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Celanese Emulsions, Local 484 reach 11th-hour settlement

Members win severance and bonus payments, insurance cap

WITH A HEARING before an administrative law judge looming in the background, Celanese Emulsions agreed to a settlement with Local 484 (Meredosia, Ill.) May 22, ending a nearly year-long lockout of its Boilermaker employees. Members ratified the settlement May 24. Most members were expected to return to work within days, following a re-assignment of available positions according to seniority.

The settlement is worth millions of dollars in severance pay and bonuses. One hundred thirty-seven members will receive a \$15,000 payment for ratifying the agreement. (Ten members retired or took other jobs during the lockout.) Additionally, those who elect to return to work will receive a \$1,000 lump-sum bonus immediately, plus another \$1,000 lump-sum bonus 12 months after ratification. As an option, members may choose to end their employment at Celanese and receive combined severance/ratification payments of up to \$87,000 (depending on wages and years of service).

ULPs withdrawn, issues resolved

IN REACHING THE settlement, the union agreed to withdraw its unfair labor practice (ULP) charges against the company. The charges alleged that Celanese had refused to bargain in good faith and had not cooperated with information requests. The National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint



Widespread union support helped sustain L-484 members during the lockout. Above, volunteers from Local 614 (New London, Conn.) collect money outside the gates of Electric Boat Corp. in Groton, Conn. L to r. are Judy Egan, Gary Fess, and Dawn Gray.

against the company March 31, indicating it believed the ULP charges had merit and that the lockout was unlawful. Had the two parties not reached a settlement, an administrative law judge would have decided the case at a hearing.

"We met all day Sunday, May 21, and into Sunday evening with Celanese," said Jim Pressley, asst. to the director of research and collective bargaining services.

See Celanese, Local 484, page 14

Improvements are needed if we want to survive

Construction leaders discuss jurisdiction, marketing strategies

ORGANIZE OR DIE. That was the theme of the guest speaker's remarks at the annual Construction Division conference Feb. 13-17 in Marco Island, Fla. He wasn't talking about organizing more union members, but nurturing the very soul of the labor movement — our jobs.

Mark Breslin is not a member of the Boilermakers union. In fact, he isn't a union member at all. Breslin is a fourth-generation construction contractor. He has been the chief executive officer of a contractor's trade association in California for two decades. What he is trying to do now is expand the union's market share by organizing more union contractors through marketing and business development strategies.

Breslin reported that unions nationwide have lost 60 percent of their market share since the Reagan administration. He says today, only 13 percent of the work performed in North America is by union members; 87 percent is done nonunion, and we need to market ourselves and the union to regain that share.

He says any good strategy requires change, commitment, and hard work. He believes the union can increase its marketing share through two activities. First, teaching our members the value they should be providing. Second, marketing our union to nonunion contractors by explaining our value to them; that is,



With input from conference participants, Mark Breslin outlines why contractors should go union.

helping them understand the benefits of being a union contractor.

"There is an inaccurate picture out there of what people think of unions," Breslin said. "We need to teach our apprentices the value they are supposed to be providing and we need to articulate that value to nonunion companies."

"Instead of meeting once every three or four years at the collective bargaining table, negotiating over the

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It's time for Las Vegas

Boilermakers to hold 31st Consolidated Convention

CONVENTIONS ARE ALWAYS an exciting time, despite the large amount of work that needs to be done, and the Boilermakers' 31st Consolidated Convention in Las Vegas should be no exception. In the four days that the Boilermakers convene (July 24-27), delegates will elect International officers and revise the Brotherhood's constitution to keep up with any needed changes.

The consolidated convention is the only meeting at which all areas, all industries, and all lodges are represented. Delegates will discuss matters of immense importance and make decisions that will

guide this International Brotherhood for another five years. It is a difficult task but one that has kept this union strong since it was established in 1880.

Now in our 126th year, representatives of the Boilermakers union have been meeting since 1881. Our first consolidated convention was held in 1894, following the 1893 consolidation (merger) of two organizations: the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders Protective and Benevolent Union of the United States and Canada (organized in Chicago in 1880) and the National

Brotherhood of Boiler Makers (formed in 1888 in Atlanta).

Consolidated conventions were held every other year from 1894 through 1914, at three-year intervals from 1914 through 1930, four-year intervals from 1930 through 1981, and every five years since, due to the enormous expense of holding a convention.

Even with these cost-saving efforts, there were years when the International did not have enough money to fund a convention. There should have been seven conventions between 1920 and 1944, but there were only five because of financial pressures following the 1922 Railroad Shopmen's Strike and the Great Depression. The 1924 convention was postponed for a year, the 1928 convention for two years, and the 1934 convention for three years. Besides cutting back on the number of conventions, no one at International headquarters received a raise from 1930 to 1944, including International Presi-

dent Franklin, because there simply was not enough money.

Over the years, conventions have been held in a number of areas. From 1917 to 1944, all the conventions were held in Kansas City because of its central location. In 1961, the Long Beach convention adjourned for half a day so delegates could enjoy the free passes to Disneyland the company provided in appreciation for all the work Boilermakers did to build the world's first theme park. Twice conventions have been held in Canada: Montreal (1949) and Vancouver (1977). And Las Vegas has been the most economical choice for the last four conventions: 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

Las Vegas can be an exciting place to visit. No doubt delegates to the Boilermakers' 31st Consolidated Convention will have a great time, but they will also work very hard to do what is right for this union, as they create the next chapter in the Boilermakers' history. □

DOD ordered to scrap unfair personnel rules

Judge says Defense Dept. "eviscerated collective bargaining rights"

SAN DIEGO, February 27 — Federal District Court Judge Emmett Sullivan has permanently enjoined the Department of Defense (DOD) from implementing three significant sections of its proposed new personnel rules. Sullivan declared that the new rules, which were to have taken effect on Wednesday, March 1, 2006:

- Fail to ensure that employees can bargain collectively;
- Do not meet congressional requirements for independent third party review of labor relations decisions; and
- Set up a process for appealing adverse actions that fails to provide employees with due process and fair treatment as required by statute.

Ronald Ault, president of the AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department, said Judge Sullivan's ruling "affirms our position that national security is an excuse, not a reason for setting up a system of command and control which relegates DOD civilians to the status of less than second class citizenship. Judge Sullivan's ruling ratifies our charges that the National Security Personnel System is an effort to radically undermine the rights of more than 700,000 civilian workers and it is a template for what this White House would like to establish for both private and public sector workers."

Sullivan said DOD has "eviscerated collective bargaining rights" with regulations that are nearly identical to those initially set up by the Department of Homeland Security. Another judge, Rosemary Collyer, ordered those rules scrapped late last year when she determined that they did not require that both parties live up to the terms of agreements. Sullivan said DOD's rules "establish a labor relations system that fails to provide for collective bargaining."

Sullivan also said DOD's design of a so-called "independent" National

Security Labor Relations Board (NSLRB) is defective, because it would both investigate and adjudicate disputes. He questioned the independence of such a board, which would be appointed and serve "at the sole and exclusive discretion" of the Defense secretary. DOD's set up of the NSLRB "does not satisfy Congress' requirement for an 'independent third party' to review labor-management disputes," Sullivan found.

Overall, the regulations fail to provide DOD employees with fair treatment — a key requirement of the statute enacted by Congress in November 2003, when it included the National Security Personnel System as part of that year's Defense Authorization Bill.

Sullivan said "there is no basis for" authority that DOD wants to assume under the regulations to enable the secretary to override determinations by the federal Merit System Protection Board (MSPB). "Congress said nothing about giving the secretary unreviewable discretion" to alter MSPB determinations in specific cases. Similarly, DOD's efforts to set up a list of "mandatory removal offenses" under the secretary's "sole unreviewable discretion," as well as its efforts to set standards of behavior for union representatives, go beyond the authority given by Congress or contained in statute, Sullivan said.

Sullivan did rule in favor of DOD on two points — dismissing union charges that DOD failed to collaborate in the development of the rules and that Congress did intend to give DOD the right to depart from significant sections of the basic statute governing labor relations in the federal government.

"[W]hile [DOD] may not have met Congress' requirements with enthusiasm, the Court finds no evidence that the defendants acted in bad faith" and did collaborate, Sullivan wrote, adding: "The Court suspects, however, that more substantive meetings with plaintiffs could have helped defendants avoid the shortcomings of these regulations in providing for collective bargaining..."

Source: AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department

Agreement reached on cement imports

Impact on Boilermaker jobs unclear

AN AGREEMENT REACHED March 6 between the United States and Mexico has ended 16 years of litigation over Mexico's dumping of gray portland cement into United States markets. The three-year resolution allows Mexico to export up to three million metric tons of the cement to the United States annually and lowers the anti-dumping penalty duty from \$42 per ton to \$3. Mexico has vowed to open up its markets to products from United States cement firms.

The United States cement and construction industries have hailed the agreement, saying it will help improve cement availability, which has been hampered by a robust economy and massive reconstruction efforts in the Gulf Coast. The Southern Tier Cement Committee (STCC), a coalition of 23 United States cement companies, said it will work closely with the Department of Commerce to make sure Mexico complies with the agreement. The Boilermakers have supported the STCC's demands for fair trade with Mexico

and have been active for years in lobbying for anti-dumping measures. According to the STCC, United States cement producers have obtained permits to expand production capacity by more than 15 percent during 2006-2009, with an investment of \$3 billion.

IVP Jim Hickenbotham said it remains to be seen what impact the new trade agreement — or the cement industry's planned investment — will have on Boilermaker members. "It [the industry expansion] will increase jobs," he said, "but it's difficult to say how many of those jobs will be union jobs. I don't see a big improvement at present. Employment [in the cement industry] has been pretty stable, although there has been some downsizing due to automation."

Under the new cement agreement, the United States will lift all tariffs and quotas on Mexican gray portland cement in April 2009 if Mexico adheres to the agreement's terms, including opening up its markets. Another provision will allow President Bush to authorize an additional two million metric tons of cement imports in the event of a disaster. □

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A prize-winning newspaper

Local 592 wins national NACBE safety award

Four local lodges have perfect safety records in 2005

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) presented its annual safety award to the top performing locals from the Boilermakers' five United States vice-presidential areas February 13. The presentations were made during the Brotherhood's annual construction conference, at Marco Island, Fla.

Four of the five area winners had zero lost-time accidents, zero compensable injuries, and zero OSHA-recordable injuries. In order to determine the national winner, NACBE based its decision on the local with the most recorded man-hours in the NACBE safety index.

Working 91.4 percent of their man-hours with NACBE contractors, Local 592, Tulsa, Okla., earned the national award for the South Central area by maintaining and repairing petrochemical facilities with no injuries in 2005.

Other 2005 area winners included Southeast Local 69, Little Rock, Ark. (78.4 percent NACBE man-hours); Western States Local 182, Salt Lake City (54.3 percent); Northeast Local 237, Hartford, Conn. (35.2 percent); and Great Lakes Local 85, Toledo, Ohio, with a 7.72 compensable injury rate and a 3.09 OSHA recordable.

Since NACBE began its safety index in 1991, the number of Boilermaker man-hours covered by the study has increased from 31.09 percent to 61.04 percent while the lost-time rate per 1,000 workers has



L-592 BM-ST Donald Whisenant, center, accepts the national NACBE safety award. Left to right: NACBE Exec. Dir. John Erickson and Pres. Wendell Bell; South Central IVP George Rogers; and Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones.

decreased from 13.5 to 0.41. Meanwhile the compensable rates have dropped from 58.43 to 10.81. OSHA recordable injuries (an index that began in 1998) have

decreased from 5.97 to 3.78. John Erickson, NACBE executive director, equates these figures to 23,579 fewer lost-time injuries, \$707 million in direct costs avoided, and \$3.5 billion in total cost avoided.

Donald Whisenant, Local 592's business manager and secretary-treasurer, accepted the national award on behalf of his members. The local, which was chartered in 1937, represents about 200 members. This is the first year it has won the national award, although it won several area NACBE safety awards in the 1990s.

"It's very difficult to work without injuries in the refinery industry," Whisenant noted, "but our members have bought into safety 100 percent. I'm very proud of what they've accomplished. Also, the contractors have gone the extra mile, making sure our men have the proper safety equipment and allowing them to have input into how the job is done. We're very team oriented, and grateful for our tripartite relationship with the contractors and the owner community."

NACBE's membership includes more than 90 contractors involved in industrial construction and maintenance. □

Construction Division meets



Dale Branscum, director of Construction Division Services, uses illustrations to help clarify jurisdiction.



Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones says it's a different environment for unions today.

Continued from p. 1

same piece of pie that keeps getting smaller and smaller, we need to become professional business partners to make our market share grow," Breslin said. "Our marketing message should be profit, productivity, and value. We can't compete with nonunion on cost; we have to compete on value. It's time to change the way we do things."

Two things Breslin says need changing involve both the contractor and the union. For the contractor, Breslin recommends terminating bad workers instead of laying them off, as these workers just get recycled to another job. For the union, he recommends that workers establish visible performance standards through codes of conduct — no more acts of entitlement; everyone needs to be accountable; and no more marginal field efforts.

While some may find these recommendations hard to hear, Breslin says we cannot grow as an organization unless we expand our contractor base, and we'll never do that if we make it difficult for union contractors to turn a profit.

Keeping up with new technology

INTL. PRES. NEWTON B. Jones opened the conference of construction lodge business managers with a brief overview of the International and the political arena.

"It is a different environment for labor unions today," Jones said. "The current [Bush] administration is more anti-union than anything we've seen in the last 50 years. Fair-trade agreements have resulted in the loss of 6,000 Boilermaker manufacturing jobs . . . our construction man-hours are down from 37 million to 27 million man-hours. But the work outlook is so good in the next eight-to-10 years that we will have trouble manning jobs. We will have to keep an eye on attrition levels and build up our apprentice numbers."

Director of Construction Division Services Dale "Skipper" Branscum said the Boilermakers union is committed to maintaining and protecting craft jurisdiction for its members. That's why he invited nine International representatives to address the conference on new technology. Each of these representatives not only explained how the technology works, but how it fits into Boilermaker jurisdiction. Technology and presenters included breaching support steel by IR Clay Herford; fly ash silos by AIP Clayton Plummer and IR Tony Palmisano; supercritical boilers by IR Cory Channon; aqueducts and waterlines by AIP Tony Gallo; coal gasification by IR Marty Stanton; spent fuel canisters by IR John Fultz; SCR construction by AIP Dennis King and IR Steve Speed; and coking units by AIP Plummer.

Other meeting topics included safety, referral rules, benefit contributions, and the officers and employees pension plan. □

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

Announcements and registration information were mailed to local lodges in June. For more information, please contact Nicole Stinger at 913-371-2640.

Lodges conduct leadership training



Local 128 construction members attend a steward training class, Nov. 25-26.

Shop and construction members of Locals 29, 45, and 128 attend steward leadership training

THREE CONSTRUCTION Division lodges held leadership training classes in the fall of 2005 and winter of 2006.

Local Lodge 128 (Toronto, Ontario) held two days of training for construc-

tion stewards and shop stewards on November 25-26, 2005, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Local 128 members Kyle Groulx and Ed Frerotte led the classes.



Local 128 shop members also attend the Nov. class in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Local Lodge 29 (Boston) held two separate one-day classes, January 9-10. More than 50 members interested in becoming stewards heard from Construction Division Director Skipper Branscum and Director of Communication and Education Donald Caswell on duties of the steward, history and structure of the union, and basic jurisdiction.

