Sandy MacDonald retires after 37 years of service, 19 years as IVP

THE INTERNATIONAL Executive Council approved the nomination of Ed Power as International vice president of Eastern Canada, effective Feb. 1.

Power was nominated by Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones to take the position vacated by Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald, who retired Jan. 31.

Power, a 31-year member of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, began his career in 1974 as an apprentice construction Boiler-maker. He held a variety of local lodge offices before being elected business manager in 1992, a position he held for 11 years. He was appointed as an International representative in 2003. Power was instrumental in setting up the first-ever tripartite conference in Canada, in 2004. He twice chaired the Canadian board of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, an educational body for pension plan trustees.

Two of the goals Power wants to address are safeguarding benefits and securing work for members. “Like other organizations, we have to stay on top of our pension and health & welfare plans, making sure they continue to be funded and keeping a close eye on the markets. I also want to grow the tripartite conference in Canada. We doubled the owner/client participation from the first year to the second. Of course, the Boilermakers’ tripartite experience in the U.S. has been a huge help for us.”

Upcoming work in Eastern Canada looks very good, Power noted. “Right across Eastern Canada, we’ve got a good mix of industries: steel, power plants, oil refineries, and pulp and paper. We’re involved in a pretty good cross section of all these industries. In Ontario, they have a major power supply problem, so the [work outlook] is very...
good. They’re looking at building new co-generation facilities and nuclear plants in the province.

Power said OSHA Sandy MacDonald’s shoes will be tough to fill. “I’ve known Sandy for over 25 years. He has done a terrific job representing the membership of Eastern Canada. He’s developed great relationships with all our business partners, business managers, and membership, and is well respected throughout Eastern Canada. Certainly everybody in Eastern Canada wishes him all the best.”

Power noted that both he and MacDonald came up through the ranks, serving in various local lodge offices. This experience served both men well, he said. “Of course, as an International vice president we deal with business managers and their problems and concerns. Having spent as much time as I did as a business manager, I think that experience will be a big help to me.”

Sandy MacDonald retires after long, distinguished career

ALEXANDER C. “Sandy” MacDonald, a 37-year member of the Boilermakers, began his career in field construction in 1969 with Local 271, Montreal, Quebec. In 1973, he helped form Local 73 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and he was elected business manager and secretary-treasurer of that local in 1982.

MacDonald was appointed as an International representative for Eastern Canada in 1986 and a year later was elected International vice president for the Eastern Canadian Section. He was re-elected to that position at the three following Consolidated Conventions.

MacDonald serves as an International trustee, a trustee for the Boilermakers’ national health & welfare and pension funds, and chairman of the International Scholarship Committee. He is also co-chair of the National Construction Bargaining Committee. As chairman of the finance committee for the Canadian Federation of Labour, MacDonald helped institute a program that allows ordinary working people to invest in venture capital funds, and he sits on the board of two Growth Works funds. He also serves as vice president of the Quality Control Council of Canada.

“I am proud to have worked on the tools for 14 years,” MacDonald says. “I have two sons who are now Boilermakers. It has been a great life for me. I’ve enjoyed working with my peers; and [Intl. Pres. Emeritus] C.W. Jones and [Intl. Pres.] Newton Jones have been awesome to me. “I know Ed Power is going to serve the members well and take service to another level,” MacDonald says of his successor. “He is well rounded in all aspects of Boilermaker work in Eastern Canada, and he has been phenomenon to work with.”

MacDonald retires as IVP for Eastern Canada

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Last year, OSHA rewarded the efforts of Local D432 and Georgia-Pacific by elevating their safety status to “Star,” the highest level in VPP. Officials from state and local governments, Georgia-Pacific, and the Boilermakers attended the Sep. 15 induction ceremony, held at the gypsum plant. Intl. Rep. Phillipp Evans addressed those attending and congratulated Local D432 members for their exceptional achievement.

Local D432 President Steven Martin said a key benefit of VPP participation was that “the company stepped up its efforts and pushed through safety improvements that the union had always wanted.”

As part of the VPP process, Martin met with other unions to compare safety programs. From those meetings, he took a recommendation to Georgia-Pacific that the company establish a new, full-time union position — an hourly safety coordinator. The company agreed.

“Mark Styan has filled that position,” said Martin. “He handles everything from updating OSHA hazards to running safety meetings and addressing safety concerns.”

Another benefit, said Martin, is that individual members have developed a mindset and habit of looking out for one another, “so they can return home the same way they came to work. Safety is a part of our culture — brother looking out for brother.”

Martin noted that the company-union relationship has also improved. “We’re actually on better terms, because we’ve had to work more closely through the VPP.”

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New IVP Jim Hickenbotham (r.) joins hands with, l. to r., IVP officers Phee Jung-sun and Fred Higgs, and co-chairman Michel Decayeux.

Continued from p. 1

New ICEM chairman IVP Jim Hickenbotham (r.) joins hands with, l. to r., IVP officers Phee Jung-sun and Fred Higgs, and co-chairman Michel Decayeux.

Continued from p. 1

DELEGATES TO THE world conference for the materials sector of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers’ Unions (ICEM) elected Boilermaker International Vice President Jim Hickenbotham to a four-year term as chair Nov. 17-18 in Brussels, Belgium. Michel Decayeux, general secretary of CGT-FO Fidicinie in France, was elected vice president.

ICEM is a rapidly growing industry-based world labor federation dedicated to practical solidarity. It unites trade unions in its sectors on all continents. The unions of ICEM represent more than 20 million workers in six industrial sectors: energy, chemicals, mining, paper, rubber, and materials.

ICEM’s materials sector encompasses unions in the cement, glass, and ceramic industries. Hickenbotham serves as International vice president at large for the Boilermakers’ Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers Division (CLGAW).
Members of Local 45, Richmond, Va., were also active on Labor Day 2005. Several members marched in a parade in Covington, Va., with then-Governor Mark Warner. Marching in the parade demonstrated Local 45’s solidarity with other union workers while also letting them show support for the gubernatorial campaign of Democratic candidate Tim Kaine. He won his election in Nov. 2005, in part because he had union members marching for him on this important day for workers. Since Labor Day parades originated in the late 19th century during the struggle for the eight-hour day, they have evolved from marches of protest and demands to celebrations. For millions of people, Labor Day signals little more than the end of summer. But for many union members, Labor Day remains a day to re-assert the idea that the only way to ensure that our good work gets rewarded properly is to march together with other workers. Unionized workers are responsible for this paid holiday (and for all the others) and for all the economic advances workers have seen since the first Labor Day in 1892. It’s a day to be proud you’re a union member.

Virginia’s then-Governor Mark Warner marches with Local 45 members in Covington, Va., on Labor Day 2005.
Union membership has its advantages

BY JOINING UNIONS, workers not only gain a voice on the job, they get more benefits and higher wages than their nonunion counterparts. The following graphs illustrate that 24 percent more union workers have health insurance coverage and 57 percent more union workers have defined pension plans. Union workers also earn 28 percent more in wages each week and get 28 percent more paid vacation days every year.  

UNION WORKERS earn a median weekly income of $781 compared to just $612 that nonunion workers earn. That’s a 28 percent union advantage. It’s like getting 14 extra paychecks a year.  

UNION WORKERS are also more likely to have employer-provided health insurance. In fact, 92 percent of union workers have jobs that offer health care benefits compared to only 68 percent of nonunion workers.  

THE AVERAGE union worker gets 15 days of paid vacation a year compared to the average nonunion worker’s 11.75 days. That’s another three days to spend doing what you want to do while still collecting a vacation paycheck.

Unions add 213,000
Density remains steady at 12.5%

THE BUREAU OF Labor Statistics (BLS) reported some positive news for labor unions Jan. 20. During 2005, unions added 213,000 members. Meanwhile, union density (the ratio of union workers to all workers) remained steady at 12.5 percent.

These numbers reverse a decline in overall union numbers in recent years. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said of the report: “In a political climate that’s hostile to workers’ rights, these numbers illustrate the extraordinary will of workers to gain a voice on the job despite enormous obstacles.

The BLS also reported that wage increases for union workers were double that of nonunion workers, underscoring the importance of union membership at a time when wages are being held flat and health care and retirement costs are being shifted from employers to employees.  

