Owners, contractors, and union discuss manpower shortage, training, gain sharing

PARTNERS IN THE MOST Tripartite Alliance — the Boilermakers union, contractors, and construction industry owners — gathered for the organization’s 21st annual conference Oct. 9-12 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing industrial construction in the near future.

More than 300 participants at the conference heard from program committees, guest speakers, and area tripartite bodies on many topics, but the issue on everyone’s mind was the surging manpower requirements in construction over the next 10 years — and how to ensure the availability of enough Boilermakers to man the flood of anticipated projects.

Addressing that issue, IP Newton Jones presented a bold new plan to recruit a reserve force of craftsmen who can perform Boilermaker work. Under the plan, MOST will hire five full-time recruiters. MOST and the Brotherhood will marshal existing resources to screen, enroll, and train the reserve work force, and to place them on jobs when vacancies exist that cannot be manned by the existing Boilermaker work force.

A Web-based system to help Boilermaker lodges track their manpower needs was also unveiled at the conference.

Electric power industry must build

ON THE TOPIC of power generation trends, Larry Makovich, Ph.D., an industry analyst with Cambridge Energy Research Associates Inc. (CERA),
described how fuel costs, environmental requirements, and other factors impact electric utilities and create cycles and trends in construction. He said there was a “build out” of coal-fired power plants in the 1980s that left unused capacity for some years, until demand used up that capacity.

“That's exactly what we have ahead of us on the [natural gas] side,” Makovich noted. “We built [in the 2000s] over 300,000 megawatts of gas-fired capacity. When people built the gas-fired plants, they thought that the combined cycle gas-fired plants would be running 70 and 80 percent utilization. Last year, the average utilization rate was 35 percent.”

To some extent, natural gas units are being underutilized because of fuel cost. But that will not continue indefinitely as demand continues to outstrip the nation’s electrical power reserves. CERA expects that in 2007 some states on the East Coast will need new capacity beyond what is now under construction, with a trend that will spread into the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic states in 2008 and 2009.

Larry Makovich of CERA explains current trends in the power generation industry.

Makovich said the rising demand for natural gas in the power industry has led to a surge in the construction of liquid natural gas (LNG) terminals in the United States. These terminals will allow the U.S. to increase its import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in the United States. These terminals will allow the U.S. to increase its import of natural gas from abroad. This will not continue indefinitely as demand continues to outstrip the nation’s electrical power reserves. CERA expects that in 2007 some states on the East Coast will need new capacity beyond what is now under construction, with a trend that will spread into the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic states in 2008 and 2009.

Eric Carlson, with Babcock & Wilcox, describes the revised leadership training program.

NRG Texas's Don Powell shared details of a gain-sharing success story for NRG Texas, Babcock & Wilcox, and the Boilermakers.

Tripartite Alliance. It rewards productivity gains rather than profit gains. Essentially, the program creates a pool of money if certain targets are met. The productivity savings is divided between the craftsmen on the job and the owner. The average payout to each craft worker on the Limestone project was $3,500. NRG Texas retained 50 percent of the total gain-sharing pool. This is the second gain-sharing project to be undertaken by BWCC, NRG Texas, and Boilermakers Local Lodge 74, Wasilewski and Powell reported on the first project at the 2005 tripartite conference. Wasilewski said the Limestone Generating Station project was “a nice step up for us to take in the development of our gain-sharing program. It was a nice size job, bigger than the one we had done previously. It was longer, it took more people, and it was a little bit more difficult.” He noted that getting the
effort is needed to replace retiring baby boomers, respond to construction boom

OVER THE NEXT 10 years, the U.S. construction industry will need 185,000 new craft workers every year, according to a study by the Construction Labor Research Council in Washington, D.C.

That statistic has set off alarms throughout the industry. The study said baby boomers will be leaving the work force at levels never before seen, leaving those skilled workers to be a major challenge — and complicating things are projections of a major construction boom in power generation, oil refining, and other industry sectors where Boilermakers work.

The situation in Canada is likewise serious. At the Consolidated Convention last summer, Robert Blakely, BTCI’s director of Canadian Affairs, predicted that the Canadian construction industry would need to bring in as many as 200,000 new workers in the next 10 years.

While a construction boom is good for contractor business and potentially good for Boilermaker job security, the union must meet the surging manpower needs in order to hold onto our portion of the industrial construction market. Failure to meet manpower needs can encourage contractors to look to other crafts and to the nonunion sector for further work. To hold onto the business we now have, we must be able to assure our employers as well as our customers that we can provide high-quality, reliable Boilermakers when they are needed.

IP Jones announces plan to recruit skilled craftsmen

IP Newton Jones unveils plan to recruit a skilled reserve work force

MOST Board of Trustees has earmarked $1 million for the program through 2007.

Outlining the plan, Jones said it is designed to help meet the needs of the member companies as the demand for skilled construction trade workers continues to grow.

He said a parallel goal is to “build out our Boilermaker N.J.C.E. [National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers] presence throughout all construction projects. It’s been an excruciatingly long time since we’ve been able to see the faces of the people who are interested in doing Boilermaker work in the online world.”

JONES NOTED THAT the development of a recruitment message is critical to the success of the program. This message will convey the advantages of being a Boilermaker, including superior wages and benefits, safe work environment, and representation on the job. It will also cover the requirements of being a Boilermaker, such as drug testing and the 10-hour OSHA safety training course. The program will require that all recruiters are proficient in presenting the message consistently.

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Recruitment message is critical

Jones added, “Once you start bringing them in and start processing them through our system and putting them to work, a lot of them are chosen by our local lodges, but membership is not guaranteed to everyone who submits an application.”

Jones concluded, “This program, I believe, is going to help in a big way to sustain our market share — not just for the short term, but for the longer term.”

Brandon Dunlevy of MagLev talks about a magnetic levitation project in Pennsylvania.

Robotic welding machines are required because of the extreme tolerances (one millimeter across the entire surface), the need to reduce welding distortion, rapid production rates, and other factors. Dunlevy suggested that the success of the Pennsylvania Project could lead to a substantial increase in the workforce at levels never before seen.

Brandon Dunlevy, with MagLev Inc., told the conference about his company’s goal of building the first magnetic levitation transportation system in the United States. The train-like system would run at speeds well above 200 m.p.h. on an elevated guideway made of plate steel box beams. Dunlevy said the system is being called the “Pennsylvania Project.” It will extend for 53 miles, from Pittsburgh to International Airport through downtown Pittsburgh and into the suburbs.

Dunlevy said his company sought out Boilermakers from Local Lodge 154 (Pittsburgh) to assist in the test production of guideway elements because they needed highly-skilled welders to operate and oversee the robotic welding machines. He said MagLev Inc. was told, “If you want the best welders, you want the Boilermakers.” Currently two Local 154 members are working on the project, which has not yet ramped up to full production.
 demand for maglev projects across the country, with work stretching out for 30 years. He also noted that U.S. shipbuilders are very interested in the precision robotic welding being developed by MagLev, since overseas shipbuilding firms already use such technology, giving them an advantage over North American shipbuilders.

Committee demos manpower tracking system

PARTICIPANTS OF THE tripartite conference received a preview of the Web-based Boilermaker Manpower Tracking System under development. Larry Wargo, consultant for contractor services with FirstEnergy Corp. and chairman of the tripartite committee for manpower tracking, demonstrated how the system will work.

The program will allow Boilermaker local lodges to track manpower allocations for upcoming projects against total membership. Lodge-specific information can be entered regarding the number of mechanics, apprentices, and helpers available, along with their skills, such as welding certifications.

“This tool has been developed to help the Boilermakers understand demand — locally, regionally, and nationally,” Wargo told the conference. “This is the only real-time manpower database that exists today.”

The database is updated immediately when new information is added, so users of the system have access to up-to-the-minute data. This information can be printed on a weekly basis.

Lodges can enter project information such as name of owner and contractor as well as work schedules (including work days per week, work hours per day, and second shift requirements). The system will be administered by Bridget Conner of MOST.

Area tripartite bodies report

THE FIVE AREA tripartite alliances provided brief summaries of their operations over the last year.

Speaking for the Northeast Area Tripartite, JVP Sean Murphy said, “I can tell you today that all 12 locals in the Northeast area have been committed to having local tripartite meetings, along with participating in the Northeast tripartite conference.”

“A lot of times we find ourselves in a position with the local tripartites that we can attract folks who don’t have the resources and/or the time to attend this conference [the national tripartite meeting at Myrtle Beach]. These people have truly played a key part in market recovery for all of us. Like any business manager in this room can tell you that’s been involved in local tripartites, we’ve mailed down sites that we have been trying to be a part of for 10 or 15 years. So it’s truly been a market recovery system for us.”

The Eastern Canada Tripartite has made great progress in the first three years of its existence, said JVP Ed Power. “We’re growing about 30 percent a year. We have three ongoing committees right now,” including a safety committee, an outage scheduling and manpower committee, and an attendance committee.

Power showed a new 11-minute training film produced by the absentee committee that has been very well received. The film explains the impact of absenteeism on the Boilermaker work force, owners, and contractors. It compares Boilermaker absenteeism to what happens when a member of a professional hockey team is out of the game. The player’s absence hurts the team’s effort, just as a Boilermaker’s unauthorized or unexcused absence hurts his fellow workers, the contractor, and the owner. Robert Blakely, BCTD director of Canadian Affairs, narrates the film.

IF Jones called the video “one of the best pieces of work I’ve seen on absenteeism.” Power said the Eastern Canada Tripartite will make the film available for modification and use by other tripartite bodies.

Representing the Ohio Valley Tripartite, IR-GO Marty Stanton said that at his group’s June conference, “we had some of the best ownership participation we’ve had in some time. At this conference I had the opportunity, along with Larry Wargo, to introduce the Web-based Boilermaker Manpower Tracking System, and that was sort of the beginning of the implementation of it, and things have been progressing. Our next conference will be held January 4 at the Holiday Inn in Cincinnati. That’s our yearly manpower caucus. He added, “We would like to encourage the participation of all the owners and any contractors that are involved and get them on the invitation list.”

IR-GO Tony Palmisano reported that the Upper Midwest Tripartite Alliance consists of Local Lodges 83 (Kansas City, Mo.), 107 (Milwaukee), and 647 (Minneapolis). “We have approximately 15 owners and 33 contractors currently participating,” Palmisano said. “There’s quite a bit of manpower, and the workload is excellent.

“We started the tripartite conference around 2000. I believe there were approximately 12 people at the first meeting. Currently, participation is up to around 75.”

Speaking for the Western States Tripartite, IR Bob Hall reported that his group recently held its second annual conference. “We didn’t have the participation of owners we would have liked to have had,” he stated, noting that some owners dropped out at the last minute and the conference may have conflicted with some outage schedules. “We ended up with four or five. But those four or five were really interested and really informed. A lot of people said, ‘I can’t make it now, but please don’t take me off your list.’”