On January 25, Local Lodge 45 (Richmond, Va.) held a leadership training class for nearly 50 members. Participants at this session also learned about a steward's duties and rights, history and structure of the union, and basic jurisdiction from Intl. Rep Clay Hereford and Director of Communication and Education Donald Caswell. □

Industrial conference sponsors class

Delegates from Stove, Cement, and Boiler Divisions attend seminar

MORE THAN 50 members of local lodges throughout the Midwest attended a training session sponsored by the Midwest Boilermakers Industrial Conference, in Kokomo, Ind., April 29. The one-day session was targeted toward local lodge leaders and officers.

Presentations included the history and structure of the union, the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust, the special emergency response team (SERT), and how to complete a quarterly audit and submit a quarterly audit form.

This training session differed from most by including members of lodges from more than one division of the International.

Most participants were from lodges that belong to the conference, which is made up of lodges in the Stove Workers Division, but all local lodges in the area were invited to send people.

Cement Division lodges and lodges in the Industrial Boiler Division also participated, sending local leaders and others to attend the boiler conference.

Several Boilermaker-logo items and other prizes were given away at the conference. And members also made cash donations to the Boilermakers' political action committee, raising over \$800 for the Campaign Assistance Fund.

Charles Brock, an Intl. rep and president of the industrial conference, presided. Speakers included Jackie Judy, who assists SIIC locals with

bookkeeping and quarterly reports, Director of Communication and Education Donald Caswell, and SFEAW Division IVP Othal Smith Jr.



More than 50 people attended a local lodge leadership training session sponsored by the Midwest Boilermaker Industrial Conference, April 29, in Kokomo, Ind.



SIIC lodges attend two-day session

STEWARDS TRAINING WAS the focus of a two-day training session offered by the Southern Illinois Industrial Council (SIIC), March 9-10, in Alton, Ill. More than 50 members of SIIC lodges attended, along with two members from the National Transient Lodge.

Intl. Rep Len Gunderson was the primary instructor. He spoke about the rights and responsibilities of the steward and gave a thorough look at grievance handling. Director of Communication and Education Donald Caswell spoke about the history and structure of the union and the Legislative Education Action Program.

Jim Pressley, asst. to the director of research and collective bargaining services, presided over the training session and assisted Gunderson in his presentation. □

IR Len Gunderson, at left, makes a point at the SIIC-sponsored steward training class in Alton, Ill., March 9-10. Over 50 members attended.

38th Annual LEAP Conference

March 12-16, 2006

Senators Clinton, Biden headline 38th annual LEAP conference

Bush failures, mid-term elections are common conference themes

THE 38TH ANNUAL LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., March 12-16 featured two prominent Democratic Senators — Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY) and Joseph Biden Jr. (DE) — as keynote speakers. Both senators faulted the Bush administration for failures in national security, trade, the economy, Iraq, and other key areas. Also addressing the conference was Amy Walter, an editor for the Cook Political Report and a CNN political analyst. Cook offered insights on the mid-term elections in November and spoke about the potential for a shift in majorities in the House and Senate.

Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin and her staff organized the conference, which also included educational sessions, lobbying on Capitol Hill, Legislator of the Year awards to Congressmen John Shimkus (R-19th IL) and Sherrod Brown (D-12th OH), an evening reception for congressmen, and local lodge awards for LEF and CAF participation.

International President Jones: "What's most worth protecting?"

IVP SEAN MURPHY (Northeast Section) opened the conference, acknowledging the effort of IP Newton B. Jones in leading the Brotherhood during difficult times for all labor unions in the United States.

IP Jones reminded delegates of policies that have hurt union families — especially unfair trade deals that have cost the Brotherhood more than 6,000 man-

ufacturing jobs in the last three years. "We are losing core industries and good-paying jobs," he said, "because our government values political and economic relations with nations that provide cheaper labor more than it values the working future of its own citizens and the fundamental strategic and economic interests of our own country." The current administration has "targeted for destruction the very foundation of the labor movement: good paying jobs," he added.

IP Jones cautioned against putting hot button issues ahead of employment and family issues. "As a labor movement and as labor leaders, we do not say that those issues have no importance or relevance in the debate over the social and political direction of our country and our rights as individual citizens. We do say, however, that those issues have been raised largely as a means to draw the average citizen's attention away from the important political and legislative issues that affect their working lives."

IP Jones added: "In the end, each voter must decide what is most at risk and what is most worth protecting. We believe our pensions, our health care, our right to organize and be represented by our union, our right to speak out against unfair trade policies and for good-paying jobs are our rights most worth protecting."

IP Jones also spoke of the Brotherhood's willingness to find political common ground. "Let me be clear," he said, "we must maintain working relations with both sides of the aisle — with Republicans and Democrats. There are issues that we can and do work together on, but we must also continue to speak out about the issues that divide us."

Clinton: "2006 is the battle."

SENATOR HILLARY Rodham Clinton (D-NY) asked the delegates to avoid focusing on the 2008 presidential

See LEAP conference, page 6



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) addresses delegates at the 2006 LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., March 14.



International President Newton Jones.

Let me be clear — we must maintain working relations with both sides of the aisle — with Republicans and Democrats. There are issues that we can and do work together on, but we must also continue to speak out about the issues that divide us.

— Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones

LEAP conference

Continued from p. 5

election at the expense of this November's mid-term elections. "2006 in November is the battle," Clinton said, speaking of her party's goal of gaining seats in the House and Senate.

Clinton said that if Democrats could win the majority in either house, "we can get back to the people's business" of protecting jobs, national security, health care, and pensions. She criticized Republicans for enacting "tax cuts for the wealthy" and for not holding the administration accountable for its actions. "This White House basically thinks it can do whatever it wants," she said. "That is fundamentally un-American."

The Bush administration has "put us in a corner where we are ceding our fiscal sovereignty," Clinton added, referring to the enormous deficits incurred by the United States. "Do you know we borrow \$60 billion a month to pay the interest on our debt from foreign lenders? Now where do we go, hat in hand, to borrow money? Places like China, Japan, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia."

Clinton thanked the Brotherhood for being politically active, saying, "The Boilermakers came out in force in 2004, because you understood what the stakes were. You were on the front lines; you saw what was going to happen if we weren't successful. And we weren't successful, and it was a heartbreaker. We can't let that happen again."

Sen. Biden warns of an attack that may rival 9-11

SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN JR. (D-DE) told delegates that Americans were looking for decisive leadership right after 9-11, and to many, the Bush administration seemed to be the answer. He said the administration was "well meaning, but dead, dead, dead wrong."

He recalled the "Axis of Evil" comments by Bush four years ago. "Look at the status of the Axis of Evil" today, he said. "Korea has four times the amount of nuclear material ... Iran is on the verge of a nuclear weapon ... and Iraq is falling within the [influence] of Iran."

In criticizing the Bush administration's record on national security, Biden quoted from the 9-11 Commission report issued December 5, 2005: "There has been no risk and vulnerability assessment actually made; no national priorities have been established; and no recommendations for the allocation of scarce resources have come out of this administration." The senator warned delegates: "If in fact we don't change our priorities in this country, mark my words, and I pray to God I get buried before it turns out to be true, you will see a significant and successful attack on this country rivaling what happened on 9-11."

Biden, who admitted he is testing the waters for the presidential race in 2008, said the United States can overcome the challenges it faces. "Name me a single time in American history, when a leader has challenged the people of America and they have ever ... let



Sen. Joseph Biden Jr. (D-DE) says, "Demand more of us."

their country down, no matter what the sacrifice required. We have Democrats who think we have to come to you and promise you nothing will happen to you that will be difficult and Republicans who don't

Name me a single time in American history when a leader has challenged the people of America and they have ever ... let their country down, no matter what the sacrifice required.

— Senator Joseph Biden Jr.

to the Iraq war, Hurricane Katrina, gas prices, administrative scandals, and other problems. Walter said many Republicans are distancing themselves from Bush — a sure sign of a faltering presidency — and voter turnout among Republicans may suffer. Democrats could chip away at the Republican majorities in both houses in November. Even more dangerous for Republicans is the potential for a "macro" election environment (in which individual races receive less focus and voters respond more on a national level, resulting in a wave of change). Walter recalled that this type of environment occurred in 1994 when Republicans won majorities in both the House and Senate.

But a political hurricane is far from certain, she said, noting that Republicans have done an excellent job in protecting their candidates. Whatever weaknesses the Republican Party may have, Democrats will still have to put forth

a compelling and unified message of change if they are to regain their lost power, Walter concluded. □



Delegates to the Boilermakers' 38th annual LEAP conference, March 12-16, in Washington, D.C.

come to you at all, because they don't give a damn about you. Don't listen to us ... demand more of us."

Analyst rates Dems' chances

A PROMINENT POLITICAL analyst told LEAP delegates March 14 that voter unrest could change the balance of power in the United States House and Senate during mid-term elections this November. What's more, a rising wave of voter anxiety could also set the stage for a power shift in 2008.

Amy Walter, an editor of the Cook Political Report and a CNN political analyst, said components of a political "hurricane" are falling into place. One component is President Bush's time in office (well into his second term). Typically presidents at this stage see their party give up seats in the House and Senate, Walter noted. Another component is Bush's approval rating, which has plummeted in recent months thanks



Pieces of a political "hurricane" are falling into place, says Amy Walter, CNN political analyst.

Many Republicans are distancing themselves from Bush — a sure sign of a faltering presidency — and voter turnout among Republicans may suffer.

— Amy Walter, political analyst for CNN

Panelists detail political successes

Boilermakers share personal experiences in grass-roots lobbying

FIVE BOILERMAKERS INVOLVED in grass-roots politics addressed the LEAP conference March 14, describing their successes in voter registration, political education, fund-raising, and other efforts. The group formed a panel moderated by John Hart, president and CEO of the American Democratic Institute, a progressive think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C.



Local 667 retiree B.B. Smith credits education for voter registration success.

B.B. Smith, a retired member from L-667 (Charleston, W.Va.) told how his lodge, representing members in Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia, achieved an 87.5 percent voter registration rate. Smith attributed this success to a three-hour political education class given during apprenticeship classes. A follow-up survey after the 2004 elections found that approximately 90 percent of all L-667 members who were registered said they did vote in the elec-

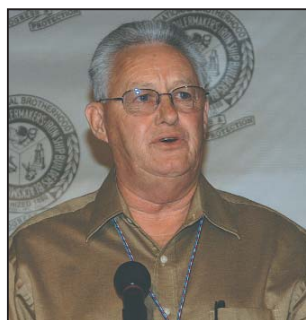
tion, and a random check of court house voting records substantiated the findings. "The system works!" Smith told the LEAP delegates.



LEAP is the best educational tool available, says L-263 BM-ST Mike Allen.

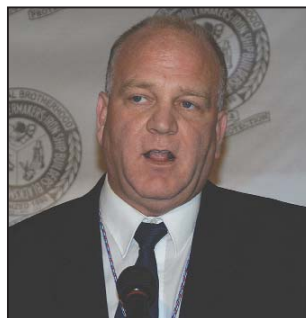
BM-ST Mike Allen of L-263 (Memphis, Tenn.) stressed educating the membership as the single most important part of grass-roots politics. "Catch them early," he stated, referring to new members coming into the lodge. Allen praised the LEAP conference, calling it the best educational tool available for union members, with large amounts of information that can be taken back to the lodge. Among L-263's fund-raisers are a poker run, raffles, and a golf tournament. This year, the lodge will add a fishing tournament to its efforts. "Five years ago, we contributed zero (to CAF and LEF)," Allen said. "Two years ago, we gave over \$10,000."

IR Jim Pressley (Ohio), asst. to the director of research and collective bargaining services, talked about the terrible loss of jobs in his state. One out of four jobs was lost because of the federal government's trade policy, he noted.



Don't get fixated on hot button issues, IR Jim Pressley cautions.

Pressley stressed the importance of not being a single-issue voter. He said union members must not get fixated on hot button issues. "It's about jobs. We can't let these other issues interfere with [jobs, pensions, and benefit] issues," he said.



L-28 retiree John Devlin encourages members to run for political office.

Local 28 retiree **John Devlin** (Newark, N.J.) recounted his successful run for the office of Wall Township

committeeman. Devlin received support from New Jersey labor councils and said he was pleasantly surprised during his campaign to see "at least 200 labor guys walking door to door for me." Devlin encourages other Boilermakers to run for office. He said he would be available to any Boilermaker member who needed advice on how to get elected to local public office.



Ronny Vanscoy, NTL president, says, "Everything about our trade is political."

Ronny Vanscoy, president of the National Transient Lodge, spoke of the importance of every donation, including those for \$5 or \$10. He noted that some 3,200 NTL members are spread out across 50 states and make donations not only as part of the NTL, but also while working through other lodges. The bottom line, Vanscoy stated, is that "everything about our trade is political." He urged those raising funds to make sure they have the support of the local lodge business manager and that they understand the legal aspects of raising funds. He encouraged those involved to contact Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin should they need assistance. □



Rep. John Shimkus (R-19th IL), center, accepts a Legislator of the Year award from IP Newton Jones, left, and Local 363 BM-ST John Passiglia Jr.

Legislators of the Year

TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN shared the Boilermakers' Legislator of the Year award during the LEAP conference: John Shimkus (R-19th IL) and Sherrod Brown (D-12th OH).

Shimkus thanked Local 363 BM-ST John Passiglia Jr. (East St. Louis) for his long support and commended the Brotherhood's leadership, "including those on the ground in Washington," for being engaged politically.

Shimkus stressed the importance of working with the labor movement on common issues, especially in the area of energy and new technologies such as coal-to-liquid fuels. Such technologies, he said, are vital to his district in southern Illinois, which sits atop enormous coal reserves. He said Boilermakers could play a key role building the infrastructure for coal-to-liquid production, helping to reduce this country's dependence on foreign crude oil.



Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-12th OH), left, accepts a Legislator of the Year award from Larry McManamon, IVP, Great Lakes Section.

Addressing the Ohio delegation, Congressman Brown praised Boilermakers for staying involved politically through the years. He asked for continued support, especially with his United States Senate race against Republican incumbent Mike DeWine. "Chuck Schumer [a Democratic senator from New York] told me ... that my race and the Pennsylvania race [between Republican Senator Rick Santorum and Democratic challenger Bob Casey Jr.] are the two most important races in the country."

Both Ohio and Pennsylvania are considered states where Democrats have a realistic shot at picking up Senate seats.

"We've lost a quarter of a million jobs in this state since Mike DeWine and George Bush took the oath of office," Brown told the delegation. "They've got no manufacturing and industrial policy."

Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin presented Brown with a donation for his Senate race on behalf of the Boilermakers union.



LEAP delegates from Local 154, Pittsburgh, accept the award for the highest CAF contribution by a local.



L-40 ABM Michael Autry (second from right) accepts the award for the highest LEF contribution by a local. L. to r., IVP Sam May, IST Bill Creeden, and IP N.B. Jones.

CAF and LEF awards highlight annual conference

Crystal "capitol dome" awards honor members' fund-raising efforts

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

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

The vice-presidential section and local lodge contributing the most money to CAF receive awards, as does the local lodge having the highest CAF contribution per member. This year, awards were also presented to the vice-presidential area and local lodge with the most improved contribution in 2005.

The Northeast Area won the award for the highest CAF contribution by a vice-presidential area in 2005, contributing \$121,820.09. Local 154, Pittsburgh, won for the largest contribution by a local lodge, raising \$42,052.30. Local 5, New York, won for highest contribution per member at \$91.58 per member.