SAJAC holds open house

New classroom provides needed space and flexibility for apprentice training

THE SOUTHEASTERN Area Joint Apprentice-ship Committee (SAJAC) showed off its new administrative and training facility in Ruskin, Fla., during an open house Dec. 2.

Approximately 50 guests attended the event, which was highlighted by the presentation of several commemorative plaques affixed to the building. One of the plaques cites the contributions of IP Newton B. Jones, “in recognition of his steadfast and long standing support of training and for his devotion to the Boilermaker craft.” A second plaque recognizes the efforts of the SAJAC trustees and contractors.

The new, 5,700-sq.-ft. facility is a handsome one-story building that includes a 1,000-sq.-ft. classroom.

Mike Peterson, area director for SAJAC, said the classroom is a key component of the building because, “it gives us much needed flexibility in training instructors and apprentices and in providing up-to-date training for journeymen.” The facility also provides ample room for SAJAC’s extensive record-keeping requirements.

Peterson recalled that conceptual work for the new office building began when IP Jones was vice president of the Southeast Section and a SAJAC co-chairman.

“He and I did the building layout and turned rough drawings over to a design-build contractor,” he said. The structure was built in nine months. Peterson credited the SAJAC staff for its hard work in making the transition from rented office space some seven miles away:

“The move took eight hours, and we were only out of business for one day and back in full opera-
tion the following Monday. The SAJAC staff worked all day Saturday and Sunday to get things shipshape,” Peterson said.

Among those attending the Dec. 2 open house were IP Jones; IP Emeritus Charles W. Jones and Mrs. Ursula Jones; SAJAC trustees IVP Sam May and IVP George Rogers; SAJAC Chairman J. Michael Carroll, AP Com Power; and Dist. 57 BM-ES Ed Vance (SAJAC secretary).

Other SAJAC officials in attendance were Alternate Secretary Ronnie Traxler, CBI; accountant Andy Mason, Derkin & Mason; and instructor Doug Walker.

The open house also drew business managers and other officials from a number of Boilermaker locals as well as contractor representa-
tives and other guests.

Apprentices build boiler

Model to be used as a learning tool for boiler flow, trade technology

Apprentices from Locals 45, 193, and 667 build a model boiler as part of their class assignments.

APPRENTICES FROM THREE locals completed a hybrid boiler on schedule, under budget, and without any lost-time accidents while working under adverse conditions, reports David White, apprentice and safety coordinator for Local 667, Charleston, W.Va.

The boiler may be small, but the apprentices did build it under adverse conditions, jokes White. After all, he was looking over their shoul-
ders during the entire three-year project!

Apprentices from Local 667, Local 45 (Rich-

Apprentices from Locals 45, 193, and 667 build a model boiler as part of their class assignments.

Apprentices built boiler

Model to be used as a learning tool for boiler flow, trade technology

Apprentices from Locals 45, 193, and 667 build a model boiler as part of their class assignments.

Apprentices from Locals 45, 193, and 667 build a model boiler as part of their class assignments.

Apprentices from Locals 45, 193, and 667 build a model boiler as part of their class assignments.

The completed boiler will now be used to train future apprentices about boiler flow and trade technology.
OVER A FOUR-DAY PERIOD, March 12-15, several hundred Boilermaker delegates from local lodges across the U.S. will assemble in Washington for a Authorization and Appropriations legislation.

The Boilermakers’ government affairs department has identified the following five issues for that conference, based on their urgency and potential impact on Boilermakers and their families. Local lodge delegates will receive briefings about these issues prior to meeting with members of the House and Senate.

Preserving the Defense Manufacturing Base

THE PENTAGON AND Congress have continued the misguided policy of “outsourcing” the defense of our nation, threatening the future of our military. The skilled work force needed to support our armed forces must be maintained to protect U.S. interests at home and abroad. Two areas are of particular concern:

**“Buy American” Laws** — Congress continues to grant the secretary of defense authority to waive U.S. laws requiring defense systems and components to be manufactured in the U.S., allowing the manufacture of systems and components in 21 foreign countries.

The trade deals being considered for these South American countries are modeled after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) — both of which have proven to be miser-able failures for workers, in the U.S. and abroad.

Like NAFTA and CAFTA, trade agreements with South American countries will send more American jobs overseas, and they will not provide enforceable worker protections in South America (despite an offer from the Peruvian president to include the International Labor Organization’s core labor standards in the agreement).

We must tell Congress to reject the Peru/Andean FTA and commit to a new model for fair global trade. Workers — both in the U.S. and around the world — need good jobs, decent working conditions, access to quality health care, and a rising standard of living.

Unfortunately, the global economy that has developed as a result of unfair trade rules does not promote these values. We have watched millions of good jobs disappear to become sweatshop jobs in other countries.

It is time to end NAFTA-style, “race-to-the-bottom” trade deals. Future trade deals must include comprehen-sive and fully enforceable standards to protect workers. Trade must create new opportunities for American work-ers, and no trade agreement should include the parallel possibility to appeal to the International Labor Organization’s core labor standards in the agreement.

The current system uses trusts administered by the courts and funded by corporations that mined asbestos or used it in manufacturing or construction. These trusts were set up more than a decade ago. Many of these companies have filed for bankruptcy due to the thousands of lawsuits brought against them by former employees and their surviving family members (including many Boilermakers).

S. 852, sponsored by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) with support from Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), is an attempt to solve the compensation problem by setting up a separate trust to pay claims while eliminating costly lawsuits. The FAIR Act would set limits on claims and would likely allow more types of claims to be addressed. Billions of dol-lars in potential compensation — and corporate liability — are at stake.

While there has been some coopera-tion from Senate Republicans and Democrats in drafting the bill, special interest groups have made the legisla-tion complex. Passage of the bill will be difficult.

The Boilermakers seek to ensure that the trust provides fair awards, includes enough funding to pay all obligations, and offers sufficient medical screening for high-risk workers.

Exempt Boilermakers from the H-2B Cap

H-2B VISAS ALLOW skilled workers temporary entry into the U.S. to perform vital work that cannot be done by our domestic work force, yet these visas are severely limited and diffi-cult to obtain.

H.R. 3644, bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-2nd SC) and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-17th NY), provides Boilermakers an exemption from the limits on annual H-2B visas because work they perform in power plants is crucial to maintaining our nation’s infrastructure, national secu-rity, and economy. This legislation would enable our Canadian members to supplement our domestic work force in the event of a scheduled or emergency power plant outage after the limit for the year has been reached.

On Jan. 27, 2005, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a proposed rule to streamline the H-2B visa application process in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Employers filing applications for H-2B visas will receive visas within 24 hours, similar to an expedited process currently provided for Boilermakers.

Boilermaker contractors and our union also have substantial concerns about the visa processing procedure. In the past two fiscal years, surges in demand for Boilermakers have occurred after the limit for the year has been reached.

Failure to secure visas for our Canadian members could result in lost work for U.S. Boilermak-ers, as contractors are forced to put off plant upgrades and pollution control projects due to a lack of qualified, union Boilermakers. Energy demands increase each year, putting our nation’s energy infrastructure and national security at risk if highly trained and certified Boilermakers cannot get H-2B visas to work here.

Multi-Pollutant Power Plant Emissions

OVER THE NEXT decade, power plant operators will face new require-ments to substantially reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and mercury. These requirements have led to most new power generation facilities being gas-fired. With demand for natural gas spiking, and prices increasingly volatile, continuing down this path will have a devastating impact on American workers as firms look to move operations overseas for cheaper natural gas.

Congress should pass laws that sup-port conventional power plant opera-tions and ensure the prompt repair and maintenance, spur the installation of the latest pollution control technology, and encourage domestic power generation. Boilermakers, who install equipment that reduces NOx emissions and install emissions control systems, can play a vital role in support of this sensible approach to affordable, stable domestic power production.

2006 Legislative Issues
Award recognizes representatives’ tireless work in support of Boilermaker workers

TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN, one a Democrat, the other a Republican, will share the Boilermakers’ Legislators of the Year award at the 38th annual conference of its Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) this March in Washington.

Bridge Martin, director of government affairs, said the award is based on the recipients’ tireless work in the U.S. Congress and their unwavering support for workers.

“Sherrod Brown [D-12th OH] has been on our side on nearly every vote ever taken in the U.S. House of Representatives,” she said, including his vocal opposition to CAFTA and other such agreements that send U.S. jobs overseas and put Boilermakers out of work.

