville, Tenn.; **Anne Sickavish**, daughter of Dan Sickavish of Local 359; and **Amandeep Singh**, son of Harcham Singh of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta.

Cheyenne has been accepted into the honors program at the University of Tennessee. Anne plans to study psychology at the St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Amandeep is enrolled in the faculty of sciences at the University of Alberta.

The committee also selected the following 25 scholarship winners to receive a \$1,000 grant. **Michael Albright**, son of Glenn Albright of Local 647, Minneapolis, Minn., plans to major in math and physics at the St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn. **Brandon Chapple**, son of Terry Chapple of Local S185, Belleville, Ill.,



**Cheyenne Hardt** \$2,000  
Daughter of Byron Hardt, L-453



**Anne Sickavish** \$2,000  
Daughter of Dan Sickavish, L-359



**Amandeep Singh** \$2,000  
Son of Harcham Singh, L-146

enjoys all types of music and plans to attend the University of Illinois. **Nathan Corroy**, stepson of Larry Jacobs of Local 487, Kewaunee, Wis., will be majoring in business at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. **Ashley Crocker**, daughter of Brian Crocker of Local 27, St. Louis, plans to major in Elementary Education at the Illinois College in Jacksonville.

**Jacklyn Dott**, daughter of John Dott of Local 197, Albany, N.Y., will be studying forensics at the Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Mass. **Matthew Ezell**, son of Charles Ezell of Local 454, Chattanooga, Tenn., hopes to earn a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Tennessee. **Shane Fogarty**, son of William Fogarty of Local 29, Boston, will be playing soccer for the Babson College in Babson Park, Mass., where he will study business.

**Lindsey Hamilton**, daughter of John Hamilton of Local 363, East St. Louis, Ill., will focus her studies on mathematics and science at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. **Justin Horton**, son of Frank Horton of Local 363, will begin his studies at the Rend Lake Community College, studying computer graphics. **Michael Ivey**, son of Hubert Ivey Jr. of Local 592, Tulsa, Okla., has been accepted at the University of Oklahoma and is

looking forward to working this summer as a boilermaker with his dad.

**Nathaniel Mickle**, son of Stephen Mickle of Local 696, Marinette, Wis., will be attending the University of Wisconsin in Superior where he will major in biology. **Ashley Miller**, daughter of Richard Miller of Local 154, Pittsburgh, plans to attend the Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. **Katrina Nguyen**, daughter of Quyen Nguyen of Local 433, Tampa, Fla., will be taking classes in biomedical sciences at the Marquette University in Wisconsin. **George Noble III**, son of George Noble Jr. of Local 28, Newark, N.J., will be attending the Syracuse University in New York. **Vincent O'Leary**, son of John O'Leary, a member of the NTL, is pursuing a degree in economics at the University of Chicago.

**Rachel Popow**, daughter of James Popow of Local 28, has chosen a major in Arts and Science at the University of Pennsylvania. **Brittany Psensky**, daughter of Peter Psensky of Local 154, will be attending the Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania where she will study biology and chemistry. **Paul Riley**, son of Paul Riley of Local 1032, Cumberland, Md., plans to attend the Elmira College in Elmira, N.Y. **Caitlin Robbins**, daughter of Anthony Robbins of Local 454, will be attending the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

**Lenwid Sandvick**, son of Lenwid Sandvick Jr. of Local 107, Milwaukee, Wis., will pursue a Graduate Degree in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. **Jesse Shilot**, son of Paul Shilot of Local 154, has been accepted at the Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. **Gregory Skrabonja**, son of Edward Skrabonja of Local 28, plans to study computer science at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J.

**Daniel Tibbetts**, son of Gary Tibbetts of Local 73, plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. **Terrence Ward**, son of James Ward of Local 1, will be attending the Illinois State University. **Rachel Wigginton**, daughter of Mark Wigginton of Local D595, Kosmosdale, Ky., plans to attend the Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

## IEC scholarship program

SINCE 1988, WHEN the International began the scholarship program, the Boilermakers union has awarded a total of \$626,000 to 255 children and dependents of Boilermaker members.

Serving on the IEC scholarship committee are Intl. Vice Presidents Alexander MacDonald (chairman), George Rogers, and Othel Smith Jr. Assisting are attorney Joe Moreland, representing the legal firm of Blake & Uhlig, and Administrative Secretary Tracy Buck. The committee spends days reviewing the applications and reading the student essays and is always amazed by the caliber of the applicants.

"The scholarship committee was impressed with the winners' exceptional grades throughout their high school years, their many achievement awards, their participation in many extracurricular activities, and their well written essays," said MacDonald, IVP and committee chairman. □



# How to apply for a Boilermaker Scholarship

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR benefits of being a Boilermaker is the college scholarship program that helps dependents of Boilermakers get started with their college education.

These one-year grants reward the hard work and success of young members of Boilermaker families and encourage members of the next generation of college-educated workers to remember the union advantage.

Boilermaker scholarships are open to high school seniors who will be entering their first year of a two- or four-year academic program at a degree-granting, accredited college or university within one year of their high school graduation and who are dependents of Boilermaker members in good standing.

A dependent may be a son, daughter, legally adopted child, or other dependent of an active, retired, disabled, or deceased member.

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

Applications for the 2006 awards will be available from your local lodge at the end of this year and will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2006. Applications postmarked after the March 31, 2006 deadline cannot be considered. Contact your local lodge to get an application. The International will not mail applications to individuals.



Some local lodges have their own scholarship programs. Scholarships are also available through the Union Plus credit card program and some state and regional labor councils. For information on their scholarship programs, contact these organizations directly.

## Other scholarship winners

### Local 13 awards 23 grants totaling \$147,200

LOCAL LODGE 13, Philadelphia, announces the winners of 23 scholarship awards, each totaling \$6,400, to dependents of Local 13 members who participated in the local's annual competition.

Winners were selected based on the results of a college aptitude test administered and graded by St. Joseph's University. The grants will be awarded over a period of four years — \$800 per semester for eight semesters. The Local 13 scholarship committee does not release names of scholarship winners for publication.

### IEC scholarship committee announces local, CFL winners

THE BOILERMAKERS' International Executive Council (IEC) scholarship committee has announced its selection of scholarship award recipients for two local lodges and the Canadian Federation of Labour (CFL).

