Union efforts help Katrina victims

WHEN LOCAL 1814 Bus. Rep. Joe Johnson evacuated his New Orleans home a mile from the Superdome, he just piled his family in the car and drove off. Like other lifelong residents of the Gulf Coast, he’d been through many hurricanes and knew the routine: A night or two in a motel or hurricane shelter, then back to clean up the house and yard and get back to business.

But this hurricane was different. Eighteen days later, when the National Guard finally allowed Johnson to return to his home, he discovered that the flood waters from the breached levees had reached to within one foot of the ceiling. Everything he owned had been damaged beyond repair. He had his family and the clothes he was wearing.

And he was a lot better off than many of his neighbors.

As he searched his home for usable items, the air outside reeked of decaying bodies.

Joe Maloney is new Western Canada IVP

THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE Council approved the nomination of Joseph Maloney as International vice president of Western Canada, effective October 1. Maloney was nominated by Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones to take the position vacated by Rick Albright, who retired Sept. 30.

Maloney, a 30-year member of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, has worked for the Building & Construction Trades Department (BCTD) since 1993. He began that portion of his career in the Canadian office as assistant to the executive secretary. In 1998, he became the BCTD’s director of Canadian Affairs, and in 2000, he was appointed to serve as BCTD secretary-treasurer under the new president, Edward C. Sullivan.

See Maloney, page 6

Boilermakers bring relief

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See Relief, page 2

Shears is Top Canadian Apprentice

DOUG SHEARS, a GRADUATE apprentice from Local 359, Vancouver, British Columbia, was named the Top Canadian Apprentice at this year’s competition in Burnaby, British Columbia. Shears earned the title by outscoring his six opponents in a series of written examinations, plus four practical problems similar to what he might encounter on the job, testing knowledge and skills in a variety of areas.

Jan Pedersen was awarded the Donald G. Whan Award for Excellence for his many years supporting Boilermaker apprentice training.

Boilermaker National Training Coordinator Grant Jacobs said, “The success of this and preceding competitions reinforces the benefits to the industry. The individuals who have participated in these competitions in the past 11 years go on to be leaders in the industry.”

This marked the first year that all Canadian construction lodges were represented at the competition. In addition to Shears, contestants included David Noe, Local Lodge 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Bryan Hahn, Local Lodge 128, Toronto; Andre Moffett, Local Lodge 146, Edmonton, Alberta; Nathaniel O’Brien, Local Lodge 203, St. John, Newfoundland; Stephane LeBlanc, Local Lodge 271, Montreal; and Dwayne Skoc, Local Lodge 355, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The competition was held at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) in Burnaby. Test coordinators were Russ Osborne and Richard Macintosh. Boilermaker instructors at BCIT. Union judges were Frank Nolan, Mike Bayens, Bill Healy.
Hurricane Katrina caught hundreds of thousands of people off guard. Many residents of the Gulf Coast had lived through Hurricane Camille, often called the most destructive hurricane to hit land in North America. That storm’s 20-foot storm surge and 190 mph winds killed 318 and destroyed 5,662 homes. Katrina was not in that league when it struck Florida. It grew to Category 5 strength in the Gulf of Mexico, but evacuation orders came late, and hundreds of thousands of Gulf Coast residents were unable to leave or believed it wouldn’t be as bad as Camille.

In some ways, it wasn’t. By the time Katrina made landfall on August 29, sustained winds measured only 140-mph. But it was a very broad storm, with a surge of 25 feet in Mississippi and hurricane-level winds in three states. Overnight, more than a million people lost electrical power and telephone service and thousands of homes were destroyed. Then levees in New Orleans gave way, flooding 80 percent of the city.

All told, over half-a-million people were forced from their homes. Hundreds of thousands of them had nowhere to go and no way to get there. Wide areas of the three-state region hardest hit were without food and drinking water.

Boilermakers union responds quickly

HEARING REPORTS of the catastrophe, Intl. President Newton B. Jones knew the Boilermakers union had to do something to help the more than 4,000 Boilermaker members who live in the area. He acted quickly, sending IVPs Sam May and Othal Smith to assess the situation and begin relief efforts, approving $55,000 to purchase and distribute relief supplies, establishing an emergency relief fund and soliciting donations, temporarily suspending per capita dues for members in the area, and establishing a special database to ensure that all members in the area are accounted for.


But first they had to get in touch with everyone. Telephone lines were down in many areas, and power outages meant cell phones wouldn’t work.

Although the outside didn’t look too bad, when Joe entered his home he found nearly everything water damaged beyond repair.

Hurricane Katrina not only damaged homes, it obliterated many, leaving only piles of sticks and trash.
relief centers as soon as transportation and power were available. Local 1814’s relief center never lacks for customers. Locals 37, 110, 112, 693, and 1814 established truck with supplies for his neighbors.

Local 112 member Melvin Johnston loads his

Local 37, 110, 112, 693, and 1814 established, and three to five days to get permission to enter that area since the storm. When they crawled out after the storm had passed and the water had receded, they learned that many of their neighbors had not been so lucky. Unable to get into their attics, they had drowned. Local 37’s secretary, Tony Howell, a single mother with four children, fled Slidell, La., before she could get permission to enter the area. She proved to be a wise move. A tree went through her roof. She’s staying with Simocheaux and his wife in Baton Rouge, hoping to find an apartment in an area where housing is suddenly in extremely short supply. Tony’s parents, Edith and Tony Nata, ended up riding out the storm in the attic of their son’s house after packing all of their belongings into a trailer. Their house ended up looking like matchsticks; the trailer and all their possessions were destroyed. Now they’re living in a tent on the property they own—a 20-foot-by-20-foot square piece of grass.

The storm slowed down Boilermakers in the area, but didn’t stop them. Lodge 112 was having its monthly meeting when power was restored to the hall. When supplies and electrical power became available, all lodges in the area set up relief centers. Slidell is located north and east of Pascagoula, Lucedale, and Biloxi, Miss., over the next three days. When they delivered water and food to Biloxi, residents who hadn’t eaten in days to load and drive trucks with Boilermaker supplies and $30,000 worth of relief items at Local 1814’s relief center.

Local 1814’s relief center never lacks for customers. Locals 37, 110, 112, 693, and 1814 established relief centers as soon as transportation and power were available.

what I wit-nessed was very similar to you taking your homes and blowing them completely up with explosives. Picture a box of toothpicks emptied out of the box on your desk top. You have to see it to fully understand.” Local 1814 Vice President Patricia Davis was evacuated from her home in New Orleans to Walker, La. — a four- and a-half hour drive from her job at Avondale. She is convinced she lost everything because flood waters reached her attic, but so far she hasn’t checked, because she doesn’t think she could stand to see everything she owns in ruins.

In Biloxi, Local 693 President J. J. Criddell had decided to ride the storm out. He’d been through Camille and thought he knew what to expect. As the storm surge filled his home to within inches of the ceiling, J. J. and his family took shelter in the attic. When they crawled out after the storm had passed and the water had receded, they learned that many of their neighbors had not been so lucky. Unable to get into their attics, they had drowned. Local 37’s secretary, Tony Howell, a single mother with four children, fled Slidell, La., before she could get permission to enter the area. She proved to be a wise move. A tree went through her roof. She’s staying with Simocheaux and his wife in Baton Rouge, hoping to find an apartment in an area where housing is suddenly in extremely short supply. Tony’s parents, Edith and Tony Nata, ended up riding out the storm in the attic of their son’s house after packing all of their belongings into a trailer. Their house ended up looking like matchsticks; the trailer and all their possessions were destroyed. Now they’re living in a tent on the property they own—a 20-foot-by-20-foot square piece of grass.

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HURRICANE KATRINA was barely out of Mississippi when the Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula started its cleanup. Regardless of their job titles, all employees were put to work filling trash bins and dump trucks with debris — some items damaged by the hurricane and some brought in by the wind and water. Like the rattlesnakes and water moccasins. At least two workers have been bitten.

Every day, they added a few more employees and got a bit closer to being back in business. But ten days after the storm, still only one-fourth of the 12,000-person workforce was back. Ingalls employs about 1,800 Local 693 Boilermakers at the shipyard, building four classes of vessels for the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard.

Because so many businesses and homes were destroyed, the shipyard hired an outside caterer to feed two meals a day to the workers. Still, many have no homes to return to at shift’s end. Some are being temporarily housed on Navy ships under construction at the port. Located in Bridge City, La., across the Mississippi River just west of New Orleans, Avondale shipyard faced similar difficulties. This area was not as severely damaged as New Orleans, and once water and power returned to the area, the shipyard could return to operations. But widespread flooding forced most Avondale employees far from their homes; many will have to drive several hours to and from work each day. At best, it will be months before employees who lived in the flooded areas can return to their homes. Many have nothing left to return to.

Fortunately, the shipyard and Local 1814’s hall were not seriously damaged. The shipyard expects to return to full operation as soon as all employees can get back to work. Northrop-Grumman, owners of both Avondale and Ingalls, have taken great steps to help their employees return to work. They arranged with Western Union so that employees could pick up $1,000 in emergency cash from any Western Union office. In addition, employees who do not have their checks electronically deposited could pick up their pay in cash at Western Union.

Northrop-Grumman also continued to pay employees who were unable to get to work for the weeks immediately after the storm. Paychecks for Northrop-Grumman employees who have not returned to work have ended, but the company hasn’t heard from everyone yet. Ingalls set up a hotline for employees to check in. According to company spokesperson Brian Cullin, they still need to hear from a “few thousand” employees.

Both shipyards intend to phase in work as quickly as possible as employees return to work. That’s good news for Northrop-Grumman employees who will need money to rebuild their homes and replace damaged possessions.
Delegates look at how new technology can increase Boilermaker work

AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL conference of the Construction Division, July 6-9 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Director Dale “Skipper” Branscum told delegates that we need to educate our contractors about using the right craft for the job.

“As new technology evolves, we need to look at its function to determine if it is Boilermaker work,” Branscum explained. To illustrate his point, he asked International representatives to make presentations on work involving ISO-membrane, aerial combustion, and convection sections.

Intl. Rep. Marty Stanton said that while the use of ISO-membrane expansion joints is relatively new in the U.S. and Canada, they have been used in Europe for over a decade. He reported that the Insulators union is trying to get all of this work because of the product’s insulating properties; however, at least two Boilermaker locals have already performed this work based on the product’s function.

Local 92 BM-ST Eddie Marquez (Los Angeles, Calif.) said the primary use for ISO-membrane is to fix the expansion joint — to seal it, not to insulate it — making it Boilermaker work.

Local 667 BM-ST George Pinkerman (Charleston, W.Va.) agreed. He also said the ISO-membrane process can be used on rubber or metal expansion work and is a big time saver.