Brown and Shimkus are legislators of the year

Not only is he a leader on trade and worker fairness, he offers an eloquent voice for fairness, justice, and opportunity for every American,” she said.

“His commitment to the American worker is commendable,” Martin said. Brown is one of the few members of Congress who — though they may not support or vote on a number of issues — do share some common goals with our union.

New energy policy enacted, prevailing wage restored to Gulf Coast

DESPITE THE ADVERSE political climate, Boilermakers achieved victories in Washington on initiatives to create jobs, protect pensions, improve job site safety, and spur investment in our key industries. This was due in large part to a legislative strategy based on outreach to Republican members of Congress who — though they may not support our views on a number of issues — do share some common goals with our union.

Energy Policy Act of 2005

On AUGUST 8, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 into law. Included in the policy are incentives for coal-fired power genera- tion and worker and consumer protections in the event of utility mergers.

The law authorizes $200 million annually through fiscal year 2014 for research in coal-based gasification and combustion technologies. It also authorizes $3 billion over seven years for loans, cost sharing, and cooperative agreements to implement clean coal technology. Funds may be used to retrofit plants with pollution control equipment and to encourage the production and generation of new sources of coal-based power (including reducing weather-fac- ing existing facilities). Finally, the law authorizes $20 million annually through fiscal year 2008 in grants for skilled workforce development.

Davis-Bacon Act

THE YEAR 2005 brought mixed news for prevailing wage (Davis-Bacon Act) protections. Congress approved $286 billion for defense funding over six years for federal highway and transit programs, to be built with Davis-Bacon protections. The measure received strong support from the House Democratic Labor Caucus — led by Representatives Steven LaTourette (R-14th OH) and Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd NJ).

However, following Hurricane Kat- rina, a presidential executive order sus- pended prevailing wage laws for federally-funded rebuilding efforts.

Fortunately, the White House rescinded it after just three months, under pressure from congress- ionals Democrats and the House Republican Caucus.

Multi-Emissions Legislation

FOR YEARS, THE U.S. power genera- tion industry has struggled under overlapping and inconsistent emis- sions regulations enforced by federal and state agencies. This situation dis- courages plant upgrades, repairs, and maintenance and thus limits work available to Boilermakers construction division members.

The Boilermakers support the multi- emissions legislation proposed by for- mer President Bill Clinton and by President George W. Bush. Testifying before the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works in sup- port of a multi-emissions approach, Boilermaker Legislative Representative Abraham Breenhey told the committee the legislation “requires $52 billion in investment to meet air quality standards, a significant portion of which will be paid in wages to Boilermakers.”

Unfortunately, committee members failed to reach an agreement about restrictions on carbon emissions, end- ing any immediate change in the law.

Asbestos Victims Trust Fund

LAST YEAR, EFFORTS to overhaul the system for compensating asbestos vic- tims picked up steam. Senate Bill 852, the Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolu- tion Act of 2005 (FAIR Act), would replace the current system, which has been overwhelmed by lawsuits. The steep cost of legal representation has resulted in many asbestos victims receiving pennies on the dollar in settle-
Local lodge leaders, Intl. reps. attend 2005 Summer Training Institute

Participants focus on training for stronger union leadership

THIRTY-THREE LOCAL LODGE leaders and 17 International staff members attended classes at the 48th annual Summer Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin’s School for Workers held July 10-22, 2005, in Madison, Wis.

Over a two-week period, the Institute offers three courses of study: Basic, Advanced, and Construction. The 2005 program also included a staff training curriculum. The Boilermakers have been holding these summer seminars at the School for Workers since 1957. They are an integral part of training and developing leadership within the locals.

The 2005 Basic course addressed collective bargaining, contract administration, grievance handling, occupational safety and health, communication, public relations, labor history, pension and health & welfare issues, and political action.

Coursework for the Advanced course is designed for those who have completed Basic. Advanced participants studied economics, bargaining for pension and safety and health, effective letter writing, arbitration preparation, labor law, labor history, and advanced tactics for political action.

The Construction course included sessions on apprenticeship, MOST programs, safety & health, construction labor law, grievance handling, political action, communication, labor history, and creative thinking and problem solving. Participants also learned about the structure of the Brotherhood and the operation of the national funds (health & welfare, pension, and annuity).

The agenda for International staff training included personal communication, political action, effective letter writing, post-arbitration brief writing, the FMLA, effective time management, trends in collective bargaining, bargaining tactics, headquarters databases, and building the union. Participants spent one day honing their skills using Microsoft Excel to prepare spreadsheets for collective bargaining and other applications.

Some International staff also spent the weekend between the Basic and Advanced classes in a train-the-trainer session. This session covered steward training, including a review of the steward’s sourcebook.

Institute instructors included professors from UW-Madison’s School for Workers, IVP Othal Smith Jr., International Brotherhood staff members, the general counsel from Blake & Uhlig, and representatives from the national funds office. Classes were held at the Fredrick Center on the shore of Lake Mendota in Madison.

Members attending the Basic Institute, July 10-15

- Fred Colucci and Blaine Daugherty of Local P4, Youngstown, Ohio
- Aubrey Green Jr. of Local 26, Savannah, Ga.
- Michael Amad of Local 88, Essington, Pa.
- Leslie Dikes, Ralph Legler, and John Sewell of Local 344, Ridgecrest, Calif.
- Gabriel Lamar of Local 374, Hammond, Ind.
- Donald Wolf of Local D414, Pryor, Okla.
- Dan Luhmann and Fran Richardson of Local 650, Lake City, Minn.
- Odell Hudson and Sean Hudson of Local 693, Pascagoula, Miss.
- Matthew Dalton of Local 1626, Champaign, Ill.

Members attending the Advanced Institute, July 17-22

- Blaine Daugherty and Patrick Straker of Local P4, Youngstown, Ohio
- Charles Day and Larry Ezell of Local 656, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Robert Smith and Frederick Swiatko of Local 1234, Chicago

Members attending the Construction Institute, July 17-22

- Steven Ludvigson, Thomas Ryan, and Thomas Stelfox of Local 5, New York
- Joseph Birolini of Local 29, Boston
- Murdoch Macdonald of Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Tony Carr and Charles Gamble Jr. of Local 108, Birm-

See Summer Training, page 9
Canadians attend train-the-trainer program

MEMBERS OF FIVE Canadian lodges attended a train-the-trainer conference, Nov. 3-4 in Calgary, Alberta. The workshop, to be an annual event, was designed to impart fundamental skills for trainers operating in a workplace training/adult learning environment. Participants learned critical skills for designing, developing, and delivering objective-based training that achieves measurable results.

In attendance were 17 participants representing all of the Canadian local union training coordinators and their training staff: Grant Jacobs, national training coordinator; Steve Silversides, Quality Control Council manager; Local 73 training coordinator Eugene LeBlanc and instructors Ernie Aker and Stirling Kearney; Local 128 training coordinator Ed Ferrotte and welding instructor Gord Craig; Local 146 training coordinators Dave Ralph and Allan Belter and instructors Jason Carroll, J’Amey Holroyd, and Arnie Studnic; Local 203 training coordinator Bill Healey and instructors Tony Bailey and Joe Flynn; and Local 359 training coordinator Joe Kiwior and instructor Russ Osborne.

Local 154 hosts 24th annual ‘weld-off’

Event is fertile recruiting ground for apprentices

DECEMBER 9, 2005, marked the 24th time that Local 154 has hosted the annual American Welding Society "weld-off" competition. The event took place at the local’s Pittsburgh, apprenticeship training center. It drew 46% of the area’s best welding students from high schools, junior colleges, and Vo-Tech schools, mostly from western Pennsylvania, and parts of Ohio and West Virginia.

"As one of the biggest field construction locals in the United States, we’re well equipped to handle this event," says Business Manager Ray Vertrone. "We have a great facility here with nearly 30 welding booths, and our school is one of the best in the country." The one-day weld-off is a two-way street for Local 154. While the union furnishes the facility and equipment, it gets an opportunity to look at some potentially top-notch welders. It’s a fertile recruiting ground for future apprentices. In fact, about one-third of those attending the events end up as trainees.