Aaron Hutchinson, son of Local 105 member Windell Hutchinson, was selected from four applicants for the \$1,000 award from Local 105, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Amandeep Singh, son of Local 146 member Harcham Singh, was selected as a \$2,000 award



Michael Albright  
\$1,000  
Son of Glenn Albright, L-647



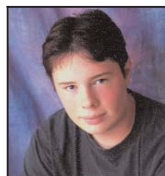
Matthew Ezell  
\$1,000  
Son of Charles Ezell, L-454



Katrina Nguyen  
\$1,000  
Daughter of Quyen Nguyen, L-433



Paul Riley  
\$1,000  
Son of Paul Riley, L-1032



Brandon Chapple  
\$1,000  
Son of Terry Chapple, L-S185



Lindsey Hamilton  
\$1,000  
Daughter of John Hamilton, L-363



George Noble III  
\$1,000  
Son of George Noble Jr., L-28



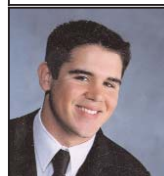
Caitlin Robbins  
\$1,000  
Daughter of Anthony Robbins, L-454



Nathan Corroy  
\$1,000  
Stepson of Larry Jacobs, L-487



Michael Ivey  
\$1,000  
Son of Hubert Ivey Jr., L-592



Vincent O'Leary  
\$1,000  
Son of John O'Leary, NTL



Lenwid Sandvick  
\$1,000  
Son of Lenwid Sandvick Jr., L-107



Daniel Tibbetts  
\$1,000  
Son of Gary Tibbetts, L-73



Ashley Crocker  
\$1,000  
Daughter of Brian Crocker, L-27



Nathaniel Mikle  
\$1,000  
Son of Stephen Mikle, L-696



Rachel Popow  
\$1,000  
Daughter of James Popow, L-28



Jesse Shilot  
\$1,000  
Son of Paul Shilot, L-154



Terrance Ward  
\$1,000  
Son of James Ward, L-1



Jacklyn Dott  
\$1,000  
Daughter of John Dott, L-197



Ashley Miller  
\$1,000  
Daughter of Richard Miller, L-154



Brittany Psensky  
\$1,000  
Daughter of Peter Psensky, L-15



Gregory Skrabonja  
\$1,000  
Son of Edward Skrabonja, L-28



Rachel Wigginton  
\$1,000  
Daughter of Mark Wigginton, L-D595

recipient, and Estelle Choi, daughter of Local 146 member Jinsoo Choi, was chosen as a \$1,000 scholarship winner from six applicants to the Local 146 scholarship program in Edmonton, Alberta.

Estelle also was selected to receive a \$1,000 grant from the CFL, as was Lorne Costello, son of Jerome Costello of Local 203, St. John's, Newfoundland.

To find out how to apply for these scholarships, please read the box at right.

### Union Plus awards scholarship to L-696 member's son

THE UNION PLUS program has awarded one of their 120 scholarships to Nathaniel Lee Mikle, son of Stephan Mikle of Local 696, Marinette, Wis. Mikle was chosen out of 5,500 applicants from 40 AFL-CIO unions for the \$1,000 scholarship. In all, Union Plus awarded \$150,000 in scholarships this year.

Mikle also won a Boilermakers scholarship. Union Plus winners are chosen based on academic ability, character, leadership, financial need, and appreciation of labor.

Union Plus Scholarships are open to members of unions, their spouses, and dependent children. Applications for the 2006 awards will be available in September 2005. To download the application from the Union Privilege Web site at that time, visit [www.unionplus.org/scholarships](http://www.unionplus.org/scholarships). □

## How to apply for a L-13, L-105, L-146, or CFL scholarship

### Dependents of Local 13

members who meet the eligibility requirements of the International Executive Council (IEC) Scholarship Program (listed below) may also apply separately to Local 13 for their awards program.

Dependents of Local 105 and Local 146 members who are eligible and apply for the Boilermakers IEC Scholarship, are also considered applicants to their respective local lodge award programs. Dependents of Canadian members who are eligible and apply for the Boilermakers IEC Scholarship are also considered applicants to the CFL scholarship program.



# Local P4 golf outing benefits community

**When company drops hospital fundraiser, local lodge members pick it up**

WHEN RURAL/METRO Corporation announced that they could no longer sponsor the annual J.B. deSaulles Memorial Golf Tournament to raise funds for Tod Children's Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, members of Local Lodge P4 wouldn't hear of it.

As emergency medical professionals working for Rural/Metro's ambulance service, they often transport children to the pediatric emergency department of this hospital. They also provide transport for the neonatal response team that the hospital's outreach program provides. The opportunity to raise money for such a worthy cause was just too important to let slip away.

As emergency workers often do, they quickly got into action, and in short order they had rounded up corporate sponsors, solicited gift donations, and raffled tickets to raise money. The tournament took place on Sept. 8, 2004, at Pine Lakes Golf Club in Hubbard, Ohio.

And it was an enormous success, raising \$4,000 for the hospital. One of

the more popular events was the 50/50 ball-drop raffle. People bought golf balls, wrote their names on them, and placed them in a bucket. The signed balls were taken aloft by a helicopter and dropped onto a green. The ball nearest the hole won its purchaser half of the money collected.

The helicopter was lent for the occasion by STATMedEvac, one of the event's corporate sponsors. STATMedEvac is a medical air transport company based in Pittsburgh, serving eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. The company has donated their helicopter to previous fundraisers, and the crowd is always delighted when they arrive.

The golf tournament's name honors the late J.B. deSaulles, assistant fire chief in Boardman, Ohio, and safety director for Rural/Metro.

Lodge P4 is gearing up for their 2005 tournament, scheduled for September 9. For information on sponsoring a hole or competing in the tournament, contact Paul Elia at 330-750-1515.

Lodge P4 has represented emergency medical technicians at Rural/Metro since 2001.



**Local P4 tournament organizers, l. to r., IR Mike Zordani with L-P4 members and officers Pres. Pat Straker, Diane Dowling, VP Eric Wvask, Stewart Dawn Bower, Sec.-Treas. Greg Smith, Sgt.-at-Arms Gino November, Rec. Sec. Paul Elia, and Trustee Fred Colucci.**



## L-744's Lyon earns recognition for baseball skills

PAT LYON, AN 11-YEAR member of Cleveland Local 744, has been inducted into the Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame.

Lyon played eight years as a catcher in the Canton class "A" league. He played on four state championship teams and is a three-time All Star player. A leader in home runs and RBIs, Lyon consistently batted over .330.

Lyon lives in Bolivar, Ohio, with his wife, Lori, and daughters, Gabby (7) and Gracie (1). He is the son of Barb and Ron Lyon, an International representative for the Great Lakes area.



**Three-time All Star player Pat Lyon, a member of Local 744, is a new inductee of the Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame.**



## Local 587 promotes union, get-out-the vote at picnic

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 587, Orange, Texas, took advantage of a good time to make a good impact at the annual Go-Texan Barbecue Cook-off.

As a way to promote a positive image for union boilermakers, Local 587 members served food and beverage to the public and conducted a voter registration drive.

Not only did Local 587 do well by registering nearly 100 new voters, but they proved they could make good barbecue, too, placing in seven of eight categories.



**L-P4 members Lindsey Hovanec and Diane Dowling get an insider's look at the STATMedEvac helicopter.**

## Ohmstede employees check out Boilermaker bus

IN NOVEMBER, MEMBERS of Local 37, New Orleans, who work the dayshift at the Ohmstede Lake Charles plant, posed in front of the Boilermakers organizing bus.

The bus driver, Intl. Rep. Lyle B. Grimes, was in the area working on organizing campaigns when he and

Local 37 BM-ST David Hegeman stopped to visit with Local 37 job steward Rick Lopez.

Lopez, who joined the union in 1991, has been actively recruiting new members at the plant, where Boilermakers specialize in fabrication and repair work.