Local 45, Richmond, Va., won the award for the most improved lodge, raising their CAF contributions from \$1,326.72 in 2004 to \$6,340.37 in 2005.

The SFEAW & Metal Division won the award for the most improved region, increasing their CAF contributions from zero dollars in 2004 to \$479.80 in 2005.

Retirees were the single group of contributors who donated the most money in 2005, with \$105,311.06 from the National Pension Trust; \$5,112 from the Officers & Employees Pension Plan; and \$13,946.01 from a letter addressed to retirees requesting donations; for a total of \$124,369.07 from all retirees combined.

International staff and officers contributed another \$41,840.25.

In all, \$435,617.16 was donated to CAF in 2005, yet only 57 locals out of 283 represent contributing members. Nearly all of the locals forwarding large contributions have included a CAF payroll deduction in their contracts. Payroll deductions are the easiest way to raise money. Most people hardly notice a payroll deduction of \$2 a week. Yet donating a couple dollars a week to CAF can raise more than \$100 over a year's time.

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

To learn how to begin contributing to CAF and how to include a voluntary CAF payroll-checkoff clause in a con-



Local 5 receives the award for the highest CAF contribution per member: I. to r., Tom Klein, IVP Sean Murphy, IST Bill Creeden, Jerry Connolly Jr., Tom Cook, and IP Newton Jones.

tract, call the government affairs department at 703-560-1493.

Annual awards also honor top LEF donors

THE BOILERMAKERS' LEGISLATIVE Education Fund (LEF) pays for virtually all Boilermaker political education activities and is funded entirely through contributions from local lodges. Local lodge members vote to determine how much of their dues money goes into LEF.

This was only the third year that awards were presented at the annual LEAP conference to the highest LEF contributors. And for the third year in a row, the Southeast Area won the award for the highest LEF contribution by a vice-presidential area, contributing \$26,063.67 in 2005.

For the second time, Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky., won the award for the highest LEF contribution by a local lodge, contributing \$11,835.67 last year.

Local 60, Peoria, Ill., won the award for the most improved lodge, raising their LEF contributions from \$292.20 in 2004 to \$1,882.10 in 2005.

In addition to receiving the award for the most improved area for CAF donations, the SFEAW & Metal Division also won the award for the most improved section for LEF contributions, increasing their donation from \$783 in 2004 to \$1,828.80 in 2005.

In all, \$101,092.36 was donated to LEF in 2005, with 96 locals out of 283 participating.

Delegates to conference raise money for CAF, LEF

DELEGATES TO THE annual LEAP conference are constantly reminded of the importance of raising money for legislative education and political donations. Nearly every speaker points out how expensive United States political campaigns have become. Delegates also see first-hand the expertise and research

See CAF & LEF awards, page 9



Southeast IVP Sam May, center, accepts an award for the highest LEF contribution by an area from IST Bill Creeden (l.) and IP Newton Jones.



Northeast IVP Sean Murphy, center, accepts the award for the highest CAF contribution by a section from IST Bill Creeden (l.) and IP Newton Jones.



L-263 members Nellie and Marlena Potts (l. to r.), a mother-daughter lobbying team, count CAF donations they collected from conference delegates.

CAF and LEF awards

Continued from p. 8

needed to keep up with legislation. So it isn't surprising that the delegates raise money for LEAP while at the conference.

Delegates made cash donations to CAF, raising \$1,856. When Local 263 delegates Nellie and Marlena Potts challenged the delegates to dig a little deeper, they passed a box around and collected another \$1,095.

Local 455 member Allen Phillips also donated a percentage of his pro-

ceeds from T-shirt sales he made at the conference to CAF, raising an additional \$250.

Members of Local S699, Menominee, Mich., whose local is shutting down due to their plant closing, took one last collection for CAF, raising an additional \$80.

And some lodges presented their LEF and CAF donations at the conference.

In all, \$9,036.47 was donated to LEF at the conference, and CAF took in donations totaling \$6,192. □

Phillips donates portion of T-shirt sales to CAF



Allen Phillips (r.), makes a T-shirt sale to Intl. Rep. **Phillip Evans**. Phillips, a 25-year member of Local 455, Sheffield, Ala., turned his hobby of designing Boilermaker T-shirts into a part-time business to supplement his field construction income. For the last 11 years, he's been bringing his shirts to the LEAP conference to sell, where he generously donates a portion of his profits to the Boilermakers' Campaign Assistance Fund.

Top 10 Local Lodge CAF and LEF Contributors

Top 10 locals sending to CAF

Local	Location	2005 Donation
Local 154	Pittsburgh	\$42,052.30
Local 5	New York	25,551.38
Local 13	Philadelphia	25,150.00
Local 744	Cleveland	22,024.54
Local 108	Birmingham, Ala.	18,315.61
Local 92	Los Angeles	17,129.90
Local 105	Chillicothe, Ohio	14,510.88
Local 40	Elizabethtown, Ky.	12,696.16
Local 193	Baltimore	11,329.86
Local 1	Chicago	7,419.83

Top 10 locals donating to LEF

Local	Location	2005 Donation
Local 40	Elizabethtown, Ky.	\$11,835.67
Local 83	Kansas City, Mo.	8,109.23
District 57	Chattanooga, Tenn.	6,500.00
Local 154	Pittsburgh	3,015.00
Local 92	Los Angeles	2,400.00
Local 531	Amarillo, Texas	2,021.25
Local 60	Peoria, Ill.	1,882.10
Local 105	Chillicothe, Ohio	1,769.50
Local 455	Sheffield, Ala.	1,768.40
Local 667	Charleston, W.Va.	1,543.75

Most improved players

Members earn recognition for increasing fund-raising efforts

AWARDS AT THE LEAP conference don't just honor those giving the most money to CAF and LEF, they also honor the area and local with the most improved contribution.

In 2006, the Boilermakers' government affairs department compared the 2005 LEF and CAF contributions for each local and U.S. vice-presidential area to the contributions made in 2004.

That comparison resulted in the SFEAW and Metal Division winning

both awards for the most improved contribution by area to CAF and LEF.

Local 45 (Richmond, Va.) earned the most improved award for a local contributing to CAF.

Local 60 (Peoria, Ill.) earned the most improved award for a local making a contribution to LEF.

These awards are a way to recognize area and local lodge members for increasing their efforts to raise money for CAF and LEF.



The SFEAW and Metal Division receive the award for the most improved CAF and LEF contributions by a section: l. to r., IR Eddie Whitefield, IST Bill Creeden, IVP Othall Smith Jr., IP Newton Jones, and IR Charlie Brock.



Local 45 Pres. Wilbur Brown Jr., second from left, accepts the award for the most improved CAF contribution by a local. With him, l. to r., are IP Newton Jones, IVP Sean Murphy, and IST Bill Creeden.



L-60 BM-ST Ed Hebert (c.) accepts the award for the most improved LEF contribution by a local from IST Bill Creeden (l.) and IP Newton Jones.

Senate, House members attend reception

Honored guests at annual LEAP reception include government, employer, and union representatives

ONE OF THE highlights of the annual LEAP conference is the Tuesday evening reception for lawmakers, government officials, and Boilermaker guests. The reception allows Boilermaker delegates an opportunity to meet their elected representatives in a relaxed setting, outside the bustle and grind of daily Capitol Hill political activity.

For a short while, Boilermakers have the undivided attention of members of the Senate and House, or their aides, in an atmosphere that may be less business-like than the Hill offices,

but often times is more conducive to building relationships. And building relationships with congressional representatives is one of the top priorities of the annual LEAP conference.

The first day-and-a-half of the conference is dedicated to education. The staff of the Boilermakers' government affairs department discusses upcoming legislation, gives advice on how to get the most out of an appointment on the Hill, and distributes handouts to use as talking points during those meetings. Guest speakers provide insight into what is

really happening in Congress and what members of Congress feel about the direction the country is headed.

The rest of the week is left to the delegates to meet with their representatives, with delegates scheduling their appointments weeks in advance.

With so much going on during LEAP week, the Tuesday night reception is a welcome change of pace. Senate and House members are announced as they arrive, and are met at the door by Boilermaker delegates, who escort them into the ballroom for photographs, refreshments, and conversation.

In 2006, four Senate members and 25 House members attended the Boilermakers' congressional reception.

In addition, aides to two senators and eight House members came on behalf of their congressional representatives.

Special guests included members of the National Labor Relations Board; the United States Labor Department; the International Trade Council; the AFL-CIO's Building Trades Department, Metal Trades Department, and Industrial Union Council; the American Shipbuilding Association; congressional candidates; labor attorneys; and Boilermaker employers.

The reception provided a chance for delegates to meet informally with public officials, and these photos are a record of which congressional representatives attended in 2006. □



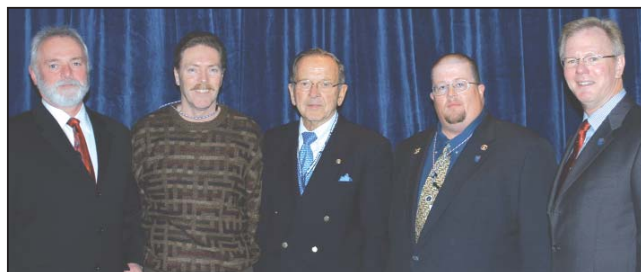
SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA (D-HI), third from right, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Local 90 delegates Melissa Lamerson and Keola Martin, and Intl. Rep. David Bunch.



SENATOR RICHARD J. DURBIN (D-IL), center, with (l. to r.) Kenny Rogers of L-60, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Ed Hebert of L-60, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Vice Pres. Larry McManamon, Bill Staggs of L-483, Intl. Rep. and Mrs. Jim Pressley, Ben Kosiek of L-1, and Dominic Fornelli of L-483.



SENATOR PAUL S. SARBANES (D-MD), center, with (l. to r.) Ernest Dorsey of L-193, Intl. Rep. Marty Stanton, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Vice Pres. Sean Murphy, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, and Michael Jacobs and Keith Jones of L-193.

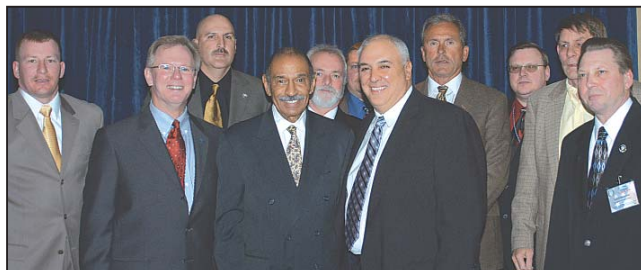


SEN. TED STEVENS (R-AK), center, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Bruce Burge and Richard Jones of Local 502, and Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones.



In the photo at left is **REP. SHELLEY BERKLEY (D-1ST NV)** with, l. to r., Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones and Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden.

In the photo at right is **REP. TIM BISHOP (D-1ST NY)**, third from right, with (l. to r.) Tom Klein and Tom Cook of L-5, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, and Jerry Connolly Jr. of L-5.



REP. JOHN CONYERS JR. (D-14TH MI), fourth from left, with International officers and representatives Newton B. Jones, Bill Creeden, Larry McManamon, Clayton Plummer, and Len Gunderson, and delegates from Wisconsin and Michigan.

In the photo at right is **REP. GEOFF DAVIS (R-4TH KY)**, second from right, with (l. to r.) Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, and Michael Autry of Local 40.





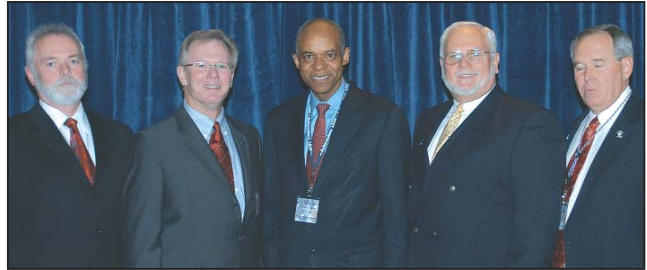
REP. ELIOT ENGEL (D-17TH NY), fourth from left, with (l. to r.) Tom Cook and Jerry Connolly Jr. of L-5, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Tom Klein of L-5, Intl. Vice Pres. Othall Smith Jr., and Kevin O'Brien of L-5.



REP. MIKE FITZPATRICK (R-8TH PA), fifth from left, with (l. to r.) Fred Chamberlain and Nick Gabriele of L-19, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Rep. Phil Evans, David Gaillard of L-19, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Steve Lalumera of L-19, Intl. Vice Pres. Sean Murphy (in back), and Gary Gadosh, president of the Philadelphia Metal Trades Council.



REP. AL GREEN (D-9TH TX), third from left, with (l. to r.) his aide, Tony Harrison; Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones; Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden; Govt. Affairs Dir. Bridget Martin; and Intl. Rep. David Bunch.



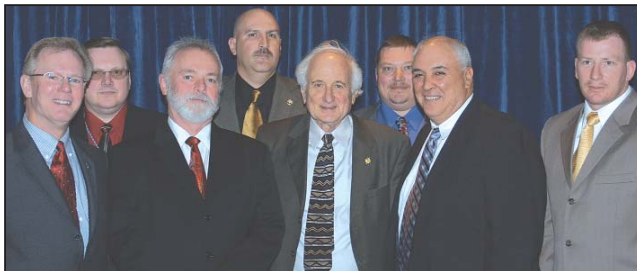
REP. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON (D-2ND LA), center, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, AIP Dennis King, and Intl. Vice Pres. Sam May.



REP. SUE W. KELLY (R-19TH NY) with, l. to r., Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Tom Cook of L-5, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, and L-5 delegates Tom Klein and Jerry Connolly Jr.



REP. RON J. KIND (D-3RD WI), second from right, with (l. to r.) Intl. Rep. Len Gunderson, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Jeff Latus of L-1509, and Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones.



REP. SANDER M. LEVIN (D-12TH MI), fourth from right, with (l. to r.) Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, James Kaffenberger of L-169, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, and L-169 delegates Bob Hutsell, Bill Wibby, Tony Jacobs, and Jim Calouette.



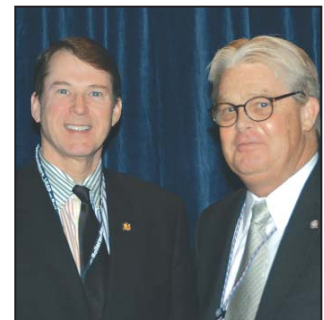
Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd IL), third from left, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Ben Kosiek of L-1, and Bill Staggs and Dominic Fornelli of L-483.



REP. CAROLYN MALONEY (D-14TH NY) with Local 5 BM-ST Jerry Connolly Jr.



REP. CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-4TH NY) with, l. to r., Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Intl. Vice Pres. Sean Murphy (in back), Tom Cook and Jerry Connolly Jr. of Local 5, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, and Tom Klein and Kevin O'Brien of Local 5.



REP. MICHAEL MCNULTY (D-21ST NY), left, with Local 5 BM-ST Jerry Connolly Jr.



REP. TIMOTHY F. MURPHY (R-18TH PA), front row, third from left, with Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones on his left, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden on his right, Intl. Vice Pres. Sean Murphy, back row, second from left, and Local 154 delegates.



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (D), the delegate to the House of Representatives for the District of Columbia, center, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Ernest Dorsey of L-193, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Vice Pres. Jim Hickenbotham, Michael Jacobs of L-193, and James Berlin and James Mason of L-684.