Boilermakers, says John Foley, Local 154’s veteran welding instructor, who is employed as a co-op teacher with Pittsburgh Public Schools.

"About two dozen schools are involved," says Foley, "and each one picks its top two students. Some come from as far away as 150 miles."

GRADUATE APPRENTICE Jesse Esparza (l.) receives a belt buckle from L-587 BM-ST James Kirkland (Orange, Texas). “We are very proud of our apprentices and always try to recognize their accomplishments at our meetings,” Kirkland said. “Mr. Esparza is an exceptional worker and I believe him to be an asset to the Boilermakers. As a graduate apprentice myself, I believe we have one of the finest apprenticeship programs in the nation.”

Mark your calendars now for the 2006 SFW training seminars

FOLLOWING ARE THE dates for the 2006 School for Workers Summer Training Institute:

**August 13-18**

Basic

**August 20-25**

Advanced and Construction

Announcements and registration information will be mailed to local lodges in the spring. Contact Linda Dunham at 915-371-2640 if you have any questions.

L-587 presents belt buckle to graduate apprentice

L-647’s Curl to serve on workers comp board

2005 Summer Training

**Continued from p. 8**

ingham, Ala.; Brian Dowden, Douglas Ewell II, and Chad Smit of Local 374; Robert Lunsford Jr. of Local 454, Chatanooga, Tenn.; and Michael Dietrich of the National Transient Lodge, Maumee, Ohio.

International representatives attending the staff training session, July 17-22, included Mike Atchison, Steven Beal, Charles Brock, David Bunch, John Chapman, Howard Cole, Phillipp Evans, Bobby Godinez, Leonard Gunderson, David Lawrence, Tony Palmisano, Clayton Plummer, James Presley, Loyed Smith, Amanda Stinger, and Eddie Whitefield. Bryan King, administrative assistant to the IP and director of internal auditing, also attended the staff training sessions.

Instructors attending the train-the-trainer session, July 16-17, included Steve Beal, Charles Brock, Dave Bunch, John Chapman, Howard Cole, Jim Presley, and Eddie Whitefield. Instructors included International staff members Len Beauchamp, Dale Branscum, Shannon Brett, Donald Caswell, Wade Davis, Pam Dumler, Clay Herford, Bridget Martin, and Milan Racic. Other instructors included Joe Morland, from Blake & Uhlig; Ange Henninger (MOST); Ed Wldyka, from the national funds office; and from UW-Madison: Michael Childers, Neill Declercq, Courtney Derwinski, Ken Mericle, and Curtiss Olson.
Family events are one way members can get to know each other

ACTIVE AND RETIRED members of Local 101, Denver, and their families participated in two annual local-sponsored events: a golf outing, July 23, and a picnic, August 7.

Henry McCoy, bus. mgr. and sec.-treas. for the shop, construction, and railroad lodge, was pleased with attendance at the functions.

He thanks International officers Newton Jones, president; Jerry Willburn, then secretary-treasurer; and Joe Stinger, vice president, for providing gifts for both events.

McCoy also thanks the following contractors for their generous contributions: Babcock & Wilcox Construction, Alstom Power, Moorhead Machinery, and Industrial Contractors Inc. 

L-101 members and families line up at the buffet during the local’s picnic, Aug. 7.

Local 154 apprentice finishes NFL rookie year

RAYMOND M. Ventrone, 23, an apprentice with L-154, Pittsburgh, and the son of Local 154 BM Ray Ventrone, became one of the newest members of the New England Patriots last year when the “Pats” signed him as an undrafted free agent.

The speedy, hard-hitting Ventrone, wearing jersey #41, played in several pre-season games and was assigned to the team’s practice roster during the regular season. Ventrone was a high school standout who went on to play college football at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. He was a top safety in I-AA football, an All-American candidate, and was named to the pre-season first team All-Atlantic 10.

Ventrone says there is no other team he would rather play for than the Patriots.

“I’ve had a great experience,” he says. “I don’t think I would have enjoyed myself as much anywhere else. All the players and coaches have welcomed me with open arms and helped me out a lot.”

The Patriots finished the 2005 season as the AFC East champions.

Local 587 swears in officers

AT HIS LOCAL’s regular July meeting, 31-year member Malcolm Wilburn received the honor of swearing in the recently-elected officers of Local 587, Orange, Texas. Re-elected to another term were BM-ST James H. Kirkland III, President Terry Kirkland, Vice President George Dronett, Recording Secretary Chris Romano, trustee J. R. Wilson, and Inspector John Bergeron. New to office are trustees Roger Howell and Kevin Kirkland.

Local 647 member gets his moose

BLAKE DING, a member of L-647, Minneapolis, poses with a 1,200-pound bull moose he took with a homemade longbow Sept. 11 in North Dakota.

To qualify for the hunt, Ding first had to win a state lottery that restricts moose hunting to once-per-lifetime per hunter.

He made that good fortune pay off with this handsome trophy.
Boilermakers have big hearts

WHAT BEGAN 14 years ago as a spontaneous act of kindness has blossomed into a tradition of giving for Local D39 in Greenscald, Ind.

In 1991, Boilermakers employed at the Buzzi Unicem USA cement plant (formerly Lone Star Industries) in Greenscald took up a collection for the disabled niece of a union brother, even though that brother worked in a different state. “It made us feel so good that we wanted to keep doing it,” says Ray Miller, a blend operator/electrician at the plant. And keep doing it is what they did. Miller went to Lone Star to see if the company would consider joining in an annual fundraising effort for special needs. The company jumped on board. Every year since then, union members, cement plant management, and the waste fuel division have dug into their own pockets during the holiday season to help those less fortunate.

Miller continues to spearhead the annual effort: “Ray and his wife, Bonnie, go extra the mile,” says Local D39 President Rick York. “Bonnie does all the shopping and makes sure the gifts are wrapped nicely. Nearly everybody gives something, and the company generally matches what the union raises.”

The union contacts schools and other sources to identify families with special needs. In addition to Christmas gifts, the union purchases food, clothing, and other items. “Sometimes we are able to help more than one family,” notes York, “and we try to buy for siblings, too, so they don’t feel left out.”

The most recent donation was a $1,700 Hoyer lift for a 13-year-old boy and wheelchair for mobility. His family will use the lift to transfer him in and out of the wheelchair at his home. In addition to the lift, the family received Christmas presents from Santa (retired Boilermaker Richard “Shorty” Hull). The presentation was made in the cement plant’s lobby. “I can relate to families that are going through tough times,” says Miller. “It’s very satisfying to help them out . . . to bring joy to others.”

A farewell address from Brother Scott Hicks of Local 146

SHORTLY BEFORE HIS death in July 2004, 38-year-old Scott Hicks wrote a letter for publication in the Local 146 newsletter, the Boilermaker Expander. Hicks, who joined the Edmonton, Alberta, local in 1997, was working his way through the apprenticeship program in 2003, when he found out he had cancer. We found Hicks’ letter so inspirational, that we are republicating it here.

From L-146’s Scott Hicks:

IN THE FALL of 2003, Sep. 14 to be exact, I was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I was given six months to live. It was, to say the least, a shock. I hadn’t been sick a day in 20-25 years, not even a cold. It’s hard to explain the feelings that go through your mind at a time like that, but all in all, I feel I have a lot to be thankful for. Sometimes it takes something like this to happen to make you take stock of the blessings in your life. I was given time to spend with the people I truly cherish. To say goodbye the way I wanted to. To spend time with some of my friends and family, to show them what they have meant to me throughout my life.

Since I have never been a material person, I consider my greatest asset to be my friends. I have met many special people throughout my life, and have been fortunate to have many valued friends — Vince Anderson, Max and Alex Hannig, Herb and Henry Lutz, Cliff Cline, and Gary Hogue to name a few. All of these guys I have known and called friend for over 20 years, Vince, for over 30 years. Many of them have moved on and began families, moved away because of jobs or to search for the next best thing, but I could always count on any of them if I ever needed them, and vice versa.

There are so many others that need to be mentioned, but I know that I would forget someone so I want to thank you to the people who have called me friend, because it is through your thoughts and memories that I have received the strength to battle through this time. Thank you for your love.

