L-374 members build base for floating casino

Workers combine six barges in Lake Michigan project

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 374 (Hammond, Ind.) have completed the base for a 350,000-square-foot gaming and entertainment facility on Lake Michigan. Harrah’s all-new Horseshoe Casino Hammond will be triple the size of the company’s current facility, and the largest casino and entertainment destination in Chicagoland, when it is completed.

“This was a great job for Local 374,” reports L-374 BM-ST Paul Maday. “And there is already talk of other casino expansions on the lakefront using the same barge-type foundation. You know the old adage — ‘bigger is better’? Well, it’s true, with talk of other casinos now wanting to expand, using as many as eight barges for their foundations. We are in the process of confirming with the gaming.com

Central Section lodges will be represented by IVPs May, McManamon

GEORGE ROGERS retired May 1 as International vice president of the Central Section, a position he has held since Feb. 1996.

“I have truly been blessed to serve as an officer of Local Lodge 132, the National Transient Lodge, and the International union,” Rogers said. “A lot of my work was performed in the South Central States Area — a most difficult area to be a union worker [due to anti-union sentiment and the prevalence of right-to-work laws]. But I’ve tried to treat others like I would like to be treated, and I have made many friendships and acquired many fond memories that I will carry with me forever.”

International President Newton B. Jones praised Rogers’ many years of service, stating, “George has contributed greatly to our union, to our trust funds and lodges, and to the lives of our members. He has been a great friend of the Boilermakers, and a great friend of mine. We will miss his daily contribution to our union, but I am happy to report that he has volunteered to be on call to assist the organization in any way that he can.”

Rogers began his career in 1964 as a Boilermaker helper at Todd Shipyard & Construction. He helped convert old Navy escort ships into sea/land containerized cargo ships during the summers and between semesters while attending the Texas Lutheran College in Sequin, Texas.

In 1966 he joined Local 132 (Galveston, Texas) while attending the North Texas State University in Denton. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1970, and began a teaching career while still working at the Boilermaker trade in the summer months. From 1971 to 1976, he taught biology, math, and human anatomy and physiology, while coaching football, basketball, baseball, and track for the Galveston Independent School District. But he left the education field,

See ROGERS, page 4
March conference keys on elections, national funds, coal technology

BOILERMAKERS ATTENDING THE annual Construction Division conference in Marco Island, Fla., March 2-7 found plenty of information to digest. From the national elections, to major changes at our national funds office, to the future of coal, and more, lodge leaders heard about changes that are unfolding and will impact their locals and their members.

IP Jones calls work outlook “phenomenal”

IN HIS OPENING remarks, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones said, “The outlook for our union and for Boilermaker craftsmen, and I’m really pleased to report to you, is phenomenal. It’s a great time to grow this organization and to rebuild our skills.

“We’re not going to lose a lot of people through attrition,” he cautioned. “And there appears to be some difficult economic times ahead. But that doesn’t mean we won’t have a lot of good work available to our members.” He said adding new apprentices and signing up workers through the MOST recruitment program are essential goals.

“A key issue on the horizon is global warming,” he added, “and how that’s going to impact Boilermaker work. There is a lot of opposition now to coal-burning boilers. In some cases those opposing coal have stopped the construction or permitting of some of those plants.”

Jones said both of the Democratic candidates for president support investing in clean coal technology. “If this country wants to be energy independent, you cannot ignore 200-300 years of coal reserves.”

Reporting on membership and finances, Intl. Sec.-Treas. Rogers said, “We had 5,034 initiations and reinstatements in the first six months of this fiscal year, but the membership overall is flat. The attrition rate is running about the same. So we’ve got to initiate at least 2,500 people a quarter to stay even.”

Jones said most of the Brotherhood funds are in the black, including the General, Construction Division, NTD, and Consolidated funds.

“The Railroad Fund is slightly in the red, and I’m really pleased to report that, with the action taken at the last convention by our delegates to change the Cement Division dues structure, we’re up $33,000 in the red now for the first seven months of the year.”

The fund had been running about $100,000 a month in the red, he said. “I think by this time next year we’ll be well in the black.”

Presidential candidates are hot topic

WITH A HEATED election year underway, the race for the White House was a hot topic at the conference. Intl. Pres. Jones discussed the International Executive Council’s decision to endorse Sen. Barack Obama. He noted that the Boilermakers union was one of the earliest labor groups to endorse him. “Com-

trol emissions from power plants and other industrial processes. From bag houses and precipitators for particulate matter, to scrubbers for sulfur diox-

ide, to selective catalytic converters for nitrogen oxide, environmental systems have been a staple of Boilermaker work for decades. Now, Branscum said, the emphasis is to find methods to control carbon dioxide.

The panel reviewed various approaches being tested by industry, universities, and the government to capture and sequester CO2. Among the technologies examined were amine solutions and chilled ammonia methods. O2 extraction following comb-

bustion; coal gasification, including underground gasification; methane and other commercial product development from coal; pumping CO2 into oil and gas wells to enhance extraction; and permanently storing CO2 in brine-
saturated aquifers deep below the ground.

Panelists discussed the equipment that would be involved in the various capture methods and the juris-
dictional issues that may arise among the crafts.

Branscum said some of the technol-
ying on board early will hopefully mean that we have a seat at the table for our issues,” he said. “From an organi-

dional standpoint, it made good sense for us to endorse the senator.”

Jones said some local leaders and members “may have a different opinion. And we respect that.” Several Boil-

ermarkers expressed their support for Sen. Hillary Clinton during the political action portion of the meeting.

Both Jones and Dir. of Government Affairs Bridget Martin praised the Democratic candidates seeking the party’s nomination, noting that either Obama or Clinton would be a superb choice. Martin said she expected the Democratic Party to rally around the eventual nominee.

Martin stressed the importance of defining John McCain, focusing on how closely he has aligned himself with Pres. Bush’s policies and his anti-union voting record.

Panel reports on CO2 capture, sequestration

THE FUTURE OF construction Boil-

ermarkers is closely tied to developing technologies in carbon dioxide capture and sequestration, Skipper Branscum told the conference. Branscum, Dir. of Construction Division Services, led a six-person panel that included Intl. Reps Jim Cooksey, John Fultz, Clay Herford, Norm Ross, Steve Speed, and Marty Stanton.

Branscum reviewed how technol-

ogy has evolved since the 1950s to con-

How much work will be available to our members?”

“The outlook for our union and for our Boilermaker craftsmen over the next eight-to-10 years is phenomenal. It’s a great time to grow this organization and to rebuild our skills.”

— IP Newton B. Jones

GAD Dir. Bridget Martin says labor must help define John McCain.

The Boilermaker Reporter is the official publication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO. It is published quarterly to disseminate information of use and interest to its members. Submissions from members, local lodges, and subordinate or affiliated bodies are welcomed and encouraged. This publication is mailed free of charge to active members or retired members holding a Retired Members Card. Others may subscribe for the price of $10 for three years. Standard and (A) postage paid of Kansas City, Kan., and additional mailing offices.

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IN THE NEWS

Construction Boilermakers meet

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a password-protected profile. They could view online job calls and add their names to referral lists. Dispatchers could place job calls online, view workers who have responded, and make selections to fill jobs.

The 24-7 access to this information would greatly enhance the way construction Boilermakers sign up for work, Jones said. The system would also generate statistical data that contractors and owners need to plan their projects.

Jones said a committee will be formed to make recommendations about the system, including what changes may be needed to the referral rules.

MOST initiatives show progress

TWO INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN by MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training) were reviewed at the conference. These included the manpower tracking program and the recruiting program.

Larry Wargo, consultant for contractor services with First Energy, gave an update on the manpower tracking program. The Web-based program is being developed to help owners, contractors, and local lodges assess the availability of construction Boilermakers and forecast manpower demands.

Wargo, who heads the MOST committee for developing the software, said many locals have begun entering information and generating reports. He said the committee’s goal is to have all local lodges using the system by August.

“We’re going to be opening this up to contractors and owners, issuing signons and allowing them to input job-related data,” Wargo said. “It would be nice to have all the locals online and understanding how to use the database, because there’s going to be a lot of information coming in that locals are going to have to deal with.”

IP Jones said he foresees a need to integrate the manpower tracking program with the new online referral program that is being discussed. Such integration would mean that the local lodges, contractors, and owners would have an accurate, real-time picture of where Boilermakers are working, how many are available for work, how their qualifications match up with future work, and what shortfalls might exist. This information could be examined at various levels: local lodge, region, or vice-presidential area.

Jones said the recruiting program needs to be embraced by all locals so shortfalls in manning projects can be minimized. “We still see a lot of empty spots on our jobs,” he said. “That’s work not being done. That’s opportunity for others to take those spots. We simply have to do whatever it takes to get those spots filled,” he said.

Jones said the IEC is exploring innovative ways to improve the skills of recruits as rapidly as possible and to attract them away from nonunion employers. “We are trying to think outside the box here and see what will work to get these jobs manned.”

Healthy Brotherhood Bank offers new credit card

CAL ROBERTS, PRESIDENT of the Brotherhood Bank and Trust, reported the bank “is very healthy,” coming off the best January the organization has ever had. “I’m also happy to tell you the bank does not have one sub prime loan,” he said. Sub prime loans are mortgage loans made to high-risk borrowers. They are considered a major cause of the current housing market crash.

Roberts reported that the bank will soon offer a credit card just for Boilermakers, called the Brotherhood Advantage Gold Card. He emphasized that the card is entirely different from the one offered through the Union Plus program.

The Brotherhood card will offer an interest rate of 3.75 percent over prime. It will include a variety of benefits, such as bonus dividends, rental car discounts, and car key registration (for speedy return if keys are lost).

Roberts said the bank will mail application forms to local lodges for distribution to members.

Other bank products in the works include a bill-paying service and direct deposit of payroll checks.

Staff presents tips for handling grievances

SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL STAFF members offered tips and advice for processing grievances. David Haggerty led the discussion with an explanation of how grievances are handled under the National Maintenance Agreement (NMA) and the General Presidents’ Agreement (GPA).