AIP Clayton Plummer spoke about a jurisdictional dispute Local 363 (East St. Louis, Ill.) had with the Ironworkers union on installation of new aerial combustion systems. The work was awarded to the Boilermakers because even with the new technology and modifications on the project, the contractor had no FGR combustion air would be used in the grate supports to help condition and move the fuel — there would be no point in purchasing any new technology or grate system — making it this Boilermaker work.

Intl. Rep. Cory Channon discussed convection sections, the portion of a furnace in which tubes receive heat from flue gases by convection. There had been a jurisdictional dispute between the Boilermakers and the United Association (U/A) and Ironworkers unions on a Horton CBI job site. Rather than risk losing the work to nonunion, the U/A and Ironworkers stepped aside and let the Boilermakers complete the job. The unions have since met and agreed upon which craft would complete which installations, with the convection section (Boilermaker work) making up a large portion of the installation process for distillate recycle gas heaters.

To help construction lodge leaders in future disputes, Intl. Rep. Clay Herford reviewed the jurisdictional dispute process. “When there is a dispute, we look for support evidence in joint committee meeting minutes and in previous arbitrations and/or joint board decisions,” Herford explained.

“Owners stop hiring contractors who use workers with poor performances.” — Robert Blakely

Steelworker President Gerard addresses meeting

He stresses need for all labor unions to work together

LEO GERARD, PRESIDENT of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union, also addressed the conference.

Introducing Gerard, IP Newton B. Jones recalled how closely the Boilermakers and Steelworkers unions worked together in the 2004 presidential election.

“The thing I think is most important for us to understand is that we are not alone in the labor movement,” Jones said. “We need allies. We need friends.”

Gerard reinforced Jones’ call to work together when he spoke about attacks against the labor movement and the values the labor movement represents — progress, good jobs, and decent pensions. He said that federal administrations in both the U.S. and Canada are “hell-bent” on stalling — and in most cases rolling back — the standard of living we’ve come to call the middle class.

Gerard then thanked the Boilermakers union for their help in the USWA’s recent negotiations with a new owner, Northrop-Grumman. The USWA was getting nowhere in their negotiations until the Boilermakers, who have built a great relationship with this large shipyard owner, expressed our support for the USWA to the owner. The USWA then was able to negotiate the best contract their members had ever experienced at that yard.

“Forget that we are $50,000. We need your help,” Gerard said.

Other conference highlights

WARREN FRALEIGH, BM-ST of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, showed a video presentation of their new state-of-the-art training facilities.

Cal Roberts, president of the Brotherhood Bank, reviewed bank operations.

Bryan King, administrative assistant to the International president and director of internal auditing, explained requirements for the U.S. Department of Labor’s LM-30 report.

Branscum led a panel of International representatives that included previous speakers Channon, Herford, Plummer, and Stanton, and AIP Tony Gallo, Lone Star District BM Ronnie Keck, AIP Stan Petronski, and IR Steve Speed in the discussion of work outlooks and dispute patterns.

Leonard Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, spoke about construction lodge training, and safety and health specialist, Milan Racic, presented a construction safety report.

“Owners stop hiring contractors who use workers with poor performances.” — Robert Blakely

Leo Gerard displays the belt buckle he received for speaking to the Boilermakers jurisdiction conference.
Maloney
Continued from p.1
Under Maloney’s and Sullivan’s leadership, the BCTD launched new training programs, along with pilot programs to ease workplace disruptions and jurisdictional disputes. Maloney’s work with Helmets to Hardhats (H2H), a program that links former military personnel with construction trade apprenticeships and jobs, earned him the Engineering News-Record magazine’s 40th annual Award of Excellence in April 2005.

But Maloney’s roots run deepest in the Boilermakers union. A second-generation Boilermaker, Maloney joined Local 128 in 1974, at the young age of 17. A graduate apprentice, he worked as a fitter and rigger and served Local 128 in numerous capacities, from steward to president and finally as business manager. In 1991, he was appointed to serve as an International representative for Eastern Canada.

Maloney, a 1993 graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union Program, has also served as vice president of the Ontario Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council and is a member of the Multi-Employment Benefit Council of Canada and many other organizations. “It is truly a humbling experience and an absolute honor to serve the Brotherhood as a Western Canadian IVP,” Maloney said. “Filling Rick’s shoes will be no easy task as I look forward to the challenges ahead. The operations in Western Canada are impressive and I look forward to working with everyone to continue this and make Western Canada a beacon for the brotherhood to look at.”

“I know my experience from the Building Trades will enhance and strengthen our future endeavors. It is going to be very exciting to be working with the leadership and membership to continue to make the Boilermakers the best in the business.”

L-587’s Richard, Rice earn Can Do Spirit awards
TWO LOCAL 587 members, David Richard and Dennis Rice, have earned Can Do Spirit awards for their in-plant organizing efforts at Lufkin Industries, Inc.

The awards, part of the Boilermakers’ in-plant organizing program, were created to recognize the efforts of members who try to get their nonunion co-workers to join the union. The programs work with the leadership and membership to continue to make the Boilermakers the best in the business.

Richards and Rice have provided leadership in the union’s organizing efforts. They have been effective in helping to organize the nonunion employees. Richards has organized 74 new members at Lufkin, and Rice has brought in 24 new members since he began organizing in 2004.

Richard joined Local 587, Orange, Texas, in 1972; Rice joined in 1967. Both worked at Lufkin, a manufacturer of welding equipment, and Richard, a fitter and rigger and former member of the navy, was hired as a welder at Lufkin in 1977. He has worked at the plant ever since.

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Celanese locks out Local 484 members

NEARLY 200 MEMBERS of Local 484, Meredosia, Ill., have been locked out by the Celanese Corp. since June 5. Celanese bought National Starch in February 2005. They began negotia-
tions with Local 484 on May 12, setting a June 5 deadline.

From the outset, Celanese demanded flexibility changes in the contract lan-
guage and concessions on health care benefits. On June 2, the company issued a
lockout notice and offered their last, best, and final contract proposal.

The union asked for a 60-day exten-
sion to review information the com-
pany had failed to provide earlier, but
the company refused and locked out 150
workers on June 5. On June 15, held
another meeting to discuss the
outlook. They are affecting. It’s this entire town. They don’t know what they are doing, they are inexperienced . . .

River’s Edge Barbershop. “We are like
ers,” said Nancy Dawson, owner of the
majority of local businesses support the
prominently displayed in store win-
THROUGHOUT THE small town,
Community shows support

Workers need international support, solidarity from
union members and the public to get back in

in any behavior that may be construed as intimidating replacement workers. This includes shooting.

“They’ve gone after our consti-
tutional rights,” said Craig. “Basically all that you are allowed to do is yell out and
all them scared. It’s that even unaccept-
able because one of our employees was
arrested for calling them an ‘f scab.’” They
said that was intimidation and he was
arrested for disorderly conduct.”

In addition to the injunction, Celanese hired Special Response Cor-
poration to conduct security during the
lockout. Employing former law
forcement and military personnel,
the company touts itself as “North
America’s most trusted specialists in
protecting personal property during
strikes, labor disputes, and other poten-
tially dangerous workplace situations.”

Their security force routinely video-
tapes any worker at the picket line and
asks anyone who visits the picket line
for identification.

The security force also regularly patrols the streets of Meredosia, video-
taping union members and their families in public or even in their own backyards.
Steve Floyd, a locked-out worker, has witnessed this tactic firsthand.

“For some reason security that
Celanese has hired feels the need to
come up and videotape our houses,
starting union members in yard. They do that every three or four hours. We are deadend on both ends, so
it’s not like they are just passing
through, they are coming down here
with a purpose.”

To further antagonize the union, the
Morgan County Sheriff’s department has made its deputees available to
Celanese for $70 an hour to police
union members.

Tim Davison, a locked-out worker, shared his frustration.

“The Bush administration has our
boys in Iraq and Afghanistan,” David-
son said. “They are dying supposedly
to protect the freedoms of the American
people and the freedoms of the people
over there. And yet we can’t get protec-
tion here to protect, to picket. Local law
enforcement treats us like criminals.
They are on Celanese’s payroll. How can they talk about freedom?”

Over 700 People attended a Labor
Day rally in Meredosia, Ill., to show
their support for the Local 484 mem-
bers. Speakers included Illinois Gov-
ernor Rod Blagojevich, U.S. Senator
Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), state senators
Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville) and
Steve Floyd, James Surratt, and Tim
Davison II (l. to r.) at the Labor Day rally.

John Sullivan (D-Rushville), and presi-
dent of the Illinois State AFL-CIO Mar-
garet Blackshear. Special guest Anne
Feeney, labor singer and hell raiser, pro-
vided music.

Coordinated by Local 484 member Steve Floyd, the rally was held outside
the Meredosia High School on Sept. 5, the three-month anniversary of the
Celanese lockout. L-484 President Kelly
Street welcomed the political dignitaries to the stage where the governor deliv-
ered a message of hope to the locked-out
workers: “Fight the good fight because
what you’re fighting for is right.”

Local 484 member Tim Davidson heads up the local’s leafletting com-
mittee. During the rally, he and other Local
484 members handed out copies of the
company’s news release in which
Celanese boasted that their “operating
profit rose significantly to $152 million
versus $25 million last year.” Yet,
Celanese is trying to drastically reduce
the workers’ wages, health care, and
other benefits. Talks between Local 484
and Celanese have been stalled since
mid-August with no plans to meet again at the bargaining table.

What is the outlook?

IT REMAINS TO be seen what the out-
come of this struggle will be. Union
members are confident that even with
replacement workers the productivity of the plant has been severely ham-
strung. The outcome may rest on what
Celanese’s ultimate goal is. If, as many
suspect, the company is attempting to
rid itself of the union, it may be willing
to tolerate considerable financial losses to achieve that end.

For Local 484, the level of solidarity
and community support shown in this
struggle is inspiring. Such broad and
outspoken support is rarely in evidence
in U.S. labor struggles; however, to
combat Celanese’s tactics and get it
back to the bargaining table, it is imper-
ative for Local 484 to draw attention to
its struggle and win the support and
solidarity of union members and the
public internationally. For Paul Craig, it
may be a long road ahead.

“I don’t know where it is going and I
really don’t think the company cares if
it ends,” Craig said. “It’s a short-term
loss (the company can afford to outwait
the union) for a long-term gain (drastic
wage and benefit cuts). They want to
get rid of the union so workers won’t
have a voice. No one will be able to
stand up and fight for safe working
conditions. You’ll do the work or find
another job.”