Speaking of the national tripartite conference, Hall said, “I don’t think any owner here was at Western States. I think the regional tripartite conference is very important. It makes it closer and more interpersonal. We look forward to some real growth in the Western States.”

Partners caucus on issues, solutions

TRIPARTITE ALLIANCE PARTNERS broke into discussion groups, as they have at past conferences, to identify problems and issues and to examine potential solutions. This year, the caucuses were facilitated by an industry consultant, C. Richard Barnes & Associates.

With help from the facilitators, the owners, contractors, and union groups prioritized their issues. The facilitator presented the results of each caucus to the entire tripartite body.

The breakout sessions are important because they help identify areas that need to be changed. Caucus recommendations often lead to tripartite initiatives that may later develop into

**MOST sponsors project management training**

TWENTY-FOUR BOILERMAKERS earned recommendations by their business manager and an owner or contractor to attend the MOST-sponsored project management training course in Kansas City, Mo., June 25-30. The six-day course was conducted by Construction Division Director Skipper Branscum and professional project managers John Mowrey and Chuck Connor. (Connor is a former NTL member and Mowrey is an active member of Local 85 – Toledo, Ohio.)


Boilermaker members interested in participating in a project management course should download an application form from the “Forms” tab at www.mostprograms.com.
Committees work to improve safety, attendance, and manpower scheduling

IT’S ONLY BEEN THREE years since the Boilermakers began a tripartite program in Eastern Canada, bringing together for the first time representatives from the union, contractors, and owner/clients to discuss common industry problems in that area. Yet already the annual conference has produced fantastic results.

Ed Power, Intl. vice president for Eastern Canada, who, with then-IVP Sandy MacDonald, brought the tripartite program to Canada in 2004, couldn’t be happier with the progress the conference has made thus far. He credited the efforts of committees that are created during the conferences, noting: "That’s how problems will get solved as we go down the road."

And at this year’s third annual meeting, held on Prince Edward Island, Aug. 16-17, the committees had more than just ideas to present, they had solutions: videos, forms, and interactive Web sites.

Committees report success

Safety

JASON MCINNIS, BOILERMAKER national director of health and safety, presented the annual report for the tripartite safety committee, reporting on progress — two safety programs developed and plans for a third.

So far, every member of Local 73 (Halifax, Nova Scotia) has completed a mandatory safety training program, and all members of Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) will finish by the end of this year. In addition, 45 members from each of these lodges have completed supervisor/foreman safety training.

Since each provincial jurisdiction has specific legislation to ensure the health and safety of workers, members often retake safety training when they change job sites. Seventy to 90 percent of this training is redundant, with only about 25 percent being site specific. So the committee is developing CSOP — a common safety orientation program that will cover general safety awareness for the entire construction industry and be recognized at all job sites.

The committee is also reviewing methods to evaluate safety performance and recognition programs. They plan to develop a Web site for training and education resources that will include a safety training database.

Absenteism

JIM TINNEY, BUSINESS manager for Local 128, and Jim Scatteredgill, a Bruce Power manager, presented their committee’s report on managing attendance. Their plan includes an orientation in which all players learn what is expected of them in regard to attendance; use of call-in cards — wallet-sized documents that include contact phone numbers, timeliness expectations, and consequences of failure to notify of absences; and a multi-step disciplinary policy.

"To tackle the problem, we have to be consistent," Tinney said. "If the three of us work together [owner, contractor, union], we believe we can make some real inroads on solving absenteism."

The committee played a sample videotape they developed to explain the importance of attendance by comparing a worker to a member of a sports team. The videos show how a member’s absence — especially an unexpected absence — can affect every member on that team and that team’s performance. The video can be customized for other areas and other crafts.

Manpower and Outage Scheduling

KENT OLIVER, BUSINESS manager for Local 73, said the committee on manpower and outage scheduling has developed a pilot program for Atlantic Canada. David Ebbett, turnaround manager for Irving Oil Limited, identified three of the committee’s goals: 1. to identify key contacts; 2. to gather information for planned outages (start date, duration, labour requirements); and 3. to facilitate distribution of information to all parties.

Jerome Dick, operations manager for Babcock & Wilcox Canada, reviewed a letter and forms the committee developed for employers in Atlantic Canada. These information requests will be mailed in the coming weeks to prepare for next year’s manpower scheduling. The committee is focusing on outage scheduling, but hopes to add new construction soon. The results will be published on a Web site maintained by Local 73.

Guest speakers enlighten conference delegates

GUEST SPEAKERS COVERED a variety of topics throughout the conference. The keynote speaker, Bruce Power CEO Duncan Hawthorne, talked about rapid changes in industrial construction in the recent past and those to come in the near future.

According to Hawthorne, every electrical power infrastructure needs repair and/or rebuilding, and manpower needs will be high: “It will take 6,000 people to build the power plants needed, and 70,000 people to maintain them. I don’t know where these people will come from. Some may say it must be nice to have to worry about meeting the needs of progressive growth instead of decline — and it is — but it is still a problem, and if we can’t solve it, we will fail.”

Hawthorne pointed out that finding these workers is a common problem for each group of the tripartite conference. “Young people are not attracted to the trades anymore. If we can’t change that, 40 percent of the workforce will have to come from immigration, and we’ll have to start thinking of English as the second language in this country. We have to recognize that success is in our hands,” he concluded. “We have to work together — if one of us fails, we all fail.”

Boilermaker IVP Joseph Maloney and PACE Integration Inc.’s Lisa Dwomik discussed a new travel card Web site program they have launched in Western Canada. “Members can now register their travel cards online,” Maloney said. “This shows the owner community that we have a supplementary labor base when the primary list runs out.”

The program was developed to help dispatchers fill jobs more quickly and efficiently. “A Web-based registry is available 24/7,” Dwomik said. “Members can log in and enter their names on a list without having to travel to the lodge. They can update their information and certificates, and indicate where they would want to work.”

Jack Brochu, BCA vice president, and Rick Mile, operations manager and statutory director of boiler and pressure vessels for Ontario’s Technical Standards and Safety Authority, discussed the Ontario Common Welding Program, a cost-saving measure designed to eliminate redundant welder tests, similar to Common Arc.

Other speakers included John Schel, president of the Boilermaker Contractors Association (BCA); Bob Blakey, director of Canadian affairs for the Building and Construction Trades Department; David Galvin, labour relations manager for Bruce Power; the Honorable Steven W. Mahoney P.C., chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB); Dr. Brendan Adams, a substance abuse expert; Michael Church, an attorney with Caley & Wray; and Allisons Rougeau of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum.

“We have to recognize that success is in our hands. We have to work together — if one of us fails, we all fail.”

— Duncan Hawthorne, Bruce Power CEO
MOST works to upgrade Foreman Training Program

Forty-one attend train-the-trainer sessions in St. Louis and Raleigh, N.C.

OVER FORTY LOCAL UNION instructors and contractor representatives attended train-the-trainer sessions in St. Louis and Raleigh, N.C., this summer as part of MOST’s effort to upgrade the Foreman Training Program. The program was created in 1985 by Resource Systems Inc. for journeymen who are interested in becoming foremen.

Following the 2005 National Tripartite Conference, MOST trustees appointed a committee to review and revamp the program.

“Our committee determined that Boilermakers attending foreman courses were receiving technical instruction that repeated what they had learned in apprentice classes,” said David Haggerty, MOST coordinator and committee co-chair. He said that what they weren’t getting was “an understanding of their responsibilities in job safety, such as conducting JSAs (job safety analyses), and dealing with customers on a daily basis.”

The review committee, which includes four contractor and four union representatives, worked in conjunction with a management consulting firm, FMI, to develop the Field Leadership Training Course, which essentially replaces the Foreman Training Program. The new course emphasizes administrative responsibilities, people skills, and the business aspects of construction.

FMI instructors Ashley Robertson and Mike Putzer then conducted the two train-the-trainer sessions.

Haggerty said participants at the St. Louis and Raleigh sessions gave the Field Leadership Training Course high marks and that refinements are still being made. Two pilot training sessions will be held, one at Local Lodge 83 in Kansas City, Mo., the other at Local Lodge 154 in Pittsburgh, to test and evaluate the new course before it is implemented fully sometime next spring.

“I think those attending the Field Leadership Training Course are going to get a better understanding of contractor/owner expectations, and they’re going to be more efficient,” Haggerty noted.

Attending the St. Louis train-the-trainer session June 27-28 were David Haggerty; Gerry Klimo and Frank Calore, Local 154 (Pittsburgh); John O’Halloran, Local 26 (Newark, N.J.); Joel Miller, Local 108 (Birmingham, Ala.); William Truman, Local 455 (Sheffield, Ala.); John New, Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.); David Leimer, Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.); Mark Lester, Local 27 (St. Louis); Danny Popovich, Local 132 (Galveston, Tex.); John Standish, BNA; Jerry Barns and Dwain Smith, Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.); Jim McDonnell, Local 169 (Detroit); Clay Herford, IR; Construction Division; Bradley Elder, Local 667 (Charleston, W.Va.); Paul Immordino, Local 13 (Philadelphia); Bob Renney and Paul Cote, Alstom; Mike Ballard and Eric Carlson, B&W; Marty Spencer; and Brad Robinson and Dennis Koehler, Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio).

Attending the Raleigh, N. C. session August 15-17 were John Robinson and Larry Seaberg, Local 502 (Tacoma, Wash.); Charles Dunham and Al Kargard, Local 92 (Los Angeles); Jerry Klimo, Don Fiorilli, and Jim Basilon, Local 13; Rick Hope and Jeff Everly, Local 40; Dave Shareno, Local 7; Ted Sharp; Marty Spencer; Pat Malone and Earl Hamre, B&W; David Haggerty; David Leimer; Johnny Gallon, Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.); Bobby Newman, Local 26 (Savannah, Ga.); and Roger Cheek and Ellis Johnson, Local 30 (Greensboro, N.C.).

Serving on the review committee were Eric Carlson (co-chairman), safety and labor relations manager for Babcock and Wilcox; Pat Malone, field engineer for Chicago Bridge & Iron; Jim Woodward, vice president of Nooter Construction Co.; Ted Sharp, labor relations manager for ACPcom Power; David Haggerty (co-chairman), MOST coordinator; Pat Smith BNAP national coordinator; Marty Spencer, Northeast Region instructor out of Local 7; and Dwain Smith, apprentice coordinator for Local 40.

Mark your calendars now!

Plan to attend the 2007 Summer Institutes

The 2007 School for Workers Summer Training Institute for stewards and local lodge officers will offer extensive training in collective bargaining, grievance handling, building the union, and other topics vital to success for local lodge leaders.

Don’t pass up this opportunity to learn the keys to making your local lodge strong.

Basic Class : July 15-20 Advanced : July 22-27

Formal announcements and registration information will be mailed to local lodges some time in early 2007.

For more information, contact Cheryl Harris at 913-371-2640.