REP. MAJOR R. OWENS (D-11TH NY), third from left, with (l. to r.) Tom Cook of Local 5, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, and Jerry Connolly Jr. and Tom Klein of Local 5.



REP. DONALD M. PAYNE (D-10TH NJ), fifth from right, with International officers and delegates representing the state of New Jersey.



REP. RALPH REGULA (R-16TH OH), front row, third from right, with Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones and Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden to his right, Intl. Vice Pres. Larry McManamon, to his left in second row, and delegates representing the state of Ohio.



REP. ADAM SCHIFF (D-29TH CA), center, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, David King of Local 6, and Intl. Rep. David Bunch.



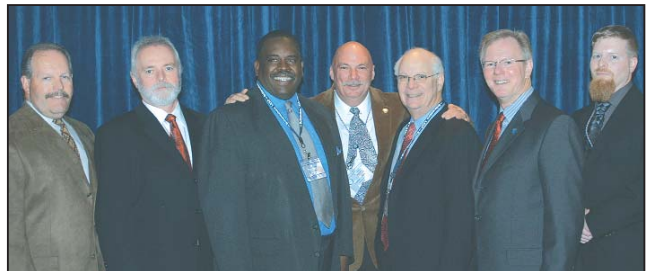
REP. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ (D-13TH PA), center, with Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones to her left and Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden to her right, and delegates representing the state of Pennsylvania.



REP. ROBERT SIMMONS (R-2ND CT), fourth from right, with (l. to r.) James Papa of L-614, Intl. Vice Pres. Sean Murphy, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, George Strutt of L-614, Shipbuilding Director Warren Fairley Jr., and John Adamson of L-614.



REP. JOE WILSON (R-2ND SC), fourth from right, with (l. to r.) Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, DL57 BIM-ES Ed Vance, Intl. Vice Pres. Sam May, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, Shipbuilding Dep. Dir. Steve Beal, Mike Johnston and David Impson of L-687, and Intl. Rep. John Chapman.



REP. ALBERT WYNN (D-4TH MD), third from left, and **REP. BENJAMIN CARDIN (D-3RD MD)**, third from right, with (l. to r.) Ernest Dorsey of L-193, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, Michael Jacobs of L-193, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones, and Keith Jones of L-193.

Delegates take the Hill for Boilermaker issues

The most important work of the LEAP conference occurs when Boilermakers meet their congressional representatives

"I'VE HAD FOUR members die of mesothelioma [asbestos-related disease] in the last 15 years," says Jerry Connolly Jr., business manager and secretary-treasurer for Local 5, a construction lodge in New York. "And this is from a local of only 300 Boilermakers." Connolly is sitting across a table from Moira Campion, legislative director for Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-22nd NY), in Hinchey's Washington, D.C., office. Campion jots down some notes and asks a few questions. But mostly she just listens. Connolly goes on to argue for asbestos legislation that is fair and fully funded — so that all those who suffer from asbestos diseases are compensated.

It is a scene repeated hundreds of times on Capitol Hill during the Brotherhood's 38th annual LEAP conference March 12-16, as delegates from over two dozen states make the rounds in the halls of Congress. Meetings with lawmakers can be tough to arrange, as their schedules fill up quickly. Delegates may make appointments weeks in advance. Often the meetings are with aides instead of the lawmakers themselves, but aides play a key role in lobbying. Senators and representatives depend on them for advice and knowledge about specific issues. Aides regularly influence how lawmakers vote.

BM-ST Connolly and Local 5 VP Tom Klein review five key Boilermaker issues with Rep. Hinchey's aide, including asbestos, shipbuilding, trade agreements, power plant emissions, and work visas for Canadian members. These are issues that have been identified by the Brotherhood's government affairs department and top leadership as most vital to the union's interest at this time.

Connolly is an old hand at lobbying for the Brotherhood. He's been doing it for 24 years. His explanations are succinct and punctuated by figures and statistics. What makes Connolly's presentation especially compelling is the fact that it's personalized. He tells

Campion, "Roughly 25 percent of my members have tested positive for asbestos diseases. Tom [Klein] and I have both been exposed to asbestos over the years. We don't know what might happen to us in the future."

For another delegate from Local 5, President Tom Cook, lobbying has an interesting twist. His sister is Carolyn McCarthy (D-4th NY). The New York delegates enjoy a relaxed and comfortable meeting with her. She is up to speed on Boilermaker issues — and has a 100 percent labor voting record.

Of course, not all legislators are in agreement with Boilermaker issues. In another House office building, delegates from Ohio are meeting with the legislative assistant for Rep. Michael Turner (R-3rd OH). Local 105 President Wyndham Sparling asks Turner's assistant, Joseph Heaton, "How does the congressman stand on the Andean Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) proposed by the Bush administration?" Heaton replies that Rep. Turner voted in favor of CAFTA (the Central American Free Trade Agreement), suggesting he might also support AFTA. But on another issue, shipbuilding, Heaton says the congressman would probably favor restrictions on leasing foreign ships, a position that is in line with Boilermaker goals.

Meetings like those with Rep. Turner's office can be a bit less comfortable than those with staunch labor allies. But this is important work for the Brotherhood, as the union seeks to find common ground with politicians who have typically not been in labor's camp but who side with Boilermaker interests on certain issues. This effort is already paying off with some Republican lawmakers, such as Rep. John Shimkus of Illinois' 19th district (co-recipient of the Brotherhood's 2005 Legislator of the Year Award). Local 363 BM-ST John Passiglia Jr. (East St. Louis, Ill.) praised Shimkus, saying, "He's always been there for the Boilermakers



Local 105 President Wyndham Sparling, right, and LEAP committeeman James Steigewald, center (Chillicothe, OH), present the Boilermaker legislative agenda to Rep. Ted Strickland (D-6th OH).



Moira Campion, legislative director for Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-22nd NY), takes notes as New York Local 5 delegates BM-ST Jerry Connolly Jr., right, and VP Tom Klein discuss asbestos legislation.

Local 5 President Tom Cook (New York) shares a moment with his sister, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-4th NY), during a lobbying session.



of Local 363 and the rest of the working families of southern Illinois."

Even representatives with strong labor ties, like Dennis Kucinich (D-10th OH), may weigh Boilermaker issues in light of other priorities. In Kucinich's office, Ohio delegates Jeff Beitel (Local 1073 LEAP coordinator), Phil Lewis (Local 1073 president), and Jim McManamon (Local 744 vice president)

See Delegates, page 14



Local 105 member Tom Lindsey, right, listens as Joseph Heaton, an aide to Rep. Michael Turner (R-3rd OH), explains the congressman's position on shipbuilding.



Local 5 Vice President Tom Klein (New York), right, outlines the union's position on work visas for Canadian Boilermakers for Rep. Major Owens (D-11th NY).

Delegates take the Hill for Boilermakers

Continued from p. 13

engage the congressman in discussions about upgrading power plants and building new ones. Kucinich is strong on renewable, sustainable energy. He tells the delegates that the Boilermakers union should pursue construction work in emerging energy sources such as wind technology. "This is where the jobs are going to be," Kucinich says.

By the close of the LEAP conference, Boilermaker delegates have promoted the Brotherhood's issues to nearly 200

United States representatives and senators. It can be a grueling effort, frequently spread out over three days or more, with a lot of walking, a lot of waiting, and a lot of talking. But it's an essential function for the future of the Boilermakers. Says Bridget Martin, the International's government affairs director: "For me, this is the most rewarding part of LEAP — knowing that our members have an opportunity to sit in the offices of their elected officials and talk about matters that are of great importance to them and to our union. LEAP empowers our delegates politically." □



Local 744 (Cleveland) VP James McManamon, right, talks about power plant emissions with Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-10th OH).

Celanese, Local 484 reach agreement

Continued from p. 1

"We wrapped up the final details Monday morning." The hearing, initially set for late Monday morning, was postponed to June 6 to give both parties more time to negotiate.

The settlement also resolves outstanding contract bargaining issues, including

a key obstacle — the company's refusal to cap the portion of health care premiums paid by employees. Under the new four-year agreement, the employee portion is capped at eight percent over the current contribution rate.

The contract also provides hourly wage increases between 35 and 45 cents

in each contract year, depending on position, as well as other improvements.

"A big win for Boilermakers"

"THERE'S NO QUESTION this is a big win for Boilermakers — and for labor," Pressley said. "I don't think the company wanted our members to come back to work."

Throughout the lockout, Celanese used replacement workers to perform union jobs. Celanese also hired a security company and a law firm known for anti-union tactics.

Pressley said the union's ULP charges — and the impending NLRB hearing — likely forced Celanese to back off of its concessionary contract demands and seek a settlement. He also credited the pressure put on by both U.S. senators from Illinois, Dick Durbin and Barack Obama, as well as state and local politicians.

Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones agreed. "Sen. Durbin, in particular, has supported L-484 members throughout this struggle, as has Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. The lockout and its resolution demonstrate just how important it is for our union to build strong political ties. In times like these, those ties can make all the difference."

IP Jones also pointed to the overwhelming support from labor unions. "Labor's power has always come from

solidarity," he said. "With support from our International, other unions, and our friends in politics, Local 484 members and their leaders stood up to this threat to their livelihoods — and they prevailed."

"Much of the credit for this settlement has to go to Jim Pressley," IP Jones noted. "He spearheaded the union's effort; he was the one on the ground, day after day, leading the charge and dealing with the pressures. He did a remarkable job."

IP Jones also expressed his thanks to other International staff members who took part in the campaign and to Local 484 President Kelly Street.

Great Lakes IVP Larry McManamon said strong support from the International was essential for Local 484 as well as for Local 1240 (Wabash, Ind.), which recently returned to work after being locked out by Wabash Alloys (see page 19). McManamon added his thanks to Pressley for representing both local lodges during very tough times.

Celanese is a major transnational corporation headquartered in Dallas. In February 2005, Celanese purchased the National Starch Co. in Meredosia, Ill., where Boilermakers have represented workers for over 50 years. The first contract was negotiated in November 1955 by Local 363 (East. St. Louis, Ill.). In 1976, Local 484 was chartered specifically for this unit. □

L-S699 makes parting gift

AS BRIDGET MARTIN PREPARED for the annual LEAP conference, she was struck by a simple note and \$80 check that came across her desk.

The note was from Joyce Allgeyer, president of Local S699 of Menominee, Wis. It told Martin (director of the government affairs department in Washington, D.C.) that this would be the last donation to the Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) that her members would be making.

That Allgeyer's members would make any contribution to CAF was astounding.

Devastated by a plant closure and the loss of their jobs, Local S699 members could have justifiably focused all of their dwindling financial resources on rebuilding their lives. Yet these Boilermakers reached into their pockets one

last time to preserve something bigger than themselves. They understood that only political action can stop the river of jobs leaving the United States, and making political changes takes money.

Emerson Electric will be hard pressed to find employees like these at its new vacuum cleaner plant in Mexico. The unselfishness, hard work, and loyalty of the women and men of Local S699 are not a commodity to be bought and sold. And the Boilermakers will certainly miss these dedicated members.

The final gift Local S699 gave to the Brotherhood far exceeds what was written on the check to CAF. These members demonstrated, even in times of personal turmoil and despair, a belief that unions make a difference in ordinary people's lives — and are worth personal sacrifices. □

Local 693 member gives what he can



John T. White, a 31-year member of Local 693, Pascagoula, Miss., donates pens, pencils, and notebooks to his brother and sister Boilermakers following Hurricane Katrina.

Local 1666 faces plant closing

Members made automotive parts

AFTER 82 YEARS of operation, a forge in Dayton, Ohio, will close its doors May 26, eliminating what once were good-paying jobs for members of Local Lodge 1666.

"We knew the plant was in trouble for the last four years," said IR Ron Lyon. "It's an old plant that had been losing money."

Harris Thomas Industries Inc. makes automotive parts such as rocker arms, connecting rods, and steering sockets. In 1999, an investment company, Stonebridge Industries Inc., bought the family-owned business.

In 2003, Local 1666 members made major concessions to keep the plant operating, taking a 21 percent wage reduction, giving up 10 paid holidays,

and capping vacation at one week per year. Despite these sacrifices, the plant still operated at a loss. Harris Thomas's main customer, Delphi, declared bankruptcy last October.

Gary Ebsch, Local 1666 president, said the forge had provided good jobs through the 1990s. Wages averaged about \$19 per hour, and the employer paid 100 percent of health insurance.

At its peak, Local 1666 had about 130 members. But membership dwindled as the plant struggled with shrinking orders, rising steel prices, Asian competition, and skyrocketing health care costs.

"They came to us in March and told us they were going to close," Ebsch said. With the business in debt, there would be no exit agreement.

"I had to fight with them just to get them to pay the one week's vacation to members," Ebsch recalled. With the

plant closing date quickly approaching, the union scrambled to get help for its members. A Rapid Response team from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services offered funding for training, assistance with job searches, and unemployment benefits. Ebsch said many members simply moved out of state to look for work. Some members declared bankruptcy. The union also filed for Trade Adjustment Assistance and is awaiting a decision.

"Manufacturing in this town [Dayton] is dying," said Ebsch, who at 45 has been with Harris Thomas for 10 years. "It's a shame. We've got guys who have been here 30-40 years, who have given their working lives to this company. When it was family-owned, they made it work. The investment firm bled it dry."

Local Lodge 1666 was chartered September 6, 1951. □

Heat stress in construction

Heat is a serious hazard in construction work

YOUR BODY BUILDS up heat when you work and sweats to get rid of extra heat. But sometimes your body may not cool off fast enough. This can happen, say, if you are working in a confined space or you are lifting heavy loads.

Too much heat can make you tired, hurt your job performance, and increase your chance of injury. You can get skin rash. Excess heat can also cause the following:

- **Dehydration.** When your body loses water, you can't cool off fast enough. You feel thirsty and weak.
- **Cramps.** You can get muscle cramps from the heat even after you leave work.
- **Heat exhaustion.** You feel tired, nauseous, headachy, and giddy (dizzy and silly). Your skin is damp and looks muddy or flushed. You may faint.
- **Heat stroke.** You may have hot dry skin and a high temperature. Or you may feel confused. You may have convulsions or become unconscious. **Heat stroke can kill you** unless you get emergency medical help.

The risk of heat stress

YOUR RISK OF heat stress depends on many things, including

- Your physical condition
- The weather (temperature, humidity)
- How much clothing you have on
- How fast you must move or how much weight you must lift
- Whether you are near a fan or there is a breeze
- Whether you are in the sun.

If there is an industrial hygienist at your work site, ask the hygienist about the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature Index. It is a precise way to estimate the risk of heat stress.

Adapted from a hazard alert published by the Center to Protect Workers' Rights, a research, training, and service arm of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Dept.

BCTD announces free medical screening for workers at DOE

Anyone who has done construction work at a DOE site is eligible

ATTENTION BOILERMAKERS: If you've ever performed construction work (for either a prime or subcontractor) at any of the following Department of Energy (DOE) sites, you may be eligible for a FREE medical screening to determine if your health has been affected.

- Amchitka Test Site, Alaska
- Brookhaven Natl. Laboratory, N.Y.
- Fernald Plant, Ohio
- Hanford Reservation, Wash.
- Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)
- Kansas City Plant, Mo.