# 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:

**35 YEARS** – Fausto Calderon; and

**30 YEARS** – Edward Downs, Timothy Kavanaugh.

## Local 60, Peoria, Ill.

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

**40 YEARS** – Robbie Underwood;

**35 YEARS** – Lee Roy Jones, Al Pippitt, Bill Struglinski;

**25 YEARS** – Greg Gum; and

**20 YEARS** – Bob Branan.

## Local 549, Pittsburg, Calif.

J. TOM BACA, BM-ST of Local 549, Pittsburg, Calif., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

**65 YEARS** – Clarence Berger;

**60 YEARS** – John Briano, Angelo Cuneo Jr., Fred McDonald;

**55 YEARS** – Kenneth Gullion, Thomas Velasco;

**50 YEARS** – Bill Bissett;

**45 YEARS** – Hans Hoogendoorn, George Ridout, Edward Tedeschi;

**40 YEARS** – Fred Fields, Robert Klemann, Lawrence Shetterly;

**35 YEARS** – Tom Baca, Henry Bomgardner, Paul Garske, Larry Gilreath, Richard Hartung, Richard Hellen, Leslie May, Alfred Mooney, Donald Reagan, John Riccobuono, Henry Valencia, Charles Young Jr.;

**30 YEARS** – William Barton, Joseph Benavidez, Joseph Bennett Jr., Nathaniel Blanton, Marcus Burnett, Richard Cunz, Wilmer Ellis, Clinton Evans, Albert Franco, Liu Jennings, Alfredo Jimenez, Douglas Kirk, Gregory Lothian, John Martell, Howard Mildebrandt, Allen Reynon, John Runyan, Michael Sabol Jr., Jerry Scalisi, Darrell Thompson, Robert Thornton, Glenn Turner, Jack Velasco, John Walsh, William Walsh, Warren Welsh, Eldon Wilson, Richard Wilson, Mike Woelken;

**25 YEARS** – Michael Delacour, Harold Diveley, Timothy Eagle, Troy Fletcher, Danny Gomez, Leroy Gomez, George Hale, Darrell Hickman II, Michael Horner, Timothy Latimer, John Leary, Tony Masselas, Carlos Montiel, Jose Rivera, Frank Secreet, Rusty Self, Glenn Smith, Richard Velasco, Robert Walton Jr., Brent Wheeler;

**20 YEARS** – Mark Ballard, Arthur Borchardt, Allen Clayton, Timothy Gerenger, James Kennedy, Thomas Kittrell, David Ross, Matt Sydow, David White; and

**15 YEARS** – Lance King.

## Local 647, Minneapolis, Minn.

PAUL PENDERGAST, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, Minn., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

**25 YEARS** – Roy Anderson, Mike Bailey, Jerry Bistodeau, Elmer Bohn, Ken Bunnell, John Cheme, Jerome Dullinger, George Fluey Jr., Bryan Gjellhaug, Wayne Goerger, Mark Grewatz, Margaret Haugen, Jeff Jarrot, Mike Kiley,



**Local 60 BM-ST Ed Hebert (left) presents member Robbie Underwood his 40-year service pin. Other Local 60 members receiving pins are (left to right) Lee Roy Jones, 35-year pin; Al Pippitt, 35-year pin; Bill Struglinski, 35-year pin; Greg Gum, 25-year pin; and Local 60 apprentice instructor Bob Branan, 20-year pin.**

Kevin Knettel, John Ladoucer, Dan LaPlante, Chris Larsen, Peter Leither, Randy Lewis, Thomas Luke, John Magilke, Thomas Nierenhausen, Dan Olson, Jack Pleinis, Mike Quinn, Darcy Sailer, Tim Schleicher, Lowell Sell, Fletcher Silar, Eugene Skaj, Dalen Sondergaard, Dwayne Tate, Tim Theisen, Glenn Weismann;

**20 YEARS** – Lloyd Ballmann, Dan Condon, Mark Dahlstrom, Blake Ding, Mike Engbrecht, Brian Fritz, Terry Kaitala, Bob Keiser, James Rickard Sr., Todd Shape, Mike Strand, Dan Wallenstein, Allen Wolf; and

**15 YEARS** – Gary Bartz, Dale Bee, Alan Fleck, David Fluey, Merlin Gerdes, Dale Hollister, Martin Jensen, Mark Kieffer, Bob Krings, Steven Loso, Tom Muehlbauer, Shon Thole, Richard Thomas.

## Local 903, West Point, Miss.

J. R. SIMS, sec.-treas. of Local 903, West Point, Miss., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

**35 YEARS** – P.W. Allen, W.J. Boykin, R.D. Breland, J.J. Brown, I.W. Busby, E.L. Campbell, B.H. Carlisle, B. Cork Jr., J.J. Davidson, B.T. Davis, R.T. Dexter, J.T. Dill, R.L. Ewing, D. Fears, G. Gibson, D.M. Golson, J.O. Grice, W.G. Hillhouse, C.T. Johnson, G.D. Jolly, M.A. Lancaster, L.E. McGarity, J. Outlaw II, J.E. Perkins, P.D. Roberson, G.R. Smith, J. Smith, N.R. Spencer, R.E. Stevenson, L.R. Stockton, D.R. Vaughn, G.E. Vaughn, D.W. Wilson Jr., S.L. Wright;

**30 YEARS** – J.W. Atkins, M.W. Blankenship, J. Boyd, C.E. Brown, C.M. Brown, M.L. Chandler, W.D. Davidson, E.B. Dean, J.W. Dill, T.W. Donahoo Jr., F.L. Doss, J.R. Eaton, R.I. Fulton, J.A. Harris, J.B. Harris, P.S. Hill, T.A. Jefferson, R. Madison, B.R. Martin, D.C. McNamee, D.A. Morgan, A.L. Neeley, J.H. Powell, H.L. Poston, T. Randle, L.M. Ray Jr., J.T. Rhea, L.E. Seay, B.L. Shaffer, J.R. Sims, J.A. Smith, J.D. Smith, C.A. Stafford, R.D. Swindol, W.B. Turman, W.C. Webber, C.W. Weems, R.K. Whitmire, J.W. Wray;

**25 YEARS** – J.T. Avant, R.L. Bell, W.G. Bennett, R.H. Bevil, T.C. Boykin, C.J. Bradshaw Jr., D. Butler, W.J. Caldwell, R.D. Cliett, A.T. Coats, J.L. Collins, J.L. Crawford, L. Crawford, R. Crawford, J.C. Crowley, B. Dean, K. Deans, C. Donald, C. Drake, D.R. Duncan, R.B. Ervin, W.L. Evans, J.E. Ewing, J.S. Ferguson, C.L. Floyd Jr., D.L. Fondren, C.M. Fullen, L.A. Gann Jr., W.B. Gathings, B.D. Gibson, I. Guido III, J.D. Guthrie, J.W. Hamilton, E. Hammond, T.E. Hampton, J.A. Harris, R.A. Hulsey, R.E. Ivy, M.T. Lewis, L. Mathew, R. McFarland, K.F. Milsaps, R.L. Montgomery, C.A. Moore, I.D. Morgan, L.R.