For more info visit www.boilermak-
ev484.org. Donations may be sent to the
Boilermakers Local 484 Solidarity &
Defense Fund, P.O. Box 258, 300 Main
St., Meredosia, Il 62655.
Boilermakers build Kentucky’s first coal-fired unit in 15 years

Local 40, 656 work over two million man-hours with no lost-time injuries

IN APRIL, EAST Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) dedicated what they call “the cleanest coal-powered unit in Kentucky” at their Spurlock Station in Maysville, Ky.

Built by Local 656 members at Alstom Power’s Chattanooga, Tenn., shop, the boiler was erected by ApComPower using members of Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky. Together they worked over two million hours without a lost-time injury.

Construction of the unit produced more than 600 jobs, with more than $20 million a year in annual construction payroll since the project began in 2002.

And the members of Local 656 have Sam Holloway, Spurlock Station plant manager, to thank.

“It was at Sam’s insistence that the boiler be manufactured in Alstom Power’s shop by Boilermakers,” reported then-Local 40 BM-ST James E. Porter.

“Sam Holloway recognizes the dedication and craftsmanship that Local 656 Boilermakers put into their work,” said Bob Gilbert, L-656 president. “On several occasions he met with the members to express his appreciation for the work performed. He has gained their respect.”

And Holloway’s insistence to use Boilermakers paid off. Only two leaks were detected when the unit was hydro-tested — one caused by torch, the other in manufacturing — and the three-year job came in accident-free.

The 268-megawatt unit — dedicated in April as the E. A. Gilbert Generating Unit — is not only the cleanest unit in Kentucky, but ranks as one of the cleanest coal-powered units in the nation.

It uses a cutting-edge clean-coal technology known as the Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) process. In a CFB unit, coal is burned at nearly half the temperature of a traditional unit, removing 98 percent of the sulfur dioxide. The process also produces five times less nitrogen oxide than a conventional unit. It will be powered by an estimated 1.2 million tons of coal a year and will produce enough electricity to power the homes in 30 cities the size of Maysville (population 9,100) for an entire year.

According to Kentucky Commerce Secretary Jim Host, “The Gilbert Generating Unit is a $400 million investment in the environment, the economy, and the people of Kentucky. This is the face of energy’s future in Kentucky.”

The demand for electricity among the station’s member cooperatives is growing at nearly twice the rate of other areas, said EKPC CEO Roy Palk. “The Gilbert Unit helps us meet those growing needs, and does so in a way that minimizes the impact on the environment. And we are supporting Kentucky’s economy.”

Last fall, EKPC announced plans to build five combustion turbine peaking units at their Smith Station in Trapp by 2008, plus two more units identical to the Gilbert Unit — one at the Spurlock Station and one in Clark County.

“Alstom Power got the contract for Unit 2 and Local 656 members are already hard at work on it,” Gilbert said. “Unit 3 will be booked in September.”

That’s what can happen when you deliver the goods — the customer comes back for more.

The crew, l to r, ground level, George Weise, J. on Shick, J. eff Nunley, Ken Chipps, Jay Case, Mike Turner, J. ames Fiala, Dave Myers, Steve Slouvec, Larry Bihler, Al Koller, and J. ohn Papalick kneeling on truck, Tom Barley, Bob Stridshoff, Larry Boscher, Jerry Werner, Bobby Holland, J. ennry Davis, Tony Stager, and Keith Durstone, standing on truck, Hugh Keeeney Jr., and Al Weatherby.

L-27 members build boiler for 1907 steam locomotive

"The creativity and teamwork displayed on this unusual project shows that modern-day boilermakers continue the ‘can do’ tradition of their forefathers.”

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 27, St. Louis, Mo., have completed a new boiler for a 1907 Baldwin steam locomotive at the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello, Ill.

Working for Continental Fabricators Inc. (CFI), the members had to use “old-time” boilermaker skills in order to recreate the unique firebox shapes.

According to CFI representative Dave Myers, our members had to form pieces of metal without detailed drawings or the proper equipment.

On hand to dedicate the new unit are, l. to r, Mark Vandiver, ApComPower Reg. Mgr; Tom Bode, retired l.40 BM-ST James Potter, plant mgr; Sam Holloway, and SEA VP Sam May.

Fitting the radial stays between the inner firebox and the outer firebox wrapper sheet was just one of the challenges.

It took some mighty fine detailed work to combine the wrapper sheet to the throat sheet to the dome course joint.

"The creativity and teamwork displayed on this unusual project shows that modern-day boilermakers continue the ‘can do’ tradition of their forefathers.”

"Our men took drawings that showed what the final shape had to be. They then decided the best way to form the complex shapes through trial and error, using their experience and ‘boilermaker eye’ to form the pieces to fit," Myers said. "In the past, these shapes were forged with tooling that has long ago been scrapped."

It took seven months to complete the boiler. It weighs 39,000 pounds and measures nine feet five inches in height, five feet 10 inches in width, and 29 feet eight inches in length.

Unlike the original boiler, the new one will be fired by fuel oil, which is much more efficient in cost and handling than coal and wood and more environmentally friendly.

The 2-8-0 consolidated #401 steam locomotive will be reassembled by museum volunteers — mainly hobbyists and retired railroad workers. When completed in 2007, the locomotive will be used for riding tours at the museum.
Boilermakers use new VenteX technology

Atmosphere isolation chamber helps reduce outage time

IN MOST OUTAGE jobs, all mechanical work in a boiler has to be completed before grit blasting, metal spray, and weld overlay occur. But when Dominion needed to reduce their outage time from 98 days to 70, they hired ApCom Power and the Boilermakers to use a new technology that allows this “dirty work” to take place at the same time as the mechanical work. As a result, they got the job done on time, on budget, and accident free.

The new technology is VenteX’s Atmosphere Isolation Chamber (AIC), which isolates the boiler walls from the rest of the furnace, saving time and creating a healthier work site.

Having worked with VenteX before on smaller projects, Dominion consulted them during the initial planning stages of their Mt. Storm 2005 spring outage. They wanted to reduce the length of their Unit 2 outage by replacing selected waterwalls at the same time that they metalized existing waterwall surfaces. VenteX suggested using their new AIC design.

“This design makes a section of waterwall available to be blasted cleaned and metalized as a parallel path activity since the dust and fumes are being drawn out through the use of exhaust blowers,” explained Allen Meadows, project manager for Dominion’s fossil systems to clean air in confined spaces.

Keith Ferlin, a 26-year member of Boilermaker Lodge 355, Vancouver, British Columbia, is vice president of technology for VenteX LLC. For the last 10 years, he has used his years of experience as a boilermaker to develop systems to clean air in confined spaces.

Ferlin is grateful to Dominion for believing in his equipment and thanks Local 45 Business Manager Frank Hartsoe and all the Boilermakers members on the job for “their hard work that helped to make this project such a success.”

Boilermakers from a number of local lodges were involved in the project, including Locals 26, 30, 45, 154, 193, 582, and the NTL.

Dominion is one of the largest producers of energy in the U.S. Its Mt. Storm Power Station is located in the rugged Allegheny Mountains of north-eastern West Virginia and is the largest coal-fired power station managed by Dominion. These three units can generate more than 1,600 megawatts of electricity — as much in one hour as 160 average homes use in an entire year.

Working for ApCom Power, Boilermakers installed the AIC at the Mt. Storm Power Station in West Virginia. Since it was the first time the AIC had been used this way, they hit a few snags.

“But working with the outage team and VenteX they overcame the problems that became ‘lessons learned’ to improve the process for future outages,” Meadows said. “The utilization of this system was a major contributor in efficiency gains achieved in completing this project. Properly installed and sealed, no dust or metalizing fumes escaped to cause concerns in the boiler.”

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Alstom Power thanks L-45

WE COMPLETED THE major outage on Unit Two this week (Dominion Generation, Mt. Storm Station), seven days ahead of schedule. During the outage, which began February 19, we also performed mini-outages on Units One and Three, and we won both completed within the outage schedule time frames. In addition to improving the outage schedule on Unit Two, we also completed all outages with zero OSHA recordable accidents. Safety is measured by Dominion by OSHA recordable and lost-time accidents.

“You (Frank Hartsoe, L-45 BM) and your membership are to be congratulated for this excellent outage performance. The customer has voiced their satisfaction and appreciation for a job well done.

Thanks for the cooperation and assistance you and Rick Owen (L-45 Assistant BM) gave Herb Amburn and his staff.

J.C. CLARK, District Manager
Alstom Power

Note: Boilermakers Local 154 (Pittsburgh), Pa., Local 100 (Baltimore, Md.), and Local 30 (Greensboro, N.C.) also provided manpower for this outage.

Lloydminster Maintenance Ltd. thanks Boilermakers

BOILERMAKERS AT OUR SaskPower shutdowns at Shand and Boundary Dam this spring did an excellent job. On one job at Shand where ShaskPower had some issues with material delivery, they commented to me that the only thing that went wrong on the job was our Boilermaker performance.

At Boundary, the Boilermakers continued working in conditions made extremely difficult by the heat. We are also pleased to see the number of younger members starting to show up on our Boilermaker crews. After years of expressing concern about losing a high percentage of the crew to pending retirement, it now appears the Boilermakers are doing a better job than most trades at bringing in new blood.

Please pass on our thanks to the Boilermaker members. Thanks also to you (Dale Smith L-555 VP) and Shauna M Ittu (L-555 office support staff) for your help in trying to find enough people.

M.L. PETTITSON
Vice President, operations
Lloydminster Maintenance Ltd.
Keystone Industrial Council members meet

Fifteen lodges send representatives to fifth annual conference

ON AUGUST 16, representatives of 15 Boilermaker local lodges attended the fifth annual conference of the Pennsylvania “Keystone” Industrial Council. Held at Local 13’s facilities in Newp ortville, Pa., this year’s conference agenda focused on contract administration, Intl. Rep. Bob Heine Jr., who serves as the council’s business representative, conducted the meeting. Topics included collective bargaining and the labor agreement, contract administration, rights and responsibilities of stewards, and grievance procedures.

Highlighting the conference was presentation of the Michael S. Murphy Award for excellence in service. This year’s recipient was Gene Hammer, a trustee for Local 151, Erie, Pa. He was honored for his leadership, motivation, and unfailing service to his lodge and union peers.

Local 151 member Charles (Chuck) Goodman was also recognized for his six years of outstanding service and dedication as a council leadership committeeman. “It is their (Hammer and Goodman) enthusiasm and commitment, as well as that of the other attendees, that brings results,” Heine said. “As a council, we are committed to using what ever tools and assets we have to educate our members and keep a competitive edge. And we will find the way and means to supply this service to our members.”

The Keystone Industrial Council was founded in December 1999 to form unity among the Pennsylvania locals as they work toward common goals. Since its founding date, the council has sponsored a series of training programs for members of its 22 affiliated lodges.