Haggerty is Assistant to the International President for the Building and Construction Trades Department and is also Director of the National Construction Agreements. He works in the Washington, D.C., area.

provided by the law firm Becker, Galanti, and Schroader, based in Southern Illinois. Attorney Todd Schroader explained that when a serious accident injures or kills a member, the member and his family are often overwhelmed by the event. He said his firm can arrive on the scene quickly, secure evidence, interview witnesses, and take other steps to protect the interests of the injured member and his family. Additional information on SERT is available by calling 1-800-222-0957 or via e-mail at LAWmail@BeckerInjuryLaw.com.

Business managers can also benefit from an extensive online database of industrial projects available through Industrial Info Resources (www.industrialinfo.com). The company offers extensive reports, dubbed PEC reports for the different project phases (planning, engineering, and construction). The firm’s Lamar Blanton provided an update of services available to Boilermakers.

VenteX offers ventilation training

Mike Peterson, Director of the Southeast Area Joint Apprentice Committee, discussed another resource for local lodges — a firm called VenteX, out of Tampa, Fla. (www.ventex.com). Founded and operated by a Boilermaker, VenteX manufactures fume removal and particulate scrubbing systems.

VenteX President Cecil Rush described the systems and noted that setting up and operating them is Boilermaker work.

Conference addresses reorganization

INTL PRES. JONES reviewed the substantial reorganization that has been taking place within our organization. The reorganization has included the allocation of jurisdiction for the Cement and Stone Divisions to each vice-presidential area and assigning staff on a geographical rather than a divisional basis. Additionally, the National Transient Lodge is being integrated into various construction lodges.

“There was no easy answer, but we knew we could not leave it as it stood,” Jones said. “The National Transient Division remains a division of the Brotherhood; the jurisdiction remains with the Division, but each of you now as a business manager has responsi-

bility for that work under those agreements.” Jones acknowledged that many issues remain in working out the details of the NRL integration with respect to member skill levels, work history, and other areas.

Futch speaks on change

WITH SO MUCH change being discussed at the conference, it was perhaps fitting that the event’s inspirational speaker chose change as his topic. Ken Futch explained why people resist change and how leaders can help others to embrace it.

A Vietnam War veteran and former national trainer with AT&T, Futch titled his talk “Holding on or Grabbing on.” He said it’s natural for people to hold on to what they know and are comfortable doing. “Anytime we’re asked to change, we know for sure what we’re giving up, but we don’t know for sure whether the new situation will be better.”

Futch said leaders must help others visualize themselves performing successfully in a new environment. “There’s an old saying in the sales business that goes like this: If you say it, they doubt it, but if they say it, they believe it. It is so powerful, asking people questions and letting them make their own decisions as opposed to telling people.”

Futch also stressed that people undergoing change need feedback and positive reinforcement. “Share with them some of the struggles you think they have,” he advised. “Let them know you believe in them. Encourage them to grab on to the new and not hold on to the past.”

In the News
IN THE NEWS

Funds office announces improvements

New Customer Care Department opens

MAJOR CHANGES AT the Boilermaker National Funds office will improve services to particip-
ants, employers, and health care providers, Curtis Barnhill told the Boilermaker winter con-
struction conference March 4.

Barnhill is the executive admin-
istrator of the funds, which encom-
pass the Boilermaker national pension, annuity, and health and welfare plans. He said the office has bee-
ed up its staff, instituted new training, and purchased a sophis-
ticated telephone system. Other changes include creation of a new state section (employer outreach coordinator), the development of new forms and procedures, and improvements to the funds’ Web site (www.bnfc-kc.com).

ROGERS continued from p. 1

as the Boilermaker trade paid twice the salary that a public school teacher could earn at that time — a move he never regretted.

“My greatest reward as a labor leader has been the ability to help others,” Rogers said. “This not only included assisting committees in negotiating better agreements, but also help-
ing brothers, sisters, and even non-
members in resolving grievances and other problems in construction, shops, and shipyards.”

From 1976 to 1978, Rogers served as dispatcher and assistant business manager for Local 132. In 1978 he was elected president of the lodge, and in 1981 business manager.

Although he was re-elected as busi-
ness manager in 1984, Rogers chose instead to accept an offer from then-
International President Charles W. Jones to serve as an International rep for the National Transient Division (NTD). He became director of the NTD and an assistant to the International president in 1989.

Rogers served as the administra-
tive assistant to the International president from 1991 to 1996. He also served on the Committee on Consti-

One of the most dramatic changes is the new Customer Care Department, said Len Beauchamp, associate executive adminis-
trator and chief operating officer of the funds. Located on the second floor of the New Brotherhood Building, the depart-
ment is being staffed with service repre-
sentatives who are being cross-trained to handle ques-
tions across multiple funds. Previously, each fund had designated representatives who handled calls only for their fund.

Callers who had questions about several funds found themselves being transferred, and on-hold times were often lengthy.

Currently 17 representatives in the department handle calls, but that number is expected to reach at least 30 as new hires come on board and are trained.

“This is a major initiative,” said Beauchamp. “Ultimately, we want to measure ourselves against the best call centers in the country. We’ve got a ways to go, but we’re improving.”

Another area receiving attention is employer contributions. Studies done by the funds office show that benefit contributions are frequently incorrect. Kathy Duran, who recently filled the new employer outreach coordinator posi-
tion, said that fact is not surprising.

“Reporting fringe contributions in this industry can be a complex task. My goal as employer outreach coordinator is to assist employers, business managers, and Interna-
tional reps with any issues relating to contribution reporting to the Boilermakers National Funds.”

In explaining her new role, Duran said, “I can make myself available to travel and assist an employer who is having difficulty preparing a contribution report or during a difficult audit. I will also be avail-
able to assist with a new business manager training session. I can make sure when you’re nego-
tiating a new contract with your Boilermakers that you understand exactly what you’re getting for that contribution.”

Duran also announced a new reciproc
tial agreement form developed by Barnhill and Construction Division Director Skipper Branscum. She encouraged all busi-
ness managers to use the form whenever it is necessary to modify a collective bargaining agreement so that other crafts may perform Boilermaker work.

“There are many variations of reciprocal agreements being used today,” Duran said. “The standard-
ized agreement developed by [Barnhill and Branscum] would be a much better choice.”

Barnhill noted that the new standardized agreement includes legal language designed to protect local lodges, the funds office, the employer, and the participant.

The funds office continues to expand its Web site, Duran said. “We are adding things all the time, and we hope people keep com-
ing back to the site to see what has changed.” The site offers resources for employers, plan participants, and health care providers, including downloadable forms.

Pension trustees grapple with new mandates

TRUSTEES OF THE Boilermaker-
Blacksmith National Pension Trust will meet this June to determine what changes may be needed to comply with the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The law imposes new requirements that are intended to ensure pension plans are funded at certain levels.

During the winter construction con-
ference at Marco Island Mar. 3-7, Tom DelFiacco, vice president of the Segal Co. (the trust actuary), explained how the law impacts the Boilermaker pension trust and outlined the changes being considered by the trustees. Most provisions of the act went into effect Jan. 1, 2008.

DelFiacco said the law requires that the board of trustees annually deter-
mine the plan’s funding level and project future funding levels. Funding levels are calculated as a percentage of assets in the plan compared to its future pension payment obligations. The higher the percentage, the healthier the plan is. He said the reform legislation establishes a “warning system” — with green, yellow, and red zones. Plans in the green zone meet minimum funding requirements. Plans in the yellow or red zones require immediate correc-
tive action to meet minimum funding requirements. The law also requires additional disclosures of fund status, not only to the participants but also to the union, the employers, and several government agencies.

The Boilermaker pension trust is cur-
rently in the green zone and is healthy, DelFiacco stated. However, actuarial projections indicate the plan could move into the red zone within sev-
eral years and into the red zone in sub-
sequent years. As a Taft-Hartley trust, the pension is overseen by a board consisting of an equal number of union and employer trustees. Union trustees attending the construction conference said input from business managers and said they would continue to seek input until the pension board meeting in June. Any changes to the pension trust would probably become effective Oct. 1, 2008.

DelFiacco said the Pension Funding Act requires regular actuarial evalua-
tions and certifications. Projections depend on assumptions about contrib-
utions, employment levels, and investment performance.

Since its creation in 1960, the Boil-
ermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has been adjusted numerous times to reflect changing circumstances and to preserve the benefit for all par-
ticipants. The pension board has over-
seen many improvements on behalf of the plan’s participants. For example, the pension factor has been increased 20 times. The factor was set at 18 per-
cent when the plan was first created; it stands at 33 percent today.

The Boilermaker pension trust remains one of the top Taft-Hartley plans in the nation.

“Set high, but attainable goals; work hard and close with others; and stay committed and loyal to your tasks, union, and family. The good you do can never be taken away!”

George Rogers
Boilermakers aid Obama in Pennsylvania primary

Members campaign hard in Clinton stronghold

INSPIRED BY SEN. Barack Obama’s candidacy and invigorated by his endorsement from the International Executive Council, Boilermaker volunteers in Pennsylvania campaigned hard for the Illinois senator leading up to the April 22 state primary.

One of Obama’s early stops was in Johnstown, where the senator told an excited crowd, “I want a president who isn’t allergic to the word ‘union.’”

On hearing that Pennsylvania Boilermaker locals were getting active, International President Newton B. Jones said, “I am pleased that so many of our local leaders and members are coming out in support of Senator Obama. I believe we have chosen the right candidate to get our country back on the right track.”

IR Heine tours with Obama

AS SENATOR BARACK OBAMA’S bus headed for a campaign stop at a Pennsylvania steel mill March 28, International Rep Bob Heine was on board to discuss Boilermaker issues with the Democratic presidential candidate.

“It was a great opportunity for me personally and as a representative of our union,” Heine said. “Senator Obama was sincerely interested in the issues that are important to Boilermakers. I spoke with him about preserving the Davis-Bacon Act, and I stressed the need to enforce the Jones Act to protect the American shipbuilding industry.

We also discussed the Employee Free Choice Act and H-2B visas.” (The union is urging Congress to make more H-2B visas available to our Canadian members so they can supplement U.S. Boilermakers when needed.)

Heine rode from Pittsburgh to Bradford, where the Edgar Thomson Steel Works is located. Several other unions who arranged to have representatives accompany the senator on what was the first leg of a six-day bus tour of the state.