Morton, T. Nicks, E.E. Parker, H.S. Pearson II, W.E. Permenter, D.A. Ray, V.W. Ray, G.L. Sawtelle, M.L. Shurden, G.T. Simmons, D.R. Smith, P.R. Smith, G.R. Snell Jr., W.G. Swain, R.E. Tallie, D.C. Taylor, C.R. Townsel, F.L. Walker, J.W. Washington, C. Williams, C.M. Williams, J. Williams; and

**15 YEARS** – T.W. Bradberry, W.R. Brown, J.R. Champion, A.M. Conley, J.A. Deanes, V.L. Hall, D.N. Henderson, J.A. Harmon, J.L. Harris Jr., K.R. McKee, H.J. Nabors, W. C. Nash, L.N. Smith Jr., R.Q. Wilbourne, C.E. Williams, B.J. Wright Jr. □

## Members sworn in at GLAIC meeting

AT A DECEMBER TRAINING session sponsored by the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1 (GLAIC), attendees were asked to stand if they had never been sworn in as a member. Surprisingly, 35 members stood. Jeff Latus, president of Local 1509, Cudahy, Wis., and a GLAIC leader-

ship committee member, had the honor of administering them the oath of membership.

According to GLAIC Business Representative and Intl. Rep. Howard Cole, the leadership committee has now added this procedure to every council meeting's agenda.



**Members stand to receive the oath of membership at the December meeting of the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1.**

## Boilermaker Reporter wins awards from ILCA

LABOR COMMUNICATORS have recognized achievements of *the Boilermaker Reporter* staff two years in a row, for items published in 2003 and 2004.

In November 2004, the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) gave *the Boilermaker Reporter* awards for two articles that appeared during 2003.

International President Jones won an honorable mention for his essay, "It's up to you — register and vote," which appeared in the Oct.-Nov. issue of 2003.

The editorial staff of *the Reporter* won a third place Saul Miller Award for their political articles "Unions rally for Gephardt in Iowa" and "Why did we

endorse Gephardt so early?," which appeared in the same issue.

This year, *the Reporter* won second place in the General Excellence category for issues published in 2004.

Managing editor Donald Caswell also took a second place award for his use of graphics in the article "Made in Canada," in the June-July-August issue.

For more information on the ILCA and its programs, visit [www.ilcaonline.org](http://www.ilcaonline.org).

# Contract Transmittal Reports

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

## Local M3 — Cleveland

Effective Nov. 8, 2004 to Nov. 6, 2005, for 15 members who work at the **Kelly Plating Co.**, and effective Nov. 1, 2004 to Nov. 2, 2008, for 65 members who supply restaurant equipment for **Tomlinson Industries**.

## Local S4 — Belleville, Ill.

Effective Jan. 11, 2005 to Jan. 10, 2010, for 114 members who make Premier and Eagle gas and electric ranges for the **Peerless-Premier Co.**

## Local M6 — Chicago

Effective May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2008, for six members who work at **James Precious Metals**, and effective Feb. 16, 2005 to Feb. 15, 2007 for 60 members who work at **Western Rustproof**.

## Local M18 — Buffalo, N.Y.

Effective March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2006, for members who work at the **Buffalo Metal Finishing Co.**

## Local 28 — Newark, N.J.

Effective March 1, 2005 to February 28, 2008, for ten members who perform boiler repair at **Bradley-Sciocchetti, Inc.**

## Local S50 — Baltimore

Effective Nov. 17, 2004 to Nov. 16, 2007, for 285 members who make Vulcan-Hart and Wolf commercial ranges, fryers, and ovens at the **Vulcan-Hart Corp.**

## Local D79 — Demopolis, Ala.

Effective May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2012, for 55 members who make Portland Cement at **CEMEX**.

## Local S82 — Batavia, N.Y.

Effective June 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, for members who work at **Chapin International, Inc.** (formerly known as Chapin Manufacturing, Inc.).

## Local 83 — Kansas City, Mo.

Effective Nov. 15, 2004 to Nov. 14, 2007, for 16 members who make insulating products at **Thermal Ceramics**.

## Local 84 — Paola, Kan.

Effective Feb. 1, 2004 to Jan. 31, 2007, for 85 members who weld steam vessels at **Taylor Forge Engineered Systems**.

## Local 104 — Seattle

Effective Oct. 1, 2004 to Oct. 1, 2007, for 15 members who make tanks for the **Morse Construction Group**.

## Local D140 — Knoxville, Tenn.

Effective March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2011, for 83 members who make cement for the **Cemex Co.**

## Local 146 — Edmonton, Alberta

Effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2006, for 26 members who work at **Melloy Industrial Services, Inc.**

## Local M194 — Jersey City, N.J.

Effective June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2005, for members who work at the **Hudson Food Service Equipment Co.**

## Local D337 — Sandusky, Ohio

Effective Feb. 20, 2005 to Feb. 19, 2010, for 35 members who produce crushed lime stone at **Wagner Quarries**.

## Local D342 — Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Effective May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2009, for members who work at the Plattsburgh Quarry Division of **Graymont Materials (N.Y.), Inc.**

## Local D385 — Vancouver, B.C.

Effective Nov. 11, 2004 to Oct. 31, 2008, for 57 members who make cement at **Lafarge Canada, Inc.**

## Local 613 — Wilmington, N.C.

Effective Nov. 1, 2003 to Oct. 31, 2006, for 25 members who perform value added metal fabrication for **Metals USA of Wilmington, N.C.**

## Local 726 — Owensboro, Ky.

Effective April 2, 2005 to April 2, 2008, for 170 members who work at **Daramic, Inc.** □

## The grievance process works

# L-1600 wins severance pay for fired worker



**Local 1600 grievance committeemen** Anselmo Arrelanno (l.) and Jose Purido (r.) flank grievant Jose Ramirez, shown holding his severance pay.

WHEN JOSE RAMIREZ left work early one Saturday, he forgot to punch out on the time clock. The foreman knew he was leaving, but when Ramirez returned and later timed out, he was fired.

Ramirez had been with General American Door for 15 years. Local 1600, St. Charles, Ill., filed a grievance on his behalf that went to arbitration. However, with the arbitrator waiting in the next room, Local 1600 reached a settlement with the company for Ramirez. General American Door granted Ramirez severance pay in an amount the parties agreed they would not disclose. □

# Settlement HIGHLIGHTS

## In-plant strategy helps to seal the deal for Local 726 members

A NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE will carry more weight to the bargaining table if the employer believes the committee has the workers' support. On March 30, members of Local 726, Owensboro, Ky., made it perfectly clear that they supported their negotiating committee when they all showed up at work wearing T-shirts that read: "We Support Our Committee."

You can't say it much clearer than that. Two days later, nearly 200 members of Local 726 ratified a three-year agreement with Daramic, Inc., gaining them the largest wage increase they had seen in six years.

International Representative David Lawrence credits their success to the in-plant strategy the local bargaining committee developed to show strength among the members.

"Contract negotiations had lasted an entire month," Lawrence explained. "The committee stood strong and diligent in their faith and expectations, but they really turned up the heat the last week of negotiations with an in-plant strategy that concluded with the T-shirt campaign."