MOST holds second project management seminar

MOBILIZATION, OPTIMIZATION, Stabilization, and Training (MOST) sponsored its second and third project management seminars in Kansas City, January 17-21 and June 19-24. During the five-day programs, Boilermakers who have been recommended by either a contractor or the union are taught the wide array of skills owners and contractors seek in a project manager.

Participants in the second class, shown in the accompanying photo, are (standing, left to right) Les Seydel of Graycor, instructor; Danny Lee Paterson (L-453); Don Hensley (L-69); Collin Hall (L-500); Rick Wright (L-193); Michael Bradley (L-500); Darrell Wright (L-107); Doug Davis (L-85); Trent Jones (L-27); Don Majchrowski (L-85); Douglas Ewell II (L-374); Chris Darnell (L-154); Frank King (L-83); Troy Simerley (NTL); and instructors Chuck Connor of Connor Consulting and Director of Construction Division Dale “Skipper” Branscum.

Seated, left to right, are Lynn Kellogg (L-83); Tony Parasiliti (L-85); Steve Burger (L-500); Doug Geres (L-146); Joe Wurzniak (L-13); Mark Sadowski (L-85); Brian Nickelson (L-27); and Terry Royce II (L-237). Not pictured are Steve Silversides (L-128) and Donald Brecker Jr. (L-7).

Participants in the third project management class are (standing, left to right) Frank Patrick (L-26), Dave Zach (Nooter Corporation), Buddy Hanks (L-45), John Flagg (L-193), Dennis Daniew (L-7), Don Sadowski (L-237), Les Seydel (instructor), Andy Euster (L-13), Mike Shedler (L-85), Gregory Rokuski (L-169), John Mowrey (instructor), Chuck Connor (instructor), Ron Herhinghausen (L-85), Stan Curran (L-549), George Carpenter (L-193), Christopher Murphy (L-28), and Jeremy Magnussen (L-647).

Seated, left to right, are Richard Padilla (L-242), Bill Loftthouse (L-29), John Rollins (NTL), Dwight Rosin (L-500), Scott York (L-502), David Smith (L-28), Helen Harrington (L-175), Richard Wallace (L-85), and Director of Construction Division Dale “Skipper” Branscum.

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Taylor, Beach win Western States competition

Seven locals send top apprentices to 18th annual competition

JAYME TAYLOR OF LOCAL 242, Spokane, Wash., won the James F. Precht Award as this year’s top apprentice for the Western States area. Brian Beach of Local 11, Helena, Mont., placed second. Winning the 18th annual area competition entitled Taylor and Beach to compete in the national contest, Sept. 25-29, in Kansas City.

Also competing were Miles Coverdale of Local 92, Los Angeles; Esteban Dominguez of Local 101, Denver; Phillip Mortensen of Local 182, Salt Lake City; Travis Hedgers of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash.; and Raymond Eagle of Local 627, Phoenix.

Sponsored by the Western States Joint Apprenticeship Committee (WSJAC), the annual competition was held May 22-26 at the Local 92 training facilities. Union judges included Butch Stormo of Local 92, and Local 92 retirees Rex Gillespie and Jim Collins. Three contractor judges also participated: Gary Frankovich of ARB, Craig Chubbuck of Contractor Cargo, and Dick Fletcher of Bechtel. The competition also included presentation of the Greg Shelbog Scholastic Award to Travis Hedgers of Local 502 and the Don Lasette Local of the Year Award to Local 11 Bus. Mgr. Robert Hall.

WSJAC Area Coordinators Kyle Evenson sends a special thanks to Local 92 for the loan of their training facilities and to Thomas Morris of Local 92, Otis Edwards of Local 549 and Collins Keisling of Local 4, for their help in conducting the 18th annual James F. Precht Award’s competition.

Grubb, Sutton win Southeast Area apprentice contest

Fifteen local lodges are represented in competition

JEREMY R. GRUBB (Local 105, Piketon, Ohio) won this year’s Southeast Area apprentice competition. Jimmy R. Sutton II (Local 453, Knoxville, Tenn.) took second place. They will represent their area in the national competition in Kansas City in September.

This year contestants from 15 of the 26 local lodges under the Southeast Area Joint Apprenticeship Committee (SAJAC) sent contestants — the most ever. They will take part in the competition, held Aug. 15-17, taking three days because of the number of contestants.

SAJAC director Mike Peterson uses the competition as a report card for SAJAC. This year, he said, “All the candidates were good and competition was stiff.” But he gave SAJAC a “B” grade, because “we always want to leave room for improvement.”

Local 263 (Memphis) hosted the competition. They also hosted a bar-b-que for members of SAJAC, contestants, judges, local instructors and their families, and business managers from the lodges attending the competition. Local 263 is famous for their food.

Peterson praised Local 263 for their “spirit of volunteerism and unionism.” He said, “From the day we arrived and throughout the competition, the local lodge instructors and members of 263 were there helping out wherever they could. Their commitment to apprentice training is made obvious by the outstanding training center they have built. They are very proud of it and we should be.”

Judges for the competition came from both the union and employers. Employer judges included Bob Righter and Jeff Sutherland from APCom Power, Randall James from R&W, Kelly Lykins and Michael McGinn from Enerfab, and Hank Varnum from Central Maintenance.

Union judges were Bill Elrod, Barry Edwards, and Lou Novak, retired International reps., with Steve Speed, Camilo Juncal, and Mark Vandy, active International reps.

Bryant, Kowalski win Great Lakes competition

Six locals send top apprentices to annual contest

GEORGE BRYANT JR. of Local 169, Detroit, Mich., and Carey Kowalski of Local 647, Minneapolis, Minn., placed first and second in the annual Great Lakes Area Boilermaker Apprentice Program (GLABAP) competition. They will represent their area at the national contest, Sept. 25-29, in Kansas City.

Also competing at the GLABAP contest May 22-26 were Justin Gustafson of Local 1, Detroit, Mich.; William K. Bundy, Local 60, Scott Bradshaw, Local 1, Chicago, Ill.; Daniel Danner of Local 60, Peoria, Ill.; Jeremy Lawrence of Local 1, Chicago, Ill.; Daniel Danner of Local 374, Hammond, Ind.; and James Denk of Local 744, Hammond, Ind.

The apprenticeship competition is part of the continued success of the Boilermakers’ apprentice program,” said Larry McManamon Jr., GLABAP co-coordinator. “The contests provide the customers and the employ-

ers with an upfront view of the product (well-trained journeymen) we offer.”

The participants of the OSHA-10 safety quiz and a written exam on related study lessons from 13 different test areas. They also demonstrated their skills in rigging, air-carbon arc cutting, layout, tube rolling, reeving, welding, tools, scaffolding, layout, and hitches.

The Great Lakes and Northeast areas hold their annual competitions together, with each area providing their own judges. This year’s contests were held at Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y.

Union judges representing the Great Lakes area included Intl. Rep. Tony Palmisano, Tom Bradley of Local 60, Mike Card of Local 169, and Tom Will of Local 647.

Employer judges representing the Great Lakes area included Tim Zahnd of IMGP Engineering; Craig Varnum from Bechtel; and Esteban Dominguez of Local 101, St. Louis, Mo.

Contestants for the 2005 Great Lakes Area award include, l. to r., Daniel Danner of Local 60, Justin Gustafson of Local 1, William K. Bundy of Local 60, Jim Collins of Local 549, and James Denk of Local 744.

Contestants in the 2005 Western States Area apprenticeship competition include, l. to r., Miles Coverdale of Local 92, Travis Hedgers of Local 502, first-place winner Jayme Taylor of Local 242, second-place winner Brian Beach (kneeling), Phillip Mortensen of Local 182, and Esteban Dominguez of Local 101.
WELDING SKILLS

Six stories up, Lodge 555’s Dwayne Skoc sets a block in the rigging test.

RIGGING SKILLS

Lodge 128’s Bryan Hahn signals the crane in the rigging test.

NOZZLE INSTALLATION

Lodge 359’s Doug Shears measures the shell in the nozzle installation test.

Six stories up, Lodge 555’s Dwayne Skoc sets a block in the rigging test.
APPRENTICE COMPETITIONS

Shears

continued from page 1

and Brian Mikkelsen. Employer judges were Jerry Desjardins, Marty Albright, and Eric Smith. Institution judges were Ken Bachand, Jim Beauchamp, Glen Bigson, and Ed Hoffman.

Written tests covered Boilermaker common core materials, rigging, and the Boilermaker Constitution, bylaws, and Canadian Boilermaker collective bargaining agreements.

Four practical tests allowed contestants to demonstrate a variety of skill in welding, waterwall tube repair, nozzle installation, and rigging.

In the welding portion of the practical tests, contestants welded one coupon in the flat position and one in the vertical uphand position. Coupons were beveled, welded, and cut according to strict instructions.

In the waterwall portion, contestants replaced a section of defective pipe with a 12-inch pup, allowing for a 1/8-inch gap on the bottom joint and 1/16-inch gap at the top. The nozzle installation test required apprentices to install a 16-inch nozzle into a 61-inch by 46-inch shell. Contestants had to measure, cut, and prepare the hole, then install the nozzle.

To test rigging skills, the judges required contestants to turn a firetube boiler 90 degrees using a 15-ton Grove crane. Once the boiler was turned, it had to be moved into the boiler house structure using a 4,700 lb. pull tugger. Finally, once inside the boiler house, it had to be rigged up and turned 90 degrees one more time before being lifted.

Beatty, Angstadt win in Northeast

Six lodges send top apprentices to area competition

STEVE BEATTY OF LOCAL 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., placed first in the Northeast Area Apprenticeship Committee’s (NEAAC) 2005 Apprentice of the Year competition, May 23-25. Mike Angstadt of Local 13, Philadelphia, placed second. Both will go on to represent the Northeast area at the national competition in September.

Also participating in the BNAAC competition were Robert Cole of Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y.; Joe Dengler of Local 28, Newark, N.J.; Jaimer Henao of Local 29, Boston; and Joshua Klein of Local 237, Hartford, Conn.

Contestants for the 2005 Northeast Area competition include, l. to r., Joshua Klein of L-237, first-place winner Steve Beatty of L-154, Joe Dengler of L-28, second-place winner Mike Angstadt of L-13, Robert Cole of L-7, and Jaimer Henao of L-29.

Larry MacAdams, retired L-7 BM Jack Multere, and retired L-29 apprentice coordinator Paul Meade.

Contractor judges included John Cammuso of Babcock Power, John Carey Sr. of Boiler Erection & Repair, Matt Schmitt of the Simakas Brothers Co., and retired contractor James Horkay.