MOST 10-hour safety training is a must

Nearly 30,000 Boilermakers have taken the course since its creation

BOILERMAKER CONSTRUCTION LODGES across the country have taught the MOST 10-hour safety course to nearly 30,000 people since the course was created in 1998, says MOST coordinator David Haggerty. The course meets guidelines established by an OSHA outreach program.

In the first 10 months of 2006, local lodges taught 239 classes, reaching over 4,000 members.

Those numbers demonstrate the strong commitment to safety fostered by the tripartite alliance as well as the efforts of MOST to implement effective programs. Leading the way in safety training in 2006 are the National Transient Lodge, Local 154 (Pittsburgh), Local 13 (Philadelphia), and Local 455 (Muscle Shoals, Ala.), all of which have offered more than 10 classes.

Created by MOST, the safety class is put on by the local lodges themselves. MOST provides train-the-trainer classes for local lodge personnel. Once certified, they teach the class to their members — and very often to traveling Boilermakers who are in the area and want to take the course.

Locals go the extra mile for safety

IN ORDER TO REACH members who live far from the union hall, Locals 83, 47, and 13 have offered the National Transient Lodge have taken training on the road.

Local 83 BM-ST Roger Erickson said it makes sense for his lodge to offer mobile training, because his jurisdiction covers three-and-a-half states (Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and the western half of Missouri).

“Business Representative Scott Albertson has been conducting training regularly in Council Bluffs, Iowa,” he said, noting that the local has had about 500 members working on several large boiler projects. “And we’ve got a project in Muscatine, Iowa, coming up with B&W for Grain Processors where we’ll do mobile training.”

Larry Horseman, Local 83 president, said, “Taking the course onsite is important for Boilermakers who are on the job or those who must travel at their own expense to Kansas City for training. We’ve had guys fly here from California for training on their way to a job in Minnesota,” he said.

Dave Leimer, a Local 83 welding instructor, is certified by OSHA to teach the MOST 10-hour safety training course. He said the local usually conducts classes the second Friday of each month at the hall, and will occasionally schedule them on a Sunday to accommodate members.

The course covers an array of topics: personal protection equipment; confined space; fall protection; scaffolding use; stairways and ladders; electrical safety; materials handling; cranes and rigging; and occupational health.
Local lodge leaders, International staff attend 2006 Summer Training Institute

Curriculum includes in-depth look at recent lockouts, with input from Local 484

FIFTY-FIVE LOCAL LODGE leaders and 22 International staff members attended classes at the 49th annual Summer Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin’s School for Workers held August 13-25, 2006, in Madison, Wis. Over a two-week period, the Institute offered Basic and Advanced courses and a staff curriculum.

The Boilermakers have been holding these summer seminars at the School for Workers since 1957. They are an integral part of the Brotherhood’s training and leadership development program.

The 2006 Basic course addressed communication skills, labor history, collective bargaining, contract administration, membership mobilization, safety and health, workers in the global economy, FMLA, political action, and the Boilermaker organization.

Coursework for the Advanced class is designed for those who have completed the Basic training. Advanced participants study interviewing and listening skills, communication skills, problem solving and grievance handling, grievance arbitration, safety and health, health care law, political action, health care bargaining, labor history, workers in the global economy, building the union and membership mobilization, costing out the contract, and public relations.

This year’s agenda for International staff focused on negotiating pension and health care benefits — two areas that are extremely important today, as many employers seek to shift more costs to workers.

A special session dealt with the Celanese and Wabash lockouts that affected Locals 484 (Meredosia, Ill.) and 1240 (Wabash, Ind.), respectively. Both the Advanced and Staff classes attended. SAIP Gary Prochnow, director of organizing, and IR Jim Pressley, assistant to the director of research and organizing, led an in-depth discussion. They described the circumstances leading up to the lockouts, the strategies involved in dealing with them, and the outcomes (both lockouts ended earlier this year).

Six Local 484 members attending the Advanced course provided first-hand accounts of how the lockouts affected members and their families. They recounted the difficulties faced in negotiating with Celanese, in dealing with the lockout itself, and in returning to work following the end of the lockout. Prochnow and Pressley compared and contrasted the two lockouts, noting the positive difference that labor-friendly politicians in Illinois made on behalf of Local 484.

Local lodge leaders attending the courses benefited not only from the first-hand accounts offered by Local 484 leaders, but also from discussions about their own situations. Both U.S. and Canadian lodges sent members to the School for Workers, with a diverse industry representation: shipbuilding, cement, construction, manufacturing, shop, railroad, and service. For many, this was a unique opportunity to share experiences, build new friendships, and exchange e-mail addresses. Some participants of the Basic class will see each other next year at the Advanced course.

Institute instructors included professors from UW-Madison’s School for Workers. Boilermaker staff providing instruction — in addition to Prochnow and Pressley — included Donald Caswell, director of communication, education, and training services; Bridget Martin, director of the government affairs department; Shannon Brett, assistant to the director of government affairs; and Milan Racic, safety and health specialist.

Members attending the 2006 Basic course included Roy Bruno of Local 5 (New York); David King of Local 6 (Oakland, Calif.); Richard Kelley of Local 13 (Philadelphia); Ronald Ferguson and Kenyata Hart of Local 19 (Philadelphia); Charles Hancock of Local 29 (Boston); Scott Alberson of Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.); Jeremy Wright and Brian Haight of Local 84 (Paola, Kan.); Kerry Trobaugh of Local 8185 (Belleville, Ill.); Don Vick, Jimmy Wampler, and Mike Campbell of Local D209 (Speed, Ind.); Dale Harper, James Wilborn, and JoAnne Pyle of Local 344 (Ridgcrest, Calif.); Jason King and Chris Linneweber of Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.); Brad Hubbs and Jason Rawdon of Local D465 (Oklahoma City, Okla.); George Lindley of Local 482 (Wood River, Ill.); Rosendo Castro and Mark Gerondale of Local 487 (Kewanee, Wisc.); Scotty Blevins, Meredith Dixon, and Frank Clay of Local D595 (Lovell, Wyo.); Daniel Campbell and David Triplett of Local 614 (New London, Conn.); Cecil Cunningham and John Massey of Local 636 (Chattanooga, Tenn.); and NTU members Timothy Landfried, Kelly Milbauer, Jack Staten, and Dustin Moore. Staff members Tracy Buck and Mike Linderer also attended the Basic course.

Members attending the 2006 Advanced course August 20-25 included Richard Kelly of Local 13 (Philadelphia); Michael Amend of Local 88 (Essington, Penn.); Dale Werner of Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta); Kenneth Carver, William Campbell, Don Vick, and Jimmy Wampler of Local D209 (Speed, Ind.); Leslie Dikes, Ralph Legler, and John Smith of Local 344 (Ridgcrest, Calif.); Gabriel Lamar, Brian Dowden, and Chad Smit of Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.); James Penton and Kimberly Spradlin of Local 480 (Jacksonville, Ill.); Lee Hall, Steve Sappington, Alan Gerdes, Denny Dornie, Bob Glenn, and Tom Evans of Local 484 (Meredosia, Ill.); Daniel Currier and David Bye of Local 599 (Billings, Mont.); Glenn Weismann of Local 647 (Minneapolis, Minn.); and NTU members Michael Dietrich, Timothy Landfried, Dustin Moore, and Jack Staten. Staff member Linderer also attended the Advanced course.

Local 85 members make history as they bring the 1890 shipyard back to life

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 85 are back to work at the Toledo Shipyard, thanks to the efforts of their business manager, Fred Keith Jr., and Int'l. Rep Len Gunderson. The Manitowoc Marine Group had been operating Toledo Shipyards since 1991. In December 2005, Manitowoc pulled out of the shipyard, taking 50 Local 85 jobs with it.

“Manitowoc just walked away from Toledo Ship Repair and closed it down,” Gunderson said. “They left the shipyard in total disarray, taking everything that wasn’t nailed down.”

Keith said the shipyard closing had only once been hinted at before they received the call that it was closing. When Keith spoke to James Hartung, president of the Port Authority about the closing, Hartung said it was a great opportunity for Keith to find someone new to run the yard.”Someone with a little fire in the belly who really wants to make this work.”

“They will start with barges and move their way to ships, and will also be doing fabrication at the facility for construction duck work, etc.”

The community of Toledo was glad to learn that the yard had been reopened. It has been a staple in their community since 1890, when it was first opened as John Craig & Sons Shipbuilding. It was later renamed Toledo Shipyard, and Local 85 has represented workers there since it was chartered in 1892.

Over the years, many ships have been built there, including passenger boats and ferries.

“In its heyday, the shipyard employed several thousand workers — mostly Hungarian Americans — and could engineer and build a complete vessel from start to finish in every aspect,” says James Heaton, a history buff and 33-year member of Local 85.

“In 1944, the company was sold to Delta Shipbuilding. During World War II, 80 percent of the work force were women, with most of the men in the area either enlisted or drafted into military service. These hard-working women built a Liberty ship and a destroyer for the war efforts.”

Heaton said the shipyard changed hands again in 1945 and was renamed the American Shipbuilding Company, where Local 85 members built lake freighters in the 1950s; Coast Guard cutters and an oceanographic research vessel in the 1960s; and a self-unloading ore freighter in 1973. In the mid-1970s, members refitted several existing freighters as self-unloaders and built three mid-bodies that they floated to a larger shipyard (Lorain) for finishing.

In 1981, owner George Steinbrenner closed down the yard. The Toledo Port Authority assumed ownership and the yard was reopened in 1985 as Merce Industries. In 1991, Manitowoc took over the yard’s operations until they pulled out in December 2005.

Upset but not deterred, Keith and Gunderson began making plans on how they could get the yard back up and running.

Working with the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, they were able to meet with several potential operators and hit pay dirt when they met Tony LaMantia of Ironhead Fabrication out of Temperance, Mich.

“Tony has that fire in the belly to make this work, and the drive to get the job done,” Keith said.

Not only was LaMantia willing to take on the task of rebuilding Toledo Shipyard, but he met with Keith and Gunderson and together they negotiated what Gunderson calls, “a very competitive contract.”

The seven-year agreement runs through January 31, 2013, with a wage re-opener in the fourth year.

LaMantia reopened the facility on Feb. 21, 2006, under the name of Ironhead Fabrication, Industrial, Marine, and Contracting; however, it will take some time to rebuild the yard and retain a work force. “This sounds like a formidable task, but I know Tony, Keith, and the Port are up to it,” Gunderson said.

Twenty Local 85 members are back to work helping to get the yard ready for operations. When restored, the yard will be able to support several hundred employees.

“They will do all kinds of ship repair as well as new construction at Ironhead,” Gunderson reported.

Local 271 delegation and Eastern Canadian IVP Ed Power (c.) at the 31st Consolidated Convention. L-271 BM-ST Guy Villemure is second from right.
Santa upgrades his Common Arc papers

LOCAL 7 (BUFFALO, N.Y.) members working on their Common Arc welding certification were surprised by a large man in a red suit who came by to take the test. Maybe the big guy needs a second job. It’s a long time between Christmases, after all. The Local 7 crew made sure he finished his welding in time to deliver the presents.