**Negotiating a three-year agreement for Local 726** at Daramic, Inc., are, l. to r., front row, IR David Lawrence, Jerry Roby, and Steve Arnold; back row, Jeff Campbell, Chris Cain, and Derick Griffin.

Local 726, a manufacturing lodge chartered in 1961, has represented workers at Daramic, Inc., since 1994. Daramic is the world's leading manufacturer and supplier of battery separators for automotive, industrial, and specialty applications.

# Tricks & Traps of Negotiations

TO PREPARE FOR negotiations, research all grievances that have occurred under the current collective bargaining agreement — even if they did not go through all of the grievance steps. Note the date, the article violated, the grievant, the department, the shift, the supervisor, and the settlement. Then look for trends — anything that tends to come up a lot.

Through this process, you may find contract language that needs to be modified, problems that may be occurring in only one department or with only one supervisor, or a significant change in management style that would be hard to detect on a day-to-day basis.

The largest number of grievances often occur in the first year of a contract due to benefit and language changes. The number of grievances in the second contract year (or middle years) often decrease as managers adjust to the new language. The last year of an agreement may show another increase; however, the subjects of these grievances will be significantly different from previous years.

## What you should do

1. Draft proposals incorporating grievance settlements into the agreement. By transferring language from winning cases, future grievances can be avoided.

2. Study the cases you lost to determine how to strengthen the language in the contract. Make sure the agreements made by the parties in the grievance procedure (or as determined by an arbitrator) are clarified at this time.

3. Address concerns limited to one department, shift, or supervisor. These might not go to the table as written proposals. Negotiations are often a time to identify and discuss problems that are occurring in isolated areas. Together the two parties should work together to resolve these sore spots.

4. Identify significant changes in management style, such as changes in the chain of command for grievances or length of time between making requests for information and obtaining the documents, refusals to provide information, and employers consulting with those not generally

involved in the grievance process (attorneys, company presidents, and consultant firms). These may be signs of tough negotiations ahead.

## What to watch out for

GRIEVANCES THAT OCCUR in the last year of an agreement will be the hot bed of conversation, but don't be lulled into forgetting the early issues. Management will want to control grievances before negotiations. For instance, there may have been a major problem with overtime, but now you have a problem with job bids. Usually the newer problems are clearly contract violations, so they are settled in the early steps of the grievance procedure. View these as victories, but also as warnings. Management may be waving the "right hand" to distract you, but make sure you pay attention to what the "left hand" is doing.



# Retiree clubs keep members young

**Retirees stay in touch with friends, and locals stay in touch with a valuable resource**

EACH MONTH RETIRED union members Earl Gum and Dave Cannon of Local 60 in Peoria, Ill., get together with a few other retirees to talk about the good old days, break bread, and take comfort in kindred spirit.

"Our members are scattered all over here in the Midwest," Gum said. "They seem to like a home-cooked meal just like I do. We talk about fishing and hunting and the good old days. The retirees never used to get together."

Retiree clubs are still relatively new. Prior to a few years ago, retired members often lost contact with buddies they had worked with on the road for decades.

But when the work stops, the need for that friendship doesn't go away.

"I lived on the road with a lot of these guys for 30 years," said Ron Salser, a Local 667 (Charleston, W.Va.) retiree. "It's a very enjoyable time. You get to know these guys. You get to know their hearts."

Salser, a welder, said that because welders travel in pairs, losing track of a partner is particularly hard when they stop working together. Members who worked together for years often retire a hundred or so miles from one another.



**Local 667 retired members meet four times a year.**

Staying in touch was previously managed by telephone—if at all.

Local 667's retirees club group of roughly 50 retired members meets only once a quarter because the travel time is long. Some carpool in together. Then they catch up on what has been happening, eat a catered meal at noon, and convene for a meeting.

Local 60 BM-ST Ed Hebert said on average 10 of the members of Local 60's club meet once a month.

"They have a great time," said Hebert. "And several boilers get built. I like it when they come because if we have some questions about how certain things were done back before our time

then we've got a source to go to."

Cannon agrees that getting together with other retirees keeps the past fresh, particularly the parts that keep them all young.

"We were always practical-joking each other on the job, and there are a lot of memories there that we will never forget," Cannon said. "We can sit down and start talking about something that happened 25 years ago and it is just as plain as day."

Local 667 BM-ST George Pinkerman said his retirees are active in getting the word out on issues important to the union, including getting active in politics.



**Local 60's retiree meetings draw about 10 retirees a month.**

"They are certainly there to help whether it's canvassing for districts or for a political office," Pinkerman said. "If we've got a hot issue, then we make them aware of it."

Pinkerman said that the retirees are also often available for questions from apprentices on meeting day.

The union's pension helps ease the anxiety associated with giving up work, Local 60's Gum said.

"We really appreciate that Boilermaker pension," he said. "I'm glad the unions are taking care of us instead of the companies because I see what's happening in the companies."

Another member of Local 667's club, Ron Bush, said retirement can come fast.

"When you go to your first meeting you're 55 and you look back," Bush said. "You think, I'm not old enough to retire, but then here you are." □

## Local 580 honors retirees



**MEMBERS OF LOCAL 580, Halifax, Nova Scotia, paid tribute to retirees Dave Almolkly and Lorne Hayter at a dinner. They each received a watch in honor of their retirement. Almolkly (second from right) joined Local 580 in 1975; Hayter (far right) joined in 1971. Presenting the watches are, l. to r., past and present Local 580 presidents Tom Denault and Chris Scott.**

## Survivors of retired rail workers may be eligible for benefit

SURVIVORS OF RETIRED railroad employees who died between 1964 and 2001 may be entitled to receive a \$2,000 life insurance benefit.

Certain retired employees of participating railroads may have been covered under group life insurance policies issued to the railway labor organization and the health and welfare plan of the nation's railroads. If a beneficiary did not file a claim for ben-

efits, then no claim would have been processed.

The amount of coverage is \$2,000 per insured. MetLife will make all claim determinations.

For more information, contact the MetLife Railroad Operations Center at 800-310-7770. MetLife representatives will answer your questions and assist you in filing a claim. Proof of eligibility (including proof of death) will be necessary to process each claim. □

## Retiree makes new sign for Local 587

LOCAL 587 HAS A NEW sign for their hall, thanks to the efforts of retired member Willie Craft. Craft, who joined the Orange, Texas, local in 1974, painted a four-foot by eight-foot piece of plywood to look like marble, using a combination of air brushing and hand-painting techniques. He then added six-inch brass letters that were salvaged when the old brick union hall on Highway 62 was torn down.

Once a high rigger, welder, mechanic, and draftsman, Craft worked on towers, boilers, and trays throughout Texas, and on shutdowns

all over the United States. Now retired, he still teaches OSHA safety classes for the local, but spends most of his spare time painting.

"I first started drawing and painting in school and just learned on my own," Craft said. "Now I paint motorcycle tanks, fenders, tail gates for pickup trucks, baseball and softball helmets, hard hats, welding hoods—you name it and I can paint on it and anything you want on it, I can paint it." □

**Below: Local 587 retiree Willie Craft (r.) and BM-ST James Kirkland with the sign Craft made for the local union hall.**





## More people are retiring with debt

### Baby boomers living well on credit face problems in retirement

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE the reputation for spending themselves into problems, but recent studies show that more and more seniors are entering retirement with existing debt or taking on new debt after leaving the work force.