Contestants were judged on their knowledge of the International Constitution, referral procedures, agreements, and local by-laws. Hands-on testing checked the competitors’ skills in rope and knot splicing, rigging and signaling, burning, carbon arc cutting, welding, tube rolling, equipment use, and tool identification.

Local 7 hosted the competition. Area co-coordinators Jason Dupuis and Stephen Murphy were pleased with the results.

“We’re excited to continue the tradition of providing an opportunity for our most talented apprentices to be recognized,” Dupuis said. “And we look forward to holding an apprentice of the year competition into the foreseeable future,” Murphy added.

Nathaniel O’Brien, Local 203, cuts a hole for the nozzle insertion.

Local 271’s Stephane LeBlanc prepares to install a pup in the boiler waterwall tube repair test.

David Noel, Local 73, works on the waterwall tube repair.
IT TOOK INCLEMENT weather and three days being snowed in his hotel room in Newburgh, N.Y., for Boilermaker Gene Elwell, a member of Lodge 13, Philadelphia, to devise a business plan that would enhance job safety for himself and fellow Boilermakers. Inspired by OSHA safety training and pulmonary testing, Elwell’s idea was to provide health and safety screening services to businesses and industries.

“I saw a trend in the late 1980s that led me to believe this type of job-safety testing would become bigger than anyone anticipated,” says Elwell.

After a few months of investigation, Elwell shared his plan with lifelong friend (they went through grade school and the Air Force together) and fellow unionist Ed Eckert, a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors. With Eckert’s experience in the construction industry and Elwell’s time spent as a project manager for some major territories Boilermakers work in, they knew the growth OSHA was gaining.

The next move to make the business come to life was to have Elwell get the training necessary to manage the pulmonary testing.

“I was working the night shift as a general foreman in a power plant in Delaware, and then I would drive to New Jersey in the morning for my training,” Elwell says.

With the two-week training course under his belt, Elwell, Eckert, and three other Boilermakers invested in the men’s new business — American Medical Compliance Testing Inc. They set up an office and hired a physician and salesman, and the rest is thriving history.

Soon American Medical Compliance Testing grew to incorporate drug and alcohol screening, OSHA safety training, DNA testing, and post-accident testing among other services. AMC is also working with a laboratory to conduct the first field studies of saliva tests for heavy metals, a procedure that will eliminate the need to draw blood to detect overexposure to lead and other metals.

In addition, the business now has multiple offices across the eastern United States, with 30 franchises. Early on, American Medical Compliance Testing worked with MOST, a nonprofit labor-management trust created by the Boilermakers to provide the services that are making the jobs of Boilermakers and others safer for everyone involved.

“I want to be the first Boilermaker to ring the bell on Wall Street,” Elwell says. And it looks as though he may get to do just that in the coming years. Until then, he and Eckert will continue to provide the services that have made the jobs of Boilermakers and others safer for everyone involved.

Local 587 emphasizes safety training

Safety saves lives, can determine who gets job

IN INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION, who works safely may determine who get the job. Safety saves lives, can determine who gets job security, and is the key to a successful business.

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Local 587 members earn safety award

Second time TTMA recognizes plant for completing over 752,000 accident-free man-hours

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 587, Orange, Texas, have received the 2004 Plant Safety Award from the Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association (TTMA) for their safety record at Lufkin Trailers in Lufkin, Texas.

Recognized for working 752,000 man-hours without an accident, this is the second time the members have earned this prestigious safety award. TTMA first presented this award to the Lufkin facility in 2000.

Local 587 represents 145 members employed by Patterson-Kelley, a manufacturer of water heating equipment for the heat transfer market, and other products in the construction, conventional and specialized trailer industries. Local 587 BM-ST James Kirkland III says. And it looks as though he may get to do just that in the coming years. Until then, he and Eckert will continue to provide the services that have made the jobs of Boilermakers and others safer for everyone involved.

“I want to be the first Boilermaker to ring the bell on Wall Street,” Elwell says. And it looks as though he may get to do just that in the coming years. Until then, he and Eckert will continue to provide the services that have made the jobs of Boilermakers and others safer for everyone involved.

ework, Safety Today, Do you can come back tomorrow

IN MARCH, MEMBERS OF Local 397, East Stroudsburg, Pa., achieved an unprecedented record for Patterson-Kelley Co. in the safe operation of their product, reports Human Resource Manager, Michael Deluca. As a result of their hard work and dedicated commitment to safety awareness, these members worked seven years without a lost-time accident.

Northeast Intl. Vice Pres. Sean Murphy was pleased to hear of such a significant recognition for our members.

“It is rewarding to see the joint effort for workplace safety between our union members and Patterson-Kelley,” Murphy said.

Each week, the members participate in safety discussions and watch videos focusing on home and worksite safety issues. In addition, a safety committee meets quarterly to tour the job site and discuss safety concerns with the workers.

The clerical employees, members of Local 398, also participate in the safety awareness program and attend the weekly meetings.

Chartered in 1941, Local 397 has represented the workers of Patterson-Kelley since 1942. Chartered in 1980, Local 398 has represented the clerical employees since 1981.

The company has two main product lines: water heating equipment to satisfy the heat transfer market, and process equipment to serve the pharmaceutical and food industries. In business since 1919, most of its employees have over 40 years of service.
AL CUNNINGHAM HAS been a steward ever since he joined the union in 2000. A member of Local 549, Chattanooga, Tenn., Cunningham actively works to sign up new members, raise money for the Campaign Assistance Fund, and support the officers, shop committee, and membership. According to Local 549, the steward is active in the community.

On Feb. 25, Al was at a local restaurant on his way to work when he learned that two children were missing from the Braxton Moun- tain area in southeast Tennessee, 40 miles north of Chattanooga. As a new employee at Alstom Power, Cunningham did not have any vacation time. But that did not deter him. He returned home, loaded his four-wheeler, and drove to Graysville, Tenn., to help search for the missing children. He stayed until the two brothers were found — cold and hungry, with only minor scrapes and bruises — later that day.

Cunningham told a local newspa- per that when he heard about the search, he skipped work to help. “I’ve got kids myself,” he told them, “so I had to stop and see if they needed help.”

In nominating Cunningham as a star steward, Miles wrote that “Al’s service to the community and the union comes with disregard for himself. He should be congratulated for a job well done.”

Local 549 sponsors steward training

THIRTY MEMBERS OF Local 549, Pittsburg, Calif., attended two one- day training seminars at their hall, May 11-12, conducted by Interna- tional staff members Leonard Beauchamp and Clay Herford. Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, led a stewards training class on May 11. He outlined the structure of the Boilermakers International union and the services it provides and reviewed the rights and responsibilities of stewards under the NLRA Duty of Fair Representation Act and standards for discipline and discharge.

This included the Seven Tests for Just Cause — a commonly accepted test to determine if an employer has used just cause (fair reason) in discipline and discharge cases.

Beauchamp also presented tips for all three stages of effective grievance handling — investigation, analysis, and presentation, which Local 549 dispatcher Dale Bilyeu found to be very helpful. “Len gave a very specific outline on what a grievance is, what to do when asking a member or contractor questions, and what to do in order to win a grievance.”

Cunningham also found Herford’s pres- entation the next day on union his- tory and evolution of the boilermaker craft to be both “informative and sometimes surprising.” Herford, an International represen- tative for the Construction Division, combined the historical overview with a jurisdiction seminar on May 12. Attendees discussed jurisdiction issues for jobs involving boilers (water and steam cycle), heat recovery steam generators, combustion turbines and combined cycle units, emission controls, tanks, platforms, catwalks, ladders, and stairs.

Local 549 BM-ST J. Tom Baca reports that the participants found the classes to be informative and well planned.

Local 549 members participate in a two-day steward and jurisdiction seminar at their hall on May 11-12.

“Len gave a very specific outline on what a grievance is, what not to do when asking a member or contractor questions, and what to do in order to win a grievance.”

L-1255 members attend steward class

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1255, Chicago, Ill., have attended a one-day steward training class conducted by Interna- tional Representative Howard Cole. Held May 6 at an area Holiday Inn, the class covered such topics as the role of a steward, grievance handling, knowing your labor agreement, and arbitration.

During the portion of the presenta- tion on the steward’s role, members reviewed duty of fair representation, a checklist for sources of information, steward fact sheets, union representa- tion on the job site, and procedural constraints (time limits).

In the grievance portion, attendees analyzed a “poor” and “better” griev- ance example, and discussed grounds for a grievance, note taking, and the standards of contract interpretation.

Then they closely reviewed their collective bargaining agreement, tak- ing special note of the various sections for wages and benefits.

The final aspect of the class involved arbitrations, and included definition, standards, panels, objections, brief fil- ing, and a sample award.

According to Cole, the attendees all agreed that the class was a learning experience. “They did not know anything about arbitrations and were amazed at the process,” he said. “It (the class) under- lined the importance of their initial investigation. Also, grievances filed with a short explanation and the term ‘and all other articles and sections that may apply’ when citing the contract were especially appreciated.”

Local 566 member Al Cunningham is a Star Steward.
Locals award service pins to members

**National Transient Lodge**

GARY SCOTT, VP and bus. rep. of the National Transient Lodge (NTL), reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

- Tommy Tomlin

**Local 1, Chicago**

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


**Local 549, Pittsburg, Calif.**

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

- 20 YEARS — Charles D. Deville, Donald B. Simmons, C.T. Simmons, D.R. Smith, P.R. Smith.

**Local 587, Orange, Texas**

JAMES KIRKLAND III, BM-ST of Local 587, Orange, Texas, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- 25 YEARS — John Daniel Heeke.

**Local 697**

L. U. MELLENTHIN, BM-ST of Local 697, Marshfield, Wis., has received his second kidney transplant, and can continue working at Felker Brothers.

**Local 697**

J. T. OMBACA, BM-ST of Local 697, Hammond, Ind., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:


**Local 374, Hammond, Ind.**

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


**Local 587, Orange, Texas**

JAMES KIRKLAND III, BM-ST of Local 587, Orange, Texas, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- 40 YEARS — Herman Bearhouse; and 30 YEARS — Charles D. Deville, Donald B. Simmons, C.T. Simmons, D.R. Smith, P.R. Smith.

**Local 587, Orange, Texas**

JAMES KIRKLAND III, BM-ST of Local 587, Orange, Texas, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- 60 YEARS — Wilson Trahan.

**Local 587, Orange, Texas**

JAMES KIRKLAND III, BM-ST of Local 587, Orange, Texas, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:


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**Local 697 member receives second kidney**

Union joins employer and church in sponsoring fundraising dance

**Local 697 member receives second kidney**

**Local 697**

Member Dennis Mellenthin has received a second kidney.