Protect yourself

TRY TO DO these things:

- **Drink when you are thirsty.**
- **Take rest breaks.** Rest in a cool, shady spot. Use fans.
- **Wear light-colored clothing** made of cotton.
- **Do the heaviest work in the coolest time of the day.**
- **Work in the shade.**
- **For heavy work in hot areas,** take turns with other workers so some can rest.

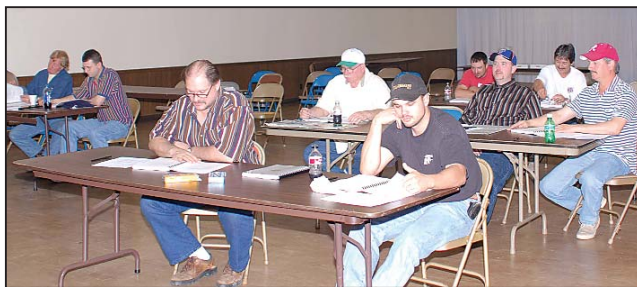
If you travel to a warm area for a new job, you need time for your body to get used to the heat. Be extra careful the first two weeks on the job.

If you work in protective clothing, you need more rest breaks. You may also need to check your temperature and heart rate.

If you think someone has heat stroke, call emergency services (or 911). Immediately move the victim to the shade. Loosen his/her clothes. Wipe or spray his/her skin with cool water and fan him/her. You can use a piece of cardboard or other material as a fan. OSHA does not have a special rule for heat. But because heat stress is known as a serious hazard, workers are protected under the **General Duty Clause** of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The clause says employers must provide "employment free from recognized hazards ... causing or ... likely to cause physical harm."

For more information, contact your local union, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at 1-800-35-NIOSH or www.cdc.gov/niosh, the Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR) at 301-578-8500 or www.cptwr.com, or OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA or www.osha.gov. Or check the Web site at www.elcosh.org.

Local 112 conducts OSHA safety training



Local 112 members participate in an OSHA 10-hour training course.

Lodge finds benefits in combining apprentice with journeymen classes

ABOUT THREE DOZEN members of Local Lodge 112, Mobile, Ala., attended a 10-hour OSHA safety training course at their union hall February 23 and 24.

The course, offered twice each year under MOST, a joint labor-management trust, is a requirement for all apprentices, and all members who work under the Southeast Area Agreement must complete the instruction once every three years.

Local 112 member Hugh M. Turner, an OSHA-certified instructor, conducted the classes. Turner noted that he and John Nolen, another Local 112 OSHA-certified instructor, prefer to offer the entire 10-hour program to journeymen, although a five-hour update course is available.

"When I have journeymen ready to be upgraded, I like to schedule my



Local 112 instructor Hugh M. Turner leads class discussions during an OSHA 10-hour training course in Mobile, Ala.

apprentices into the same class," Turner said. "I like to have class discussions about members' job experiences with these safety issues, which I find to be a great learning tool for the apprentices."

About 20 apprentices and 12 journeymen completed the course. □

Report claims \$800 billion in excess costs for Medicare drugs

Troubled program could have been done cheaper, better, says CEPR

MEDICARE'S NEW PRESCRIPTION drug program will cost \$800 billion more, over 10 years, than it should have, according to a report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR).

The report, released in February, suggests that Congress made a mistake by allowing multiple private insurance companies to provide the benefit. A better solution, the report says, would have been to let Medicare itself provide the benefit and to allow the agency to negotiate directly with drug companies (as the Department of Veterans Affairs already does, quite successfully). The current approach actually increases the cost of the program for seniors and the disabled as well as state and local governments. Not only that, but the system is overly complex. A multitude of policies, co-pays, and premiums confuses the very Medicare recipients the plan is

supposed to help. Many of those whose prescriptions had been fully covered by Medicare in the past now face copays they cannot afford — or find the drugs they need are no longer covered.

The CEPR cites figures from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that project \$38 billion in costs related to the private insurance companies' marketing and profits. But the biggest additional cost is the hundreds of billions of dollars lost by not allowing Medicare to use its considerable bargaining power to negotiate with drug companies.

The CEPR contends that if Congress would restructure the drug program, more than \$640 billion could be recouped over 10 years. All that is needed is to allow Medicare to negotiate directly for lower drug prices and compete with plans offered by private insurers. The report concludes that in addition to saving huge amounts of money, these changes would vastly simplify the plan, relieving seniors and the handicapped of unnecessary worry and confusion. □

Lone Star completes ApCom job

Boilermakers get all the work when customer sees quality performed

WHAT STARTED OUT as a 16-week job ended up lasting twice as long when a customer, pleased with the quality work he was getting, decided to keep the Boilermakers a little while longer and let them do all of the work.

"The rest of the contractors were open shop," explained Ron Keck, BM-ES for the Lone Star District Lodge. "The Boilermakers were the only craft there, and we ended up doing all the work."

Members of the Lone Star District Lodge working for ApCom Power were called to Harrison County Power in Marshall, Texas, the same day Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. But the work there had nothing to do with the

storm, although the damage there was just as horrific.

"There was a 36-inch gas pipeline about 40 yards away from the electric company that investigators later determined had a pin-sized hole," explained Local 587 BM-ST Sandy Kirkland. "When that pipe ruptured, it was like a giant flamethrower."

The fire and explosion damaged two Alstom heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs) and everything near them, said Michael Rushing, safety manager for ApCom Power. "Boilermakers from the Lone Star District, Locals 587 [Orange, Texas], 74 [Houston], and 132 [Galveston, Texas], worked on the job for a total of 21,000 man-hours without a recordable or lost-time accident."

Kirkland said the superintendents heading up the job were Boilermakers. Ernie Rudd came out of Local 531 (Amarillo, Texas), and works as an



Members of the Lone Star District complete repair work at Harrison County Power in Marshall, Texas.

ApCom Power field superintendent and project manager, bidding and planning jobs. Don Sims is a 19-year member of Local 74 who works as an ApCom superintendent.

"It was evident that the customer was happy with the members we sent, as they kept adding projects to the scope of the work," Kirkland said. "The 20-member crew did an excellent job." □



Jamar thanks Local 107 members for job well done

I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to thank the Boilermakers for all of their help on the Columbia Unit #1 major overhaul.

A special thanks to Blane Tom [L-107 BM-ST, Milwaukee] and Pat McMahon [L-107 ABM] for all of their hard work in filling our call for 173 Boilermakers as planned.

Using the local hall in Milwaukee to test welders proved to be a great success, and I thank the Boilermakers for allowing us to use their facility. We administered 147 weld tests for the project, with 52 of the welders belonging to Local 107, while the remaining 75 welders were travelers.

Thanks to the Boilermakers' craftsmanship and attention to detail, the weld quality on this project was outstanding. Our project consisted of 6,334 welds. We performed 15 percent radiography on the project, shooting 958 welds. Only 13 welds were rejected, for a total rejection rate of 0.2 percent.

Our project included the installation of six SH division walls, 23 SH pendant platen tips, 139 final superheat elements, 139 upper economizer and low temp SH elements, 168 lower economizer elements, a new economizer inlet, and intermediate headers.

At completion of the project, our Boilermaker rigging crews had removed and replaced approximately 2,000 tons of pressure parts, with only one OSHA recordable and few minor first aid injuries. These remarkable safety statistics are the result of the outstanding safety attitude and work ethic displayed during the entire overhaul.

In addition to the pressure part work, our Boilermaker crews replaced the primary and secondary outlet

dampers on both air heaters as well as 3,612 precipitator wires. Due to the great team effort by the Boilermakers, Local 107's foreman and general foreman, and Jamar supervision, we were able to return the boiler to Alliant Energy four days ahead of an already aggressive schedule.

I'm very proud to be a member of the Boilermakers for over 30 years and tip my hat to a very professional hard working group of men. Everyone who was involved in this project did a great job and should be proud of their accomplishments.

Thank you all for your efforts in a job well done.

ED PLUCKER, general manager
Wisconsin Division
The Jamar Company

Local 154's performance impresses FirstEnergy

I WANT TO personally thank you, Ray [L-154 BM Ray Ventrone, Pittsburgh], and the Boilermakers of Local 154. I have been at the W. H. Sammis Plant for almost 20 years and have never experienced what your Boilermakers accomplished during our recent forced outages on Units 6 and 7. The turnaround time (from the time both units were given to you and the time you released to us for hydro) was second to none — an outstanding turnaround time.

As you stated at a recent conference of "raising the bar," I can truly say you folks practice what you preach. You are truly committed to customer service.

As a side note, your folks also had a zero percent weld failure rate on our recent Unit 5 scheduled outage — a commendable performance.

Please let your folks know of my appreciation.

F. A. LUBICH, director
FirstEnergy's W.H. Sammis Plant

Kudos to Local Lodge 60 members at the Quad Cities Nuclear Station

I JUST WANTED to let you [Greg Gressock, project manager, and Clark Jenkins, site superintendent, for The Venture] know how well the Boiler-

makers performed on this outage. They had some major work tasks and they completed them with excellent quality workmanship. I have not seen one AR written on a weld reject or any aspect of the Boilermakers' work, such as control of cylinders, control of filler material, etc. This is by far the best outage performance I have seen by one of the craft groups. Hopefully, they will finish the outage with the same excellent performance. They all deserve a thank you for a job well done.

MICHAEL ANDERSON, welding admin.
Quad Cities Nuclear Station
Owner rep for Excelsior Corp.

Chuck Lenzie Generating Station commends L-92

I HAVE BEEN at the Chuck Lenzie Generating Plant since March 2005. I was working in the plant until July 2005, when I was given the job to oversee the completion of the HRSGs.

I had the pleasure of working with members of Local 92 [Los Angeles]. I was impressed with the quality of their workmanship and work ethics. While this project has been trying for many of us, the Boilermakers were an asset to the project.

Jimmy Haines (general foreman) and his crew came back to the project twice to install a catalyst on power blocks #1 and #2; he and his men did an excellent job and were very professional in their approach. While not trying to single out any one, Haines, Bob Furnish, Gerald Bernard, and Ron Scott were great supervisors. All safety practices were followed, which resulted in zero injuries. The team of Boilermakers is to be commended for their work, and I look forward to having the pleasure to work with Local 92 members again.

J.J. SMITH, construction manager
Chuck Lenzie Generation Station
Apex, Nev.

NewMech thanks Local 11

NEWMECH WOULD LIKE to take the opportunity to thank you [L-11 BM-ST Robert Hall] and Boilermakers Local 11 for your successful involvement in the Hardin Generating Station Project in Hardin, Mont. We are appreciative of the team of Boilermakers you

helped assemble and are very happy to have found a long-term employee, David Mabry [L-11 member].

This was one of the most challenging and intense projects NewMech has ever undertaken. As you know, much of the initial equipment and materials dated back to the 1960s, which made the installation very complex and required a vast amount of ingenuity.

First and foremost, the project was completed with zero lost-time accidents, and this was an amazing feat considering there were over 1,000,000 man-hours completed under the Project Labor Agreement. The schedule we maintained was outstanding and is a true testament to the quality and productivity of the Project Team.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with you and Local 11.

PAUL C. JORDAN, president/CEO
MICHAEL A. HERN, vice president
Industrial Division

TONY CONDON, safety director
NewMech Companies Inc.

Local 667's work is "second to none"

DURING THE LAST two quarters of 2005, Foster Wheeler Zack Inc. completed the removal and replacement of the unit #2 absorber inlet ductwork at the Pleasants Power Station. This project consisted of the removal and replacement of 740 tons of ductwork utilizing a CC1800 crane. The ductwork was shipped to the site in large modules and ground assembled into even larger sections and ultimately erected by members of Local 667 [Charleston, W.Va.].

This work was performed on schedule, under budget, and with zero lost-time and zero recordable injuries. The quality, workmanship, and work ethic demonstrated by these craftsmen were second to none.

We would like to thank you [L-667 BM-ST George Pinkerman] and your members for the success of this project. You provided us with quality craftsmen, very well-trained apprentices, and we look forward to performing future projects in Local 667's territory.

DOUG KOHNE, operations manager
Foster Wheeler Zack Inc.

Local 374 members use new method to rebuild furnace at U.S. Steel

Delays cost more time and money, but do not affect members' quality performance

BOILERMAKERS WORKING OUT of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., for Belgium-based Pirson Constructors, have finished a complete rebuild of the #14 blast furnace at U.S. Steel Corp.'s Gary Works plant — working from the top down.

The 30-year-old furnace, originally labeled #13, was taken out of service last July and was expected to be back online in December 2005 at a cost of \$260 million. However, sometimes things don't go as planned and sometimes plans change, leaving this project two months behind schedule and \$40 million over cost.

But this didn't affect the Boilermakers' performance, which was duly noted by U.S. Steel manager Chuck Smith: "We are very pleased with the Boilermakers on this project. Even under adverse conditions, their job performance remained professional."

According to Local 374 BM-ST Paul Maday, "The #14 blast furnace is one of the largest blast furnaces in the Western Hemisphere." Standing over 300 feet high, it can produce 9,200 tons of hot metal daily — 2,155 tons more than before the rebuild — at 97.5 percent availability for the next two decades.

During the demolition phase, new ring sections were welded together in a fabrication area near the old furnace and transported back to the site by multi-wheeled vehicles called "Shirley cars." Maday said these Shirley cars brought the sections — which weighed over 300 tons each — into position to be lifted by "strand jacks."

What went wrong

THINGS STARTED TO go bad in September when a Shirley car broke down. The carrier's hydraulic units failed, causing one of the 320-ton fur-

nace sections to slide off into a utility building, damaging both the section and the building. As if this wasn't bad enough, the delay it caused pushed the project into adverse weather conditions, and then the company decided to do more work than originally planned.

"The carrier failure extended the schedule," John Armstrong, spokesman for the Pittsburgh-based company, told the *Northwest Indiana News*.

"Then the weather conditions, specifically the wind, prevented us from using the

A new way of doing things

THE FURNACE REBUILD was the largest that Pirson Constructors had ever attempted, and it was the first time in the United States that Pirson's rebuild methods had ever been used.

"The conventional method of rebuilding a furnace is from the bottom up," explained Maday. "Pirson, however, uses a different rigging scheme, and starts with the top sections, building down."

Using strand jacks, a furnace section is lifted into the air. Another section is moved below it using a Shirley car, and they are fit and welded together. The strand jacks then lift these two sections into the air, and a third section is moved into



Local 374 members lift the new dome.

tion. A crane is then used to lift the dome to the top, completing the furnace stack.

"This method of using strand jacks and building from the top to the bottom could replace the conventional way we rebuild furnaces now," said Maday. "It sure is a safer way to do it, because you are assembling large sections together with appurtenances installed in the foundation yard." And almost all welding is performed at ground level. Maday says over 200 Boilermakers worked over 400,000 man-hours at Gary Works, U.S. Steel's largest manufacturing plant. They completed the job in early February, and the furnace was back up and running later that month.

The delays caused by equipment failure, weather, and plan modifications may have kept this project from being done on time and within budget, but it didn't prevent the Boilermakers from performing a high-quality job. The final product surpasses U.S. Steel's original expectations, and Gary Works is back in full production of the iron it uses to make steel, thanks to members of the Boilermakers union. □

When the wind dies down, the downcomer goes up at the Gary, Ind., steel plant.

heavy crane needed to move pieces into place, and that was critical." When the company decided to do more work than originally scheduled, Armstrong said they "replaced things we didn't intend to replace to insure we would have a world-class furnace with a campaign life of 20 years."

place and welded to the group. This method is repeated until all the sections are welded together. In this case, five sections were welded together, which meant the strand jacks at one time were lifting 1,600 tons. Once the bottom section (tuyeres and hearth) is attached, the strand jacks lower the sections to the founda-



This multi-wheeled "Shirley car" is moving the new hearth for a blast furnace being built by Local 374 members.