For Baby Boomers, the road to better living has been paved with credit cards and mortgage refinances. Now that many members of this generation are becoming eligible for early retirement, some find they owe too much to stop working.

Many retirees are finding that they cannot cut their spending as much as their income drops — an average of 30 percent. Most retirees have to pay more for health care and other services than they did while working, and an increasing number are also paying bills for their adult children and, in some cases, grandchildren.

Financial experts and bankruptcy attorneys say they're seeing an increasing number of retirees seeking help with heavy-duty debt.

And the problem isn't confined to Baby Boomers. Retirees in their 70s and 80s are facing increasing problems with debt. Reasons vary, but rising medical costs are often a contributing factor. Another is forced early retirement. Workers who lost their jobs before they were ready to retire never quite caught up.

Faced with more bills than income, seniors have few avenues for relief. Often, they turn to credit cards to pay for necessities, sometimes getting deep into debt without realizing it.

When retired workers get into a financial pinch, they often have no way to increase their income, other than to return to the work force. But retirees who return to the work force rarely earn anything close to the wages they

made during their careers, and retirees whose health or obligations keep them from working have nowhere to turn.

### Small problem is growing

RETIREE BANKRUPTCIES have not reached crisis levels yet, but they are headed that way, according to experts.

A study by Harvard University's bankruptcy project found that the number of seniors filing for bankruptcy is still rather small. In 2001, bankruptcy petitions from individuals 65 and older numbered only 82,207 — a mere 4.6 percent of the 1.8 million who filed that year.

But the study pointed out that this age group was the fastest growing group of petitioners.

A study by the think tank Demos found that seniors over 65 were carrying twice as much credit card debt in 2001 as that group had been carrying 10 years earlier. And the newly retired — those aged 65 to 69 — were carrying nearly three times the average of 10 years earlier. Roughly 30 percent of seniors now owe on their homes, compared with 20 percent in 1980.

Tamara Draut, director of economic opportunity at Demos, told CBS News in 2004 that she blames this trend on a "weakening of the three-legged stool" that elders were supposed to rely on — Social Security, pensions, and personal savings.

Total personal savings — including cash in IRAs and other personal retirement funds — has declined 80 percent since its peak in 1982, despite a number of government tax subsidies to encourage saving.

Employer-provided, defined-benefit pensions are also declining rapidly, giving way to retirement savings plans, such as 401(k)s. In 1979, nearly two in five private-sector workers were covered under a pension at work; today, just one in five has one. Over the same

period, the share of workers who only had a 401(k)-type plan soared from less than one in 10 to more than one in four.

As 401(k)s have taken hold, workers have lost ground. The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) reports that only 5.6 percent of workers contribute the maximum amount to their 401(k)s, and most manage their investments poorly. William Greider reported in *the Nation* that half of all 401(k)s are worth less than \$27,000. Half of those belonging to Americans nearing retirement (age 55-65) are worth less than \$55,000 — enough to buy an annuity that would pay \$398 a month.

Social Security — the third leg in the stool — does not pay sufficient benefits for retirees to live comfortably without assistance from the other two legs. And seniors often find their Social Security income reduced when a spouse dies.

### Planning, paying down debt can divert disaster

WORKERS WHO HAVE not yet retired can begin taking actions now to improve their chances of retiring comfortably. The first step is to assess what you have and what you will need.

Most financial experts suggest retirees will need 70 percent to 80 percent of their pre-retirement income to have roughly the same standard of living. That assumes retirees will spend less than they did as workers on things such as clothing and commuting. This rough calculation works for most people. Only those whose financial situations are complex will need to consult a retirement planner. Yet a MetLife study shows that 39 percent of Americans in their 50s and 24 percent in their 60s say they have not calculated how much income they will need in retirement.

Social Security sends annual statements explaining how much you can expect to receive from them in retirement. By assessing your pension plan and savings, you can get a rough estimate of your total post-retirement income.

Most people who do this analysis learn that they need to increase their personal savings to ensure a comfortable retirement. Paying off your mortgage and credit cards is another good way to improve your financial situation.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

on getting your credit under control, visit Union Plus Credit Counseling at <http://www.unionplus.org/credit-counseling.cfm>.

Created in conjunction with Money Management International (MMI), this members-only program offers a free individualized counseling session to help you get out of debt. You can complete the credit counseling form online or phone 877-833-1745 (available 24/7) for more information.

The MMI site also offers a variety of financial tools and calculators to help you make decisions regarding budgeting, mortgages, and other loans, plus an online quiz to help you determine whether you have a credit problem.



### 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 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, spouses, and children.  
Call: 1-800-393-0864

#### Auto Insurance

Call: 1-888-294-9496

#### Accident Insurance

Call: 1-800-393-0864

#### 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

#### Cingular Wireless Discounts

Call: 1-888-356-9752

#### Union Plus Moving Services

Call: 1-800-593-2526

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			
Natl.	Campbell, Peggy	104	Upsahl, Orvin
NTL	Kendall, James	105	Farquer, Marion
NTL	Mercer, Clarence	105	Ratcliff, Oral
NTL	Whitney, Jack	S105	Baker, Janet
1	Carpenter, Donald	108	Stover, Tommy
1	Kasper, Anthony	D124	Martinez, Feliber
1	McCarthy, William	128	Birmingham, John
1	McGrath, John	128	Byrne, Patrick
1	Nolan, David	128	Doughty, Dave
1	Saia, Joseph	128	Smit, Jethro
5	Archdeacon, John	128	Taylor, Michael
5	Bobowicz, Tadeusz	128	Vaydin, Mike
6	Frank, Alexander	132	Wheeler, Don
7	Schwartz, John	D132	Passetto, Michael
13	Hamilton, Robert	146	Hauser, Ewald
27	Lammert, Donald	146	Willmott, Herbert
37	Johannesen, Ralf	154	Phillips, Robert
40	Perry, James	158	Coleman, Johnny
74	Westbrook, William	169	Heiden, Kevin
79	Castille, Lee	191	Castet, Bernard
83	Allen, Ronald	193	Gordon, James
83	Hahn, Robert	195	Dolieslager, Lawrence
85	O'Neal, John	199	Jones, Roy
92	Duncan, Frederick	199	Odom, George
92	Hernandez, Alfred	199	Slowe, William
92	Sanchez, Frank	237	Sessa, Salvatore
104	Stover, Richard	271	Gagnon, Guy
		271	Hull, Louis
		290	Morris, Clifford
		359	Geller, Nathan
		359	Jering, Rick
		359	Siira, Aarne
		363	Bess, Ronald
		363	Cope, Frank
		363	Garofolo, Floyd
		363	Nowicki, Jimmy
		374	Fisher, James
		374	Lottes, Robert
		374	Ragland Jr., Leon
		D387	Dewey, William
		433	Anderson, Raleigh
		454	Bynum, Anthony
		454	Gregory, Gary
		454	Wells, John
		454	White, Eddie
		455	England, James
		455	Terrell, Bobby
		D503	Helly, Frank
		549	Ahumada, Daniel
		549	Jenn, Vern
		582	Ryan, John
		614	Furtado, George
		622	Pazzelli, Molio
		667	Adams, Christopher
		667	Kessel, Hansel
		667	Lawhon, Charles

## L-128's Byrne passes

RETIRED LOCAL 128 apprentice instructor Patrick Byrne passed away February 22, less than a month before his 80th birthday. Byrne joined the Boilermakers on March 3, 1954, and worked at the trade until his appointment to apprentice instructor in 1972. Byrne was responsible for the in-school portion of the apprentice program until his retirement in 1987.