D366 celebrates 50th anniversary

Canadian cement local honors charter members

LOCAL Lodge D366 (Mississauga, Ontario) celebrated its 50-year anniversary this fall with an open house, summer Olympic games, and other activities.

The 139-member lodge received its charter October 2, 1956, the year in which the St. Lawrence Cement Company opened its Mississauga plant.

In a ceremony to commemorate the lodge’s anniversary, two retired charter members — Don Booth and Gerhard Preuss — received inscribed clocks from Pierre Pommainville, plant union chairman, and IR-GO Mike Watson.

Booth’s name was the very first listed on the charter. Pommainville described management-labor relations at the plant as “generally very good.”

A part of the Holcim Group, St. Lawrence Cement Company is a leading producer of cement, concrete, and mineral aggregates.

L-900 holds a welcome home party for Jason Hoffman (center, in grey sweatshirt) upon his return from Iraq.

L-34’s Nelson ships out to Iraq

KENNY NELSON, CHAIRMAN of Local Lodge 34 (Topeka), shipped out to Iraq at the end of October with his Kansas Army National Guard unit. The railroad local organized a send-off dinner for Nelson, who has been a Boilermaker for 28 years. President Anthony DaPrato said Nelson holds the rank of sergeant first class and has been a guardsman for over 20 years. He will be serving as a human resources specialist and could be activated for more than a year. Nelson will be stationed in an area north of Baghdad.

Soldiers in Iraq thank Local 900 for gifts

SOFTBALL GLOVES and footballs, Basketball and thumb drives (portable computer disks). These hardly sound like the tools of war. Yet soldiers of the 1257th Transportation Company in Iraq were more than happy to receive these items, and more, earlier this year — gifts from Boilermaker members at Local 900 (Barberton, Ohio) and their employers, BWXT and Babcock & Wilcox.

The union is part of the 167th Cavalry, 1/34th Brigade Combat Team at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in northern Iraq.

L-900 President David Sherlin said the idea to send care packages grew from membership suggestions. To head up the effort, Sherlin appointed a member who had just returned from military service in Iraq himself, Jason Hoffman, along with L-900 Vice President Ron Smith. Shop stewards and others volunteered their time, raising $1,600 to purchase merchandise.

“This was a combined effort of the bargaining unit and the employers,” said Pres. Sherlin. “Both hourly and salaried employees contributed.”

The union contacted a military unit and went through more than a little red tape to find out what items the soldiers most wanted — and how to get those items into their hands. Hoffman and Smith then set about buying the merchandise and shipping it overseas. Among other items sent were spotlights and spotting scopes. BWXT also provided cases of wrap-around safety sunglasses.

The 1257th Transportation Company was thrilled when the packages arrived. SSG Glenn Freeman Jr. wrote to Pres. Sherlin, stating: “Nothing brings a smile to a soldier’s face faster than a letter from home except maybe a care package. The war stopped for about 30 minutes when the soldiers caught sight of the softballs and gloves.”

In the letter, First Sergeant Freeman said he would send American flags that flew during combat missions to the union and the employers in appreciation of the packages.

“That letter brought tears to my eyes,” said Sherlin. “We were just happy to show those guys there are people who are thinking of them.” Sherlin added that the joint union/company effort has proven that both sides can work together effectively towards a common goal.

Local 900 fabricates propulsion systems for nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines. The lodge was chartered in 1956.
BOILERMAKERS HAVE LONG taken pride in passing on the trade to family members, and it’s not rare to find a father and son working side by side. But one particular job saw 11 sets of fathers and sons working on the same SCR construction project, at the Detroit Edison power plant in Monroe, Mich., and all but one of the workers are members of Local 85. Eleven father-son combinations work on an SCR construction job in Michigan. All workers but one are members of Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio).

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**For L-85, building an SCR is a real family affair**

Michigan power plant job features 11 father-son sets

BOILERMAKERS HAVE LONG taken pride in passing on the trade to family members, and it’s not rare to find a father and son working side by side. But one particular job saw 11 sets of fathers and sons working on the same SCR construction project, at the Detroit Edison power plant in Monroe, Mich., and all but one of the workers are members of Local 85. Eleven father-son combinations work on an SCR construction job in Michigan. All workers but one are members of Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio).

Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Bill and Jeremy Durbin; Jim, Joe, and Brad Calgie; Brandon (an Ironworker) and Mark Matuszewski; and Conley and Adam Cornett. In the middle row (seated) are Rand and Byron Bishop; Buck and Matt Avery; and Mike and Dave Cowdrey. In the top row are Jim and Kent Elliott; Rick and Abe Babcock; Ron Sr. and Ron Jr. Hernandez; and Zach and John Wolf. The members are posed in front of an M-210 crawler crane with a 460-ft. boom. Local 85 is a field construction shop, and shipbuilding local chartered in 1892.

**Locals award service pins**

Local 1, Chicago

John Skermont, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- **45 Years** – Gary Metcalfe;
- **35 Years** – Charles Lyles, Merrill Lynn, Jerome Petralia, John Skermont;
- **30 Years** – Larry Fanini, Gary N. Nelson, Louis Truffer; and
- **25 Years** – Christopher Pranger.

Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.

Roger Erickson, BM-ST of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- **55 Years** – Robert Kampe;
- **45 Years** – Larry Daugherty, Richard Ice;
- **40 Years** – Jack Armstrong;
- **35 Years** – Jim Berry, Jim Weaver;
- **25 Years** – Armie Bryant, Roger Hammler, Ron Hedges, Jess Laster, Earl Raney, John St. Helene, Bruce Schanuth, Mike Sievert, Mark Suthers;
- **20 Years** – Gary George; and
- **15 Years** – Fred Daisden, Larry Rowe, John Seward.

Local 158, Peoria, Ill.

S. Mike Damm, president of Local 158, Peoria, Ill., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- **55 Years** – Robert Kampe;
- **45 Years** – Larry Daugherty, Richard Ice;
- **40 Years** – Jack Armstrong;
- **35 Years** – Jim Berry, Jim Weaver;
- **25 Years** – Armie Bryant, Roger Hammler, Ron Hedges, Jess Laster, Earl Raney, John St. Helene, Bruce Schanuth, Mike Sievert, Mark Suthers;
- **20 Years** – Gary George; and
- **15 Years** – Fred Daisden, Larry Rowe, John Seward.

Local 175, Oswego, N.Y.

John Fultz, BM-ST of Local 175, Oswego, N.Y., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

- **60 Years** – Bill Gardner, Harry Syrell;
- **55 Years** – Dick Strong;
- **50 Years** – Hank Broadwell, Jack Fultz, Charlie Connor, Bob Strong;
- **45 Years** – Pete Carey, Louie French, Cliff Herrick, Kent Oswald, Ralph Oswald, Sam Sereno Sr., Wes Waldron, Newt Warner;
- **40 Years** – Bill Ballard, Bob Edick, Ken Gregory, Jim Litts, Ray Pappa, Lenny Payne, Paul Wilson;
- **35 Years** – Joe Chambers, Roger Clark, Ray Denny Jr., Harold England, Ray Fargo, James Fultz, Don Greenleaf, Jerry Hammett, Gary Kaslter, Jerry LeBlanc, Bill Martin, Judie O’Connor, James Price, Dave Roach, Gary Seebor;
- **30 Years** – Arno A. Guske;
- **25 Years** – Thomas A. Garlick, James E. George, Gerald A. Taylor, William A. Tessin, Robert A. Wiley;
- **10 Years** – Lenny D. Minor, Kevin J. Schultz, Steven E. Schultz, Edward J. Wldoyka Jr.

Local 374, Hammond, Ind.

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

- **65 Years** – Gerald D. Robbins, Everett B. Timberlake;
- **40 Years** – David Flannigan, Jimmie C. Huffman, Milan V. Ranchic;
- **35 Years** – Jimmie J. Colbert, Javier Sandoval, William M. Shelton, Richard S. Willis;
- **30 Years** – Craig A. Holley, Patrick Hynes, Dale A. Klemnoff, Paul F. Rogier, Jay F. Wurtz;
- **20 Years** – Mark A. Biever, Jerrell L. Clark, Thomas J. Mulligan, Charles D. Topper; and

Eleven father-son combinations work on an SCR construction job in Michigan. All workers but one are members of Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio).
Daughters of L-60’s Sack score in national history competition

MEGAN AND HALEY Sack, daughters of Local 60 (Peoria, Ill.) member Bruce Sack and Susan Sack, were among about 50 Illinois finalists chosen to compete in the National History Day contest held at the University of Maryland College Park June 10-15.

Megan, a sophomore at Mendota High School, and Haley, an eighth-grader at Northbrook Middle School, were selected for the honor from an estimated 20,000 students who competed in history fairs across the state. About 700,000 students competed nationwide.

Megan’s project was an exhibit titled, “Women in the Work Force during WWII – We Can’t Win Without Them: the Women Welders of the Seneca Prairie Shipyard.” The exhibit described the role women played in an inland shipyard that built tank landing ships (LSTs) during the Second World War. Her project won three of the five state special awards, including the Illinois Labor History Award. At the nationals, Megan finished in the top 20 for senior high individual exhibits.

Haley’s project — researched, written, and performed by Haley and four other middle school students — was a dramatic play titled, “Radium Girls Society of the Living Dead.” The play recounted court cases in the 1930s in which dying women sued Radium Dial in Ottawa, Ill., after being poisoned on the job by paint containing radium. The company had encouraged women to lick the paint brush tips in between applications as they painted clock faces and dials, even though it knew of the health risks. The performance ranked fifth at the national level.

The girls’ mother, Susan Sack, substitutes teaches and runs the Mendota History Club, says students sometimes spend a year doing research and preparing their projects. The history club focuses on community service, so participants present their projects at public events, at nursing homes, in store fronts, and at other venues. The projects have lasting value, as the research is often donated to libraries and museums.

Third-generation Hill joins Local 454

Haley Sack, 14, center, appears in period dress for her group’s dramatic play. Cody Sack, 14, right, and sister, Haley, 14, center, appear in period dress for her group’s dramatic play.

How to apply for a Boilermaker scholarship

Boilermaker scholarships are open to high school seniors who will be entering their first year of a two- or four-year academic program at a degree-granting, accredited college or university within one year of their high school graduation and who are dependents of Boilermaker members in good standing. A dependent may be a son, daughter, legally adopted child, or other dependent of an active, retired, disabled, or deceased member.

Winners are chosen based on a variety of criteria that include grades, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, and a written essay on an assigned topic. Applications for the 2007 awards will be available from your local lodge at the end of this year and will be accepted from January 1 to March 1, 2007. Applications postmarked after the March 1, 2007, deadline cannot be considered.

Contact your local lodge to get an application. The International will not mail applications to individuals.

Some local lodges have their own scholarship programs. These scholarships are also available through the Union Plus Scholarship Program and some state and regional labor councils. For information on their scholarship programs, contact these organizations directly.