In fact, it was a special friend who helped me find my calling in life. After high school, I was undecided as to what I wanted to do. In 1997, after many personal ups and downs, my high school buddy Gary Hogue told me about the Boilermakers. I had finally found my calling. I felt I was made to do that job. I truly loved my work. After countless jobs and years of schooling I really felt that 2003-2004 was going to be my time to really break out, but fate is a strange thing.

During my illness, it was the Brotherhood of Boilermakers who I have to thank for helping my family and me through this difficult time. Brotherhood doesn’t even begin to describe the pride in my heart when I say, “I am a Boilermaker.” I received hundreds of calls from my brothers to see if there was anything they could do. Some calls came from people I had only worked with once and that was four-and-a-half years ago. I was truly humbled by the outpouring of cards and letters, and even a calendar that came to me filled with money and a note that said, “Take a trip, maybe Jamaica.” Well, I pooled some money together and took the advice and spent two weeks in the Dominican Republic — the trip of a lifetime to say the least.

It was through this time of your outpouring of kindness that I started to think of how many people we touch throughout our lives and often don’t even realize it. Thank you for letting me do a job I loved doing, for allowing me to be part of the Brotherhood, for all the support you have given to my family and I, and for showing me the love only a brother has for his fellow brother.

In closing, I want everyone to know that I have very few regrets in my life. Other than being unable to attend my grandfather Hick’s funeral, for not getting into the Boilermakers earlier in life, and for not being able to spend more time with my beautiful niece, I would say I led my life the way I chose to.

If I could pass on some advice it would be to make time for the people you love, to say “I love you” to friends and family so that you won’t regret it if you never get another chance, and to live each day to the fullest. Life is too short to have regrets.
Medicare drug coverage is now available

Coverage is voluntary, but Medicare participants must sign up by May 15, 2006, to avoid paying penalties.

MEDICARE’S NEW prescription drug benefit went into effect Jan. 1. Everyone who qualifies for Medicare is eligible; however, those who do not sign up by May 15 face a substantial penalty. The program works like other types of insurance. Participants pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible, and co-payments. Costs vary by plan.

According to the Medicare Rx Network, a $32 monthly premium will buy two levels of coverage: standard and catastrophic.

Once a plan participant pays $250 in deductibles, Medicare will pay 75 percent of covered drugs, until the yearly cost reaches $2,250. If out-of-pocket costs exceed $3,600, Medicare will then pay 95 percent of drug charges for the rest of that year.

Those with limited income and resources may receive extra help. In some cases, Medicare will pay for nearly all of their drug costs.

Many private companies are offering plans. Individuals who are considering signing up for Medicare drug coverage should carefully evaluate plan offerings as well as their specific situations. If you’re unsure about what to do, seek qualified help.

But don’t wait too long! If you miss the May 15 sign-up deadline, your premiums will be higher, and you won’t be able to sign up until the next enrollment period, which runs every Nov. 15 through Dec. 31.

Below are some of the best resources for detailed information on Medicare prescription drug coverage.

MEDICARE

www.medicare.gov
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048

MedicareRx Education Network
www.medicarerxeducation.org

Administration on Aging
www.aao.gov/medicare

AARP
www.aarp.org/health/medicare/drug_coverage

National Council on the Aging
www.benefitscheckuprx.org

L-73 recognizes charter members

SIX FOUNDING MEMBERS of Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia, live in the Cheticamp area, where they were presented a copy of the local’s charter by International Vice President Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald. Family and friends joined charter members (pictured at right) Bernie Muise, Bernie LaPierre, Loubie Roach, Dave LeBlanc, Roger Deveau Sr., and Roland Doucet (represented by his son, Ron) at the special presentation.

Local 73, a shop and construction lodge, was chartered in 1973.

Local 242 retiree builds big bike

ROGER PRITT RETIRED out of Local 242, Spokane, Wash., in 2003. Since then he’s been busy building motorcycles in his shop. He is now on his third bike and decided to share this photo of bike #2. It is 10 feet, eight-inches in length, weighs 750 pounds, and has a 1961 aluminum block 215ci Buick V8 engine with an automatic transmission. It’s very fast, he says.

His first bike is a mere 10 feet in length but weighs 1,220 pounds. It has a 350 Chevy engine with a two-speed glide transmission. Only Roger knows what his next bike will be like. He says he is sure enjoying a great retirement, thanks to the Boilermakers.

Local 132 retiree makes a time capsule mailbox

AFTER EIGHT years of retirement, Sylvester Jimenez can’t quite give up the urge to make something showcasing his skills as a Boilermaker. The Local 132 (Galveston, Texas) retiree fabricated a unique mailbox with a built-in time capsule for use at his home. Inside are newspaper articles and other items.

Sylvester’s wife, Estella, says her husband retired following a serious injury. He loved his work and misses being on the job. She is so proud of the mailbox — and Sylvester — that she sent the photo in to the Boilermaker Reporter to share it with others.
Local 60 holds annual picnic at park and zoo

The park, located in the heavily-wooded bluffs of Peoria, Ill., includes an amphitheater, pavilion, tennis courts, playground, and fishing lagoon. Its zoo is an AZA accredited facility and is home to more than 175 animals from around the world.

Local 60 supports Bradley engineering students

FOR THE LAST three years, Local 60, Peoria, Ill., has contributed to Bradley University’s engineering department in preparation for the Formula SAE competition. The local has donated consumables and equipment to fabricate a two-thirds scale formula car out of chrome-moly tubing for the annual competition among participating engineering universities.

In Formula SAE, students conceive, design, fabricate, and compete with small formula-style race cars. Points are awarded for static events (presentation, design, and cost analysis) and dynamic events (acceleration, skid-pad, autocross, fuel economy, and endurance). Spon-}

Buckeye Council meets

Jeff Beitel (l.) and Terry Heiser (c.) receive leadership awards from BIC Bus. Rep. Ron Lyon.

Students and instructors surround the Bradley University’s Formula SAE car.

Buckeye Council meets

Jeff Beitel (l.) and Terry Heiser (c.) receive leadership awards from BIC Bus. Rep. Ron Lyon.


MEMBERS OF LOCAL 60, Peoria, Ill., and their families attended the local’s annual picnic June 18 at the Glen Oak Park and Zoo.

Prizes were awarded to the adults, and children were entertained with face painting and balloons by Ginger the Clown & Co.

The council represents Ohio lodges in the following cities: Alliance (L-1603);

Canton (L-1702), Cleveland (L-106, L-744, L-1073, and L-1186); Dayton (L-1660); Euclid (L-1704); Maple Heights (L-1664); and Wadsworth (L-408).

Elected to serve as leadership committee members were Phil Lewis, president of Local 1191; Pete Nedlykovic, president of Local 1086; and Joe Kraske, president of Local 1664.

The following BIC members received the Larry McManamon Leadership Award: Tom Campbell of Local 1702; Gary Ebsch of Local 1666; Jeff Elliott of Local 106; Vincent Kaspency of Local 1086; and Vernon Persons of Local 908.

Former leadership committee member Jeff Beitel, a 21-year member of Local 1703, received a special leadership award for his many years of service to the council.

Terry Heiser, who is retiring after 42 years of service, received a lifetime leadership award.

Heiser helped form the BIC in 1990 and has served on its leadership committee since its inception. He began his Boilermaker career straight out of high school as a polisher at Diebold Inc. and has been a member of Local 1191 (Canton, Ohio) since 1963. Heiser has served as a department steward and on several local lodge committees, as well as secretary-treasurer from 1984 until his 2005 retirement.

Both Heiser and Beitel were given emeritus status so they could continue their work as council members.

Intl. Rep. Ron Lyon serves as the BIC’s business representative and organizer.

Local News

Abby Wood joins her uncle, Jason Wood (with ball cap), and Michael Mooney (far left) at the annual L-60 picnic. Her father, Jeremy, is at far left (back to the camera).

Abby and Adam Sennett, children of Shane and Becky Sennett, receive a face painting and balloons courtesy of Ginger the Clown & Co.

Local 60 awards scholarships

BM-ST ED HEBERT (L-60, Peoria, Ill.) presents the local’s first annual scholarship awards. Receiving the $500 awards are (top left photo), front row, l. to r., Chivohn Watkins; Shelby Hoffman, daughter of Robert “Mark” Hoffman. Back row, l. to r., are BM Hobert and scholarship recipient Jonathan Buffo, grandson of retired member Gerald Miskell. In the photo at top right is scholarship recipient Shelby Hoffman, daughter of Robert “Mark” Hoffman.