At Local 128's 2004 Christmas open house, Byrne arrived by limousine with other 50-year members to receive his 50-year pin. Lodge 128 members enjoyed listening to him talk fondly of his former students and co-workers.

"We are saddened by his death," Lodge 128 member



and Assistant to the International President Stan Petronski told *The Reporter*. "He made considerable contributions during his career, and his loyalty and dedication will not be forgotten. He will be missed."

667	Palumbo, Pat	1509	Bewalda, Robert
667	Williams, William	1509	Clark, Stephen
744	Conti, Victor	1509	Parson, Eugene
801	Riley, William	1603	Shutler, Walter
1506	Grischott, Philip	1664	Ingram, Eugene

## 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.

LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT											
Intl.	Mattocks, Edward	6,000.00	37	Johannesen, Ralf J.*	3,000.00	124	Ellis, Raymond E.	6,000.00	433	Joy, Thomas N.	6,000.00
Intl.	Rios, Moises L.	6,000.00	37	Picou, Elliott	6,000.00	154	Kovach, Randy J.	3,273.90	433	Pate, J. C.	6,000.00
			40	Bidwell, Jason A.	2,326.25	154	Moore, Earl L.	6,000.00	454	Clark, Joe T.	6,000.00
NTL	Bullard, Shayne V.	839.00	40	Perry, James L.	6,000.00	154	Phillips, Robert J.	6,000.00	455	Burns, James A.	6,000.00
NTL	Hall, Clifton W.	6,000.00	72	DeFrees, Daryll E.*	6,172.99	169	Heiden, Kevin K.	6,000.00	455	Russell, Homer	6,000.00
NTL	Mercer, Clarence E.	6,000.00	72	Emineth, Joseph H.	364.76	174	Becker Sr., Clarence	6,000.00	455	Terrell, Bobby F.	6,000.00
NTL	Scott, Jacob D.	6,000.00	72	Tilgner, William N.	6,000.00	177	Nohr, Wesley L.	6,000.00	502	Gilmore, Haskell J.	1,476.00
1	Foreman, James F.	2,192.58	74	Kofron, Joe C.	6,000.00	182	Cole, James F.	6,000.00	549	Ahumada, Daniel	6,000.00
1	Martin, Raymond B.	6,000.00	83	Simpson, Robert R.	6,000.00	182	VanValkenburg, G.	6,000.00	549	Jenn, Vern L.	6,000.00
1	Pikkula, George	538.72	85	Hilditch, John R.	6,000.00	193	Carter, Dou	435.20	549	Priest, Frank A.	6,000.00
1	Powell, Arthur D.	6,000.00	85	Johnson, Ray	6,000.00	193	Gordon, James R.	830.00	549	Martin, Clive L.	6,000.00
5	Delbaugh, John F.	6,000.00	85	Yu, Francis K.	2,204.20	199	Aton, David W.	180.00	568	Boehm, Christian R.	6,000.00
5	Barbour, Benjamin	6,000.00	92	Garcia, Gilbert O.	6,000.00	199	Odom, George E.	6,000.00	568	Davis, Richard S.	6,000.00
6	Fahien, Hazel M.	6,000.00	92	Hernandez, Alfred	6,000.00	237	Sessa, Salvatore	6,000.00	568	Hyde, Raymond	6,000.00
6	Fontana, Emilio A.	6,000.00	92	Koepp, Russell	15,000.00	242	Humphrey, Thomas	6,000.00	577	McKoin, T.J.	6,000.00
6	Kapuniai, Paul K.	6,000.00	92	McGinnis, Noel T.	6,000.00	263	McBride, William F.	6,000.00	583	Copeland, Neal	6,000.00
6	Petersen, Hans H.	6,000.00	92	Thomas, Clifford W.	6,000.00	300	Correale, Frank	6,000.00	587	Hennigan, Ralph	6,000.00
6	Smith, John	3,000.00	104	Harisla, John T.	6,000.00	329	Wydra, Alexander	6,000.00	587	Hollie, Huey James	6,000.00
6	Stevenson, George	6,000.00	104	McVay, Clyde	6,000.00	338	Lovato, Victor	6,000.00	587	Johnson, Ricky L.	2,994.61
6	Tejeda, Julio	6,000.00	104	Muck, David E.	11,106.21	363	Bess, Ronald C.	6,000.00	587	Myers, Mason J.	6,000.00
6	Yarozeski, David P.	6,000.00	104	Rapids, Michael	2,463.28	363	Cope, Frank C.	10,115.72	587	Poinboeuf, W. T.	4,981.21
7	Barrowman, Glenn	6,000.00	104	Sauter, Elmer F.	6,000.00	363	Garofolo, Floyd S.	6,000.00	592	McBride, George T.	6,000.00
7	Long, Robert J.	6,000.00	104	Trentman, Edward	6,000.00	363	Nowicki, Jimmy	6,000.00	647	Simzek, David J.	203.55
7	Vanderlee, Joseph	6,000.00	105	Hufford, Glen M.	6,000.00	374	Armstrong, Donald	6,000.00	651	Carter, Thomas J.	6,000.00
10	Baird, Edward R.	6,000.00	105	McDavid, Patrick M.	6,000.00	374	Hartley, Dale B.	140.00	667	Lawhon, Charles M.	6,000.00
10	Reynoso, Dario V.	6,000.00	105	Prichard, Larry S.	6,000.00	374	Lottes, Robert H.	6,000.00	667	Lovejoy Sr., Robert	6,000.00
26	Bailey, Donald A.	6,000.00	106	Burton, Elbert M.	6,000.00	374	Robb, Gilbert W.	6,000.00	667	Sickles, John D.	6,000.00
27	Doumont, Alfred F.	6,000.00	107	Wittmershaus, Rob	6,000.00	374	Stemper Jr., Richard	6,000.00	673	Myers, Bert	6,000.00
27	Hoch, Ralph	6,000.00	108	Stover, Tommy J.	6,000.00	433	Allen, Billy F.	6,000.00	677	Steward, Calvin E.	6,000.00
28	Leo, Peter J.	11,000.00	113	Lowe, LaVerne M.	6,000.00	433	Fernandez, F.L.	6,000.00	679	Henderson Jr., Arvin	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 565**

**Kansas City, KS 66101**

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

\* Additional benefits paid

# U.S. needs a healthcare policy

## Healthcare costs are out of control, killing jobs and destroying lives

**I**N JUNE, GENERAL MOTORS (GM) announced they would lay off 25,000 workers over the next three years. One reason they cited was the growing cost of health care, which now adds more than \$1,500 to the cost of each new GM vehicle sold and is rising at double-digit rates, according to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

And those costs aren't rising just for GM. Every healthcare plan faces the same problem, including the Boilermakers Health & Welfare Trust. Across the country, companies are closing down factories so they can move their jobs to other countries, where healthcare costs are lower.