Local 19 gets active

IN THE EASTERN part of the state, Local 19 (Philadelphia) was especially active in the primary campaign. Members volunteered for work behind the scenes, putting up rally banners, for example. However, while working as a volunteer, the lodge’s vice president, Fred Chamberlain, kept finding himself in the spotlight. At an event in Levittown April 11, NPR’s Mara Liasson tracked Chamberlain down for a radio interview for NPR’s Morning Edition.

A week later, on April 18, the media again found Chamberlain, this time as he and other volunteers were setting up a “Boilermakers for Obama” blimp near Independence Mall in Philadelphia. Fox 29 News was one of several local TV stations to interview Chamberlain about Obama’s surge in Pennsylvania polling.

“I told them [the television correspondents] that Obama speaks from the heart,” Chamberlain said. “When people hear him, they believe him. He’s not going to let his administration be run by big business.”

Members on L-13 refinery, power plant jobs need TWIC card

Feds require new security credential to access facilities

BOILERMAKERS PLANNING to work refinery and power plant outages across the country should check with their local lodges to see if they are required to obtain a new TWIC card. TWIC stands for Transportation Worker Identification Credential. It’s a new, tamper-resistant, “SmartCard” containing fingerprint and other personal information.

Anybody who requires unescorted access to secure areas of MTSA-regulated facilities must have the card. MTSA is an acronym for Maritime Transportation Security Act, a 2002 law put in place following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. MTSA-regulated facilities include ports and industrial plants that interface with ports, such as refineries and power plants.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Coast Guard will require workers carrying TWIC cards effective this September. Those without the cards will not be able to participate in outage work at sites. He said four power plants in his jurisdiction also will require the TWIC cards, although no dates have been set for compliance.

Card application takes up to 12 weeks; MOST to reimburse card costs

BANFORD SAID THOSE who may be interested in working outages at refineries and power plants alongside our country’s waterways should act quickly to apply for the TWIC card, since the process may take up to 12 weeks to complete. The cost of the credential is $132.50. The Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training trust (MOST) is working out the details of reimbursing members for the card, which is effective for five years.

For additional information about the TWIC program, including enrollment forms, visit the Transportation Security Administration Web site at www.tsa.gov/trac. Those interested in working outages through Local 13 may contact the local for a TWIC information package at blrmkrs13@comcast.net.
The Discovery of Global Warming

The discovery of global warming has its roots in an unlikely source — the search for an explanation of the ice ages.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the idea of ice ages was new, and scientists were clamoring for an explanation of how they began. Weather conditions are normal, but always within narrow confines. What would cause temperatures to drop so much that ice sheets miles thick would cover vast reaches of the northern hemisphere?

This question led to interesting discoveries. In 1824 Joseph Fourier explained that the Earth’s temperature was controlled by the incoming and outgoing radiation. He proposed that the Earth’s average temperature was determined by the insulating properties of the atmosphere.

In 1896 Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius elevated the importance of a gas called carbon dioxide (CO₂). He pointed out that if the level of CO₂ were to rise, the air would be able to hold more water vapor, because warm air holds more than cold air. The additional water vapor would then warm the air even more, in a kind of feedback effect.

He also reasoned that the opposite would happen. A decrease in the amount of CO₂ might cause a rapid decline in temperatures. With a crude model of how the global climate system worked, Arrhenius began a laborious series of calculations. He was working with a pencil, not the powerful computers we use today, but Arrhenius determined that cutting the amount of CO₂ in the air would cool the world maybe five degrees Celsius.

He also calculated that doubling the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere would raise the Earth’s temperature five or six degrees Celsius.

His colleague, Arvid Hogbom, who was studying how CO₂ cycles through the geochemical processes and had been collecting data on industrial CO₂ emissions, asked Arrhenius to determine whether these emissions might raise the Earth’s temperature. It was not an idle question. The Industrial Revolution had been in full play for a century, and everywhere factories were burning fossil fuels at rates never seen before, adding significant volumes of CO₂ to the atmosphere.

Arrhenius sat down with his model and his pencil, and in due time issued his conclusion: if these emissions continued at their current rate, they could possibly double the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere — in a few thousand years.

Neither he nor any of his contemporaries saw any reason to worry, but he had confirmed that human activity might affect climate.

His work was ultimately discounted — his climate model had many flaws, and the rate of warming he predicted was grossly overestimated — but the seed of an idea had been planted, and many scientists throughout the coming century would explore the possibility that human activity could generate climate change.

Feedbacks speed warming

OVER THE NEXT century, scientists found many influences on climate, none of which seemed to fully explain the ice ages. Occasionally a researcher would find evidence that the planet was warming — and sometimes that greenhouse gases might be causing that warming — but those findings were ignored. Scientists of the time believed that climate could only change very slowly, over periods of several hundreds or (more likely) thousands of years. By then, technology would have found ways to mitigate or adapt to any significant change, whether hotter or colder.

Some scientists point to what they call “trigger points,” events that might greatly accelerate warming. Evidence that the permafrost might be thawing underlines this type of concern. Permafrost is frozen soil. Many areas in the extreme northern and southern hemispheres, and at high altitudes, have been frozen for hundreds or thousands of years. Some permafrost, such as vast peat bogs in Siberia, contains large quantities of greenhouse gases — methane and carbon dioxide. If the permafrost melts, those gases will be released, further accelerating global warming which will thaw more permafrost.

Why blame carbon dioxide?

SUNSPOTS, VOLCANOS, variations in the Earth’s orbit, cosmic rays — all these and more have been suggested as drivers of climate change, but current discussions nearly always focus on greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂). Why?

The reasons are many. Atmospheric levels of CO₂ have been rising dramatically since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, when fossil fuels first came into widespread use. In 1800 the carbon dioxide concentration of the atmosphere was about 290 parts per million (ppm). By 1958, when Charles Keeling first began collecting samples of the air atop Mount Mauna Loa in Hawaii and Antarctica, the level had reached 315 ppm, and by 2007 Keeling’s five-year average showed a level of 382 ppm.

The likely cause of rising CO₂ levels is the burning of fossil fuels, which puts about six billion metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere each year. The natural processes that tend to limit atmospheric CO₂ levels — plant photosynthesis, absorption by soil and water — remove only about half that amount. They are busy recycling “natural reservoirs” of CO₂ such as the air we exhale.

Research shows that higher levels of atmospheric CO₂ are associated with changes in climate. For example, the 1970s, mostly half of climate scientists were predicting another ice age, not global warming. But since then, climate science has advanced significantly.

One difficulty with studying climate is that we can’t run experiments in a lab. The only way to test a theory is to create a model that predicts what is coming, and then wait for what actually happens to confirm or deny your prediction.

In recent years, many climate scientists became convinced that industrially-produced CO₂ was warming the atmosphere. Using climate models, they calculated that if we continued at our current rate of fossil fuel use, the Earth would be 4°C warmer by the end of the 21st century.

There are factors that will make this prediction impossible, such as the discovery of new energy sources, but the alternative is more expensive and environmentally damaging.

The cost of change

NO MATTER HOW we go about slowing or stopping the rapid warming scientists are warning us about, we are going to have to spend a lot of money.

We use a number of different energy sources to generate electrical power — wind, solar, hydro, nuclear, gas, and coal — but we rely primarily on coal. Whether we shift away from coal or find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in gas-fired and coal-fired plants, we will need to make a huge investment.

But the alternative is more expensive both in terms of money and in human suffering. Sea levels are already rising, making life more difficult for everyone living near sea-level. A sea-level rise of 10 feet will have serious repercussions for all coastal communities. For example, a rise of that level would put the Inghals Shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss. — home to one of our largest localities — out of business. A rise of 20 feet would necessitate the relocation of hundreds of millions of people, many of them in some of the world’s most heavily populated areas, such as the East Coast of the United States, Southern California, and South Florida. Relocating that many people and rebuilding that many buildings, homes, and factories is a challenge unprecedented in the history of the world.

SOURCES: Information in this article comes from many different sources, but an excellent summary of climate research through the 20th century can be found in The Discovery of Global Warming, by Spencer R. Weart (Harvard University Press 2003).
LEAP delegates consider presidential contenders

McCain record gets sharp scrutiny

AFTER 12 YEARS in the desert of George Bush governance, organized labor stands ready for a change of climate. The question facing delegates to the 40th LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., April 20-25 was which candidate represents labor issues and working families the best.

The Government Affairs Department (GAD) presented a weeklong program aimed at assessing the candidates and invigorating the delegates for the political fight yet to come. GAD brought in an array of politicians, consultants, and other speakers to address the delegates. Boilermakers heard from U.S. congressmen, Republican and Democratic lobbyists, a state governor, and Abraham Lincoln (in the form of actor and inspirational speaker Dr. Gene Griesman).

Delegates also received in-depth critiques of key Boilermaker legislative issues, advice on lobbying their senators and representatives, and recognition for supporting the Legislative Education Fund and the Campaign Assistance Fund.

Congressmen see labor as key (again) in 2008 elections

LABOR'S PIVOTAL ROLE in unseating Republicans as the majority party in Congress in the 2006 elections was certainly understood by the congressmen who addressed LEAP April 25.

"We could not have won without the support of organized labor," Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA 4th) told the conference.

The first-term Democrat praised western Pennsylvania Boilermakers who, he said, "believed in me long before anybody else did." Altmire said he came from behind in 2006 to best a Republican incumbent with "one of the worst labor records in Congress." He credited organized labor’s intense get-out-the-vote effort for his long-shot victory.

"All I heard [when considering whether to run for office] was: ‘You know, organized labor is dead. Unions don’t matter anymore.’ They can’t influence the outcome of elections. ‘But you really did change Congress by the work you did in 2006.’"

Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI 2nd) urged LEAP delegates to consider Republicans who support labor issues. "Don’t write us off [just because] we have an ‘R’ behind our name. You may be surprised at how often you can find common ground with Republicans."

Indeed, GAD Dir. Bridget Martin called Hoekstra "a key Republican ally for organized labor on trade and keeping jobs in the U.S."