Local 374 members use strand jacks to raise new stack sections into place at Gary Works in Gary, Ind.

Locals 13, 28 host tripartite conference

TWO NORTHEAST SECTION lodges held their first-ever joint tripartite conference January 10 and 11 in Bethlehem, Pa. Locals 13 (Philadelphia) and 28 (Newark, N.J.) collaborated on the event, which was modeled on the Boilermakers' national tripartite meeting. The lodges will alternate their event year to year between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Local 13 BM-ST Jim Banford said the turnout exceeded expectations. In addition to contractors, 12 owners were represented. "Especially considering it was our first local tripartite conference, it went extremely well," he said. "We received a lot of great feedback."

Local 28 BM-ST Ray Cushing agreed: "Our contractors loved it. They want to know what we're thinking, and we want to know what projects are coming up."

The two-day meeting featured speakers Bill Palmisano, MOST administrator; John Erickson, NACBE executive director; Mike DiCicco, AIP and director of national construction agreements; John "Doc" Doherty, Local 28 training coordinator and instructor; Marty Spencer, Northeast Area apprentice rigging instructor; John Rich, president of Waste Management Processors LLC; and Robert

Hoppe, project manager for Waste Management Processors Inc. LLC.

Rich and Hoppe gave a presentation on a coal gasification plant project to be built in Gilberton, Pa., set to break ground in the fourth quarter of 2006. Boilermakers will help build the plant, which will also involve Fischer-Tropsch liquefaction technology.

IVP Sean Murphy stressed the importance of area and local tripartite conferences, noting, "Not all contractors or owners are able to attend our national event. This gives them an opportunity to learn about MOST and other national programs. And it allows



L-13 BM-ST Jim Banford Jr. (l.) and L-28 BM-ST Ray Cushing Jr. welcome participants to the tripartite meeting.

all participants to speak openly and productively to identify issues that affect them at the local lodge level." □

In-plant organizing gets boost in Southeast



IR-GO John Chapman (standing) fields questions from Local S-234 members in Dickson, Tenn., Jan. 19.

Training program focuses on member-to-member contact

IR-GO JOHN CHAPMAN is a man on a mission these days. That mission is to revitalize the Brotherhood's in-plant organizing program throughout much of the Southeast Area. Armed with a new PowerPoint presentation and handouts, Chapman is traveling to Boilermaker shops in right-to-work states and to federal sector locals not under the Homeland Security Act. These are shops that don't have the benefit of a union security clause. Local lodges at these sites are required to represent all workers in the unit, even those who don't pay dues.

In-plant organizing is a way to help locals build their membership and their solidarity through a coordinated program of education and one-on-one contact. It's a proven system that has added more than 10,000 dues-paying members over the years. The system was developed in the late 1980s by IP C.W. Jones and was later refined by IP Newton Jones when he served as director of organizing.

Among Chapman's first stops in the current organizing drive were Local 57 (Portsmouth, Va.), Local M100 (Albany, Ga.), Local D465 (Oklahoma City), Local S200 (Wichita Falls, Texas), and Local S234 (Dickson, Tenn.).

"I'm concentrating primarily on cement locals and stove lodges," Chapman says. He notes that these lodges come into contact with a substantial number of nonunion employees. "Local 57 has a potential to add 400 paying members," he says.

Chapman will also visit the Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss. (Local 693), as well as the Avondale Shipyard in Bridge City, La., and marine shops in Gulfport, Miss., New Orleans, and Tallulah, La. (Local 1814). Marine facilities and shipyards are locations where in-plant organizing has seen phenomenal success. However, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many members have not yet returned to the area, so membership numbers have dropped off, and these locals are again in the midst of in-plant organizing drives.

How the system works

TWO FEATURES OF in-plant organizing make it especially effective: it is systematic and it uses one-on-one contact. When Chapman visits locals, he shows lodge leaders how to set up a committee of volunteer



Local S200 (Wichita Falls, Texas) — January 25



Local 57 (Portsmouth, Va.) — February 21



Local D465 (Oklahoma City) — February 15



Local M100 (Albany, Ga.) — February 27

organizers led by a coordinator. The coordinator establishes and maintains the local's "Keep-Track-System" and a contact log. These tools enable the coordinator to make assignments to the volunteer organizers, to measure the program's progress, and to schedule follow-up contacts with potential new members.

Volunteer organizers are the key to success. They frequently work alongside potential members, and they typically are some of the most respected people in the unit. Nonunion workers are less likely to feel intimidated dealing with people they work with and already know — and they are more likely to listen.

Another important feature is the program's incentive award system. Volunteer organizers receive \$30 from the International for each new eligible member they recruit, and the coordinator receives \$10. Through the end of 2005, the International had paid out \$386,000 in organizing incentives. Locals also have the option of contributing up to \$30, in increments of \$5, in matching incentive funds to the organizer.

Training and support

DURING HIS TRAINING visits, Chapman presents an organizing coordinator manual that explains the steps involved in setting up and running an in-plant organizing program. The manual includes all forms the coordinator will need. Chapman's presentation walks members through the program. It includes a communication module that helps coordinators and volunteer organizers address questions from those being recruited.

"The communication module helps teach volunteer organizers how to find common ground with anyone not currently paying dues," notes Chapman. He says he remains as a point of contact for the program, so locals have someone to turn to with questions or problems.

Local lodges and the International strongly support in-plant organizing. In addition to offering cash incentives, the union presents "Can Do" awards to volunteer organizers who successfully sign up new members.

Shipyards lead the way

SHIPYARD LODGES ARE among the most successful at in-plant organizing. For example, membership levels for Locals 693 and 1814 typically run between 70 and 80 percent of all workers covered under their collective bargaining agreements. These levels are substantially higher than those achieved by other trades in the yards.

AIP Dennis King attributes the Boilermakers' success to two factors. "The locals are really dedicated," he says. "They are proud to do it. They sit down with people when they first come on the job and talk about the benefits of being union and about the union privileges."

The second factor, he says, has to do with service. "What Boilermakers are noted for is doing our best to represent our members. We service and support people in such a way that non-members take notice. When Hurricane Katrina hit, we were one of the first ones on line to help our members. Other workers see us serving our members . . . and they often ask about joining our union."

"In-plant organizing has been a shining success for the Brotherhood," said IP Newton Jones. "The program is especially important now, at a time when political, legal, and economic barriers make it difficult for unions to organize new units. In-plant organizing allows us to optimize the use of our resources in areas where we already have a strong presence. And it gives individual members the tools and knowledge they need to help strengthen the union." □

Lockout ends for L-1240 at Wabash Alloys

Local 1240 ratifies new agreement, company sets negative tone

A BITTER, YEAR-LONG lockout of Local 1240 members at the Wabash Alloys plant in Wabash, Ind., ended February 28 with the ratification of a new contract. The vote was 75-52. L-1240 Pres. Preston Miracle said 113 members returned to work starting March 7, after completing OSHA safety training. L-1240 had represented about 185 members prior to the lockout. The new contract runs March 1, 2006 to August 1, 2008.

The lockout began March 16, 2005, after L-1240 rejected the company's "last, best, and final offer," which called for \$3.5 million in pay and benefit cuts. The company brought in replacement workers, and the local set up pickets. Strong support from labor, the Wabash community, and politicians helped maintain morale, but the company's refusal to negotiate fairly and its use of a strike-breaking firm infuriated union employees.

The ratification vote came after federal mediator Timothy Bower fashioned a proposal that scaled back a company demand to shift more health care costs onto employees. However, other company demands,

including a 28 percent wage reduction, remained in place. Union employees at the top rate, who were earning \$18 an hour, now make about \$4 an hour less.

"There are no members—not one—who are happy about this contract," Miracle said. "But you can't lose the war over this one battle." He added that about 70 replacement workers have now joined the union.

IR Jim Pressley, asst. to the director of research and collective bargaining services, commended L-1240 members for their conduct throughout the struggle. "They were very patient and supportive of the bargaining committee, and they did not ratify the agreement until the committee recommended such action."

Pressley said the company set the tone for future relations by insisting that the labor-management cooperative committee be terminated and the corresponding language be removed from the agreement. "That speaks volumes about how they want to proceed in this relationship," he said.

Pressley also acknowledged the Intl.'s assistance in "providing an enormous amount of legal advice and assistance through the Blake & Uhlig law firm. The firm assisted in obtaining unemployment benefits, with unfair labor practice charges against the com-

pany and their hired security company, and fighting a very narrow and unfair injunction against the members. They also provided local counsel."

In an interesting development, 27 L-1240 members are currently attending GED classes or certified CNC training as an indirect result of the lockout. They applied for assistance from the federal government's Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which provides money for retraining when jobs are transferred out of the country. Although Wabash Alloys did not shift production overseas, they did move some to other facilities inside the United States, and those facilities in turn shifted production to Wabash plants outside the country. Indiana's Department of Workforce Development advised Miracle that L-1240 was the first union in the state to qualify for TAA under those circumstances. Pressley noted that "L-1240's successful approach in obtaining TAA benefits was immediately utilized at Lodge 484 (Meredosia, Ill.), where the Celanese lockout was then under way." A decision regarding TAA benefits there is pending.

L-1240 members make aluminum alloy from recycled scrap metal for die casters. Wabash Alloys operates eight plants in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. □

New contract summaries

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

Local 13 — Philadelphia

Effective March 1, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2009, for 10 members of Local 13, Philadelphia, who install and repair boilers for **Damson Boiler Inc.**

Local 104 — Seattle

Effective April 29, 2005 to May 1, 2011, for six members of Local 104, Seattle, who work in metal fabrication for the Alaskan Copper Fabrication Division of **Alaskan Copper Works**; effective Sept. 4, 2004 to Sept. 2, 2007, for 22 members who work in the fabrication shop at **BMT-NW**; effective Aug. 17, 2005 to July 1, 2006, for 24 members who work at **Industrial Plating Corp.**; effective Dec. 8, 2005 to Nov. 1, 2008 for four members who work at the **J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corp.**; effective Feb. 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007, for 25 members who work at **Marine Industries NW**; effective Oct. 1, 2004 to Oct. 1, 2007, for five members who work at **Markay Machinery**; effective Jan. 6, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2009, for six members who work at **Vigor Marine**; and effective Nov. 30, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2007, for 12 members who work at **Washington Marine Repair**.

Local 128 — Toronto, Ontario

Effective Sept. 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2008, for 10 members of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, who work at **Arc Boiler Repairs**; effective Oct. 1, 2005 to Sept. 30, 2008, for 15 members who make pressure vessels at **BAS-KIM Industries**; effective June 2, 2005 to June 1, 2008, for 40 members who make pressure vessels at **Hooper Welding**; and effective Sept. 9, 2005 to Sept. 9, 2006, for 20 members who make conveyor systems for the auto industry at the **R.J. Cyr Company**.

Local D132 — Lee, Mass.

Effective March 1, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2007, for 27 members of Local D132, Lee, Mass., who make concrete masonry products at **Oldcastle Industrial Minerals**. Retail items include a variety of blocks, pavers, retaining walls, bagged concrete mixes, decorative stone, and soil conditioners.

Local 146 — Edmonton, Alberta

Effective Jan. 6, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007, for 25 members of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, who work at **Larsen & D'Amico Manufacturing Ltd.**, and effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2008, for 68 members who work at **Universal Industries Corp.**

Larsen & D'Amico Manufacturing Ltd. specializes in the manufacture of oil and gas production

equipment including separators, line heaters, glycol and desiccant dehydrators, treaters, free water knockouts, and blow cases.

Universal Industries offers a full line of oil and gas processing equipment. Products include shop tanks, secondary containment tanks, field construction, facility fabrication, emulsion treaters, free water knockouts, flash treaters, vortex clusters, filter separators, steam generators, hydrocyclones, and custom fabrication.

Local 154 — Pittsburgh

Effective Feb. 1, 2006 to Jan. 31, 2007, for eight members of Local 154, Pittsburgh, who wash windows for **Apex Maintenance**.

Local D208 — Martinsburg, W.Va.

Effective April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2010, for 152 members of Local D208, Martinsburg, W.Va., who work at **Essroc Cement**, where they produce cement for concrete and masonry, colored masonry, chemical admixtures, and ready mix concrete.

Local D274 — Winnipeg, Manitoba

Effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2010, for 43 members of Local D274, Winnipeg, Manitoba, who make drywall at **BPB Canada** (was Westroc Industries).

Local 482 — Wood River, Ill.

Effective Feb. 1, 2006 to Jan. 31, 2009, for 214 members of Local 482, Wood River, Ill., who maintain and repair marine engines and barges for **National Maintenance & Repair Inc.**

Local 661 — Florence, N.J.

Effective Feb. 1, 2006 to Jan. 31, 2009, for members of Local 661, Florence, N.J., who work at **DC Fabricators Inc.** A specialist in corrosion resistant alloy and dissimilar metal fabrications, DC Fabricators Inc. supplies high quality design and manufacturing technology for steam condensers, heat exchangers, and pressure vessels to the United States Navy and to power generation, refinery, and chemical process industries.

Local 677 — Kingstons, Pa.

Effective Jan. 13, 2006 to Jan. 12, 2009, for members of Local 677, Kingstons, Pa., who work at the **R&H Manufacturing Co.** With the ability to work with any metal, R&H products include stainless steel and

Union leaders negotiate contracts

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



Negotiating an agreement for L-D37 at Lafarge are, l. to r., Michael Sverson, Ramero Acosta, and Eric Walker. Not pictured: Jerry Henry and Ray Parrish. Settlement was published in Nov-Dec 2005 issue.



Negotiating a three-year agreement for L-158 members (Peoria, Ill.) at John H. Best & Sons are, l. to r., Larry Ringberg, Mike Damm, and Virgil Brooks. Settlement was published in Jan-Mar issue.



Negotiating an agreement for L-D208 at Essroc Cement are, l. to r.: (back row) Dave Kisner, Butch Houck, Howard Mann, Gary Ballard; (front row) Eric Harding, IR Mark Kelly, and John Grove.

aluminum pistons, high-pressure fittings, and couplings; brass and bronze water meter housings, valve bodies, and union nuts; brass fittings; aluminum couplings; brass and bronze valve fittings; aluminum manifold assemblies; and stainless, carbon, and alloy steel precision parts. □



IP Jones greets UMWA convention

WHEN INTL. PRES. Newton B. Jones visited the convention of the United Mine Workers of America, UMWA Pres. Cecil E. Roberts asked him to say a few words. Jones told the delegates, "The United States has over 200 years of coal reserves. I expect UMWA members to be mining that coal and Boilermakers to be building power plants to turn it into electricity for a very, very long time to come."

Locals award service pins

Local 1, Chicago

JOHN SKERMONT, L-1 BM-ST, Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

25 YEARS – Steven Ackmann, Edward Kocielek, Thomas Langbeen Jr., Simon Mezydlo, Jamal Shabazz, Duane Shue, Emerson Smith, Mary Lou Spencer.

Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y.