No matter where they move, they can reduce their healthcare outlays, because citizens in the United States pay more for healthcare than citizens of any other country. Yet our national health — as measured by lifespans, infant mortality, prevalence of chronic diseases, and other measures — does not measure up to that of other industrialized countries.

It is tempting to try to blame a single group or activity for the rapidly rising prices. Frivolous malpractice suits. Insurance companies. Greedy doctors. Hospitals that purchase too much equipment. Our aging population.

But the fact is that no single factor is powerful enough to do all this damage alone. All of these factors — and more — contribute to the crisis. Any workable solution will have to attack this problem on many fronts.

Making sure that all Americans have access to healthcare is probably the biggest step. The 48 million Americans who do not have any kind of healthcare insurance — and, therefore, little or no access to healthcare — drive up prices in two ways.

First, without insurance, families often can't afford preventive medical

care, maintenance drugs for chronic conditions, or regular physical exams. Untreated, even relatively minor health problems eventually become serious. People who do not monitor their health and health problems end up needing more care in the long run than those

**It's time our government made sure all middle-class working families have access to affordable healthcare**

who can afford regular examinations and maintenance care.

Second, when uninsured people do seek treatment, they can afford to pay for only about 65 percent of the total cost. The rest gets added to our insurance premiums. A study by Families USA shows that the 48 million uninsured are raising premium prices for families with insurance by an average of \$922 a year.

Many people mistakenly believe that those without healthcare insurance are poor and are unable or unwilling to work. That's entirely wrong. The poor qualify for Medicaid. People unable to work because of physical or mental conditions qualify for a variety of government programs. About 60 million people receive healthcare through some sort of government program.

The 48 million uninsured are found mostly in middle-class working families whose breadwinners have lost their insurance because they were laid off or because their employer could no longer afford to provide healthcare insurance.

Reducing the cost of prescription medicines should be another major goal for American healthcare policymakers. Most Americans realize by now that patented prescription drugs made in the United States often cost far less to purchase in Canada or other countries than right here at home.

They're cheaper because the government of Canada negotiates for lower

prices. The U.S. government does not. We allow drug companies to charge whatever the market will bear.

Drug companies often reap huge profits on their patented drugs. For example, makers of the popular cholesterol-reducing drug Lipitor enjoy a 24 percent profit margin on that drug. No doubt the high profit margins are enabled to some extent by their massive advertising effort. They pump 35 percent of sales revenue into marketing.

To be sure, dozens of other factors raise prices. Our lifestyles, including tobacco use, overeating, and lack of exercise, cause at least 400,000 deaths per year and cost us billions of dollars in treatments for heart conditions, stroke, emphysema and other lung conditions, diabetes, and numerous kinds of cancer.

And our compulsive consumerism raises prices when we always demand the latest treatments and the most technologically advanced tests. Do you really need a CAT scan for that occasional headache? Many people believe that if the insurance pays for it, they might as well get it.

And there are those much-maligned malpractice suits. Some politicians seem to believe that reducing your ability to sue a doctor who makes a mistake is the best way to control medical costs. In fact, malpractice insurance and malpractice lawsuits are a very tiny fraction of the total healthcare bill. We can work to reduce frivolous lawsuits — as long as the reform does not put unnecessary limits on true victims of malpractice. The medical profession and insurance industry should also do a better job of targeting repeat offenders.

The healthcare crisis will not be easy to solve. No industry will, on its own, look for ways to reduce their own profits or make more regulations for themselves. But we know that government action can slow down the rate of increase, because that is exactly what happened in the 1990s.

In 1994, when President Clinton unveiled his national health care plan,



**Newton B. Jones**  
International President

the healthcare industries — especially the insurance industry — sprung into action and defeated it before it could even get through a single congressional committee.

But over the next few years the annual rate of healthcare price increases slowed down significantly. A coincidence? I don't think so. The mere threat of a national plan to regulate their profits convinced healthcare providers and insurance companies to ease off on the price increases.

Unfortunately, they're back to their old tricks, and this time neither Congress nor the White House has even hinted they'll do anything to get them back under control.

The American people deserve better. Every American deserves access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. We deserve no less than the citizens of every other industrialized country in the world.

Our tax dollars are already providing health care to the Americans whose healthcare demands are the greatest — senior citizens — and to those who pay the least in taxes — the poor. It's about time our government made sure that middle-class working families were guaranteed access to reliable, affordable healthcare. □

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### L-744's Lyon prefers 90% of pay over unemployment

**T**IMES ARE HARD in field construction. Jobs are shorter and farther apart. Nonunion contractors are underbidding us, as well as some other trades. In my area, Ironworkers, who make \$10 less per hour and have lower benefits, are bidding on our jobs. Our business managers and the International are in a daily battle to secure jobs. In some cases, they must agree to bid the job at 90 percent of our wage rate to get the work (we still get 100 percent of our benefits).

For those of you who think the business manager is wrong for agreeing to 90 percent, I can only say that I thank him for giving me an opportunity to bring home a good wage, add to my pension and annuity, and help me to keep my health care.

PAT LYON, Local 744  
Bolivar, Ohio

### NTL members worked at Wood River, too

**L**OCAL 363 [WORKED at Wood River] for Washington Group and Delta and did a fine job, but it was NTL hands who were in and on the towers. NTL hands were covered in sludge and wearing a massive amount of PPE. NTL hands performed dangerous work with no injuries. They should be noted.

BLAKE SMITH, NTL  
Kerrville, Texas

### L-73's McIntosh thanks brothers for support while ill

**I** WOULD LIKE to send a heartfelt thank-you for the numerous cards and monetary donations I received from my brothers of Local 73, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. It could not have come at a better time or been

done in a more thoughtful way. Your continuing support is very much appreciated. Again, thank you for your help.

RAY MACINTOSH SR., L-73  
Glance Bay, Nova Scotia

### IVP Hickenbotham thanks Lafarge for tsunami relief

**L**A FARGE EXHIBITED exemplary behavior by not only assigning full-time personnel to provide immediate relief and assistance to thousands, but also by donating cement and other materials in rebuilding efforts.

As the chief representative of my trade union for the cement industry in the United States, I wish to congratulate Lafarge for these public-minded undertakings.

Speaking on behalf of the US-based International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and as a member of the Inter-

national Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers' Union Executive Committee, the example Lafarge set during the aftermath of the tsunami is the type of corporate responsibility that we should expect from all companies who sign global framework agreements.

JIM HICKENBOTHAM  
International Vice President  
CLGAW Division

### Got something to say?

**WE WELCOME LETTERS** of under 150 words on topics of interest to our members and their families. Please, no personal attacks 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: [dcnswell@boilermakers.org](mailto:dcnswell@boilermakers.org)