Hoekstra said Pres. George W. Bush missed an opportunity after 9-11 when he advised the American public to return to work and to go shopping. Hoekstra said Bush should have told Americans: "We are going to start on a massive project to become energy independent." Such a project, said Hoekstra, would include nuclear power, coal-fired power plants, clean coal technology, and expanded drilling for oil.

Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-HI 1st), a congressmen known for his fiery speeches, said the stakes have never been higher for the next election.

"We’ve got to get a president in there that’s going to be pro-worker. And let me tell you something, it’s not John McCain. How ... can there even be a question about voting for John McCain, when you’re paying $4 a gallon for gasoline?"

Abercrombie argued that McCain’s chief supporters are wealthy international capitalists. "The people we are up against, the people backing McCain, they have no loyalty. You don’t exist for them as a human being. These are the kinds of people who want to destroy everything that you’ve tried to build up. You’ve got to put people in office who are going to be with you and bend over backwards for ... and who are going to invest in this country."

Abercrombie attacked free traders that push deals with countries like Colombia, which has one of the worst records of violence against unions. "There isn’t a man or woman sitting in this audience who isn’t eligible for a bullet in the back of the head [in countries like Colombia]," he said.

Manchin says take care of this country first

WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR Joe Manchin addressed the LEAP conference about challenges he and other state leaders face — and the frustrations they encounter with misguided federal priorities.

"I haven’t seen Republicans this demoralized since the mid-70s during the Watergate scandal," he said.

Climate change tops LEAP issues

SHIPBUILDING, IMMIGRATION reform, and fair trade remain critical topics to the Boilermakers union, and all three were included in the list of issues delegates took to Capitol Hill to discuss with Congress.

But it was clear that climate change has moved to the forefront of vital Boilermaker issues — with Congress considering legislation that may alter how the United States deals with carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

Cook predicted: "Election will be awfully close"

WHEN IT COMES to reading political tea leaves and predicting outcomes, Charlie Cook, publisher of the Cook Political Report, is considered one of Washington’s best. Cook informed and entertained LEAP delegates with statistics, anecdotes, and predictions of the current election cycle.

Predicting election results, like forecasting the weather, is an inexact science. Cook admitted. "For about 50 out of 52 weeks last year, I was predicting Hillary Clinton would be the Democratic nominee. I take no pleasure in saying ... I was wrong," Cook said that baring a miracle, the Democratic race for president is finished, and Sen. Barack Obama will prevail.

"I think this general election [between Obama and McCain] is going to be awfully close," he said. "I think it’s going to turn on events that have not yet happened." Cook predicted the Democrats will pick up three to six seats in the Senate and five to 15 in the House.

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Charlie Cook, political analyst

gamman, D-NM, and Sen. Arlen Specter, R-PA), because the cap levels and implementation goals are more attainable and economically feasible.

Breehey added that the Boilermakers union has been at the forefront of the climate discussion in Washington, D.C. Breehey has testified before Congress about labor’s concerns. Among these are the economic impact of climate control policy on industries that employ our members; how the government will spend money from carbon allowance auctions (to what degree that money will be invested in worker training, for example); and whether carbon limits will apply to countries like China and India so they do not gain an unfair advantage over U.S. companies—and cost U.S. workers even more jobs.

“Workers’ voices need to be part of this debate,” said Breehey. “This isn’t just about big business and environmentalists banning their heads against each other. It’s about people and what happens in our communities.”

**IP Jones offers insight into Obama endorsement**

ENDORsing BARACK OBAMA was a decision the International Executive Council (IEC) did not take lightly, Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones told LEAP delegates. Jones acknowledged that many people would vote for Sen. John McCain “because he is a white male, and that’s what we’ve always done; for Sen. Hillary Clinton, because she’s a woman, and her campaign has historic significance; or for Sen. Barack Obama, because he’s a black male, and that has historic significance as well.”

“They are choices people have to make within themselves,” Jones said. “But the International Executive Council cannot make decisions based on those criteria. We have to make decisions that are truly in the best interests of the union, of our members, and this country. Our decision is based on the candidates’ policies as stated in their campaigns, their past practices and histories, and their viability.”

Jones went on to critique each candidate. He said John McCain, while having an honorable military record, is “a free trader who has voted with Pres. Bush nearly 90 percent of the time. The IEC looks at the free-trade issue and how it has harmed our members with so many jobs lost in so many sectors. We have to weigh that very heavily.

“What you look at when you’re voting for in the next election, understand that you’re not just going to get that candidate, you’re going to get every person that candidate appoints to the cabinet, to the Supreme Court, and to the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board — institutions that affect us directly.”

Jones praised Clinton as a dynamic politician and excellent senator. But he expressed concern that the candidate supported free trade as First Lady and initially supported the Iraq War, which has diverted billions of dollars that could have been used for infrastructure improvements and other projects that are desperately needed in the United States.

While Clinton and Obama are close on many policy issues, Jones said Obama more closely matches up with the needs of Boilermakers and working people in general. “He supports fair trade — not free trade — just as we do, with fair labor standards and environmental standards. That’s what we want, that’s what the AFL-CIO wants, and that’s what most of Congress wants.”

Jones said it is also relevant that Obama comes from a coal state. “A policy to invest in clean coal technologies is very important to our organization, to our future position to be energy independent as a nation. Barrack Obama is closer to our positions on fair trade and clean coal technology than Sen. Clinton. “Let’s be clear on one thing,” Jones continued. “This union is not telling anybody who to vote for. We encourage our locals and our members to give deep thought to who you’re going to support and why. Make your choice and be happy in your heart that you made the right choice for you.”

“Whatever you do, be involved, make a difference, and support your union brothers and sisters.”

Conroy said McCain won’t be easy to defeat, because many candidates appreciate his service to his country, and rightly so. But many perceive, incorrectly, that he is an independent thinker, a moderate, and one who is holding Democratic values. “We need to de-mystify him, to define him for what he is,” she said. “Working families need to know that he voted with George Bush 95 percent of the time last year and 89 percent of the time in previous years.”

Conroy said the strategy of the Boilermakers and the AFL-CIO will be to use factual, documented information showing his anti-worker record. She urged Boilermakers to visit a special section of the AFL-CIO Web site called “McCain Revealed” at www.aflcio.org/ issues/politics/mccain.cfm.

**Martin details Obama positions, strengths**

ON TRADE, CLIMATE change, national defense, and many other issues, Sen. Barack Obama will take America in the right direction, Government Affairs Director Cecile Conroy told the LEAP conference.

Martin highlighted the senator’s positions, especially those that are vital to the future of America. She said Obama believes in rewarding companies that keep good jobs in America. He opposes incentives for firms that take jobs overseas. This is promising news for Boilermakers employed in manufacturing, many of whom have lost their jobs to off-shoring.

She said Obama also has the right approach to climate change. He wants to protect our climate, but in a way that does not damage American industries and jobs. He believes in investing heavily in new technologies for clean coal and using a cap-and-trade approach to reducing CO2 emissions. This sensible approach should help protect and promote jobs in heavy industries like power generation, cement manufacturing, and petroleum refining.

Obama also supports a strong national defense. McCain, Cecile Conroy, Research and Legislative Assistant to the D-GAD, told Boilermaker delegates. She said McCain’s campaign would try to “mischaracterize him” to persuade the American public to support him. “McCain’s record is not good for working families,” she stated. “He does not believe in unions, he is not labor’s friend, and he won’t fight for us.”


THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS Department commemorated the 40th anniversary of the LEAP conference with something special — an evening reception at Union Station, with a special appearance by Abraham Lincoln (a.k.a. Dr. Gene Griessman). Dressed in Lincoln-like attire, including a black top hat, Griessman put on a one-man play that captured the persona of the 16th president — his folksy charm, his country wisdom, and his simple but eloquent humor.

Delegates and guests enjoyed the dignified and inspirational performance, which offered many anecdotal stories and a reading of the Gettysburg Address.

Griessman has performed several times at Ford Theater, on the site of Lincoln’s assassination in Washington, D.C. In addition to performing as Lincoln, Griessman spoke at the LEAP conference about communication techniques used by leaders.

**Lincoln speaks at 40th LEAP celebration**

“When you look at who you’re voting for in the next election, understand that you’re not just going to get that candidate, you’re going to get every person that candidate appoints. Whatever you do, be involved, make a difference, and support your union brothers and sisters.”

-IP Newton B. Jones

Conroy says defining McCain is key to victory

THE MOST RECENT polls at the time of the LEAP conference showed both Obama and Clinton with narrow leads in a head-to-head match-up with McCain, Cecile Conroy, Research and Legislative Assistant to the D-GAD, told Boilermaker delegates. She said McCain’s campaign would try to “mischaracterize him” to persuade the American public to support him. “McCain’s record is not good for working families,” she stated. “He does not believe in unions, he is not labor’s friend, and he won’t fight for us.”

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Martin said that when looking at a candidate’s record, it is important to look at every issue, and not just one. She said Obama is the most pro-labor candidate in history, and is the only candidate who has a 96 percent AFL-CIO lifetime voting record.

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Representative Miller is legislator of the year.

Chair of Labor Committee blames economic problems on Iraq War

REP. GEORGE MILLER, a member of the U.S. House Democratic leadership, received the LEAP (Labor Education and Action Project) of the Boilermaker Union's LEAP Conference award at the 40th annual conference held April 20-25. First elected to the House in 1974, Miller represents California's 7th District which includes the East Bay area of San Francisco.

Miller serves as chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, a panel that is especially important to unions because it oversees the Department of Labor. Among his recent achievements is H.R. 2, a bill to increase the minimum wage from $5.25 an hour to $7.25 an hour. The bill was one of the first to be passed by the new Democratic-led House. The increase became law in May 2007.

Upon receiving the LOY award, Miller spoke to the LEAP conference about the efforts of the House Democrats to focus on key issues vital to both labor's view. But the Keelen Group is a staunch right-to-work supporter, two with Democratic backgrounds. Matt Keelen and Eric Dell of the Keelen Group, offered perspectives from the right. Mike Mathis and Chuck Harpel of the Mathis Group did the same from the left. Interestingly, the three agreed on most issues.