Per capita tax to increase by 30 cents in 2007

Annual adjustment helps dues revenue keep up with inflation

THE BUREAU OF LABOR Statistics (BLS) has announced a 1.3 percent average increase in hourly earnings for the manufacturing industry from July 2005 to July 2006. As a result, the International will raise its per capita tax in 2007 by 1.3 percent (30 cents) and monthly union dues will increase by twice that amount (60 cents), effective January 1, 2007.

These increases are in accordance with the Boilermakers’ Constitution. Article 12.2.2 states the monthly per capita tax will be adjusted annually by the BLS average percent increase in earnings for manufacturing, rounded to the nearest nickel. Article 31.2.2 states that monthly union dues will increase by twice the annual adjusted per capita tax increase.

Applying the 2005-2006 BLS 1.3 percent increase to the 2006 per capita tax rate of $20.65 equals 28 cents (30 cents when rounded to the nearest nickel), making the 2007 per capita tax rate $20.95 effective January 1.

Monthly union dues vary by division, but the average rate will increase by twice the annual adjusted per capita tax increase (two x 30 cents = 60 cents). The automatic dues increase was created by convention action in 1973, and has been in effect since 1975 so that revenue will keep up with inflation. Prior to that time, conventions had to vote for all dues increases. When they met only every four years, that meant they had to try to predict wage growth and expense growth over the next four years (now it’s five). By making the increase automatic and pegging it to rising wages, they ensured rises in revenue kept pace with inflation and did not create a hardship on members since the increases are linked to wage increases.

Per capita tax to increase by twice the annual adjusted per capita tax increase.
Apprentice Competition

continued from page 1

test administrator. Judges were as follows: from the Westem States Area, Brian Moore, ARB Inc.; from the Great Lakes Area, Tony Parsiliti, Gem Industrial Inc., and Robert Schwartz, Local Lodge 1 vice president and assistant business manager; from the Southeast Area, Chuck Harvey, Babcock & Wilcox Construction Co. Inc., and Cam Juncal, IR; from the Northeast Area, Michael Bray, George Young Company, and John Doherty, Local Lodge 28 vice president and apprentice coordinator; and from the NTL, William Coiner, Industrial Contractors Inc. and Gary Scott, vice president and assistant business rep.

The event was capped by an awards banquet at which all contestants were recognized. The awards banquet also acknowledged the contributions made by Gerard J. “Jerry” Kaelin to the apprenticeship program. Pat Smith, BNAP program coordinator, presented Kaelin with the Boilermakers National Recognition Award. Kaelin is the CEO of the American Boiler & Chimney Co., chairman of BNAP, and chairman of the Northeast Area Apprentice Council.

Keynote speakers for the event were IP Newton Jones and the executive director of Helmets to Hardhats, Matthew P. Caufield, Maj. Gen. U.S.M.C. (retired). Apprentices compete in four areas

CONTESTANTS COMPETED in four areas at the national event: classroom, rigging, welding, and “Boilermaker skills.” Each area was worth 300 points. The 10-hour classroom test included a written exam on Boilermaker history and organization, OSHA safety rules, and on-the-job training issues.

In the rigging section, contestants set up and performed a tank lift using winches, a boom derrick and an equalizer beam, controlling the lift using hand signals. The project required placing the tank onto a pad at a specific elevation and nozzle location. Contestants were required to reeve a four-part line and calculate the percentages of the load to be carried by the line and the derrick. Other elements of this section included ropes and knots and blocks and reeving.

The welding test included tube welding, plate welding, burning, stud welding, arc gouging, and safety. Contestants had a five-hour time limit to remove and replace a failed tube. This required measuring and cutting the tube and replacing it using heliarc and SMAW techniques. Judging criteria included measuring, quality of cuts, beveling, and membrane welding. The plate welding assignment required contestants to connect vertical and horizontal plates using both 3/16- and 5/32-diameter welding rods.

The “Boilermaker skills” section encompassed tube rolling, layout and fabrication, boiler component identification, tool identification and use, and CPR. This year, contestants were required to lay out a small boiler hopper replica. To add to the challenge, not all dimensions were provided in the instructions and had to be calculated during the assignment. The project included laying out the hopper and cutting, bending, and assembling it. The assignment also included laying out a structural member, including the precise alignment of bolt holes.

Meredith credits grandfather for inspiration

FIRST-PLACE WINNER William J. Meredith says he had two things going for him as he entered the competition for the National Outstanding Apprentice Award. He had lots of experience competing, and he had, in his upbringing, a firm but guiding hand. The elder Meredith “stepped up and filled the shoes of a father as well as a grandfather,” recalls the graduate apprentice, noting that his paternal father was absent from his life. William L. Meredith, a 40-year retired field construction Boilermaker out of Local 40, “taught me a lot about working with my hands,” says the younger Meredith. “He also insisted upon my getting an education.”
APPRENTICE COMPETITION

Kurtis Jackson, Local 502, tightens a clamp on a becket.

Michael Davis, Local 30, lays out a boiler hopper replica.

Rex Pears, Local 154, demonstrates his reeving skills.

Ames Meyers, Local 4, renders a block.

Aaron Pfliger, Local 647, performs a vertical fillet weld.
Great Lakes, Northeast hold area competitions

Pfliger and Hillard win Great Lakes; Pears and McDonald win Northeast

EACH YEAR THE GREAT LAKES and Northeast areas hold their annual area apprentice competitions together, with each area providing their own judges. This year’s event was held May 21-25 at Local Lodge 7 (Buffalo, N.Y.).

Aaron Pfliger, Local Lodge 647 (Minneapolis) and Jaramie Hillard, Local Lodge 85 (Toledo, Ohio) placed first and second in the Great Lakes Area Boilermaker Apprentice Program (GLABAP) competition. Rex Pears, Local Lodge 154 (Pittsburgh) and Lucas McDonald, Local Lodge 237 (Hartford, Conn.) placed first and second in the Northeast Area Boilermaker Apprentice Program (NEABAP). The winners went on to represent their areas in the national contest in Kansas City.

Also competing in the GLABAP contest were Christopher McDaniel, Local 1 (Chicago), Steven Kallies, Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.), and Daniel Kruchuk, Local 744 (Cleveland).

Other contestants in the NEABAP competition were Edwin Hamilton, Local 5 (New York), Jeremiah Flagg, Local 7 (Buffalo, N.Y.), Robert Hall, Local 13 (Philadelphia), Mark MCFadden, Local 28 (Newark, N.J.), and Joshua Morse, Local 29 (Boston).

Judges were John Cammuso, Babcock Power Inc.; Mike Card, L-169 president; Gary Gresko, Local 13; Robert Schwartz, Local 1 vice president; Nick Gushue, Local 13 instructor; Tony Palmisano, IR; Jack Doherty, Local 28; Michael Stanton, Local 154 instructor; Phil Hornburger, Local 197 instructor; Bob Heine, IR; Ray Orsi, Local 154 instructor; Paul Jevel, Stevens Painton Corp.; and Tom Cook, Local 5 assistant business manager.

In 2007, the Great Lakes and Northeast area competition will be hosted at Local Lodge 13 (Philadelphia). 

Meredith, Davis win Southeast Area apprentice contest

Seventeen local lodges are represented in competition

WILLIAM J. MEREDITH, Local Lodge 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.) won the Paul D. Wedge Memorial Award for the Outstanding Graduate Apprentice of the Southeast Area in competition held August 21-24. Michael Davis, Local Lodge 30 (Greensboro, N.C.) took second place. Winning the 38th annual event entitled the two men to compete in the national contest Sept. 17-21 in Kansas City.

The names and local lodges of other competitors are Lee Aurand-Hosay, 454 (Chattanooga, Tenn.); Johnathan Bates, 26 (Savannah, Ga.); Seth Collier, 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio); Herbert Feran III, 687 (Charleston Heights, S.C.); Eric Fuller, 108 (Birmingham, Ala.); Jonathan Hadley, 112 (Mobile, Ala.); Edward Hill, 45 (Richmond, Va.); Joseph Johnson III, 199 (Jacksonville, Fla.); Alex Kozel, 495 (Sheffield, Ala.); Matthew Kennedy, 667 (Charleston, W.Va.); Rueben Massey, 263 (Memphis, Tenn.); Chad McCulloch, 83 (Kansas City, Mo.); Roger Simsek, 132 (Galveston, Texas); Douglas Steponaitis Jr., 433 (Tampa, Fla.); and William Young, 453 (Knoxville, Tenn.).

This year’s event was held May 21-25 at Local Lodge 687 (Charleston Heights, S.C.).

Union judges for this year’s event were Steve Speed, IR-CD-GO; Mark Vandyver, IR-CD-GO; Bill Etoerd, IR (retired); Lou Novak, IR (retired); Barry Edwards, IR-FBO (retired); and Michael McCluskey from SAJAC.

Employer judges included Chuck Harvey, B&W Construction; Hank Varum, Central Maintenance and Repair; Kelly Lykens and Scott Szegei, Enerfab; and Bob Rider and Jeff Sutherland, APCOM Power.

Meyers, Jackson win Western States competition

Eight locals send top apprentices to 19th annual competition

AMES MEYERS OF LOCAL Lodge 4 (Page, Ariz.) won the James F. Precht Award as this year’s top apprentice for the Western States area. Kurtis Jackson, Local Lodge 502 (Tacoma, Wash.), placed second. Winning the 19th annual area competition entitled the two men to compete in the national contest Sept. 17-21 in Kansas City.

Other contestants and their lodges were Mark Green, L-11 (Helena, Mont.); Dorian Durazo, L-92 (Los Angeles, Calif.); Mark Wilcoxon, L-101, (Denver); Jaime Sanchez, L-182 (Salt Lake City, Utah); Scott Olson, L-242 (Spokane, Wash.); and Paul Irving, L-627 (Phoenix).

The competition was hosted by Local Lodge 687 of Charleston Heights, S.C.

SAJAC director Mike Peterson called this year’s event participants “fine young craftsmen who are surely assets to their locals and to the Boilermakers union.” He proudly reported that the Southeast Area competition was honored by the presence of Jim Wedge, son of the late Paul D. Wedge, for whom the award is named.

Union judges for this year’s event were Steve Speed, IR-CD-GO; Mark Vandyver, IR-CD-GO; Bill Etoerd, IR (retired); Lou Novak, IR (retired); Barry Edwards, IR-FBO (retired); and Michael McCluskey from SAJAC.

Employer judges included Chuck Harvey, B&W Construction; Hank Varum, Central Maintenance and Repair; Kelly Lykens and Scott Szegei, Enerfab; and Bob Rider and Jeff Sutherland, APCOM Power.

Help someone you know become a Boilermaker!

NOW IS A GREAT time to become a construction Boilermaker apprentice. Economic projections suggest that this year is the beginning of a long boom in construction and maintenance work in electric power plants, refineries, and other industries served by Boilermakers.

Interested parties can learn how to apply for the apprentice program by visiting www.bnapt.com.