JOSEPH BROWN, BM-ST of Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

60 YEARS – Anthony J. Cory;

55 YEARS – Gordon McLelland, Kenneth W. Millar;

50 YEARS – Richard J. Morawski;

40 YEARS – George C. Boice, Frederick E. Carpenter, John S. Green, William P. Melski, Gregory Poulin;

35 YEARS – Thomas A. Cichuniec, Henry A. Felschow, Richard B. Jermain, Roy D. MacDonald, James C. Nowocien, John J. Peschio, Raymond T. Phillips, Michael K. Smerka, Earl W. Tredinnick, Anthony D. Tronolone, John B. Yanni;

30 YEARS – Joseph D. Brown, Richard E. Chmiel, Vernon E. Ford, Glenn A. French, F. Patrick Lyons, John R. Mascio, Terrence M. Rose, Patrick M. Walsh, Michael F. Witkowski; and

25 YEARS – Joseph A. Aguilar, Shawn D. Coon, Wayne E. Jones, William J. Riley, Garland R. Shisler, Dennis R. Smith, Robert T. Streiff, Donald R. Weishaar.

Local 158, Peoria, Ill.

STEVEN DAMM, president of Local 158, Peoria, Ill., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

40 YEARS – Randall Smith;

35 YEARS – William Gatt; and

25 YEARS – Terry Klein.

Local 374, Hammond, Ind.

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

55 YEARS – Charles W. Bostick, Morris Livengood;

45 YEARS – Robert E. Miller;

40 YEARS – Kenneth R. Burk, David C. Duvall, David Flannigan;

35 YEARS – Keith E. Bauer, Michael Ferdornock, Roy R. Fleck, William E. Gaines, James W. Pennington Jr., Richard W. Reeves, John P. Son, Larry G. Springer, Charles H. Webb;

30 YEARS – Jerry L. Bales, Lawrence R. Cheeks, George N. Chorak, Dale A. Hubert, Christopher C. Kleeman, David L. Lawrence, Michael L. Linne, Jack E. McWhirter, Richard R. St. Lawrence, Thomas R. Uskert, Dennis L. Wilson;

25 YEARS – Mathew O. Barnard, Michael K. Pittman, Anthony W. Wiggam;

20 YEARS – Kevin J. Burnett, David W. Switt; and

15 YEARS – Kenneth M. Brown, Wayne A. Muensterman.

Local 647, Minneapolis

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

65 YEARS – Joseph F. Marciniak;

55 YEARS – Melvin J. Reis, David W. Vorwerk;

50 YEARS – Phillip R. Engler, Robert G. Peterson;

45 YEARS – Richard G. Kurash, Robert L. Nesseim, Jack D. Tucek;

40 YEARS – Robert E. Beckman, Martin Y. Boyd, Clarence D. Lafontaine, Ellard W. Malecha, Chon Martinez, Dayle P. Paulson, Glen M. Peterson, Harry R. Prewitt Jr., Alvin A. Savelle, Gary D. Stevenson, Larry D. Tiefenthaler;

35 YEARS – Wayne J. Brinkman, Donald J. Brown, Roger L. Cook, Hubert J. Duchene Jr., Phillip H. Fisher, Leonard A. Flikke Jr., Vaughn T. Girard, William K. Harding, Robert G. Henderson, Alfred A. Hinze, Jerome D. Kitzmann, Robert C. Kono, Wendell Lee Kriesel, Robert M. Larson, Richard L. Meyer, Richard T. O'Flaherty, Bernhard W. Platz, Ronald L. Staskivige, Kenneth E. Strusz, James A. Wiech;

30 YEARS – Mark G. Borgeson, Richard L. Carroll, Stephen L. Craine, Randall J. Eudy, Wayne M. Everett, Scott R. Fritz, John D. Gergen, Leonard L. Graham, Roger Gully, Richard J. Heck, Lee D. Hickman, Duane Iverson, Leslie A. Klemetson, William J.

Local 199 honors office manager at joint anniversary celebration



Both Local 199 and its office manager, Julie Jaques (second from right), are celebrating their 30th year anniversary. Also pictured are, l. to r., Russell Myers, inspector; Cranford Lee Kemp, recording secretary; Johnny Yewell, chairman trustee; Jerry Rhoden, president; Carl Ferguson, BM-ST; Ferguson's son Kevin; and Kevin Murphy, trustee & instructor.

LOCAL LODGE 199 (Jacksonville, Fla.) used the occasion of its 30th anniversary celebration January 21 to honor office manager Julie Jaques, who, coincidentally, went to work for the lodge 30 years ago.

Jaques says her mother, Mary, was a Boilermaker during World War II, and worked as a welder on Liberty ships at the Jacksonville shipyard.

Local 199 BM-ST Carlton Ferguson described Julie as "the one constant" that has helped see the lodge through

thick and thin. "I can't say enough good things about Julie," Ferguson stated. "She means so much to this local."

Local 199 also used the January 21 event for a presentation to the membership by Edward Wlodyka Jr., the participant outreach representative for the Boilermakers national funds office.

"All locals should invite Ed to do a presentation," Ferguson said. "He covered all the funds and gave us a lot of valuable information. I intend to invite him back." □



Local 1626 members employed at Clifford and Jacobs Forging receive their membership pins. L. to r. are Melvin Reitmeier, Roger Rexroad, Joe Neil, Herman Moraski, Jim Hastings, John Hopper, Ken Nichols, Jim Ashton, Walter Dalton, Robert Chumbley, Ken Deaville, and David Peddycoart.

Krause, Robert H. Lange, Brian L. Longhenry, Joseph W. Machones, Allen J. Perry, Allan F. Pietsch, Gregory W. Quick, Gene P. Scott, Randy L. Tate, Dennis W. Torgerson, David W. Voigt, Randall J. Vosberg, Edward C. Willms, Gerald R. Zehren;

25 YEARS – Ronald Aschenbrenner, Lloyd Bender, Lawrence P. Bill Jr., Robert W. Bistodeau, Peter A. Dlugosz, Charles T. Drenth, Kenneth Gross, Douglas J. Helwick, Edwin Landeis, James M. Link, Steve Lodermeier, Jack A. Nelson, Josef Opitz, Gerald L. Rabideaux, Paul D. Rasmussen, Kevin Stein, Terry L. Stulz, Thomas R. Westbury, Ronald R. Zack;

20 YEARS – Roy M. Hietalati, Thomas H. Klein, Wesley Konsor, Alvin Legatt, Robert L. McKay, Randy H. Monson, Roger L. Olafson, David M. Pilarski, Joseph L. Powers, Michael A. Reisinger, Richard A. Rice, Carlyle W. Sailer, Steven Schiller, Dale H. Wallner; and

15 YEARS – Laverne C. Arthur, Michel A. Lodermeier, Thomas J. McNamara Jr., Kory A. Olson, John D. Smith, Jackson W. Stahlberg, Gregory D. Staton, John R. Steckler, Gary G. Szczur, Randle White, Ferris A. Wiens.

Local 744, Cleveland

PAT GALLAGHER, L-744 BM-ST, Cleveland, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

55 YEARS – Robert J. Armstrong, Edward Carlson;

45 YEARS – Charles C. Davis;

35 YEARS – Francis W. Gardner, Joseph J. Jurasek, Richard J. Konjati, John Pavlick, David N. Ross, Chris A. Vanderwyst;

30 YEARS – Mark Dombrowski, Terry Sawyer; and

25 YEARS – Douglas McPeck.

Local 1626, Champaign, Ill.

WALKER DALTON, secretary-treasurer of Local 1626, Champaign, Ill., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

40 YEARS – Jim Ashton, Robert Chumbley, Walter Dalton, Jim Hastings, Ken Nichols;

35 YEARS – Ken Deaville, Tom Emberson, John Hopper, Don Kaiser, Joe Neil, Herman Moraski, David Peddycoart, Joe Ratliff, Roger Rexroad; and

30 YEARS – Ronald Dick, Melvin Reitmeier. □

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.

Intl. Jones, Betty	37	Green, George	104	Maki, Elmer	128	Snowdon, Donald	193	Frye, David
NTL Aguirre, Phillipe	37	McGinnis, James	104	Martin, Joseph	128	Wright, Thomas	193	Nicholson, Patty
NTL Bailey, Clarence	37	Tejeda, Eugenio	104	Rochelle, J.R.	132	Arden, James	193	Wike, Arthur
NTL Baughman, Ronnie	40	Ensor, James	104	Stout, John	132	Kimble, Earl	199	Crawford, Owen
NTL Bonifay, Earl	40	Hunt, Orlyn	104	Valdrihgi, Richard	145	Austin, Philip	202	Cagle, Elton
NTL Boswell, Kenneth	40	Meece, Dwight	104	Warehime, Lee	146	Afonso, Carlos	202	Morgan, Johnny
NTL Brasher, William	40	Smith, Floyd	105	Brownrigg, Ralph	146	Cosby, Richard	204	Pagaduan, Elvis
NTL Briggs, Edward	40	Vaught, William	105	Colley, Norman	146	Eisenman, Richard	204	Robello, Joseph
NTL Burns, Robert	45	Horton, William	105	Drain, Harold	146	Giesbrecht, William	D208	Eversole, Raleigh
NTL Cable, Hubert	45	Sidaway, William	105	Duncan, David	146	Gratrix, Ronald	237	O'Neil, Kevin
NTL Duckett, Boyce	60	Harden, Vernon	105	Hawk, Bruce	146	Hildebrandt, Bruno	242	Brewer, Norris
NTL Fahy, Joseph	60	Starr, Ronald	105	Lawrence, Daniel	146	Morgan, Benjamin	242	Deerheim, James
NTL Ferguson, John	60	Van De Vort, Keith	105	Liston, John	146	Semonick, Peter	242	Johnson, Donald
NTL Ferrell, Clarence	M67	Sandoval, Manuel	105	McQuay, Andrew	146	Vantighem, John	263	Gravatt, Robert
NTL Fouts, Lloyd	72	Burich, Glenn	106	Moore, John	146	Yu, Francis	263	Wells, John
NTL Haney, Carl	72	Darity, Charles	107	Glenn, Fred	154	Barach, George	271	White, Edward
NTL Jefferson, Peerless	72	Harkema, Leslie	108	Hatley, Jimmy	154	Bradish, Thomas	279	Blackley, Edward
NTL Largent, Johnnie	72	Hilts, William	109	Shimak, Steve	154	Bucci, Onorato	290	McDonnell, Edwin
NTL McAllister, Donald	72	Hustoft, Gary	111	Tecca, Ernest	154	Cantner, Charles	305	Kelly, Salfus
NTL Mick, Louis	72	Kunnas, Wayne	112	Jones, Larry	154	Dulemba, David	305	Martin, Ignace
NTL Northrip, Floyd	72	Shilo, Arthur	112	Micheau Jr., Roland	154	Frank, Gary	D308	Green, Gary
NTL Nunley, Robert	72	Street, William	113	Meiries, Randy	154	Galo, Leonard	D308	Price, Russel
NTL O'Dea, Robert	72	Swartz, Elmer	128	Docherty, Patrick	154	Hines, Frank	316	Lathan, Robert
NTL Richards, Clarence	72	Yarbrough, Hubert	128	Duguay, Theofred	154	Jones, John	329	Kordich, Matthew
NTL Rogers, Lester	73	Fraser, Gordon	128	Gray, Glen	154	Marcinko, John	344	Spilker, Ronald
NTL Stewart, Leonard	74	Conaway, John	128	Hislop, Peter	154	Neforos, Pete	D351	Eagling, Elroy
NTL Tyler, Lawrence	74	Green, Gerald	128	Karl, Fred	169	Booth, Paul	358	Horvath, Julius
1 Boothe, Buford	74	Hall, Sylvester	128	Kochanski, William	169	Chascsa, Andrew	359	Mang, Perry
1 Couch, Gary	74	Wohleber, Daniel	128	Macneil, John	169	Dyer, Herbert	363	Berhard, Elmer
1 Patterson, James	75	Banes, Arthur	128	Mason, Roy	169	Nelson, Thomas	363	McEwen, Raymond
1 Prochazka, Edward	79	Ellender, Allie	128	Morand, Francois	175	Reynolds, Thomas A.	363	Sandidge, Lester
1 Sagorsky, William	79	Fuller, Bob	128	Murphy, Michael	175	Shurr, Michael	363	Wallendorff, Gilbert
1 Schenk, Peter	79	Pomeroy, William	128	Read, L.	177	Stuber, Kenneth	368	Holland, Frederick
1 Spencer, Charles	79	Robertson, Paul	128	Rector, Arden	177	Holl, Gerald	374	Berry, Climon
3 Boetcher, Alfred	79	Temple, William	128	Robb, Andrew	182	Hamm, Max	374	Bostick, Charles
4 Jackson, Steward	79	Yellott, Janet			182	Pierce, Lear	374	Boyd, Bruce
5 Antonellis, Joseph	81	Libby, Harry			191	Hindle, Neil		
5 Beharry, Reynold	83	Butts, Samuel						
5 Brockmann, Raymond	83	Esparza, Carlos						
5 Nesnadny, Ronald	83	Jay, James						
6 Busse, Richard	83	Johnson, Russell						
6 Drake, Rodney	83	Pinkerman, James						
6 Fechtner, Walter	83	Renken, Thomas						
6 Fosdick, Richard	83	Williamson, George						
6 Garcia, Richard	85	Brumbaugh, Clifford						
6 Garcia, Ted	85	Roberts, Garnett						
6 Gillikin, Leo	85	Schwierking, Edward						
6 Goitre, L.Z.	85	Starcher, Joseph						
6 Golliet, Jay	88	Graham, Samuel						
6 Gonzaga, Joseph	88	Jackson, Everett						
6 Hill, Lorenza	92	Aguayo, Pete						
6 Lantz, Franklin	92	Charlton, Elmer						
6 Norris, Carl	92	Graham, Doyle						
6 Payne, James	92	Hammond, Marshall						
6 Quabner, Jesse	92	Holland, Earl						
6 Zabel, Carl	92	Moran, Paul						
9 Cercone, Mike	92	Rivera, Philip						
10 Ketler, James	92	Smith, Joseph						
11 Molyneaux, Daniel	92	Smith, Laureano						
13 Abrams, Samuel	92	Spears, June						
13 Drake, Bethel	92	Staggio, Nicholas						
13 Hickey, Frederick	92	Turner, Leroy						
13 Lattanzi, John	92	Waldrop, Billy						
13 McCarthy, Robert	101	Cessor, John						
14 Lovette, Patrick	101	Maddox, William						
20 Higginbotham, John	102	Burnett, Howard						
26 Strickland, John	104	Aki, Benjamin						
27 Boschen, Henry	104	Anderson, Kenneth						
27 Crnkovich, Joseph	104	Bolton, William						
27 Schaefer, Willard	104	Booth, Wayne						
27 Stumpf, Leonard	104	Eller, John						
28 Cook, Vincent	104	Glatt, Frank						
28 McDermott, Gerald	104	Grabel, Franklin						
28 Van Sprang, Maurice	104	Hall, Jerry						
29 Boudreau, Alfred	104	Harrison, Armond						
29 Lavelle, Edward	104	Hasenbuhler, Gordon						
29 Senechal, Robert	104	Helland, Ole						
37 DeLouise, Harold	104	Lenac, Stanley						

See IST-reported deaths, p. 22

**It won't be
long till the
school bell
rings!**

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for BACK-TO-SCHOOL at
www.UnionPlus.org/BackToSchool

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- All study and no play? Union Plus **Music CD Discounts** are the perfect way to enjoy a break from school or work.