Mellenthin, 54, a 33-year member of Local 697, Marshfield, Wis., has worked at Felker Brothers since he joined the union in 1972. He received his first kidney transplant at age 18, just three years before he began working at the stainless steel pipe, tube, and fittings manufacturing facility. His second transplant occurred just a few months ago.

In high school, Mellenthin learned he had a kidney infection. He was told he needed a yearly physical exam to play football. The infection became so severe that he had to have his kidneys removed at age 18. Luckily, his sister, Deb Meidl, was a match. Meidl is now 57 and a mother of two. She said she has had no health problems since donating her kidney.

But donor kidneys last only 15 to 40 years on average. Mellenthin’s last 24 years before another infection caused it to fail, putting him on peritoneal dialysis.

Dialysis is required at end stage kidney failure, when a patient loses 85 to 90 percent of kidney function. Unlike hemodialysis, which requires the patient to be hooked to a machine for several hours two or three times a week, peritoneal dialysis can be done at home, so Mellenthin was able to continue working at Felker Brothers.

But eventually a replacement kidney was needed, and in April 2005, Mellenthin went through his second replacement surgery. Although limited by joint pain, he still enjoys gardening and fishing and says the transplant has changed his outlook on life — a lot. “You don’t have too good an outlook when you are feeling the way I was,” he said.

Adapted from a story by Matt Conn in Marshfield News-Herald.
Two Local 667 members ride in biking tour

Thomas and Doolittle ride 200 miles through the Scioto River Valley

AS PEOPLE NEAR retirement age, most think about different ways they can relax — anticipating a time where they can put their feet up and take it easy. But two Local 667 members are thinking of where they can ride next.

That’s ride — as in riding a bicycle — not around the block, but on biking tours that cover hundreds of miles. Larry Thomas, a member of Local 667, Charleston, W.Va., since 1978, and Sammie Doolittle, who joined in 1979, are both active field construction workers. Perhaps that’s why they are in such good shape. After all, you would have to be in good shape to ride a bike 100 miles in one day. On May 7-8, they were just two of 3,500 bicycle enthusiasts who participated in the 44th annual Tour of the Scioto River Valley, a two-day, 200-mile bicycle tour from Columbus, Ohio, to Portsmouth, Ohio, and back again.

And it won’t be their last tour. The two enjoyed themselves so much they plan to do it again.

Is this your dream retirement home?

It reminds one NTL member of his tank-building career

LET’S FACE IT, no matter how many years you have been working, you think about when you will retire. But do you know where you will spend those retirement years?

Tankies, a nickname given to Boilermaker members who travel across the country building tanks, get to see a lot of things while out on the road.

Giving credit where credit is due

GUY LAWRENCE, DIRECTOR of art at ENR, took the photo of (see Mr. Maloney featured on page one of Volume 44 Number 3 of the Boilermaker Reporter in the article “ENR recognizes Joe Maloney.”)

L-D331 members go all out for hospital charity

Sales of semi-nude photo calendar raise money for equipment

BOILERMAKERS GET DOWN and dirty when duty calls, and when charity calls, some will even strip. A dozen fun-loving Boilermakers from Local Lodge D331, Exshaw, Alberta, Canada, employees of Lafarge Canada, posed for a semi-nude calendar to raise money for the Canmore Hospital Auxiliary.

The goal was to print 1,000 “Men of Maintenance” calendars and sell them for $10 each to pay for medical equipment that everyone in the region would use. They had no trouble making the sales.

“My idea,” said Rick Peterson, a 26-year member of Local D331. “I was watching TV one evening about a little town in the states that raised money this way. I brought it up several times at tailgate meetings during shift change. The guys finally realized I was serious.” Thirteen people volunteered by the end of the day.

The photo shoot spanned two Saturdays at the Lafarge Canada plant. The toughest part for the men wasn’t keeping up their nerve to pose nude behind their equipment; it was getting everyone’s schedules arranged to meet together at the same time.

Lafarge Canada provided the scenery, but the 12 boilermakers found their own financing for photography and printing.

Boilermakers can be creative. Each man designed his own pose, with the equipment he uses every day strategically placed to avoid undue exposure. This led to merciless ribbing, once the calendars were available at local drug stores, newspaper offices, and at the hospital gift shop. Imagine one man sitting bare-chested behind his anvil. The sheer power evident in the photos was evocative: Flames, sharp metal edges, tons of equipment dangling from chains . . . and nothing but a welding mask for protection. The hoots at the Christmas party last year were well-deserved, according to Manny Brautigam, a 17-year member who has to add that the real mission was to raise funds for a good cause.

“That made all of us feel good about what we were doing,” said one calendar man.

The men sold autographed calendars at the Christmas party, and since then they have been called by the names of the months on which they appeared in the calendar — Mr. May, Mr. November, Mr. December.

Their wives didn’t have any problems with their husbands posing nude — in fact, they enjoyed participating in the calendars, several were said to comment the men were crazy.

Peterson added one disclaimer, “I can’t be held responsible for any damage caused by a wife to her husband when he comes home after she’s been looking at the calendar all day.”

Pat Grayling, immediate past president of the Canmore Hospital Auxiliary, applauds the Boilermakers’ support. “They put forth a tremendous effort, spent a lot of money to accomplish their goal, and we are extremely grateful” she said.

The calendar’s success may bear more fruit. Hearing how well it worked, a hospital auxiliary in Vulcan, Alberta, reported they would approach Boilermakers in that area to see if they have an interest in a similar fundraising calendar.

The Exmore Men of Maintenance millwright welders had fun, gave the community something to laugh about, and raised money to extend Canmore Hospital’s long tradition of providing high quality medical facilities for the children and citizens of their community.

Another Boilermaker job done well.
Contract Transmittal Reports

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

Local 53 — Quincy, Ill.
Effective April 30, 2005 to April 30, 2008, for 10 members who manufacture stoves at the Comstock-Castle Stone Company. In operation since 1968, Comstock-Castle is the oldest cooking equipment manufacturer in the U.S.

Local 5 — New York
Effective April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2007, for nine members who are shop employees of Boiler Repair and Maintenance Co., Inc., and effective July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008, for three members who perform shop repairs for Thomas J. Feeney Enterprises, Inc.

Local 13 — Philadelphia
Effective April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2008, for three members who do both shop and field work in the oil and gas division of Integras Services Technologies, Inc.

Local M 18 — Buffalo, N.Y.
Effective Jan. 1, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2006, for members who work at the Bastian Co., a manufacturer of recognition and identification products, such as lapel pins, key tags, and belt buckles, that are sold through promotional product distributors.

Local D66
Effective March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2008, for 29 members who work at the Joosseepph  HHoonnhhoorrsstt  CCoommppaannyy.

Local D234 — Salt Lake City
Effective Dec. 1, 2004 to Aug. 31, 2007, for members who work at CSI Constructors, Inc., effective May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006 for members who work at Harris Tube Services: effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006, for members who work at P&F Industries; and effective May 1, 2005 to May 1, 2006, for five members who work at Western Steel Manufacturing.

Local D100 — Cupertino, Calif.
Effective March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2008, for 20 members who work at the Hanson Cement Co.

Local 106 — Cincinnati
Effective February 1, 2005 to January 31, 2008, for members who work at the Joseph Honhorst Company.

Students learn negotiating

Workshop teaches students about unions and collective bargaining

ILLINOIS IS PRO-UNION. If you don’t believe it, consider this: The Illinois school code mandates labor education. Not many states can make that claim. In Peoria, teachers have used this mandate to create hands-on workshops so that high school students can learn how collective bargaining agreements are negotiated.

“We bring about 150 local high school students to the Laboratories (Local 1635) Hall and have them role-play contract negotiations,” said Tom McLaughlin, field representative for the Illinois Federation of Teachers. “They negotiate a successor agreement to an existing contract.”

History and economics teachers at the four public Peoria high schools begin the process in their classes. The teachers introduce labor history, including notable figures in the labor movement. Just prior to “negotiation day,” the teachers pass out material to the students explaining a contract scenario and the issues the union wants and management wants. The students do not know until negotiation day which side they will represent.

On negotiation day, the students split into groups of six with an equal number of groups for labor and management. Since the six-person groups include students from all four schools, the groups spend time together studying and discussing the scenario, then formulate a negotiation plan. Each side confronts four unresolved issues. Two facilitators guide each group and help them arrive at an agreement. The foundation of negotiations is a willingness to arrive at an agreement, so all the facilitators urge the students to negotiate hard.

McLaughlin said the exercise has value even if the students never sit on a negotiation committee. People negotiate throughout their lives. “They learn that when they buy a house or a car, they’re negotiating,” he said.

And of course, it gives them a head start to becoming local lodge leaders.

Adapted from an article by Chris M. Stevens in The LABOR Paper.
Emerson Tool workers lose jobs to Mexico
S699 negotiates last contract for vacuum cleaner manufacturer moving to Mexico to increase profit

IN A TRAGEDY too often repeated across the United States today, about 150 Boilermakers at Emerson Tool Company’s Menominee, Mich., plant are reporting to work knowing their jobs will soon be shipped to Mexico.

The union workers, about 90 percent women, are members of Local Lodge S699. Many have worked at the Menominee plant for decades, making Sears Craftsman™ and Ridgid™ brand vacuum cleaners, humidifiers, and other products. Pay rates average $9.20 per hour for jobs that include injection molding operations, assembly, machining, shipping, and related functions. In Mexico, Emerson can get workers for 85 percent less.

Last September, Emerson Tool announced that the plant would be permanently shut down, with operations moving to a new plant in Reynosa, Mexico—even though the plant was operating at a profit.

“Told us it was coming,” said Joyce Allgeyer, lodge president. “The plant had been running smooth. We were in disbelief.”

The union appealed to the company to reconsider and offered to take wage cuts. Area politicians and civic leaders offered their assistance. However, the company replied that the facility was out of date and the transportation resources inadequate. They would not consider keeping the plant open.

Because of lower wages and less strict environmental regulations, it is cheaper to house a plant in Mexico than to retool the one that has been in Menominee for over 100 years. A plant has been on the Menominee site since 1902, when Menominee Electric and Mechanical Company made crank telephones, phonographs and later telegraph instruments, motors, and hand tools at the site.

Easing the way out the door
FACE A CLOSING, the first priority for the union is to negotiate the best exit agreement possible. Interna-
tional Representative Len Gunderson said the bargaining committee put on a brave face, knowing that the company held all the cards.

“They could have shut the plant down at any time if they didn’t get what they wanted,” he said. “But they didn’t have to give us anything, and they didn’t give us much.”

Gunderson said the committee “worked their hearts out,” in an extraordinarily tough situation. “In normal contract negotiations, you may make some concessions, knowing that maybe you can get something back the next time round. But in the Menominee situation, you know it’s all over, and there won’t be an appeal.”