Ames Meyers, Local 4, won first place.
ALTHOUGH ONLY 19 YEARS old, Brian Murphy, a new apprentice with Local 7 (Buffalo, N.Y.) knows a lot about safety, training, and looking out for others. A volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician, Murphy is also a lifeguard.

This past summer, he put his skills to the test when he saved seven people from the waters of Lake Erie.

July 23 was a cloudy and blustery day along Buffalo’s Bennett Beach, where Murphy and another lifeguard, Laura Zalac, were on duty, charged with keeping an eye on nearby swimmers. But it was further out on the lake, about a mile, where a potential tragedy was unfolding. A motor boat towing a disabled craft had swamped in choppy seas, and seven people, including a six-year-old girl, were in the water. All wore life jackets; however, windy conditions increased their risk of hypothermia.

From their position on the beach, Murphy’s partner spied a wisp of smoke. Then the two lifeguards saw two flashes that looked like fireworks. Peering into the distance, Murphy made out human forms bobbing among the waves and realized the flashes were emergency flares. Instinctively, he tossed his cell phone to the other lifeguard, shouting, “Call 911!” Then he raced to the water, jumped into the park’s kayak, and paddled like crazy into the two- and three-foot swells.

“I had never kayaked that far,” Murphy recalled. “It was real hard. I hurt all the way out there, but I knew I couldn’t stop. By the time I got out there I could hardly move.”

When Murphy arrived at last, the little girl’s lips were turning blue. He placed her in the kayak and ignoring the pain struck for shore.

Reaching the beach, he handed the girl off to the other lifeguard and boarded a rescue boat that had arrived on scene. He helped pull two adults to safety, and a Coast Guard boat pulled out the other four.

Murphy learned later that apparently no one else had seen the distress signals, and that except for the actions of the lifeguards, all seven people might have perished.

On August 1, local officials held a ceremony on the beach honoring Murphy, his partner, and a third lifeguard. The six-year-old girl Murphy had saved presented him with a balloon, a card she had made, and a hug.
Local 92 shines in power plant job near L.A.

Once mothballed, $460 million project is finished three-and-a-half months early and on budget

BOILERMAKERS FROM LOCAL 92 (Los Angeles) played a leading role in a job that brought a major power plant project in Southern California out of mothballs and into full operation by early 2006 — three-and-a-half months ahead of schedule and on budget.

The $460 million Mountainview power plant in Redlands, Calif., 65 miles east of Los Angeles, is a 1,056-megawatt combined cycle facility fueled by natural gas. Owned by Southern California Edison and engineered and built by Bechtel, Mountainview generates enough power to service 685,000 homes. The facility is 30-40 percent more efficient than older gas-fired plants. Each of the plant’s two units includes two combustion turbines, two heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs), and one steam turbine. HRSGs capture exhaust heat from the combustion turbines and use it to create steam for the steam turbine.

Ed Marquez, BM-ST for L-92, said Boilermakers were a primary reason the project was completed so well and so fast. “At the ribbon cutting, our members were commended for setting the production tempo, for low absenteeism, and for commitment to safety,” he said. With a maximum peak crew of 126 members, Boilermakers worked 200,000 man-hours over an 18-month period, making over 200 heavy lifts and erecting 6,000 tons of steel and boiler components.

A major obstacle during the project was rain. In fact, 2004-2005 was the second wettest winter on record for Southern California. In a two-week stretch, 15 inches of rain fell. According to Bechtel site manager Rick May, the rain knocked 30 days off the construction schedule. But the Boilermakers stayed on top of the project and made up for lost time. They kept construction areas free of debris and obstructions. They put in extra hours (including working two shifts). And they stayed ahead of the welding requirements. The crew completed erection of the four HRSGs in what May said was near record time for the Bechtel company. Local 92’s work also included erecting four 200-ft-tall, 18-ft-diameter stacks; four filter houses; four exhaust fans; and two condensers.

“The guys and gals from Local 92 were truly impressive,” said May. “We had an excellent safety record among all the trades on the job, but the Boilermakers had the best safety record, hands down.” The Local 92 crew had only one lost-time accident during the year-and-a-half it worked on the power plant.

“At the ribbon cutting, our members were commended for setting the production tempo, for low absenteeism, and for commitment to safety.”

— Ed Marquez, L-92 BM-ST

Boilermakers from Local 92 helped build this 1,056-megawatt combined cycle facility in Redlands, Calif., erecting four heat recovery steam generators in near record time for Bechtel.

Market uncertainties held up initial project

THE MOUNTAINVIEW project first began in 2001 under a different owner. However, uncertainties in the California power market following the state’s 2000-2001 energy crisis led to cancellation of the project after it was only 15 percent completed. About 30 Boilermakers worked on the initial job.

The project sat dormant for two years. Meanwhile, demand for electricity continued to surge in southern California. In March 2004, southern California Edison purchased the project and hired Bechtel to complete it.

Boilermakers field “a model crew”

L-92 BM-ST MARQUEZ credited Boilermaker foremen for superbly organizing the work and the Boilermaker crew for a commitment to doing the job right. “I had a model crew out there,” he said, “including a top-notch general foreman — Bob Traister.” Before the project was over, Bechtel offered Traister a job as a superintendent, a position he was pleased to accept.

Marquez also applauded the work of the other Boilermaker foremen: Ron Torres, Joey Collins, Alvin Manning, Brian Ortiz, Bob Stormo Jr., Jimmy Holland, Charlie Furrill, Bob Aterson, Glen Duran, John Blevins, and Mike Cornell.

“Every foreman out there excelled,” Traister said. “They took the job as part of their own. Also, the support from engineering and the local union was outstanding. They took care of business.”

Bechtel’s Rick May said, “I’ve been involved in projects all over the world. This was the best crew I’ve ever worked with. Top to bottom, the Boilermakers displayed leadership skills, a strong work ethic, pride, and professionalism. These were very highly-skilled men and women. These guys shined. They provided leadership not only among the Boilermakers but to all the crafts on site.”

The Mountainview power plant became fully operational January 19, 2006, and was dedicated April 21. It is the first new major L.A. Basin power plant built in the last 30 years.
Superbly done L-60!

THIS LETTER ADDRESSES the superb performance of the Boilermaker crew [L-60, Peoria, Ill.] during the Exelon Byron Generation Station B1R14 outage; most importantly, the outstanding effort displayed by the Boilermaker crew on the night shift of September 21, 2006.

During the outage an FME (foreign material exclusion) concern was discovered that put that particular work on critical path for the outage. Outside vendors were called in to retrieve the foreign material, but were unsuccessful. The Boilermaker crew was given an opportunity to retrieve the foreign material and did it successfully in approximately five percent of the total time it took other outside vendors.

Their performance should be commended as they demonstrated the drive and desire needed in these high pressure outages.

Siemens PG and SWGS would like to extend our gratitude for a job well done and look forward to working with Boilermakers of the same caliber in the future.

Jeff Kristensen
Siemens Power Generation
John Montanelli
Siemens Westinghouse Generation Services

Great Job!

Future looks good at Union Tank Car

Local 524 members will build 60 units per week; membership increases

WITH ALTERNATIVE FUEL, production on the rise in the U.S., members of Local 524 (Chicago) are busy making railroad tank cars to haul ethanol. In fact, employer Union Tank Car has notified the union that it plans to build 60 cars a week through 2008 — 20 units more per week than the plant had been producing.

Kelly Hounshell, Local 524’s president, said his lodge has added nearly 200 members in the last year as Union Tank Car ramps up to meet the growing demand. “We’re working quite a bit of overtime,” Hounshell said, “including six-day workweeks.”

Local 524 members build the 30,000-gal. tank cars from scratch, said Hounshell. They begin with a flat plate that is rolled into a tube. “Heads” are welded onto either end of the tube, said Hounshell. They begin with a flat plate that is rolled into a tube. “Heads” are welded onto either end of the tube, and while working union labor on this project with two other EPC [engineer, procure, and construct] contractors who were proposing nonunion labor, we are very pleased in the quality and productivity of the union labor you provide. Absenteeism was almost non-existent and never an issue on this project.

To date we have worked a total of 76,120 man-hours free and as a result have earned Lockwood Greenlee’s 2005 President’s Cup for safety, as well as praises from the owner, Nevada Power. Our collective performance here has led directly to further work with this valued customer.

We would like to thank you [L-92 BM-ST Edward Marquez], general foreman Dan Campos, steward Duane Gleason, and all the Boilermakers for their participation in making this project a success. As we all move on to the next project, I would like to wish all who have worked for LG Constructors a very successful future.

MAURICE MEISER, PROJECT MANAGER
LG CONSTRUCTORS
Retiree Ron Roberts presents gift to local, International

WHEN MEMBERS RETIRE, their co-workers often throw them parties with gifts. But when Ronald Roberts retired, he provided the gifts — framed and matted copies of a poem he wrote for his local and International union.

Roberts, a member of Boston Local 29 since 1979, has worked at construction sites since he was a permit man in 1973. While working at a coal-fired plant a few years ago, Roberts wrote a poem about men leaving the job site. He was working at the same plant this year when he decided to frame the poem as a thank-you gift to his union.

As his May 2006 retirement date approached, Roberts thought about what type of artwork he could use to illustrate the poem. Putting on the boots and gloves he wore everyday to work, Roberts decided they would make a great photo. During his lunch break, he removed his boots and gloves and photographed them near a grating stairway.

Upon his retirement, Roberts presented a framed and matted copy of his photo and poem to Local 29 President Tom Saccoach for display at the local’s union hall. Roberts also asked Saccoach to forward a second framed and matted copy to Kansas City for display at International headquarters.

Roberts has received so much positive feedback about his gift that he decided to make 1,000 limited prints. If anyone is interested in a copy of Roberts’ photo and poem, please contact him at robbers2000@yahoo.com.
**Election Results**

**Across the country, fair traders defeated free traders**

Even in “free-trade” states, winners opposed the current trade policy

As Newscasters and political analysts sought to explain why Americans threw so many Republicans out of office on November 7, one word came to the fore: Iraq. Ads that spoke at length about how losers opposed the way President Bush and the Republican Congress are handling the war.

But Democrats who defeated Republicans in this year’s elections also had a winning strategy. Candidates who failed to distance themselves from the NAFTA-WTO status quo, with its trade deficit and loss of manufacturing jobs, lost their elections—and their jobs—even in the “free-trade” states of Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

In the Midwest, advocates of trade policy change pulled upsets

Voters in several states in the Midwest showed they do not necessarily support the free-trade stances their states have adopted. In Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, candidates advocating changes in the nation’s trade policy defeated candidates who supported the free-trade status quo.

In Iowa’s 1st congressional district, Bruce Braley’s campaign ads called for trade policy change. Ads for his Republican opponent, Mike Whalen, asked for no change. Braley won the seat by a 55-43 margin.

Republican Jim Nussle, an ardent free-trader, had held that seat for 16 years, but chose this year to run for governor. He lost.