www.UnionPlus.org/BackToSchool

Continued on page 23

Death Benefits

Continued from p. 22

104	Thompson, Albert E.	6,000.00
104	Valdrihi, Richard A.	6,000.00
104	Walker, Warren	6,000.00
104	Warehime, Lee V.	6,000.00
105	Colley, Norman V.	6,000.00
105	Duncan, David	875.25
105	Flaugher, Johnny W.	6,000.00
105	Hawk, Bruce A.	6,000.00
105	Maupin, Arthur D.	6,000.00
105	McQuay, Anthony D.	6,000.00
107	Glenn Jr., Frederick E.	6,000.00
108	Hatley, Jimmy W.	6,000.00
108	Hubbard, Hoyt H.	6,000.00
112	Boutwell, Jerry D.	6,000.00
112	Jones, Larry W.	6,000.00
112	Micheau Jr., Roland E.	6,000.00
113	Meiries, Randy	6,000.00
117	Brown, George L.	6,000.00
117	Homich Jr., Leo P.	6,000.00
117	Rogers, Michael D.	8,854.36
124	Zielinski, Edward G.	6,000.00
154	Cancro, P. Anthony	6,000.00
154	Cantner, Charles E.	6,000.00
154	Galo, Leonard E.	15,000.00
154	Hines, Frank T.	15,000.00
154	Marcinko, John M.	6,000.00
169	Cook, Jarrell D.	6,000.00
169	Kirk Sr., Douglas	6,000.00
169	Minor, Leamon J.	6,000.00
174	Swemke, William K.	2,358.30
175	Shurr, Michael W.	6,000.00
177	Holl, Gerald J.	6,000.00
182	Cole, Blair	6,000.00
182	Gallo, Phillip	6,000.00
182	Hamm, Max A.	6,000.00
199	Morris, Herschel A.	6,000.00
199	Slowe, William K.	1,595.26
202	Morgan, Johnny L.	6,000.00
204	Robello, Joseph	6,000.00
204	Toledo, Emilio B.	6,000.00
237	O'Neill, Kevin P.	6,000.00
242	Brewer, Norris C.	6,000.00
242	Deerheim, James	6,000.00
242	Johnson, Donald L.	6,000.00
263	Gravatt, Robert O.	6,000.00
305	Martin, Ignace	6,000.00
305	White, Charles L.	2,000.00
316	Lathan, Robert	2,000.00
329	Kordich, Matthew J.	6,000.00
358	Boyd, Richard T.	6,000.00
358	Horvath, Julius Gyula	6,000.00
363	Sandridge Jr., Lester E.	6,000.00
363	Shaw, Leo R.	6,000.00
363	Wallendorff Jr., Gilbert	6,000.00
363	Weisner, Jerome T.	6,000.00
363	Wilson, Warren W.	6,000.00
368	Holland, Frederick F.	6,000.00
374	Correll, Forest L.	6,000.00
374	Elwell, Walter R.	6,000.00
374	Shryock, David L.	6,000.00
433	Bartlett, Richard E.	6,000.00
433	Beal Sr., David G.	6,000.00
433	Donovan Jr., Elwood	6,000.00

Retired general counsel John Blake, 77, dies

JOHN J. BLAKE, a retired attorney and former general counsel to the Boilermakers union, passed away May 1 at his Overland Park, Kan., home.

Blake practiced law in various capacities after his 1958 graduation. In 1972, he co-founded the Blake & Uhlig law firm, which still exists today.

A year before his 2002 retirement, Blake received the Boilermakers' Distinguished Service Award. This prestigious award was presented to Blake at the Boilermakers' 30th Consolidated Convention in recognition of his nearly 40 years of service as general counsel to the International Brotherhood.



433	Martinez, Albert	4,000.00	673	Miller, John F.	6,000.00
433	Miranda, Cesar	6,000.00	677	Brobst, Larry C.	6,000.00
433	Moore, Frank T.	6,000.00	679	Slaten, Marlin D.	6,000.00
433	Shirley, Thomas J.	6,000.00	679	Williams, Charles H.	6,000.00
453	Collins, Jack	6,000.00	688	Ladner, Clyde L.	6,000.00
453	Rattler, Wilbur L.	6,000.00	696	Green, Timothy A.	323.85
454	Barnes, Glen	6,000.00	696	Wachal, John J.	6,000.00
454	Clark, Billy J.	6,000.00	697	Christiansen, Albert	3,000.00*
454	Collins, Robert E.	6,000.00	697	Falkowski, Joseph H.	6,000.00
454	Dauphin, Roy	6,000.00	697	Mielke, Lawrence	6,000.00
455	Rikard, Ronald K.	6,000.00	744	Hamilton, Lawrence	1,414.74
455	Thomas, George M.	6,000.00	744	Kennedy, Richard J.	6,000.00
487	Blahnik, Harold J.	6,000.00	752	Koenig, Frank	6,000.00
500	Jensen, Bryan A.	15,000.00	802	Hellick, Alexander	6,000.00
500	Stocks, James D.	6,000.00	802	Leach, Louis	6,000.00
D500	Andrzejewski, Alexius	6,000.00	802	Passick, Richard S.	6,000.00
502	Dunnigan, Jack L.	6,000.00	802	Passick, Robert	6,000.00
502	Ennes, Robert J.	6,000.00	802	Peterson, Rudolph	6,000.00
502	Evans, Samuel A.	15,000.00	802	Sims, J.C.	6,000.00
502	Hudson, John W.	6,000.00	802	Truitt, Henry A.	6,000.00
502	Mattson, Steven A.	6,000.00	806	Hamilton, Mary	6,000.00
549	Lujan, Joseph O.	6,000.00	807	Han, Myong S.	3,092.49
549	Petersen, Ben	6,000.00	890	Caudell, David	2,129.95
549	Prince Sr., Burke E.	6,000.00	890	Caudell, David E.	2,319.34
568	Allen, Lloyd R.	4,500.00	890	Dyer, Herbert D.	6,000.00
568	Wolf, Russell D.	6,000.00	893	McCrae, Walter Lee	6,000.00
582	Callahan, Leon P.	6,000.00	898	Brown, William E.	6,000.00
582	Martin, Rory C.	6,000.00	1086	McGinnis, James L.	6,000.00
582	Terrio Sr., Curlin J.	6,000.00	1212	Doing, Earle N.	2,221.96
582	Young, Edwin M.	6,000.00	1234	Falagarario, John R.	6,000.00
583	Grayson, George	3,000.00	1234	Murata, Yoshinori	6,000.00
583	Stanfield, Randy Lee	6,000.00	1244	Ousley, Arthur	6,000.00
583	Stracner, Willie M.	6,000.00	1248	Johnson, Melvin	6,000.00
587	Johnson, Carl L.	6,000.00	1509	Ramos, Edward	6,000.00
587	Mullican, Donald R.	6,000.00	1509	Richardson, Willie L.	371.96
587	Pinner, J.V.	6,000.00	1509	Schramm, Robert J.	6,000.00
627	Youngblood, Willard	6,000.00	1509	Villwock, Raymond	4,363.65
646	Harris, Kenneth C.	6,000.00	1509	Wiza, Ernest J.	6,000.00
647	Holter, Steven E.	6,000.00	1525	Bounds, Paul E.	6,000.00
647	Kurth, Oscar B.	2,000.00	1592	Porambo, Stanley P.	6,000.00
647	Remmen, O'Dean T.	6,000.00	1600	Gaither, Arthur E.	6,000.00
647	Schwindt, Paul D.	15,000.00	1600	Marsh, Hugh W.	6,000.00
667	Binion, Joshua K.	15,000.00	1624	Hicks, Oca N.	6,000.00
667	Cook Sr., Robert C.	6,000.00	1670	Tomaro, Mary V.	6,000.00
667	Lambert, Mack R.	6,000.00	1999	Duncan, Donald L.	6,000.00
667	Lynn, Edmund A.	630.00	1999	Floyd, Willie	6,000.00
667	Price, John G.	6,000.00	1999	Morrison, James	2,000.00
667	Terlosky, William M.	6,000.00			

* Additional Death Benefits Paid



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:

AVIS: 1-800-698-5685
AWD #B723700

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

Union-Made Checks

Call: 1-888-864-6625

Cingular Wireless Discounts

Call: 1-800-452-9425

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.

Moving? Tell us where...

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State or Province _____ Zip _____

Local Lodge No. _____ Register No. _____

(Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.)

Mail form to:

Publications Department

753 State Avenue, Suite 565

Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

As we head into the convention, there's reason for optimism

WITH THE 31st Consolidated Convention fast approaching, our union is preparing for some serious self-examination. Convention delegates will consider and vote on changes to our constitution, and they will elect officers to guide the union in the years ahead.

Looking at who we are and how we operate is a healthy process that enables us to adapt to the challenges we face, and cope with new realities. Globalization has cost the United States millions of jobs, including 6,000 Boilermaker jobs in the last three years alone. The defection of unions from the AFL-CIO has left many wondering if unions have any clout remaining or if they will become irrelevant.

But recent developments, I believe, give us reason to be optimistic. I'm not talking about a major piece of pro-labor legislation or a large shift in the public's perception of unions, but rather the struggle of two local lodges to preserve their members' jobs and their dignity — and what that struggle says about labor in general and the Boilermakers in particular.

Solidarity wins the day

MEMBERS OF LOCALS 1240 (Wabash, Ind.) and 484 (Meredosia, Ill.) both recently returned to work after long, bitter lockouts. Success for both locals was the result of the combined efforts of the members, local lodge leaders, members of other unions, International staff, and local and state political leaders.

But neither success could have been possible without support from members of other Boilermaker locals and

from unionized workers across the United States and Canada.

Both of these lockouts lasted nearly a year. The employers used tactics that were demeaning, bringing in outside "security" firms and hiring replace-

American workers stood up to two huge multinational corporations — and it was the corporations who blinked.

ment workers. Local 484 members and their families were subjected to being videotaped in public and even in their own backyards. Members of both lodges were restricted by the courts in the ways they could protest the lockouts. Both companies appeared intent on busting the union.

In the face of this onslaught, the Brotherhood did what unions do best. We stood together. We reached out to the community. We sought solidarity from other labor unions. We mobilized International resources. We took legal action. And we called on our allies in local and state government.

These battles proved that labor still has teeth, and we still have resolve. Consider that thousands of dollars poured into these locals to keep members afloat — from fellow Boilermakers as well as members of many other unions. Consider that their communities got behind these locals. Local politicians supported their efforts. In the case of Local 484, the governor of Illinois and two United States senators intervened.

Friends both inside and outside of labor lent their assistance and support.

These struggles generated an impressive show of resources, commitment, and staying power. They are clear and convincing examples of why we, as a union, continually stress the importance of being politically involved — because political clout helped move the lockouts to resolution.

As union members, we have reason to be optimistic. These victories show that the tools we rely on for our survival still work. Labor has not thrown in the towel. Yes, the forces that would destroy union jobs are strong and committed, but so are we strong and committed. The legal, economic, and political climate we face today is harsh, but it has been harsher. Organized labor's struggle is not easy; it never has been.

As the Brotherhood convenes its 31st Consolidated Convention in Las Vegas this July, let us remember how two local lodges stood up to huge multinational corporations — and it was the corporations who blinked. We do have reason to be optimistic.

Settlements were team effort

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL of those who played a role in the outcome of these settlements. To local lodge leaders, members, and their families for not giving up. To Assistant to the Director of Research Jim Pressley for his stalwart work on the ground, spearheading the effort in both lodges and handling the day-to-day challenges. To other International staff who took part in the campaigns, including Organizing



Newton B. Jones
International President

Director and Special Assistant to the International President Gary Prochnow and Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin. And to Blake & Uhlig attorney Martin Walter.

Local 484 especially benefited from the tremendous support from our many political allies in the area: Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Rep. Ray LaHood (R-18 IL), Rep. Lane Evans (D-17 IL), as well as local politicians.

But the greatest gratitude goes to the many union members across the nation and in Canada who donated money to help Local 484 and Local 1240 members weather the storm, and especially to those who traveled to Meredosia and Wabash for rallies.

Together, we won. As we head toward the 31st Consolidated Convention, I hope all members and delegates will keep this fact in mind: When we work together, we can win. □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brooks Ambulance Service workers need fair contract

THE EMPLOYEES OF Brooks Ambulance Service in Waupun, Wis., need your support. These paramedics and EMTs are highly-skilled workers who are trained to save lives. Yet they only earn \$7.50 to \$9.50 an hour — not the wage you'd expect for people we depend on in medical emergencies.

That's why Brooks employees voted to join the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. They are tired of working two or three jobs just to make ends meet. They are tired of paying exorbitant health care costs only to learn that not every Brooks' employee pays the same amount or that not every Brooks' employee follows the same work rules and regulations.

All the employees want is for Brooks to agree to bargain in good faith. Please contact Brooks and let them know you support their employees and that it's time to negotiate a fair contract.

LEONARD GUNDERSON, Intl. rep
Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Local 11's Goich passes, family grateful for support

WORDS CANNOT TRULY express how thankful our family is for all of the incredible support we received from not only the Boilermakers of Local 11

[Helena, Mont.], but also the Carpenters, Pipe Fitters, Laborers, and other crafts during these past several months.

Although Mil's esophageal cancer diagnosis on June 9, 2005, was the most devastating news we could have received, we were so fortunate to have such incredible people to support us during this difficult journey!

Milton passed away on February 18. He asked me before he died to make sure I thanked everyone for their generous gifts of money, cards, letters, books, food, phone calls, visits, and most importantly their prayers! We will be forever grateful for your support, kindness, and compassion. The Boilermaker trade lost a truly gifted craftsman. Our family lost an amazing husband, best friend, father, brother, and son. He will never be forgotten!

THE FAMILY OF MILTON B. GOICH
Billings, Mont.

Why isn't the Cement Division in the paper?

I AM A RETIRED cement worker. I worked 38 years at St. Lawrence Cement. I get your paper and read about the good work Boilermakers do. However I have never seen anything about the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and [Allied] Workers [Division]. Something must be going on of interest and I would like to know about it. I

would like to know why you don't cover their progress.

JOHN PETERS, Local D50 retiree
Saugerties, N.Y.

Editors note: The editorial staff of the Reporter relies on members and local lodge officers to submit material for publication. Please phone or write the Reporter at International headquarters if you have news you want to share about the Cement Division.

L-154 retiree asks, "Why not use generating stations to distill ethanol for fuel?"

I READ AN article in the local newspaper about a proposed ethanol plant to be built in central Pennsylvania. I am strongly in favor of using ethanol as a fuel to reduce our need to buy foreign oil. But why build an ethanol plant when basic distilleries are scattered throughout the country as steam generating stations at power plants?

After the steam goes through the turbine, it goes to the cooling tower and is usually condensed back to water. Why not use the steam's wasted heat to distill the alcohol? A bit of plumbing would be needed for distillation. Fermentation and storage tanks would be needed for the finished product. The power companies could even share the cost of the tanks and plumbing. If grain

(alcohol) is used to make ethanol it would give our country's farmers another market for their grain crops.

LYLE "RED" SCHRINER, L-154 retiree
Aliquippa, Pa.

L-453's Viles wants respect

WHEN YOUNGER co-workers show disrespect and expect us to keep up with men half our age, they are creating the conditions they will be working under when they are our age.

LARRY VILES, Local 453
Knoxville, Tenn.

Got something to say?

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

SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Ave. Suite 570
Kansas City KS 66101
FAX: (913) 281-8104
E-mail: nstinger@boilermakers.org