One minor victory for the union was a severance package that will pay full-time, active employees a $500 lump sum upon termination or layoff, and $230 for each year of employment. Other provisions include a lump sum payment upon ratification of the agree-
ment, continued company payment of its portion of medical premiums for one month after termination, permission for workers to cash in unused vacation time upon termination, and job-hunt-
ing assistance from the company, including letters of recommendation, help with resume preparation, and coordinating employment assistance with local and state govern-
ment organizations.

Emerson also agreed to reimburse laid-off terminated union workers if the company opens a new plant within 20 miles of the Menominee location within five years of ratifying the plant closing agreement.

For these considerations, the company got a promise by the union to maintain production levels, to cooper-
ate in the orderly shut-down of the plant, and to file no grievances or legal actions in connection with the plant clo-
sure. The union also agreed to allow temporary workers to fill vacancies cre-
ated by Boilermakers who leave early to take new jobs.

Preparing for the aftermath
FOR EACH LOCAL S699 member, deciding what to do about the future is an entirely personal matter. Age, health, and family situations all factor in to each decision. Some two dozen members have already left Emerson Tools to take jobs with other employers.

Others have no place to go, such as Art Woodward, 56, who has been a Boilermaker and set-up man for Emer-
son Tools for 37 years. After three heart attacks, he is on a 10-pound weight limit restriction.

“When they shut the doors, I’m done,” he said. “There’s not a company in the world that’s going to offer me a job.”

Woodward said that to get by he will have to rely on an Emerson Tool pension of $340 per month, plus Social Security disability. Ironically, his wife, Renee, is one of the temporary employ-
ees hired by Emerson. Not long ago, she went through a plant closing her-
self, with another employer in the area. When the Menominee plant closes, she will be out of work once again.

Credit NAFTA with moving more jobs south
WHEN THE PLANT closes, Local S699 members will qualify for federal assistance through the NAFTA Trade Adjustment Assistance program, or NAFTA-TAA. IR Gunderson stated that those benefits have already been applied for and approved. The pro-
gram offers up to 52 weeks of extended unemployment benefits, paid training and education during those 52 weeks, payment of 65 percent COBRA medical costs, and an income supplement for those 50 or older who cannot find a job that pays as much as what they were making prior to the plant closing.

The NAFTA-TAA assistance only kicks in once an employee receives a formal notice of layoff or termination. Local S699 members have dealt with NAFTA-TAA before, in 2002, when the company moved the Ridgid vacuum cleaner line to a plant in Canada, laying off about half the workforce. Canada’s wages are similar to Michigan’s, but Canada’s universal health care relieves employers of much of the burden of providing health care coverage for their employees.

Not surprisingly, Local S699 employ-
ees and their supporters feel betrayed by Emerson Tool. Relations with the company over the years had, overall, been good. Woodward, the motor line steward, said union employees “worked their buns off” to help the company make the Ridgid vacuum transition to its Canadian facility in 2002. “Then they come back . . . later and tell us that our building is too old and they are going to close the plant. It’s a pretty low deal.”

Woodward, a Vietnam veteran, said he has roots in Menominee and a home, and he doesn’t want to leave. He is dis-
appointed with the severance package.

“Two hundred thirty dollars a year is not much. For me it amounts to about $9,000 before taxes . . . for 37 years of service.”

“The tragic part of this is that it’s just greed,” said Gunderson. “Emerson Tool is a profitable company. They know they can go to Mexico and pay people a couple of dollars an hour to do the same work . . . and since Mexico has universal health care, the company won’t even have to pay for employee health care insurance.”

Gunderson said the union has bent over backwards and negotiated flexi-
bility into their contracts to help the company stay competitive over the years. Despite the company’s asser-
tions that it wanted to grow operations at Menominee, they were really plan-
ning an exit strategy all along, he stated.

Lodge President Joyce Allgeyer said the union had felt uneasy about the direc-
tion the company was going dur-
ing the last regular contract talks in 2002.

“I spoke with a union leader from a different local who told me that one of the signs that a company is planning to leave is that they ask for a one-year con-
tract. We had been working with Emer-
son Tool on a three-year contract, when half way through they asked for a one-
year deal. I asked them if they had plans to close the plant. They denied it. I wish they had been more honest with us.”

Gunderson summed up the Emer-
son Tool plant closing as follows: “If we are to learn anything from this process, it is that you need to understand your company. Take nothing for granted. Be aware of what they are doing in the background. My hat goes off to the members of Local S699. They fought a hard and honorable fight. Unfortunately, they were up against an dishonestable opponent.”

Members of the Lodge S699 negotiating team (l to r) Joyce Allgeyer, Keith Peterson, and Mitch Beardsley did all they could—they negotiated a good exit package for members.
UNION PLUS EDUCATION SERVICES

T HE EVER-SOARING cost of college tuition and vocational/technical training can make the goal of earning a diploma and getting a better job seem out of reach. That is why the Union Plus Education Services program provides working families with a wide-range of educational assistance.

SCHOLARSHIPS

TWO SCHOLARSHIP programs are available through the Union Plus Education Foundation:

Union Plus Scholarship — Awards ranging from $500 to $4,000 are granted to recipients. Applications are available each year beginning Sept. 1. Union members, spouses, and dependent children are encouraged to apply. Members can visit www.unionplus.org/scholarships for an application, or they can send their name, address, and phone number along with the name of their international union, on a postcard to: Union Plus Education Foundation, c/o Union Privilege, P.O. Box 34800, Washington, DC 20043-4800.

Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship — Earn your Bachelor of Arts degree while continuing your trade union work. Each year, the Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship awards a total of $25,000 to eligible students attending the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Md. To learn more about the college degree program, visit www.george mency.org. To request a scholarship application, call the National Labor College Office of Student Services at 301-431-5404.

LOANS

Available to students attending accredited colleges and universities, these loans pay for tuition, room and board, books, fees, computers, and other expenses. To apply online or receive financial aid counseling, members can call 1-877-881-1022 or visit www.unionplus.org/education.

CONSOLIDATION LOANS

Juggling multiple loan payments can be overwhelming. With a federal consolidation loan, all your federal loans can be consolidated into one easy, lower payment — which means more cash in your pocket. Just one call to 1-800-338-5000, can put you on the road to an easier financial future.

EDUCATION PLANNING

To help students prepare for college entrance exams, determine where they should go to college, how to pay for college, and make sense out of the FAFSA financial aid application process, have them visit www.unionplus.org/education or phone 1-877-881-1022.

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

These dues and fees, which are authorized by law, represent your fair share of sustaining the broad range of programs offered by the Boilermakers in support of your labor organization. An objection nonmember who is subject to a union security clause has a legal right to file objections to funding expenditures which are not germane to the collective bargaining process. Fee-paying nonmembers who choose to file such objections should advise the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in writing, in the form of a letter, signed by the objector, and sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, 733 State Ave., Suite 560, Kansas City, KS 66102. The letter must contain the objector’s home address and local lodge number, if known.

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

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

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

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

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

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: 1-800-848-5666

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

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
AW#: 68 723370
Budget: 1-800-655-2848
BUD: 616100

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.

*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.
Bill eases way for Canadian Boilermakers

Post-9/11 security slowed MOST program that brought Canadians to U.S. jobs

IN THE LATE 1990s, when work was so plentiful, some U.S. construction lodges had difficulty finding enough qualified Boilermakers to man all of their jobs.

The Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training (MOST) office worked with the Department of Labor to expedite approval of work visas for our members from Canada.

That program worked well. Cana- dian Boilermakers were able to get union work in the U.S. at a time when things were slow for construction Boi- lermakers in Canada.

In return, U.S. lodges could con- fidently send the Canadian Boilermak- ers to a job, knowing they were highly-skilled and well-trained, workers with good work ethics. The alternative would have been to man the job with members of other unions or with nonunion “permit” workers, whose skills, training, and work ethic are always subject to question.

After the 9/11 attacks, border secu- rity tightened, and work visas weren’t as available. That was okay while work was slow, but over the next five years construction Boilermakers expect work to pick up in all regions of the U.S. Busi- ness managers are looking at ways they can increase their access to qualified Boilermaker members.

In an effort to bring back this suc- cessful MOST program, the Boilermak- ers’ government affairs department has been working with Congressmen Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Eliot Engel (D-NY) on a bill that will help Boilermakers in such critical industries as power plants, oil refineries, and steel mills get H-2b visas. They have now introduced such a bill, H.R. 3644.

Only a limited number of H-2b visas are made available each year for work- ers seeking temporary employment in the United States. In recent years, these have been taken by other industries, depriving Boilermaker lodges of a valuable source of skilled Boilermakers. H.R. 3644 will fix that and help put construction Boilermakers on jobs vital to our economy.

The department of government affairs asks all Boilermakers to urge their member of Congress to co-spon- sor H.R. 3644, allowing us access to the skilled Canadian members we need to man our jobs.

Bush suspends wage guarantees in areas hit by storm

JUST TEN DAYS after Katrina cut its terrible path through the Gulf Coast, President Bush announced that he was suspending application of Davis- Bacon. This federal law guarantees that workers on federally-funded jobs must be paid the prevailing wage in that area. His order covers contracts in the Hurricane Katrina-damaged areas of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

The Bush administration said it has the power to suspend the law because the hurricane has caused a “national emergency.” A press release explained that suspending the law “will result in greater assistance to these devastated communities and will permit the employment of thousands of additional individuals.”

The president’s action infuriated labor leaders, who said suspending this wage guarantee will lower wages, make it harder for union contractors to win bids, and open the door for con- struction companies to use poorly- trained, unskilled workers.

Davis-Bacon is often attacked by people who claim it raises costs, but an ongoing study by professors at the Uni- versity of Utah shows that the opposite is true. When state-level prevailing wage laws are relaxed, they show, jobs take longer and require more repairs, resulting in higher costs. Presumably, these problems are caused by the fact that workers willing to accept wages below the average for an area tend to be less skilled and/or less experi- enced than those who expect the prevailing wage.

The Davis-Bacon Act only covers federal contracts. Expansion of the law will allow contractors to pay lower wages and still get federal emergency repairs.

AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney denounced the Bush announcement as “outrageous.”

“Employers are all too eager to exploit workers,” he said. “This is no time to make that easier. A double tragedy it would be to allow the destruction of Hurricane Katrina to depress living standards even further.”

Republican leaders in Congress voted for the measure, but they were not so sure it was the right decision. House Democratic leaders led the voting against the bill.

The final tally was 15 Democrats joined 202 Republicans to vote “yes,” while 27 Republicans joined 187 Democrats and one independent to vote “no.”

“This win sends a powerful signal to the region and the world that the United States will continue to lead in open- ing markets and leveling the playing field,” said Rob Portman, the U.S. trade representative, in a statement issued immediately after the vote.