The Kansas 2nd congressional district, which was a surprising defeat in 1998 for House majority leader Jim Ryun (R), a relentless free-trader. Throughout her campaign, Democratic challenger Nancy Boyda called for our failed “free trade deals to be replaced by fair trade agreements.” She overcame a double-digit deficit to win by four percentage points, despite last-minute campaign assistance for Ryun from President Bush.

But Missouri held the biggest upset. Republican Senator Jim Talent never saw a free-trade agreement he didn’t like; his voting record against those on trade policy was 90 percent. His opponent, Democrat Claire McCaskill, ran ads promising to “block the outsource job loss of Missouri jobs” and “fight for fair trade policies.” She squeaked out a win, despite vicious attack ads that prompted several Missouri newspapers to criticize Talent for his “bottom-feeder” approach to politics.

**Whomver incumbent or open seat, the race went to fair trade**

A total of at least 15 House and four Senate incumbents who supported anti-worker trade policies were beaten by challengers who advocated trade policy changes.

Open-seat races showed a similar pattern. In 11 House and one Senate open-seat races, fair traders beat those running for the trade status quo.

As of this writing, another eight House races were too close to call, but no member of Congress with a consistent fair-trade voting record was defeated, except Rep. John Hostetler (R-Ohio). Hostetler is an ardent conservative and strong Bush supporter whose Democratic opponent, Brad Ellsworth, asserted in his campaign that Washington had “quit listening.”

Another Republican free-trader, Rob Simmons (2nd, Conn.) was hanging on in a race that was too close to call at press time. Simmons gained support from many workers by opposing Fast Track, CAFTA, and the Omnibus FTA.

Fair trade message yields surprise upsets

Several Republican congressional leaders with anti-worker trade stances were defeated in surprise upsets. Rep. Clay Shaw (22nd, Fla.), chair of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee chair, and fellow Ways and Means Committee members Nancy Johnson (5th, Conn.) and Chris Chocola (2nd, Ind.) were all replaced by fair-trade advocates—Ron Klein, Chris Murphy, and Joe Donnelly.

The only Democratic incumbents seeking higher office who were re-elected were Reps. Harold Ford Jr. (9th, Tenn.) and Jim Davis (11th, Fla.). Neither candidate supported worker-friendly trade policies, and they paid for it. Ford lost his bid for the open Senate seat in Tennessee; Davis lost his run for the governorship of Florida.

Trade will shape this Congress, future elections

You wouldn’t know it from mainstream media post-election coverage, but exit polls conducted on election day suggested that Americans’ anxiety about the economy and job security may have actually been a greater vote motivator than their concern about the Iraq war.

*New York Times* exit polls found the economy to be the top concern of voters while CNN’s exit polls showed that the economy and job loss was a top concern. The top concern on CNN polls was corruption, followed by terrorism.

Given the near-sweep of candidates with pro-worker positions on trade, the trade issue may have significant importance for the 2008 presidential election. To win, future national tickets cannot feature candidatesouting more-of-the-same trade deals.

Trade and the shipping of American jobs off-shore were actively used in 100 congressional campaigns from Rhode Island to Hawaii.

Americans have been living with corporate-friendly, but anti-worker trade policies for at least 15 years, and now even high-end wage earners see this stance as a negative. A 2004 PIPA poll showed nearly three-quarters of Americans making $100,000-plus thought the U.S. trade policy was a net negative. This view contrasts sharply with PIPA findings in the 1990s, before NAFTA and other free-trade initiatives had been put into effect. When wealthier Americans thought free-trade would be a plus.

**Union voters made Democratic sweep possible**

**Election results will change the way business gets done**

Union voters Drove home a victory for working-family-friendly candidates on Nov. 7. Election Day exit poll and an independent national election-night survey released by the AFL-CIO show that union members voted at a rate far higher than non-union voters. This pattern was accounted for four-fifths of the Democratic victory margin.

High turnout among union members contributed to a win into a sweep with 74 percent of union voters supporting union-endorsed candidates in House races and 76 percent supporting Democratic candidates in Senate races.

Nonunion voters supported the Democratic House candidates by a two-point margin. Union households accounted for roughly one-third of union voters, although union members make up only 13 percent of eligible voters.

Sixty-nine percent of union members said they disapproved of President Bush’s job performance, according to an election night survey conducted for the AFL-CIO by Peter D. Hart Research Associates Inc. The war in Iraq and the economy were jobs union voters’ top tier issues.

Ninety-two percent of union members in battleground states said they heard about their union this election cycle. The Boilermakers government affairs department reached out to local lodges by assisting with voter-registration drives, providing work-site flyers, and helping local lodges create direct mail campaigns to educate and motivate their members.

Many local lodges participated in labor day walks and phone banks to get out the vote. The government affairs department gave special attention to targeted states and urged locals to participate in the AFL-CIO’s “drop-off voter” program. This program targeted voters who supported labor-friendly candidates in 2004, but failed to vote in the mid-term election in 2002. The AFL-CIO reached out to 496,000 drop-off voters in Ohio alone. Of the 79 percent of the union drop-off voters who said they voted, 76 percent cast a Democratic ballot both for the Senate and the House, according to election night polling.

The AFL-CIO reports that more than 205,000 union members volunteered for their political program this year. Union members knocked on more than 8.25 million doors, made 30 million phone calls, and passed out more than 14 million leaflets at workplaces and in neighborhoods.

Working America, the AFL-CIO’s community affiliate, reached out to 1.7 million members. Working America put special emphasis on Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. The program claims to have increased union support for Ohio candidates from 54 to 63 percent. In Florida, the AFL-CIO worked with a number of candidates to move up to 9 percent to 27 percent.

Union members supported minimum wage increases, as well as all six states with increases on the ballot passed them.

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**Convention eases requirements for retired member’s card**

**Retired or disabled members in good standing will no longer need to qualify for a lifetime membership card,** following action by delegates at the 31st Consolidated Convention this past July. In fact, delegates voted to remove the years of service requirement entirely. The card exempts members from paying dues.

Prior to the change, members with less than 25 years of service who qualified for a lifetime membership card had to continue paying dues until they reached the service requirement. Some members paid sick or overtime dues as a way to meet the obligations and maintain their active membership status.

Retired member’s cards are not granted automatically. A member who wants to obtain a card must apply in person through his local lodge and be approved by the international president. They must also meet one of the following conditions:

1. Retired and receive a pension from Social Security, Railroad Retirement, other government- or legislative retirement, or a collective bargaining agreement negotiated by the international Brotherhood or a subordinate body.

2. Be disabled and receiving a disability benefit under the Social Security Act, Railroad Retirement Act, or other government- or legislative program benefits. Members must remain retired from all gainful employment for the card to remain valid.

3. Retired or disabled members who seek and obtain an exemption from paying dues will be permitted to attend local lodge meetings without voice or vote. Years of service towards membership pins will also continue to accrue, and exempt members will be eligible for RMCs.

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

**Local 5 — New York**
Effective July 3, 2006 to June 28, 2009, for three members of Local 5, New York, who fabricate and repair heating boilers at Empire Industrial Burner Services.

**Local D6 — Buffalo, Iowa**
Effective November 1, 2005 to October 31, 2010, for 67 members of Local D6, Buffalo, Iowa, who work for Lafarge North America Inc., where they produce cement and fly ash.

**Local 13 — Philadelphia**
Effective March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2009, for 12 members of Local 13, Philadelphia, who repair small boilers at Boiler Erection and Repair, and effective June 24, 2006 to June 23, 2009 for 10 members who work at the General Marine Refrigeration Corp.

**Local M18 — Buffalo, N.Y.**
Effective March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2011, for members of Local M18, Buffalo, N.Y., who work at Buffalo Metal Finishing Co. Inc.

**Local D37 — Seattle**
Effective May 1, 2006 to October 31, 2010, for 40 members of Local D37, Seattle, who work for Lufarge North America Inc., where they produce cement.

**Local 83 — Kansas City, Mo.**
Effective April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2009, for one member of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., who works in the boiler shop at Associated Mechanical Inc.

**Local D92 — Bellefonte, Pa.**
Effective June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2011, for 125 members of Local D92, Bellefonte, Pa., who work for Graymont Inc. producing lime.

**Local 104 — Seattle**
Effective October 27, 2005 to July 1, 2007, for one member of Local 104, Seattle, at Marco Global Inc.; effective July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, for one member at New Way Forming Inc. and New Way Structures Inc.; effective October 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009, for five members at the Pacific Ship Repair & Fabrication Company; effective October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2008, for eight members at San Juan Blast Cleaning & Coating; effective October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2008, for 20 members at T-Bailey Inc.; effective August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2008, for 450 members at the Todd Pacific Shipyard; and effective October 1, 2006 to October 1, 2009, for two members at Tri-State Construction.

**Local 146 — Edmonton, Alberta**
Effective January 22, 2006 to August 31, 2007, for 19 members of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, at Alberta Customs Pipe Bending and Manufacturing Ltd.; and effective November 28, 2005 to May 31, 2008, for 33 members at Coriol Industries.

**Local 154 — Pittsburgh**
Effective January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007, for 22 members of Local 154, Pittsburgh, with Whiterup Fabrication and Erection, where members fabricate and erect carbon and stainless steel welded storage tanks and pressure vessels of all sizes.

**Local 156 — Peoria, Ill.**
Effective February 19, 2006 to February 15, 2008, for four members of Local 156, Peoria, Ill., who produce railroad track maintenance equipment at Teleweld.

**Local 182 — Salt Lake City**
Effective May 1, 2006 to May 1, 2007, for five members of Local 182, Salt Lake City, who fabricate structural steel at Western Steel Manufacturing.

**Local S185 — Belleville, Ill.**
Effective April 26, 2006 to April 15, 2007, for 30 members of Local S185, Belleville, Ill., who work in the enamel shop at Roesch Inc. making component parts for cooking ranges, gas furnaces, barbecue grills, ice merchandisers, and telephone booths.

**Local 197 — Albany, N.Y.**
Effective July 16, 2006 to July 15, 2008, for 10 members of Local 197, Albany, N.Y., who work at Advanced Welding; effective July 16, 2006 to July 15, 2008, for 12 members who perform tank repair and fabricate and fire tube boilers at American Boiler; and effective July 16, 2006 to July 15, 2008, for 32 members who also perform tank repair and fabricate and fire tube boilers at Troy Boiler Works Inc.

**Local S251 — Middleton, Tenn.**
Effective August 1, 2006 to August 4, 2010, for 400 members of Local S251, Middleton, Tenn., who manufacture, modernize, and service elevators, escalators, and moving walkways for the ThyssenKrupp Elevator Co.

**Local D274 — Winnipeg, Manitoba**
Effective July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2010, for seven members of Local D274, Winnipeg, Manitoba, who make powdered cement and bagged cement at Lafarge Canada Inc.

**Local D308 — Bowmansville, N.Y.**
Effective May 25, 2006 to May 24, 2009, for members of Local D308, Bowmansville, N.Y., who work for Buffalo Crushed Stone producing stone and asphalt.