AWARDS GO TO RETIING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, OUTSTANDING LEADERS

MEMBERS OF THE Buckeye Industrial Council (BIC) attended the organization’s 15th annual conference Nov. 12, electing new committee members and honoring others for their outstanding leadership.

L-60 awards scholarships

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 60, Peoria, Ill., and their families attended the local’s annual conference Nov. 12, electing new committeemen and honoring others for their outstanding leadership.

The park, located in the heavily-wooded bluffs of Peoria, Ill., includes an amphitheater, pavilion, tennis courts, playground, and fishing lagoon. Its zoo is an AZA accredited facility and is home to more than 175 animals from around the world.
Local 27 excels at Ameren outage

Despite multiple challenges, members complete job ahead of schedule

NEXT TO WORKING SAFELY, meeting or beating the expected hydro test date is the most important challenge of a planned maintenance outage. Realistic scheduling of projects is always important, and for some jobs, it is essential. But even the best of schedules can get thrown off when the unexpected happens.

Scheck Industrial Corp. (SIC) knew they faced a tight deadline in completing work at the Ameren UE Meramec generating station near St. Louis. What they hadn’t planned on was encountering Murphy’s Law — if anything can go wrong, it will — at every stage of the project.

Thank goodness they hired members of Local 27, St. Louis, to perform the outage work. Not only was the job completed ahead of schedule, with only a single outage work, the job ahead of schedule. Meeting the challenges

Syracuse Generating Co. [including members of Local 363, East Syracuse, N.Y.] and the work was both complicated and congested, with many heavy lifts and more than 800 welds, including a large number of heavy wall and high alloy.

We are very pleased to be sending you [BP] notes this letter to inform you that the mechanical portion of this job was completed two days ahead of schedule, on budget, and most importantly, there was no single building and construction trades employee injured. The welding reject rates exceeded world-class performance and there was not a single equipment leak following the start-up of the units.

We discussed with you several times over the last year that safety, quality craftsmanship, and productivity were critical to this important ConocoPhillips work effort and your folks delivered! Throughout this period we heard from both ConocoPhillips and contract management that the building and construction trades supervisors and workers were the finest that they had seen.

We thank you for this outstanding performance and look forward to many more successful endeavors with you and your organization in the future. We also want to thank Bill Kaczorowski for his efforts in developing our General Presidents Project Maintenance Agreement. We are now even more encouraged to have this site-wide agreement available to foster our partnership.

American Boiler says Local 667 outage is exceptional

I WOULD LIKE to express my sincere appreciation to the membership of Boilermakers Local 667 [Charleston, W. Va.]. Not only am I the chief executive officer of American Boiler & Chimney, I am also one of you. I have been a Boilermaker most of my adult life. I am a graduate apprentice out of Pittsburgh Local 154 and am now the chairman of the Boilermakers Northeast and National Apprenticeship committee.

Since starting American Boiler & Chimney in 1993, our company has worked all over the country and we are grateful for the working relationship and cooperation we have with fellow Boilermakers, supervision, and members of Local 667.

The 2005 spring outage at Harrison Power Station’s Unit #1 was by every one’s estimation, one of the best outages ever accomplished in the Allegheny Energy System. Your local’s performance was exceptional, the project came in ahead of schedule, under budget, and with no lost-time injuries.

We thank you for this outstanding performance and look forward to many more successful endeavors with you and your organization in the future. We also want to thank Bill Kaczorowski for his efforts in developing our General Presidents Project Maintenance Agreement. We are now even more encouraged to have this site-wide agreement available to foster our partnership.

American Boiler & Chimney

THEME

American Boiler & Chimney Co.

Woody River Refinery praises Local 363 and other building and construction trades

ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2005, the ConocoPhillips Woody River Refinery shut down three very important process units for a planned 42-day turnaround and massive revamp project. The manpower levels on this job peaked around 1,500 members of Local 363, East St. Louis, Ill. and the work was both complicated and congested, with many heavy lifts and more than 800 welds, including a large number of heavy wall and high alloy.

We are very pleased to be sending you [BP] notes this letter to inform you that the mechanical portion of this job was completed two days ahead of schedule, on budget, and most importantly, there was not a single building and construction trades employee injured. The welding reject rates exceeded world-class performance and there was no single equipment leak following the start-up of the units.

We discussed with you several times over the last year that safety, quality craftsmanship, and productivity were critical to this important ConocoPhillips work effort and your folks delivered! Throughout this period we heard from both ConocoPhillips and contract management that the building and construction trades supervisors and workers were the finest that they had seen.

We thank you for this outstanding performance and look forward to many more successful endeavors with you and your organization in the future. We also want to thank Bill Kaczorowski for his efforts in developing our General Presidents Project Maintenance Agreement. We are now even more encouraged to have this site-wide agreement available to foster our partnership.

American Boiler & Chimney

American Boiler & Chimney Co.

Simakas congratulates Local 744 for a job well done

THANK YOU FOR the outstanding support we received from the members of Local 744 [Cleveland] during the recent Unit Two outage at the Niles Reliant Energy Plant.

This was a difficult project, fit with a demanding schedule. The unit was turned over to our customer earlier than originally anticipated, within budget, and most importantly — without any accidents. The cooperation efforts and skill of your men allowed this outage to run smoothly and on schedule. They are a credit to your local and to our craft.

Congratulations to all on a job well done! On behalf of our customers, our employees, our superven- tendents, and all of us who are able to fulfill our commitment to excel- lent service because of your continued support, I thank you and the workers you represent. I am sure you are as proud of your men as we are of yours.

Lyle R. Fischer, president Simakas Company Inc.
New contract summaries

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

Local 5 — New York
Effective Nov. 1, 2005 to Oct. 31, 2008, for five members who work at Frederick Cowan & Company Inc. Established in 1957, Frederick Cowan and Co. Inc. manufactures a wide array of industrial burner equipment for the marine, utility, pulp and paper, chemical, and refinery industries.

Local M13 — St. Louis
Effective Nov. 29, 2005 to Nov. 28, 2006, for 18 members who work in production at the Diamond Plating Company.

Local 37 — New Orleans
Effective Dec. 15, 2005 to Oct. 8, 2008, for 48 members who work at Ohmstedte Ltd., in Sulphur, La. Ohmstedte workers manufacture and service heat exchangers and vessels. Located near Lake Charles, La., this plant operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Local 83 — Kansas City, Mo.
Effective July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008, for seven members who fabricate structural steel at Capital Iron Works Co., and effective Nov. 1, 2005 to Oct. 31, 2008, for 24 members who work for Shamrad Metal Fabricators, where members work in both the shop and the field on ASME code vessels, process and heating boilers, and custom fabrications of steel, aluminum, and stainless steel.

Local 128 — Toronto, Ontario
Effective April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2010, for 45 members who work at Cascade General. Located on Swan Island in the U.S. West Coast. Members repair tugs, barges, fishing vessels, and specialized work boats, including super tankers and cruise ships.

Local 158 — Peoria, Ill.
Effective Nov. 30, 2005 to Nov. 30, 2008, for 19 members who make rug display equipment at John H. Best & Sons.

Local 199 — Jacksonville, Fla.

Local D274 — Winnipeg, Manitoba
Effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2010, for 43 members who make drywall at BPB Canada (formerly known as Westroc Industries).

Local D342 — Plattsburgh, N.Y.
Effective Dec. 1, 2005 to Nov. 30, 2009, for members who work in the Malone Quarry Division of Graymont Materials Inc. Located in Ranger, N.Y., the Malone Quarry supplies construction aggregates and asphalt to northern Franklin and eastern St. Lawrence counties, and also produces such products as washed manufactured sand, rip rap, decorative stone, crushed gravel, and railroad ballast.

Local 483 — Alton, Ill.
Effective May 1, 2005 to May 31, 2007, for 12 members who perform maintenance work at Conoco-Phillips where petroleum products are manufactured; effective Dec. 5, 2005 to Dec. 4, 2008, for 89 members who make brass ammunition under the Winchester brand for Olin Corp., and effective Feb. 6, 2005 to Feb. 6, 2008, for 38 members who produce chemicals at Willett Home Products.