Keelen and Dell said unions might find common ground with even the most far-right Republicans on some issues. They cited Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC 2nd) as one example. Wilson is a staunch right-to-work supporter, seemingly the worst type of politician in labor's view. But the Keelen Group brought the Boilermakers and Wilson together in one area that is vital to both parties—shipbuilding. Since both sides have an interest in supporting the Jones Act and American shipbuilding jobs, they have been able to work together, at least on that issue. Rep. Wilson has even attended the last two LEAP conferences as a guest of the South Carolina Boilermaker delegation.

Mathis and Harpel, both former Teamsters, said Democrats have often disappointed labor on key issues, frequently taking labor for granted and making deals with business interests in opposition to unions. They added that for labor to get real respect, it needs to “scare” those Democrats by withholding financial and voter support.

The lobbyists also stressed the importance of getting involved in politics at the state level and building relationships with politicians who may later become governors or members of the U.S. Congress.

Union Tank Car, National Gypsum close plants

AMIDST THE DISCUSSION of politics and legislation, Boilermakers heard the tragic stories of two recent manufacturing plant closures. The Union Tank Car plant in East Chicago, Ind., is shutting down, at a cost of about 600 Boilermaker jobs. President Kelly Housnell, president of Local 524, which represents the workers, handed over his lodge’s final CAF and LEF checks to GAD Dir. Martin.

Martin announced that National Gypsum will close one of its plants, in Lorain, Ohio. Local D416 represents 70 workers there. Ironically, Sen. Barack Obama had conducted a town hall style meeting and tour of the plant February 24, less than a month before the plant closing was announced. GAD had assisted with the event. At the time, there was no hint that the plant might close.

The continued loss of good U.S. manufacturing jobs is one of the main reasons why this election is so critical,” Martin said.

The lobbyists also stressed the importance of getting involved in politics at the state level and building relationships with politicians who may later become governors or members of the U.S. Congress.

Limited quantity available for $100 CAF donation

FOR A LIMITED TIME, members who make a $100 contribution to the Boilermakers' Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) will receive a silver coin commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Boilermakers' annual conference of the Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP). Each coin contains one troy ounce of 99.99 pure silver and is 40.6 mm (about 1.6 inches) in diameter. Quantities are limited (only 100 coins were produced).

One side of the coin features the Boilermakers' official seal, the other depicts the anniversary date. For each $100 donation made to CAF by personal funds (not union or general treasury money) a commemorative coin and recognition in the Boilermaker Reporter will be given to the donor. Only personal checks or money orders can be accepted; no cash. For more information, contact the Boilermakers' Government Affairs Department at 703-549-1893.

CAF is funded solely through voluntary, personal contributions from Boilermaker union members, officers, staff, and retirees. Contributions to CAF are not a condition of employment. Donations to CAF are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. CAF is used primarily to make contributions to federal election campaigns for the United States House and Senate, and will not directly contribute to a 2008 presidential primary or general campaign.


The LEAP 2008 40th anniversary coin reflects the anniversary date on one side, the Boilermakers' official seal on the other.

The continued loss of good U.S. manufacturing jobs is one of the main reasons why this election is so critical.

— Bridget Martin, CAF Director
EACH YEAR THE LEAP conference hosts a special event designed for one purpose: to bring together legislators, government officials, labor leaders, and others in the “D.C. mix” who play a role in the welfare of our members and their families. The legislative reception offers an opportunity to mingle, to start up a new relationship, or to strengthen an existing one. Boilermaker delegates meet with their representatives (or legislator staffs) outside the reception area for photographs and escort them into the ballroom to share food, spirits, and conversation.

The importance of this annual event cannot be overestimated, for some day those same politicians will be voting on issues of vital importance to labor in general and the Boilermakers in particular. The strength of the relationships our delegates build with their elected representatives may well be the difference between a negative outcome — or a positive one.

With so much at stake over trade, energy, the environment, the economy, good jobs, and so many other issues, it’s vital to have friends on Capitol Hill. And the legislative reception is all about building friendships.

Above, clockwise from top left:
Virginia State Congresswoman Leslie Burn, center, with (l. to r.) Frank Hartsoe, Wilbur Brown, and Jeff Morris, all of Local 45; James Mason and Mike Patterson of Local 684; Bridget Martin, D-GAD; Helena Ringo of Local 684; Cecil Conroy of GAD; Dwayne Lancaster of Local 684, Reuben Golderos of Local 45, and Tony Fields of Local 684.

Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-8th PA), fifth from right, with delegates from Philadelphia Locals 13 and 19.

Rep. Joe Courtney (D-2nd CT), center, with (l. to r.) John Adamson, Jim Papa, and Frank Ward, all of Local 614, and Martin King of Local 237.

Rep. Steve Rothman (D-9th NJ), center, with John Devlin of Local 28 and Bridget Martin, D-GAD.

Pictured below left: Rep. Tim Murphy (R-18th PA), center, with Local 154’s delegation (l. to r.) Keith Kelsch, Kevin Miller, Stanley Wolfe, Mike Ventronr, Tom Atwood, Paul Price, Bryan Buerkle, Jim Steigerwald, and Rex Pears.

Pictured below right: Rep. Bob Ethridge (D-2nd NC), center, with (l. to r.) IR Steve Beal, Freddie Lewis of Local 905, Al Meadowcroft of Local 905, IVP Sam May, and IR Steve Speed.
to Boilermaker gathering

Rep. Gene Greene (D-29th TX), center, with (l. to r.) John Simoneaux, BM-ES for the Mississippi River District Lodge, IST Bill Creeden, IVP Sam May, and IVP Tom Baca.

Rep. Christopher Shays (D-4th CT), center, with (l. to r.) John Adamson of Local 614, Frank Ward of Local 614, Martin King of Local 237, and Jim Papa of Local 614.

Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-2nd IN), center, with the Indiana delegation from Local 374, Local 524, and Local 1240.


Rep. Donald Payne (D-10th NJ), center, with (l. to r.) Steve Martin of Local D432, Jay Brophy of Local 28, John Devlin of Local 28, and Nate Mellor of Local 13.

AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Richard Trumka, center, with (l. to r.) IVP Larry McManammon, IST Bill Creeden, IVP Tom Baca, and IVP Sam May.
LEAP delegates from Local 154, Pittsburgh, accept the award for the highest CAF contribution by a local.

**Boilermakers receive awards for CAF, LEF support**

Money helps pro-worker candidates, builds strong member education

**BOILERMAKERS WHO EXCELLED at raising money for CAF and LEF in 2007 received recognition during the annual LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., April 21.**

Bridget Martin, Director of the Boilermakers’ Government Affairs Department, presented crystal “capitol dome” awards to vice-presidential sections and individual local lodges for exceptional performance.

CAF stands for Campaign Assistance Fund. It is the only way our union can contribute money to those struggling for federal office. It is used primarily to make contributions to legislative campaign campaigns for the United States House and Senate, and will not directly contribute to a 2008 presidential primary or general campaign.

Because CAF is a political action committee (PAC) fund, donations to it are completely voluntary. CAF money cannot come from a lodge’s treasury or dues; it can only come from donations or fund-raising activities. And only active and retired Boilermakers, and their immediate families, may give.

The LEAP conference recognized the Northeast Section (IVP Sean McManamon) for the highest CAF contribution by a section in 2007 — $181,257.33. Local 154, Pittsburgh, garnered the award for most improved CAF contribution.

Local 83 of Kansas City, Mo. contributed $10,232.57. Local 154 of Pittsburgh received recognition during the annual LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., April 21. Bridget Martin, Director of the Boilermakers’ Government Affairs Department, presented crystal “capitol dome” awards to vice-presidential sections and individual local lodges for exceptional performance.

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**CAF and LEF support**

- **Local 40 Elizabethtown, Ky.** contributed $11,709.25.
- **Local 60 Peoria, Ill.** contributed $8,712.75.
- **Local 154 Pittsburgh** contributed $4,939.50.
- **Local 104 Seattle** contributed $3,923.50.
- **Local 693 Pascagoula, Miss.** contributed $3,418.00.
- **Local 374 Hammond, Ind.** contributed $2,948.75.
- **Local 647 Minneapolis** contributed $2,652.25.
- **Local 92 Los Angeles** contributed $2,400.00.
- **Local 667 Charleston, W Va.** contributed $2,228.00.

The award for the highest LEF contribution for a section in 2007 went to the Southeast (IVP Sam May), which raised $41,922.50. This marked the fifth straight year the Southeast has claimed this distinction.

For the fourth time, Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.) won the award for the highest contribution by a local, with $11,709.25.

The award for most improved section went to the Great Lakes (IVP Larry McMannammon) for the second year in a row, with $38,639.95 raised in 2007, compared to $16,481 in 2006.

Local 1622 (Alliance, Ohio) won the award for most improved LEF contributions by a local, with $183 raised in 2007 compared to $15 in 2006.

LEF contributions in 2007 totaled $184,860.22, with 170 locals out of 270 participating.

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**Conference recognizes top LEF donors**

THE BOILERMAKERS LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION FUND (LEF) pays for virtually all Boilermaker political education activities. This fund can make use of dues money, since the purpose of LEF is education. Convention delegates approved a constitutional change in 2006 that requires all U.S. lodges to contribute at least 25 cents per member per month from the lodge’s treasury. Of course, lodges may contribute more than that if they wish, and some lodges were contributing a higher amount before the constitutional change.

**Conference delegates raise money, too**

DELEGATES TO EACH LEAP conference get an up-close look at politics. One thing they quickly learn is the road to elected office carries a high price tag. Getting good pro-worker candidates in office — and keeping them there — requires all the financial help we can muster. And maintaining a strong Boilermaker presence on Capitol Hill also requires resources. With that understanding, delegates take the opportunity of making on-the-spot donations at each conference. This year, they raised $2,780 for CAF.

Allen Phillips, Local 455 (Sheffield, Ala.), contributed another $200, from the proceeds of his shirt sales. And some delegates made check presentations from their lodge CAF and LEF fund-raisers in person at the conference.

In all, donations made during the conference totaled $17,502 for CAF and $13,887 for LEF.

**Lodges must submit LEF funds**

BY ACTION OF delegates to the Thirty-First Consolidated Convention, all local lodges must contribute no less than 25 cents per member, per month, to the Legislative Education Fund (LEF).