But opponents say there is no level playing field. Worker advocates contend that it is wrong to strike a free- trade pact with poor countries lacking strong protection for worker rights.

The five countries joining the U.S. in this pact are Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

Worker-advocacy groups in all six Central American countries are concerned that CAFTA passes

THE HOUSE OF Representatives passed the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) by a vote of 217-215 just after midnight on July 28, in a dramatic finish to a tough battle.

The vote had been called late on July 27, but when the time limit arrived at 11:17 p.m., “no” votes outnumbered “yes” votes by 180 to 175, with dozens of members undecided.

Ordinarily, when the vote clock reaches zero, the speaker of the house dismisses the vote over. But this bill was too important to the White House for that to happen.

House Republican leaders kept the voting open for another 49 minutes while they scrambled to get more votes, twisting arms and whatever else needed twisting to get the bill through.

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The five countries joining the U.S. in this pact are Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

Worker-advocacy groups in all six Central American countries are concerned that CAFTA passes
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**

11 Roebert, Brent
11 Roe, Andrew
11 Beatty, Andrew
11 Givens, Jerry
11 James, Jimmy
11 Kaiser, Arey
11 MiDonald, Charles
11 Spires, Joe
11 Thomas, Marion
11 Cleveland, Doss
12 Duckett, Harold
12 Ehlinger, Loren
12 Ohm, Frank, Richard
12 Hallam, Billy
13 Smith, Horace, Jr.
13 Martin, Billy
13 Covey, Burton
13 Taylor, Fred
13 Osborn, Robert
13 Davis, Doss
14 Stokes, Walter
14 Ates, Joseph
14 Erhardt, John
14 Spagert, Paul
14 Love, LaVerne
14 Love, Opal
14 Back, Harley
14 Duggers, Michael
14 Elliss, Raymond
14 Molina, Larry
14 Peak, Al
14 Woods, Billy
14 Seward, Clifton
14 Beroit, Paul
14 Carlson, John
14 Connell, Steve
14 Finch, Michael
14 Houghton, Joseph
14 Larose, Harvey
15 Eaton, W.H.
15 Koches, Thomas
15 Mansteller, Russell
15 McGinnis, Robert
15 Sherman, Harold
15 Randazzo, Joseph
15 Bailey, Floyd
15 Dyer, John
15 Hetherington, Leonard
15 Qualis, Willis
15 Stewart, David
15 Valentine, Robert
15 Becker, Clarence
15 Gaytovski, Barney
15 Noh, Wesley
15 Alt, Raymond
15 Cole, James
15 Gibson, Norman
15 Sundquist, Paul
15 Coster Sr., Donald
15 Dial, Daniel
15 Husak, Stephen
15 Devito, Emidio
15 Jamieson Jr., William
15 Weaver, John
15 Aton, David
15 Payne, Gregory
15 Igarashi, Shungo
15 Aguaudain, Elvis
15 McGuire, John
15 Cherry, Lemuel
15 Gil, Ross
15 Purrington, John
15 Dunn, Robert
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15 Thornton, L.A.
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14 Norman, James
14 Rivera, Kevin
14 Morris, Alan
14 Blair, Clyde
14 Hyde, Raymond
14 Kim, Jong
14 Rogers, Howard
15 D575 Cook, Ron
15 Meekin, T.J.
15 Callahan, Leon
15 Crawford, James
15 Fonte, Floyd
15 King, Oscar
15 Lucas, Larry
15 Smith, Whitney
15 Johnson, Robert
15 Carlin, Clifton
15 Hollis, Halsey
15 Klessig, Hugo
15 Myers, Mason
15 Pointsbet, Woodrow
15 Ruggles, Robert
15 Yocom, Ocia
15 Hawthorne, Luther
15 Lewis, Charles
15 Tucker, James
15 Parlati Jr., Anthony
15 Hogan, Freeman
15 Panaro, Attilio
15 Price, Listen
15 Thompson, Lionel
15 Carlson, William
15 Adams, Herbert
15 Austin, Elmer
15 Francis, Kenneth
15 Graham, James
15 Johnson, Norman
15 Vestlie, Ruben

See Deaths Reported, page 23
Deaths reported by the International Secretary-Treasurer's office

**LODGE & NAME & BENEFIT**

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**INTL. REP. Nick Adams served CLGAW members 32 years**

**THEODORE "NICK" ADAMS, a recently retired International representative for the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers Division of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, died in an automobile accident along with his wife, Loretta Adams, on August 30, 1995. Adams joined Boilermakers Local D241 in 1971, served as his local's president, and was appointed to be an International representative for the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers Division of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.**

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

TRAGEDY OFTEN REVEALS our finest character. When disaster give up, or we struggle to survive. We either withdraw into ourselves or we reach out to help those around us. Hurricane Katrina has revealed the heroic natures of many of our Boilermaker members.

Even before electrical power had been restored to their homes, Boilermakers were volunteering to do whatever they could to bring relief supplies to those in areas where food and water were not available. They were opening their homes to refugees. They were donating money, blankets, clothing, and other essentials to those who had lost everything in one of the biggest natural disasters of this decade.

As I learned of the extent of the damage, I took actions within my power. I allocated money to start a relief fund to purchase emergency supplies and deliver them to the areas of greatest need. I dispatched IVPs Sam May and Otho Stone to coordinate relief efforts. They were in Slidell, La., when our first relief truck arrived, and became the first aid station at the time, they unloaded them themselves.

I also directed IVP May to create a database and begin collecting information so we could account for every member in the area hit hardest by the hurricane. We are still collecting information. It is important to us to know that every one of our members is accounted for and to provide them what assistance we can.

And I temporarily suspended per capita dues for members hit by the hurricane so they can devote all their resources to taking care of their families.

"Traveling angels of mercy"

ALL OF THE ACTIONS I took were necessary, and they helped. But it was the outpouring of voluntary support from our members that made the Boilermakers' relief efforts work.

Events unfolded so rapidly that our front story and my remarks here are barely scratch the surface. But it is clear that for several days, Boilermaker volunteers were working around the clock. While state and federal officials were arguing about who was responsible for the widespread failure of the region's disaster response, Boilermaker volunteers were busy delivering relief supplies.

Power was still out in Local 112's hall when AIP Dennis King attended a meeting there and asked for volunteers to help him load trucks and drive relief supplies to Boilermaker families throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The response he got was inspiring. Through his connections with Northrop-Grumman, which employs our members in Pascagoula, Miss., and Bridge City, La., King was able to get work permits that allowed him into the hurricane-damaged area.

Over the next 10 days, Boilermaker volunteers loaded and drove as many as 18 trucks a day to 20 different locations. We were able to get places others could not, and when FEMA officials saw that we had baby supplies, food, and bleach on our trucks, they asked us to take some to Pass Christian. There, National Guardsmen worked side-by-side with our members to unload some of the first trucks allowed into that area.

Soon calls were coming from states all over the region as people with relief supplies learned that Boilermaker volunteers were delivering where others could not. Our volunteers went wherever they were asked to go, wherever the need was greatest. They not only loaded, unloaded, and drove the trucks, but many used their personal vehicles to do it.

One woman who benefited from their selfless work called them "traveling angels of mercy."

That is a fitting description. Our relief fund spent $55,000 purchasing and delivering supplies. Boilermakers also delivered supplies for the Red Cross and United Way, after Local 112 members Bubba Perrin and Hugh Turner heard that the United Way couldn't get permits to enter the area. Many other individuals and groups donated supplies that Boilermakers delivered.

I cannot possibly name everyone who deserves recognition, but AIP Dennis King and District 5 BM John Simoneaux deserve credit for their on-the-ground coordination of relief efforts. Local 112 BM Curtis Brooks was also crucial to the effort, always able to deliver what was needed — whether relief supplies or volunteers.

And the doers of individual volunteers who lent their time, their bodies, and their lives were recognized. Without workers, no work gets done.

The Boilermakers relief fund

AN IMPORTANT THING to remember is that all of these actions have been voluntary responses to an emergency. The Boilermakers union is not a relief agency. We negotiate contracts and enforce them so that our members are treated fairly where they work. We do not plan what to do in case of natural disaster, and we do not have a large reserve fund for emergencies. But the very nature of unionism is that members help each other. An injury to one is an injury to all — whether the injury comes from a multinational corporation or a category 5 hurricane. When one of us is injured, we do what we can to help.

Many Boilermakers were hurt by the hurricane. Our members’ response shows that the true spirit of unionism is thriving in our union. Boilermakers in the region donated their time, and Boilermakers throughout the country have donated money to help.

As of this writing, nearly $200,000 has been donated to the Boilermaker Disaster Relief Fund. I will ask the Exec- utive Council to contribute another $100,000 from our union defense fund. Although our early relief efforts included everyone, now that the crisis is over, our relief fund will focus on helping Boilermaker members and their families.

Hundreds of our members have suffered enormous losses in this disaster. The federal government will help them rebuild their homes. In the meantime, they need our help.

All lodges in the area have established relief centers. We need money to keep those centers going and to help dislocated members find housing and transportation. I urge all Boilermaker members and local lodges to donate to the Boilermaker Disaster Relief Fund.

Your donations will do to help your union brothers and sisters and their families. Give what you can. (See page 3 for information on how to donate to the relief fund.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

L-1620’s Anderson retires

MEMBERS OF BOILERMAKERS Local 1620 want to thank Charlie Anderson for his 44 years of service and wish him a long and happy retirement. Charlie served the local in every capacity from president to committeeman, he helped negotiate the contract was ratified on July 8th. Charlie is retiring this month.

L-7’s Spencer on Bush’s Davis-Bacon suspension

PRESIDENT BUSH ISSUED an executive order suspending the Davis-Bacon Act in the hurricane-devastated area of the Gulf Coast. The entire region has to be rebuilt. There will be tens of billions of federal dollars going into this area. Federal agencies are handing out “No-Bid” contracts without any protection for the taxpayer or local labor pool.

This is not a union, nonunion issue. The Davis-Bacon Act provides the same protection to all workers. These vulnerable citizens are desperate for work and will take any jobs at whatever wages are offered. Davis-Bacon protection would allow them to restore dignity to their lives.

Brian Higgins (D-NY) is trying to overturn President Bush’s edict. I encourage all the members of the U.S. House of Representatives to apply pressure on President Bush to rescind his executive order and to treat the people of the Gulf Coast with the dignity they deserve. They have been through enough!

MARTIN D. SPENCER, JR.
Local 7
Buffalo, NY

Get something to say?

WE WELCOME LETTERS of fewer than 150 words on topics of interest to our members and their families. We do not publish personal attacks on the editor 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: daemon@boilermakers.org