Local D486 — New Westminster, British Columbia

Local 500 — Salem, Ore.
Effective Aug. 25, 2005 to June 30, 2008, for 89 members who work at the Portland Shipyard for Cascade General. Located on Swan Island in Portland, Ore., it is the largest ship repair facility on the U.S. West Coast. Members repair tugs, barges, fishing vessels, and specialized work boats, including super tankers and cruise ships.

Local 584 — Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Effective Dec. 12, 2005 to Dec. 14, 2008, for 85 members who manufacture heat exchangers and vessels at the Southern Heat Exchanger Corp.

Local 1600 — St. Charles, Ill.
Effective Nov. 14, 2005 to Nov. 14, 2008, for members who work at C & F Forge, and effective Nov. 21, 2005 to Nov. 29, 2008, for 67 members who produce paint pigment and explosive powder at Toyal Inc.

Local 1620 — Portland, Ind.
Effective May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2008, for 121 members who work at Portland Forge producing custom, impression die hot forgings. In business since 1905, Portland Forge supplies carbon and alloy steel forgings to customers of automotive, off-highway, railroad, farm equipment, mechanical power transmission, oil field, and aerospace markets.

Local 1666 — Dayton, Ohio
Effective Nov. 1, 2005 to March 4, 2007, for members who make high strength steel, alloy, and aluminum automotive forgings, and forged components at Harris Thomas Industries. Products include control, damper, and steering arms; bridges; exhaust flanges; hinges; housing; parking pavels; spring seats; suspension sockets; tie rod ends; and transmission bands for the world’s leading automotive manufacturers.
Locals award service pins to members

National Transient Lodge
GARY SCOTT, NTL VP and ABR, reports the following pin recipients:

35 YEARS – Larry Chunn;
30 YEARS – Steve Lanvermier; and
20 YEARS – Brian Wilson.

Local 1, Chicago
JOHN SKEMONT, L-60 BM-ST, Peoria, Ill., reports the following pin recipients:

50 YEARS – Angelo Carlomango Jr.;
45 YEARS – Sylvester Lopaczynski;
40 YEARS – James Altman, Thomas Brennan, Benjamin Kosiek, Wayne Zaner;
35 YEARS – Thomas Barry, Sean Davis, Bill Deisher, Richard Schulte, Daniel Ferenz, Russell Foster, Thomas Founteas, Thomas Ward; and
25 YEARS – Cespo Cipriano, Michael Jaster, James Moore Jr., James Smith.

Local 60, Peoria, Ill.
JOHN HERBERT, L-60 BM-ST, Peoria, Ill., reports the following pin recipients:

35 YEARS – John Askins, Tom Knught; and
30 YEARS – Charlie Witzman.

Local 169, Detroit
TONY JACOBS, L-169 BM-ST, Detroit, reports the following pin recipients:

50 YEARS – Frank Basilisco, Charles Dunn, Jeff Marsh;
45 YEARS – Jerome Baron, Joseph Henkla, Edward Rokuski, Richard Wimmer Jr.;

Local 193, Baltimore
ERNEST DOBRY, L-193 BM-ST, Baltimore, reports the following pin recipients:

45 YEARS – Orton Hanks, James Liggett;
40 YEARS – Francis Duggan, Frank Schnetzka, Ralph Powers, Fred Wright Jr.;
35 YEARS – Howard Alved, James Arlbrecht, Barry Bonovitch, William Demski, Robert Harvey, Ronald Hawley, Dennis Shreves, Ralph Sliokner, Russell Sterling, George Stelpher, Richard Tinsley, Fred Townsend, Donald Ward, William Winstead, Zona Zelenka;
20 YEARS – Thomas Andre, Joseph Stallings; and

Local 502, Tacoma, Wash.
RANDY ROBINSON, L-502 BM-ST, Tacoma, Wash., reports the following pin recipients:

45 YEARS – Gunter Gervais, L.I. Raifferty, Jack Wehrli;
40 YEARS – Tim Baker, Ray Caldwell, Jack Degnan, John Henry, Michael Manite, Patrick Morse;
35 YEARS – Marvin Calkins, Robert Lewis, Joe Plattrick, Tim Russ; and

John Askins receives his 35-year pin from Local 60.

NTLV and ABR Gary Scott, center, presents a 20-year pin to Larry Chunn (l) and a 30-year pin to Steve Lanvermier.

Charlie Witzman receives his 30-year pin from Local 60.

Wilbur Vanmaire, Garrett Walker, Roy Wallace, Paul Weaver, Helmut Wehrmann, Leo Williams Jr., Wendell Williams, Ray Williams, Niles Young.

25 YEARS – David Anthony, Steve Bullman, Randall Campbell, Jeff Cumpston, James Fisher, Gregory Griffin, Dennis Harlow, Darrel Hescht, Carlos Hodges, John Johnson, Larry King, Rex Landers, Tim McClanahan, Phil McCoy, Randall Midkiff, Tim Miller, James Moffitt, Rick Mouney, Randy Northrup, Kenny Oliver, David Parson, Mark Queen, Doug Revsode, Harrel Seckman, Kerry Slnde, Harold Statler, Lowell Templeton, Michael Touthoem, Jerry Walls, David White, James White; and

Local 744, Cleveland
PAT GALLAGHER, L-744 BM-ST, Cleveland, reports the following pin recipients:

60 YEARS – Paul Burgess;
50 YEARS – Edward Cullen;
45 YEARS – Donald Shalosky;
30 YEARS – Paul Cotti, Robert Connors, Fate Cook, Robert Diedle, Daniel Dun, David Gillespie, Gary Kersnick, Theodore Mackey, David Smirin, Robbin Taylor; and
Make Your Taxes Less Taxing

Feeling taxed? As a union member, you don’t have to worry about the high cost of preparing taxes online. The Union Plus Online Tax Service costs less than half of similar services from H&R Block and Quicken — and it’s just as easy to use. Simply answer some questions, fill in your numbers, and the program does the rest.

Log on to make tax preparation a snap

www.unionplus.org/taxes

There’s strength in numbers . . . and $AVINGS, too!

The strength of your union membership is working to get you more . . . and save you more! With Union Plus benefits, everyday savings are available to you and your family on dozens of products and services you already use. These special deals are available only for union members and their families.

And when you use Union Plus programs you know the service is as great as the savings. Plus, you’re entitled to special benefits just for union members, such as layoff and strike protection when you’re out of work.

Some union families could save up to $3,600 a year! How much can you save? Just go to www.unionplus.org/savings and try the easy-to-use Savings Calculator for yourself. When it comes to savings, there really is strength in numbers!

Money-Saving Programs for Members Only

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

Union Plus Credit Card
Call: 1-800-522-4000

Mortgage & Real Estate
Also open to children & parents of Boilermaker members.
Call: 1-800-848-6466

Education Services
Get expert advice on funding sources for college and job skills training.
Call: 1-877-881-1022

Personal Loans
Credit-qualified members are eligible for loans for a variety of uses.
Call: 1-888-235-2759

Legal Service
Discounted legal help — first 30 minutes are free.
Visit: www.unionplus.org

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:
AVV: 1-800-698-5685
BCD#V816100

Cingular Wireless Discounts
Call: 1-800-452-9425

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.
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.