The fund pays for the publication or purchase of educational materials regarding candidates, issues, and the legislative process, and for their distribution to members and local lodge leaders. Educational materials include congressional directories, issue alerts, and informational DVDs. The fund also pays for the Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) Website and the annual LEAP conference in Washington, D.C.

Contributions must be made from the lodge’s general treasury, payable to LEF. Lodges should mail their monthly contributions to:

International Sec.-Treas. William T. Creeeden 753 State Ave Ste 565 Kansas City KS 66101-2511

**Top 10 locals giving to CAF**

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Delegates lobby Congress

Boilermakers address climate change, trade, immigration, and shipbuilding

LEAP DELEGATES FROM across the United States brought Boilermaker issues to the attention of legislators on Capitol Hill April 20-25, getting valuable “face time” with U.S. senators and representatives, as well as their staff members.

Lobbying is not just for big corporations with deep pockets. Groups representing many types of interests — including labor unions — know they can get access to legislators, too.

One key to effective lobbying is keeping your message brief and to the point. Delegates get help in this area from staff members of the Boilermakers’ Government Affairs Department, who prepare fact sheets on three or four key issues that are most important to the Boilermakers. Delegates receive briefings on these issues during the conference, including any pending legislation.

Delegates know they may only have a few minutes to spend with busy legislators, who often watch the clock for action on bills in the Senate or House chambers, so they can scramble to cast their votes.

This year, delegates pushed for action in four areas. They sought support for a cap and trade program to control greenhouse gases. Such a program would include reasonable targets, investments in new technology, and a future commitment from major trading partners.

They argued against a Colombian trade deal, because of that country’s horrendous record of violence against union organizers.

They pushed for immigration reform that would meet the needs of our economy without undermining wages and labor standards. Reform would include providing sufficient H2B visas to ensure that Canadian Boilermakers can enter the United States to supplement American members during shortages.

Delegates also sought a larger investment in shipbuilding to restore the U.S. Navy to a 313-ship battle force, to prohibit leasing foreign-built ships for periods of more than two years, and to enforce the Jones Act, a law designed to protect domestic shipbuilding.

Passion and power of one vote are key ingredients

THREE LOCAL LEADERS took the podium at the LEAP conference April 23 to describe their lodges’ involvement in political action.

Local 449 (Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.) Sec-Treas. Warren Demmin said he attended the LEAP conference for the first time last year and became convinced that political action could help his 460 members, employees of Bay Shipbuilding.

Demmin said the local continues to increase its political involvement, and now politicians come to the union to meet with members — and members are reaching out to help the politicians as well. “A lot of our members realize they have an avenue they didn’t think existed before.

“Getting active in politics is very special to me,” Demmin continued. “This whole thing [political action] is about passion and commitment. If you’re not passionate, the members are going to see it. If you’re not passionate, find someone else who is.”

Another local lodge leader who spoke about passion was Local 19 (Philadelphia) Sec-Treas. Fred Chamberlain. Representing Boilermakers at the Aker Philadelphia Shipyard, Local 19 provided extraordinary volunteer effort during the Democratic primary in Pennsylvania.

“Anytime the Obama campaign would call on us, we were there —

Chamberlain described how volunteers took their days off to erect railings at different rally locations. We would go there at 10 o’clock in the morning and stay until 9 o’clock that night. We’d bring six people to a rally in Lancaster; two hours later, we’d shoot back and take six more to a rally in Allentown.

Chamberlain said his local really got active after an incident several years ago in Capitol Hill. He said after a group of Local 19 delegates were snubbed by then-Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) the lodge began supporting his opponent, State Treasurer Robert Casey a Democrat. Casey drubbed Santorum in the November 2006 elections, 59 percent to 41 percent. Local 19’s political activism “snowballed from that. No matter what we turned to, we went at it 1,000 percent. We never stopped.”

Chamberlain recalled other situations where it was difficult to set meetings with congressmen. “In one case, I actually went to a high school art show a congressman was attending and waited for him. I asked him if he could give me five minutes. Chamberlain said they ended up talking for hours. “Sure enough, after that he set up the meeting and came down to the yard to see us. Quite frankly, the last few years, I don’t know of a congressman we haven’t had down to the shipyard to meet the guys down there. From top to bottom and bottom to top, that’s the direction we go.”

For Pat Gallagher, BM-ST of Local 744 (Cleveland), the power of one vote is something all locals and individual members should remember.

Gallagher presented a list of historical incidents where one vote made a deciding difference.

He noted that by a single vote in 1776, America chose the English language over German, and that in 1960,

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L-191 members at Victoria Shipyards will refit five Halifax-class frigates such as the HMCS Regina pictured above. U. S. Navy photo

New contract equals job security for Local 191

**Victoria Shipyards receives $351 million award to refit frigates**

**VICTORIA SHipyARDS, a Boilermaker employer since 1994, has been awarded a $351 million contract to refit five of Canada’s Halifax-class frigates stationed on the West Coast. The 12-year contract will create 110 new jobs at Victoria Shipyards and provide economic stability for the 450 workers already at the site, in Esquimalt, British Columbia.**

“What this contract really means is a real future for the shipbuilding industry,” Local 191 BM-ST Bill Morrison (Victoria, British Columbia) said. “The long-term job security that comes from this contract will give workers confidence for their future; allowing them to make plans, take out mortgages, and buy new cars.”

“The contract is the largest Victoria Shipyard has received since it was opened nearly 15 years ago by the Washington Marine Group. Morrison was instrumental in gaining certification for all nine trades at the shipyard when it opened. He negotiated the first contract — and every one since — for Local 191 members at the site.”

Int'l Vice President Joe Maloney credits the good working relationship between labour and management at the shipyard — along with the highly-skilled work force — for securing the $351 million award from Canada’s Department of National Defence.

The frigates, originally built in 1992, will be retrofitted with new operation systems, and improvements to extend the life of each ship’s hull. The ships were initially designed for warfare missions in open ocean waters. They currently patrol Canada’s coastlines and carry out overseas missions.

Hayes Mechanical chairman presented with MLK award

**RICHARD “RICK” MOONEY, center (in tuxedo), chairman of Hayes Mechanical, a Boilermaker contractor, received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Excellence in Leadership Award for 2008 at a dinner in Chicago recently.**

“The award was presented by the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Rights (ICDHR) for “promoting the ideals articulated by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” The ICDHR cited Mooney for mentoring to minority business leaders, recruiting and employing minorities, and supporting the people of Chicago and multiculturalism.

Left to right are Hayes Senior VP Bob Gabrysiak, Local 1 BM-ST John Skernmont, Pam Mooney, IVP (Great Lakes) Larry McManamon, Rick Mooney, Local 374 BM-ST Paul Maday, J.D. Mooney, and Great Lakes Appren- tice Program Co-Coordinator Larry McManamon Jr.

L-191’s Morrison to retire after 15 years as BM-ST

**Lodge plans June 28 celebration**

**BILL MORRISON, BM-ST of Local 191 (Victoria, British Columbia) for 15 years, will retire June 30 at the end of his term.**

Morrison began his career working in the Scotland shipyards in 1955. As an apprentice, he was not required to join the union until he had worked a year, but Morrison learned a valuable lesson early on about union strength.

“At that time apprentices didn’t have breaks, but were directed to make tea for the journeymen,” Morrison said. “One day the yard managers convinced me for a month for making the tea. When I looked over my shoulder, I saw 800 shipyard workers walking out behind me. The shop stewards of all the trades told the yard manager they would not be back until my suspension was lifted. Everyone was back — including me — the following day. After returning to work, I joined the Shipwright’s Union and was appointed shop steward for the apprentices. I have been a union member ever since.”

Morrison and his family moved to Canada in 1966. He was elected Local 191 inspector in 1980, president in 1981, and business manager in 1993. In 1994 he negotiated an agreement for a new ship repair facility now known as Victoria Shipyards, where Local 191 members continue to work today. He was also elected president of the Victoria Metal Trades in 1994, a position he still holds. Morrison received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the International union, in 2004.

On June 28, Local 191 will hold a retirement celebration for Morrison at the Gorge Vale Golf Club in Victoria.

“**When I looked over my shoulder, I saw 800 shipyard workers walking out behind me.**”

L-83 receives SkillsUSA award

**Lodge helps judge students at national competition**

**LOCAL 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) was one of seven area unions honored May 20 for supporting the annual SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City. L-83 Assistant Business Agent Joe Lewandowski accepted a “Hometown Hero” award on behalf of his local during a meeting of the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association held at the Crown Center Exhibit Hall downtown.**

**SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives — including labor unions — that works to promote a skilled work force. The organization serves teachers as well as high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. Each year, SkillsUSA holds its national competition in Kansas City, where thousands of students demonstrate their skills in diverse areas, from construction trades to culinary arts.**

L-83 BM-ST Randy Cruse said, “Our local has participated in this event for many years, providing judges for the competition. It’s a worthy organization, and we benefit by screening and recruiting quality students for our apprenticeship program.”

The annual SkillsUSA competition is the largest annual competition in Kansas City.

L-83 BM-ST Bill Morrison will retire this summer.
Members show troop support

Canadian lodges distribute yellow ribbon magnets

IN APRIL, LOCAL lodges in Canada mailed yellow ribbon magnets to members for display on their cars. The ribbons have a Canadian flag and the words, “Boilermakers Support Our Troops.”

International Vice President for Western Canada Joe Maloney said, “The Boilermakers do not support war, but we do support Canadian troops who are in the middle of a battlefield, keeping the peace in other parts of the world, or in search and rescue missions here at home.

“These people are willing to make a sacrifice so we can continue living our lives in the freedom we enjoy. We need to display our respect for their work, and this ribbon is a small token of that respect.”

Ed Power, International Vice President for Eastern Canada, said, “We have members of this union who have served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard for Canada. This ribbon is a way we can display our admiration for their duty. We ask that each member who receives a ribbon place it in view for the general public to show that Boilermakers support the troops.”

Canadian members who did not receive a ribbon should contact their local lodge.

L-146 member releases music CD

Chris Campbell produces album about life in the trades

CHRIS CAMPBELL, a 15-year member of Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta), has released a new album on CD with his band, Tig Wired. The CD describes life in the trades and contains music of several different styles, including blues, jazz, and country.