**Local D328 — Cheektowaga, N.Y.**
Effective May 16, 2006 to May 15, 2009, for members of Local D328, Cheektowaga, N.Y., who work for Buffalo Crushed Stone and, effective August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2009, for members who work at County Lime Stone Products. Members at both locations produce stone and asphalt.

**Local D331 — Exshaw, Alberta**
Effective June 4, 2005 to June 3, 2009, for 34 members of Local D331, Exshaw, Alberta, who work in the maintenance and production of magnesium oxide at Baymag.

**Local D479 — Invermere**

**Local 484 — Meredith, Ill.**
Effective January 16, 2005 to January 16, 2009, for 93 members of Local 484, Meredith, Ill., who produce polymer emulsions for paints and coatings, non-woven fabrics, glass fibers, adhesives, paper, and textiles for the Celanese Corporation. The members had been locked out nearly a year when they reached a settlement agreement with Celanese in May worth millions of dollars in severance pay and bonuses.

**Local 1086 — Cleveland**
Effective June 15, 2006 to June 15, 2011, at Wyman-Gordon Inc. for members of Local 1086, Cleveland, who manufacture metal and composite material parts used in aerospace turbine engines, land-based gas turbines, and power plants.

**Local 1255 — Chicago**
Effective February 11, 2007 to February 5, 2011, for members of Local 1255, Chicago, at Klein Tools. Klein products include occupational protective equipment and virtually every major type of hand tool used in construction, electronics, mining, and general industry, in addition to the electrical and telecommunications fields.

**Local 1603 — Alliance, Ohio**
Effective August 1, 2006 to July 30, 2009, for 42 members of Local 1603, Alliance, Ohio, who work at T & W Forge, a Durrel company, providing quality, durable precision forgings to leading manufacturers around the globe. As forging experts, Local 1603 members specialize in all grades of stainless, alloy and carbon steel, titanium, and other high-temperature materials.

**Local 1702 — Canton, Ohio**
Effective July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, for 21 members of Local 1702, Canton, Ohio, who manufacture precision-made products at Ohio Metal.
WITH DEEP SORROW the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer’s office, and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

NTL Ambrose, Henry 6
NTL Ayers, Harold 7
NTL Ball, Sr., James 7
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NTL DiMauro, Angelo 10
NTL Greek, Edward 10
NTL Heiden, Donald 11
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NTL Lundeen, Sidney 13
NTL Necie, Guy 13
NTL McKay, Carl 13
NTL Moffeield, Larry 13
NTL Morris, Terry 13
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7 Neper, William 40
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7 Lasere, Arnaud 92
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7 Wrenn, Woodward 92
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A NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO UNION SECURITY CLAUSES

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

These dues and fees, which are authorized by law, represent your fair share of sustaining the broad range of programs offered by the Boilermakers in support of you and your fellow workers. Only by working together can you have the right to collective bargaining. The working conditions of all bargaining unit employees are improved immeasurably when the union gains strength in the bargaining system, overtime pay, vacations, and many other improvements in working conditions at the bargaining table.

Because they negotiate together through their union, employees who are represented by a union are entitled to higher wages and better benefits than nonunion workers doing similar jobs in the same industry. Strength in numbers is what makes this possible. The stronger your union, the better your contract. We urge all employees to participate and become part of your labor organization.

An objecting nonmember who is subject to a union security clause has a legal right to file objections to funding expenditures which are not germane to the collective bargaining process. Fee-paying nonmembers who choose to file such objections should address the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in writing, in the form of a letter, signed by the objector, and sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, 753 State Ave., Suite 556, Kansas City, KS 64101. The letter must contain the objector’s home address and local lodge number, if known.

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

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

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

It is clearly to your advantage to continue to support the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. For more information on these programs and other member-only benefits, go to www.unionplus.org.

See IST-reported deaths, p. 22


*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.
IST • REPORTED DEATHS

Continued from p. 21

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<tr>
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<td>NTL Lundeen, Sidney M.</td>
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<td>NTL McKay, Jack C.</td>
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<td>NTL Moorefield, Larry E.</td>
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<td>NTL Pyle, Donald R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Sharp, Clayton D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Thompson, Joseph C.</td>
<td>6,640.08</td>
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DEATH BENEFITS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Hirsch, Frank</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
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<tr>
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IF YOU HAVE NOT yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 774 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, MO 64110, at the earliest possible date. NOTE: These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

Mail form to:
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
733 State Avenue, Suite 955
Kansas City, KS 66101

Moving? Tell us where . . .

Name
New Address
City
State or Province
Zip
Local Lodge No.
Register No.
E-Mail Address

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

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

Continued on page 23
Continued from p. 22

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Our union’s role is expanding

Creating jobs and increasing productivity are as important as bargaining contracts and handling grievances

IN THE PAST we have measured the effectiveness of union representation mainly by looking at the wages and benefits our members earn.

And that yardstick shows that unions have been effective.

In 2005, the wage advantage for union workers was nearly 30 percent over nonunion. The average weekly wage for union workers was $801; nonunion workers earned only $622 on average. In many of the industries represented by theBoilermakers — construction, production, and industrial maintenance — the wage difference was even greater.

Union workers also received more benefits than nonunion workers. Only 16 percent of nonunion workers have access to a guaranteed (defined-benefit) pension; 73 percent of union workers enjoy that benefit. Boilermakers whose employers participate in the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension enjoy one of the most generous guaranteed pensions available.

But wages and more benefits come at a price to those who benefit from union labor. And the yardstick used to measure corporate effectiveness is profit.

The Boilermakers have long recognized that one responsibility we have administered by MOST are testimony to our commitment to keep our members working — and their wages high.

Programs like these are not possible in a nonunion environment. They typify our progressive approach to a future taking to represent our members.

Our efforts to re-open the closed shipyard in Toledo (see page 8) is another example. Our union’s founders were among the most progressive organizers of their time, but I don’t know that they would have envisioned a day when union reps would help businesses get off the ground in order to create jobs for members.

I believe that the future success of the union movement will be determined largely by our willingness to engage in activities like these. We cannot leave economic development entirely to corporations and the government.

To keep our seat at the bargaining table, we must help keep our employers in business.

Mid-term elections create opportunity

THIS YEAR’S ELECTIONS were a welcome change for the United States — and one that was a long time coming. Pro-worker candidates took many House and Senate seats away from incumbents who have done little to help working families. I was particularly gratified to see that the seat formerly held by Tom DeLay has gone to a pro-labor Democrat.

Candidates friendly to labor unions and working families also won many open seats. Despite the media’s attention on Iraq, exit polls show that economic issues were a major factor in voters’ decision making.

With majorities in the House and Senate, the Democratic party will now have the opportunity to redirect the legislative agenda of the nation. But don’t expect too much. At least not right away. President Bush has two more years in office, and the Democrats do not have enough votes to override a veto.

The issues on the table and the tone of the debate will change, but how these will translate into laws, budgets, and policies remains to be seen. Vetoes and procedural stalls are effective tools for creating gridlock.

And we cannot overlook the pro-business appointments President Bush has made to every government agency that regulates unions or protects workers — agencies such as OSHA and the NLRB. Expecting these appointees to adopt a more pro-labor approach to doing business is unrealistic. We need to replace them, and that can’t happen until we have a pro-labor president.

Nonetheless, I am cautiously optimistic that we may begin to see some progress in the areas most critical to Boilermakers and other working families.

And the strong showing by unions in the campaigns and by pro-labor candidates in the elections is a good sign for 2008. In all states, union candidates delivered votes, and in some states they were the deciding factor. It would be a mistake for anyone seeking the White House in 2008 to ignore union families.

In the meantime, your union will return to what we do best — representing our members in the workplace and the halls of government, where we now have some new friends to call on.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JONES thanks NTL, L-85 for kindness in difficult time

MAX JONES, an NTL member since 2003, of Longview, Wash., was diagnosed on February 14. He was diagnosed on February 14.

Max’s co-workers, NTL Boilermakers working under Earl Hamre of CB&I and Local 83 Boilermakers working at Count Bluff Energy Center #4, raised over $4,500 in cash and gifts for Max and his family.

Because of their loving generosity, I was able to take a leave of absence from my job to care for Max at home until his death. They also visited Max and called him each week to update him on the job’s progress.

My two children and two grandsons can never express the deep felt pride and gratitude for these people. I would like to also thank Gary Scott [NTL vice president] for his help with the paper work and the NTL E-Board for taking up a $100.00 collection.

KATHY JONES
Max Jones’ wife of 24 years
Pella, Iowa

Bill Fake (L-11) and family give thanks for support

MY HUSBAND, BILL FAKE, Local 11 (Helena, Mont.), was diagnosed April 1, 2005 with malignant Mesothelioma. We could not have made it through this without the support of the Boilermakers! We want to thank every member

of Local 11 and especially Doug Barnes, Don Barnes, Bob Winger, Robert Hall, and Eric Matthews who helped gather money from everyone.

We are at a loss for the right words to say how much these generous contributions mean to our family during our time of need. We thank you for the many cards and the items like the car tag, phone calls, e-mails, and hospital visits.

These wonderful acts of kindness will never be forgotten.

We would also like to thank everyone in the Health and Welfare offices and the Pension department for acting so quickly. This experience has made me very proud to be a Boilermaker’s wife. I would also like to thank all of the Boilermaker wives who supported us through the Boilermakers’ wives Web site [yahoo.com group called boilermakerswives].

Our families and doctors are simply amazed by the network of support we have through this union.

BILL AND MARY FAKE, Local 11 Laurel, Mont.

Time to revitalize union, says L-17’s Frank Stephens

THE BABY BOOMER generation has maintained the union benefits our forefathers fought for. Now it’s time for the generation behind us to take the helm of the unions.

But how do we get them interested in moving our unions forward? We must educate them. We must give them the history of the unions and what they have accomplished.

Without unions, in time we will find ourselves back where we were before we enjoyed the benefits of being a union member.

Before we can organize the young folks, we must get past the personal politics that is often part of the game of brotherhood and sisterhood to rebuild our unions to ensure that we maintain those things we have and continue to be able to bargain for things needed in the future.

I challenge everyone who reads this to educate themselves about the union movement and pass it on to others in your department. Invite them to your union meeting.

Create a legacy for yourself so you can look back and say, “That is my union and I’m damn proud of it.”

FRANK STEPHENS
Local 57
Portsmouth, Va.

Viles wants servicemen to earn pension credits

I WOULD LIKE to propose [we show] our support for the Boilermaker members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan [by funding] their pension accounts while they are in Iraq or Afghanistan.

LARRY D. VILES, L-453
Knoxville, Tenn.

National Funds Office Replies: Boilermakers participating in the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust or Boilermakers National Annuity Trust who are absent from covered employment due to military service may be eligible for hours of service and contributions based upon time spent in military service.

A more complete description of the pension credit for military service may be found on page 12 of Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust plan booklet revised December 2003. A more complete description of the Annuity credit may be found on pages 9 and 10 of the Boilermakers National Annuity Trust plan booklet dated June 2001.