NTL Burden, Otis 37
NTL Clayton, Thurman 37
NTL Craig, Troy 40
NTL Craig, Douglas 45
NTL Key, Donald 45
NTL LaRue, Carl 72
NTL Martin, Billy 72
NTL Pfrimon, Donald 72
NTL Schultz, Fred 72
NTL Selak, James 72
NTL Smith, Marion 73
NTL Stewart, Dwourd 74
NTL Williams, Glen 74
NTL Willis, Roy 74
1 Arazon, Juvenic 79
1 Ketelsen, Roger 79
1 Lynch, Harold 79
1 Crowder, William D. 83
1 Wills, Randell 83
1 Beharry, Victor 85
1 Aringo, Pasquale 85
1 Benjamin, William 85
1 Crochiere, Gerald 85
1 Doyel, Howard 85
1 Ellis, James 85
1 Johnson, Bonnie 85
1 Kelly, Ralph 85
1 Ladera, Wilbur 85
1 Markussen, Vernon 85
1 Melendez, Melencio 85
1 Memosea, Selomona 85
1 Murtalo, Moliki 85
1 Stevensen, Elmer 85
1 Thomas, Chattmon 85
1 Waldispino, Benito 85
1 Mazaee, Allan 85
1 Chmeil, Joseph 85
1 Mattaee, Ferdinand 85
1 Reichenbach, Lewis 85
1 Mulholland, Richard 85
1 Veloso, Frank 85
1 Barnsiek, Stephen 85
1 Gates, Charles 85
1 Jordan, Robert 85
1 Myrick, John 85
1 Svan, Howard 85
1 Wade, Willie 85
1 Antinora, Rose 85
1 Freibrock, Thomas 85
1 Laster, William 85
1 Rodebaugh, Harley 85
1 Sailors, Michael 85
1 Weber, Wilred 85
1 Scala, Florentino 104
1 Hancock, Richard 104
1 Patruccio, Guido 104
1 Barwick, Earl 104
1 Jones, Terry 104
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1 Gatto, Johnny 105
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IN MEMORIAM

TERANDO died serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom

Army sergeant was a welder and Local 1 apprentice serving in Reserves

ARMY SCT. JOSHUA A. TERANDO, 27, of Morris, Ill., died Nov. 10, 2005, in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, from injuries received when his armored patrol was attacked by small arms fire in Khalidiyah, Iraq, earlier that day.

A member of Chicago Local 1, Terando worked as a welder from 1996 until 1998, when he made a nine-year commitment to the U.S. Army: three years of active duty, followed by six years in the Reserve. In 2001, when he finished his active service as a member of an Elite Ranger battalion, he returned to Local 1, where he worked as a Boilermaker apprentice. In Aug. 2005, he was deployed to Iraq as a sergeant in the 1st Battalion, 188th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division.

Official reports say Terando and another soldier, Staff Sgt. Michael P. Parrott, of Timnath, Colo., were killed when their M1A1 Abrams tank came under hostile sniper fire.

Terando’s father, Gerald “Jerry” Terando, a retired member of Local 60, Peoria, Ill., was notified of his son’s death on the eve of Veterans Day. A veteran himself, Jerry was asked to make an address at the annual Veterans Day ceremony, Nov. 11, in Morris, Ill. He shared the news of his son’s death and spoke of servicemen fighting for their country because of their love for the United States.

“It is a shame we give up the best and the bravest, but it’s their choice: they love this country. For me, Veterans Day is now November 10 at 8 p.m.,” he said, referring to the date and time he was notified of his son’s death.

Jerry told the Morris Daily Herald that his son has always been his friend: “Ever since he was a child, he hung with me. He had time for his friends, but he always had time for me. Whenever we parted — dropping him off at the airport and such and for his last trip after he took his leave — he would give me a kiss, right in front of the whole wide world. There was no embarrassment, no shame. He loved us and we loved him.”

Josh Terando received a burial with full military honors at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill. In addition to his father, survivors include his mother, Linda S. Terando; sister, Amanda Terando; maternal grandparents, Alvin and Lois Smith, and many other relatives and friends.

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421 Adams, Theodore
433 Beal, David
433 Birden, Bernard
433 Jordan, Alkon
433 Koenig, Alyosius
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568 Nubile, Daniel
568 Rice, Lynn
568 Van Alynot, Roy
582 Merson, Ervin
582 Stokes, Richard

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The U.S. Navy needs to build more ships

In the first days of the Iraq War, the U.S. military launched 1,700 sorties in a strategy they called “shock and awe.” News media inspired the public with stories of the high-tech weapons in use — “smart bombs” dropped by the Giants of the Gulf, and remotely-guided, unmanned assault aircraft. But that was a distorted picture of the war effort.

More than 500 of those initial sorties were Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from submarines. Most of the assault planes were launched from aircraft carriers. And U.S. Navy ships carried material and troops to the region, providing valuable support during both the attack and the occupation. Despite all our high-tech weapons and the Middle East, Korea, China — we have built an average of only six ships a year, while decreasing science spending.

The Navy’s fleet is now only 281 ships, less than half its size in 1987. Although there is support within the military for a larger Naval fleet, the Department of Defense (DOD) has shown little interest in building the ships key to our arsenal. For example, numerous reports recommend a fleet of 55–75 submarines, but the Navy is building only one a year. Our submarine fleet has shrunk from 100 in 1990 to 53 today. The American Shipbuilding Association estimates that at current rates, China will have twice as many submarines as the United States in only five years.

The DOD’s Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), issued on Feb. 3, calls for a return to building two submarines a year by 2012. Issued every four years, the QDR outlines DOD goals for the next 20 years. But the QDR is only a recommendation, and their target date is still seven years away. The DOD budget for fiscal year 2006 provided just under $7 billion to build six new ships (including one submarine), the same rate as the last 18 years. And even that low figure is better than what the DOD and the Bush White House had requested; they wanted only four.

Next year looks no different. On Feb. 6, President Bush sent his FY 2007 budget to Congress. It calls for seven new ships, but that number is misleading. The DOD had already agreed to start construction on one new DDX destroyer in 2007 and one in 2008. This budget simply starts them both in 2007; it does not increase the total on order.

One roadblock to building more ships is lack of agreement on how big the U.S. Naval fleet should be. In December, Admiral Michael G. Mullen, chief of Naval Operations, weighed in on that question, proposing to increase the fleet from 281 to 313 by 2020.

The cost of being unprepared in the future is higher than the cost of building new ships now.

Although Mullen’s figure is a far cry from the 600-ship Navy President Reagan promised in 1980, it would mean a significant increase in our shipyard capacity. But Mullen’s plan wouldn’t begin until 2008, and any proposal he makes must first get through the DOD and the president’s office before it could be considered by Congress.

Building more Navy ships would be great news for our shipbuilding division members, especially those in Connecticut, Mississippi, Louisiana, and California, where key military ships are built. Other locals that make parts used in Navy vessels would benefit, too.

But a lot of barriers stand between the admiral’s proposal and congressional funding for new shipbuilding.

One barrier is lease extension. U.S. law requires our weapons systems, including Navy ships, be made in the U.S.A. But it also allows the Navy to lease foreign-built ships for short periods when needed. In recent years, the DOD has circumvented the intent of these laws by including multiple 18-month options in each lease contract. These automatic extensions turn short-term leases into long-term ones. With enough extensions, the Navy becomes able to dictate the terms of the lease, such as frequency, maintenance or purchase, the “Buy American” laws. While leasing makes strategic and economic sense, it costs the U.S. Navy, and it is a shame that Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, a key sponsor, supported this move.

An amendment to the fiscal year 2007 budget appropriations bill would limit Navy leases of foreign-built ships to two years duration. Limiting leases will encourage the Navy to purchase new ships, providing jobs for Boilermakers and spending taxpayers’ money inside the United States, rather than handing it over to foreign ship owners.

The Navy fleet’s decline has an obvious solution: build more ships. But the cost of building today’s technologically-advanced ships is great; finding that money in a budget already generating record deficits will not be easy.

During hearings to confirm Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter last October, Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) made a compelling economic argument for building more ships. While telling Winter he had an “historic” imperative to rebuild the fleet, Senate considering the cost of going to war in an inadequate fleet is “a whole lot worse for the budget than spending the amounts now to get what the Navy needs.”

Now if only we can get the Navy, the DOD, Congress, and President Bush to recognize — as Senator Ernst does — the true cost of NOT building ships ...

EDITOR’S NOTE: As reported in the Sept-Oct 2005 issue of this paper, Local 484 members have been locked out of Cecoe Corp since April 2005. Contributions can be sent to Boilermakers Local 484 Solidarity Defense Fund P.O. Box 258/300 Main St. Meredosia, IL 62655

Local 484 members are grateful for donations

WE WOULD LIKE to thank you members who have donated to Local 484’s relief fund, Meredosia, Ill. for your donations. These funds have helped our membership with so many things — house and car payments; medical and utility bills. We appreciate all that you and other unions have done for us. Your support continues to help us during this struggle.

At the time this letter was written, there was no movement toward resolving this labor dispute.

LYNNELLE A. CAMPBELL
GEORGIA L. SIDES, and
TOMA M. BURGESS
Local 484 — Meredosia, Ill.

Get something to say?

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

Send a letter to the editor:

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Kansas City KS 66101
FAX: (913) 281-6804
Email: danwasser@boilermakers.org