“It is called Ne Obliviscaris (the Campbell clan motto: ‘do not forget’) and is a musical composition which touches on most of the aspects of working life in the construction industry,” explains Campbell, who plays a variety of instruments. “If you are a welder, fitter, rigger, scalfolder, millwright, boilermaker, pipefitter, ironworker, or involved in the trades in any fashion, you will appreciate the words and music about the industry.”

Campbell produced the CD to reflect the ups and downs of life in the construction industry, and as a way to express the way of life and struggles workers face in shutdown trades. He joined the Boilermakers in 1993, as a member of the Quality Control Council of Canada.

CASINO

continued from p. 1

mission if licenses for expansion have been applied for, so we can pursue the work.

Working for Chicago Bridge & Iron, Local 374 members began the Harrah’s project in April 2007 and completed their part in February. At peak, there were 1,210 Boilermakers at the site, working a total of 160,230 man-hours.

Each barge measures 105 feet by 305 feet and arrived one at a time from a nonunion shipyard in St. Louis. Six barges make the casino foundation. All welds were made by certified Boilermakers. Local 374 members connected the vessels, performing all the work from the top deck down, including all penetrations and sleeves going through any part of the vessels.

According to Terry Bosswell, an Assistant Business Manager for Local 374, another Boilermaker contractor, Mor-
Local 182 wins national NACBE safety award

Locals rack up best year ever for OSHA recordables

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) presented its annual safety award to the top-performing locals from the Boilermakers’ five U.S. vice-presidential areas March 2. The presentations were made during the Brotherhood’s annual construction conference in Marco Island, Fla.

Local 182 (Salt Lake City), from the Western States area, won the national honors. Casey Tibbs, acting BM-ST for the recently-combined Locals 182 and 4 (Page, Ariz.) accepted the award. Local 182 was among seven Boilermaker locals with perfect scores: zero lost time injuries, zero compensable injuries, and zero OSHA-recordable injuries.

Four other lodges finished first in their areas: Local 1 (Chicago — Great Lakes); Local 592 (Tulsa, Okla. — Central); Local 108 (Birmingham, Ala. — Southeast); and Local 5 (New York — Northeast).

NACBE maintains a safety index for 54 construction locals. John Erickson, NACBE Exec. Dir., said 2007 was an excellent year for safety, with OSHA-recordable injuries at their lowest rate ever — 3.73 per 200,000 man-hours. The lost time injury rate came in at .052 per 200,000 man-hours, the second-lowest rate since NACBE began the index, in 1990.

Thirty-five locals reported zero lost time injuries in 2007. Erickson reported a 38 percent rise in man-hours over the last two years. “That’s a tremendous increase,” he said, noting that many Boilermakers have been retiring over this same period. He also cited a “significant uptick in the percentage of man-hours covered by the index and contractors participating in the index.”

“Safety is probably one of [the best measures] of how a job is going,” Erickson added. “If you have a safe job, it means you’re going to have a productive job. As an industry, we’re having some very productive times.”

SERT responds to Indiana tragedy

Two L-374 members die in coal plant explosion

DANNY TURNER, 54, and David Shoemaker, 44, members of Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.), were killed April 28 when a faulty flange resulted in a catastrophic explosion at 5G Solutions, a coal gasification plant north of Terre Haute, Ind.

Turner, who joined Local 374 in 1980, and Shoemaker, a member since 1991, were working for Sterling Boiler on the eighth deck of a coal gasifier — about 150 feet in the air — when the explosion occurred.

Shortly after the accident, Local 374 BM-ST Paul Maday, Boilermaker Health & Safety Specialist Mark Garrett, and members of the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) were in Indiana assisting the local lodge and the families of the members killed.

SERT provides rapid response legal assistance for Boilermakers affected by catastrophic accidents on the job.

Available to all U.S. local lodges, SERT helps the local lodge preserve evidence and investigate the accident while determining what happened, as well as helping the lodge begin to rapidly emerge from our inquiries. We are committed to leaving no stone unturned in an effort to not only determine what happened here, but hopefully help ensure that this type of tragedy never happens again.

The April 28 explosion was the first fatal accident at the coal gasification plant, which began commercial operation in 1995. Sterling Boiler is also conducting an investigation.

Boilermaker Health & Safety Specialist Garrett attended an investigative meeting at the plant where about 30 people — mostly attorneys and insurance reps — walked the site and looked at the incident location and debris. “OSHA has been on the site several times and is still interviewing witnesses,” he said.

Before the next scheduled outage, Local 374 members will be at 5G Solutions to perform maintenance work, where a memorial service is being planned at the site.

“She was tragic accident — devastating not only for the families, but for the local as well,” Maday said. “Both Danny and David were top-shelf, high-quality Boilermakers.”

This article includes information from Howard Gengenier and Arthur Foulkes of the Tribune-Star, April 28.
Dignitaries tour L-128 training facility

Government officials see firsthand how lodge is spending infrastructure grant

JOHN MILLOY, MINISTER of Ontario’s Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU), and Kevin Flynn, a member of the Provincial Parliament, toured the Local 128 training facilities on March 20.

Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) BM-ST James Tinney conducted the tour, showing the officials how the local is spending the $1.4 million MTCU award it received for skills-training infrastructure.

“This is an example of Lodge 128 and the government of Ontario working together to improve the skills of the Boilermakers, our contractors, and clients,” Tinney said.

Local 128 used the funds to purchase two 90-foot lifts, with 60-foot and 40-foot booms respectively, all-terrain forklifts, an Orbital welder, an enhancement smoke extractor system, a lathe, seven new Lincoln welders, a five-ton overhead crane, an eight-ton mobile crane, a band saw, air compressor, tube milling and rolling equipment, computers, and projectors and screens for all Local 128 offices (Burlington, Sarnia, Sudbury, and Thunder Bay, Ontario).

According to L-128 Apprentice Training and Teacher Coordinator Ed Ferrotte, the funding will also be used to build a rigging structure.

“The Liberal Party of government in Ontario is proactive in training and apprenticeship,” Ferrotte said. “They recognize both the amount of work that needs to be done to the province’s infrastructure and that the unions are ahead of the game when it comes to training.”

Boilermakers, Allegheny Energy partner on new training facility

Power station dedicates new center to fast-track welding program

A COOPERATIVE EFFORT to increase training for union Boilermakers has led to the opening of a new learning facility at Allegheny Energy’s Harrison Power Station in Haywood, W.Va. A Jan. 17 dedication celebrated the joint effort between the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Allegheny Energy, an investor-owned utility with over $3 billion in annual revenues and more than 4,000 employees.

Opened in January, the new center focuses on a fast-track welding program that includes standard plate, MIG, and TIG welding procedures. In addition, the OSHA 10-hour safety compliance training course and other instructional programs will be presented at the center through MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training), a labor-management trust.

“The need for skilled Boilermakers is urgent,” said L-667 (Charleston, W.Va.) Business Manager George Pinkerman. “We are working with our contractor and owner partners to meet their needs and continue Local 667’s ability to supply a skilled work force where needed. The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Local 667 are committed to providing our employers with qualified and productive craftsmen.”

Training is critical to apprentices and journeymen to increase their skills. Additionally, new recruits brought in through the MOST recruitment program will be evaluated for their skill levels and provided training accordingly.

Harrison power plant manager Kevin Geraghty was among the company representatives at the dedication, along with State Auditor Glen Gainer, and representatives from the office of West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin.

Geraghty commented on Allegheny Energy’s commitment to the community and its 75-year history of working with the Building and Construction Trades, especially the Boilermakers.

“We value the partnership we have with our contractors and the Boilermakers,” Geraghty said.

North East Area International Vice President Sean Murphy also attended the event and commended Allegheny Energy for investing in the training facility. Murphy pledged to work with Allegheny to reach out to the local community through the MOST recruitment program, emphasizing that with improved skills, comes fair wages and benefits.

“I want to give special thanks to International President Newton B. Jones for his continued support of the area apprenticeship programs, and for his initiative in developing the MOST recruiting program,” Murphy said. “I also want to thank International Vice President Sam May, Southeast Area Apprenticeship Director Mike Peterson, and the apprenticeship trustees for their help in putting this program together.

“This program would not have been successful without the hard work of Inl. Rep Marty Stanton and MOST Recruiter Tony Smarra,” Murphy said, “due to their efforts with Allegheny Energy’s company and site representatives.”

Students who qualify can attend 23-week Boilermaker Foundation Program

THE APPRENTICESHIP TRADE Advancement Committee (ATAC), a joint venture of Local 259 (Vancouver, British Columbia) and Boilermaker employers, has agreed to pay the tuition costs for those interested in participating in the Boilermaker Foundation Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

The ATAC decided to pick up the costs when it became difficult to fill a classroom with enough people willing to pay the nearly $3,000 price tag for the 23-week course.

“The boilermaking trade is not as well known as some other trades, but the value we supply to our clients constructing, maintaining, and repairing their industrial infrastructure in British Columbia is second to none,” said L-359 BM-ST Carl Ellsworth. “We need more Boilermakers. Once the word gets out about us picking up the tuition — and they see the excellent wages, benefits, and great career opportunities the industry has to offer — we will be able to fill the void that is being created due to retirement and the increasing work picture.”

The first class of 16 students sponsored by the ATAC began classes on March 25. To qualify for the financial support, each student took an assessment exam and was interviewed by ATAC members to see if they met BCIT’s entrance requirements.

“There is a lot of competition out there for tradespeople,” said Al Bennett, a BCIT instructor for the Boilermaker program. “Picking up the tuition gives [the Boilermaker] industry a leg up on enticing people to their trade.”

BCIT instructor Russ Osborne is impressed by ATAC’s class sponsorship. “This will cause other industries to look over their shoulders and take note of the Boilermaker industry again leading the way in trades training.”

Joe Kiwior, training coordinator for the Boilermaker industry in British Columbia and a former BCIT instructor, enjoys working with young people who have a strong desire to learn and move forward with their lives.

“Training is the backbone of our industry and we have a 50-year history of apprenticeship,” said Kiwior. “Picking up the tuition cost is another example of how we are demonstrating how much we value training and providing highly-skilled tradespeople to our clients.”

To learn more about the BCIT Boilermaker Foundation Program, visit www.bcit.ca, or contact Kiwior at 604-291-8237.

Russ Osborne (c.) demonstrates the cutting torch to a class of Local 359 apprentices.
International offers new officer training

LOCAL LODGE OFFICERS elected this June will have a unique opportunity to gain knowledge and develop skills to enhance job performance. The Department of Education & Training Services (ETS) will hold five regional training sessions designed especially for new officers.

Coordinated by ETS Director Donald Caswell, these classes target local lodge presidents, financial officers, and trustees, but other elected officers may attend. They provide instruction in how the International and local lodges work together, International policies and legal requirements, bookkeeping and recordkeeping guidelines, conducting the quarterly audit and completing the audit report, occupational safety and health, legislative and political activity, communication skills, and other subjects.

There is no charge for elected lodge officers to attend, but seating is limited, so pre-registration will be required. Transportation and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the lodge. In July, a letter with full information and a registration form will be mailed to all lodges. Lodges may send elected officers to any of the sessions described below, except where limits are given.

In addition to the five sessions offered by the Department of Education & Training Services, Local Lodge 369, in Chicago, is coordinating a training session for new Construction Division business managers in Kansas City, July 28-31.

Information and registration for the new officer training is also available on the Boilermakers Web site, www.boilermakers.org.

New Construction Division Business Manager Training

Attendance is reserved for Construction Business Managers only July 28-31 — Kansas City

For more information, contact Kathy Remack, 913-371-2640

New Officer Training

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

Sept. 8 – 12 – Delta St. John's Hotel, Newfoundland

For officers of Canadian lodges only.

For info, contact: Kim Matthews, 506-634-8203
120 New Gower Street, St. John's, NL
Tel: 709-739-6404 Toll-Free: 888-793-3582
Guest rooms, $171 per night.

Sept. 22 – 26 – Hilton Oak Lawn (Chicago)

9335 S Cicero Avenue, Oak Lawn IL
Tel: 708-425-7800 Fax: 708-425-1665
Guest rooms $111 per night, two double beds; $123, one king.

Sept. 29 – Oct. 3 – Hilton Oakland Airport

One Hegenberger Road, Oakland CA
Tel: 510-635-5000 Fax: 510-383-4090
Guest rooms $139 per night, single or double.

Oct. 20 – 24 – Holiday Inn Select Bucks Country

4700 E Street Rd, Trevose PA
Tel: 1-215-364-2000 Fax: 1-215-3647197
Guest rooms $129 per night, single or double.

(Taken place, now at Local 13 hall 2300 New Falls Rd
Newportville, PA)

Nov. 3 – 7 – Embassy Suites Atlanta Airport

4700 Southport Rd, Atlanta GA
Tel: 404-767-1988 Fax: 404-768-2080
Guest rooms $139 per night, single or double.

Credibility is the key to success

AT A RECENT Labor Arbitration Institute program in Chicago, several arbitrators disclosed that they would have ruled on various grievances. Panel members heard a summary of the grievance, and then each arbitrator explained how he or she would have ruled and why.

Throughout the two-day program, “credibility” came up more than any other word. Grievants and company alike were described as being either credible or not credible in nearly every discussion. And the effect that credibility had on arbitrators was clear. When one side was credible and the other was not, the creditable side nearly always won.

What works in arbitration works at every stage of the grievance process. Stewards with credibility are more likely to negotiate good outcomes for their grievants. But if company supervisors do not trust a steward, negotiations become difficult.

Likewise, grievants who are not credible have difficulty winning. Companies get tough if they don’t trust you. The credibility of witnesses is important as well. If the witness sounds untrustworthy, the company (or the arbitrator) will not give that person’s testimony as much weight as the testimony of someone who is credible.

To build credibility, you need first of all to be honest. Once a person has been caught in a lie, trusting that person is not easy. Often, a single lie can forever ruin your credibility.

A few stewards would even tell an outright lie, but many are tempted to shade the truth or to leave out some information that goes against their case. These actions also undermine your credibility and, ultimately, your effectiveness. You may get away with a little misrepresentation for a while, but once people begin to see that you are not entirely honest, they will stop coming to you for help. You lose and come to believe you don’t care. If you promise to take some action or “look into it,” then you don’t follow through and get back, that member will have difficulty believing your next promise.

If you file a litigious grievance, members will see how often you lose and come to believe you don’t know how to win. When that happens, they will stop coming to you for help — and they will not be inclined to help you when you need member support in a showdown with the company.

In order to be a good steward, you need to have the respect of everyone you deal with — and you cannot get respect without having credibility.

Canadian members attend train-the-trainer program

CLASS PROVIDES HELPFUL tools, advice for steward training

MEMBERS FROM ALL across Canada gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for a train-the-trainer program the week of March 24, as part of the Canadian Steward Certificate Basic Program.

The train-the-trainer program, developed and led by Director of Education and Training Services Donald Caswell and Intl. Rep Richard Machintosh, provides the basic tools stewards and workplace leaders need to successfully represent members of the Boilermakers union. The session prepares local lodge leaders and International reps to train stewards.

Also providing instruction were Director of Construction Division Services Skipper Branscum, who discussed ways to protect Boilermaker jurisdiction, and National Training Coordinator Grant Jacobs, who gave presentation tips.

Jacobs uses an acronym from his university days called ROPES to help guide members through presentation evaluations: Review, Objective, Presentation, Exercise, and Summary.

Participants also received a copy of the Steward Sourcebook, and a PowerPoint presentation they can use for basic steward training in their home lodges.
New contract summaries

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

National Cement Lodge
Effective Dec. 15, 2007 to Dec. 14, 2013, for five members of the National Cement Lodge who work in shipping and maintenance at Cemen, a manufacturer of Portland cement in Neville Island, Pa.

Local 5 — New York
Effective Dec. 1, 2007 to Nov. 30, 2008, for two members of Local 5, New York, who make fiberglass storage tanks at Cardinal Fiberglass Industries Inc.

Local M13 — St. Louis
Effective Aug. 16, 2007 to Aug. 15, 2011, for three members of Local M13, St. Louis, who make stainless steel sinks at Service.

Local 27 — St. Louis
Effective Dec. 17, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2010, for members of Local 27, St. Louis, who work under the Greater St. Louis Steel Plate Fabricator’s Association Memorandum of Understanding. Signatory contractors include the American Iron-Steel Manufacturing Co., Cummings Welding Inc., Kichkam Boiler and Engineering Inc., and Vilberg Victor Inc.

Local 28 — Newark, N.J.
Effective March 1, 2007 to Feb. 28, 2010, for members of Local 28, Newark, N.J., who repair boilers for Bradley-Sciocchetti Inc.

Local 83 — Kansas City, Mo.
Effective Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2011, for members of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., who work for the Midwest Energy Maintenance Co. LLC.

Local 117 — Superior, Wis.
Effective Aug. 1, 2007 to July 31, 2009, for two members of Local 117, Superior, Wis., who weld Davidson pumps and bakery equipment for the Superior-Lidgerwood-Mundy Corp.

Local 128 — Toronto, Ontario
Effective March 1, 2007 to Feb. 28, 2010, for 50 members of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, who work in maintenance at CatTech, a full-service catalyst loading company servicing chemical and refining industries worldwide.

Local D331 — Exshaw, Alberta
Effective Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2011, for 11 members of Local D331, Exshaw, Alberta, who work in the terminal handling cement shipments at Lafarge Canada Inc.

Local D465 — Oklahoma City
Effective June 8, 2007 to May 28, 2010, for 110 members of Local D465, Oklahoma City, who make plastic conduit at Lamson & Sessions.

Local 482 — Wood River, Ill.
On Nov. 27, 2007, members voted to extend their contract by two years to Jan. 31, 2011, for 250 members of Local 482, Alton, Ill., who maintain and repair marine engines and barges for National Maintenance & Repair, a McNational company providing services to the river and rail industries.

Local 483 — Alton, Ill.

Local D523 — Sandersville, Ga.
Effective March 1, 2007 to Feb. 28, 2011, for 17 members of Local D523, Sandersville, Ga., who refine kaolin clay at Imerys Performance Minerals of North America. Imerys, formerly known as the Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co., is a leading international supplier of high-performance minerals. These minerals are used in paint and coatings, inks, building and construction products, plastics, sealants and adhesives, lawn care and landscaping, health, beauty, and nutrition products.

Local D533 — Hagerstown, Md.
Effective Dec. 15, 2007 to Dec. 14, 2011, for 265 members of Local D533, Hagerstown, Md., who make vinyl siding and windows at CertainTeed.

Local 647 — Minneapolis
Effective March 1, 2007 to Feb. 28, 2010, for 57 members of Local 647, Minneapolis, who produce structural steel for use in buildings and bridges at the Egger Steel Co.

Local 651 — Somerville, Mass.
Effective March 24, 2008 to March 21, 2011, for 74 members of Local 651, Somerville, Mass., who perform lift truck repairs at the Northland Industrial Truck Co.

Local 1610 — Wheeling, W.Va.

Letters to the Editor

Family of L-83 member gives thanks, shares message of hope

THE FAMILY OF Micheal Stutzman, Local 83 [Kansas City, Mo.], wishes to thank Local 83 members and members throughout the United States for the cards, memorial flowers, and phone calls we received. A special thanks to those who came to Mike’s visitation and service.

Mike truly loved being a Boilermaker. He was proud of what he did and he did it well. He worked very hard and expected the same from others. He believed in the Brotherhood and that you should all stick together. His greatest wish was that the experienced Boilermakers would pass on those qualities to the young Boilermakers.

JOIE STUTZMAN, widow of Micheal Stutzman, & family
Soldier, Kan.

Justin Haase family thanks members for memorial gifts

THE FAMILY OF Justin Lee Haase would like to thank everyone who contributed to his memorial fund at Eagle State Bank in Eagle, Neb. Justin worked for Local 83 [Kansas City, Mo.] at Nebraska Boiler in Lincoln, Neb. He lost his life in a car accident on Nov. 30, 2007. He had been taking a welding test and was only 10 hours from getting his life insurance and benefits. Justin was just 22 years old and leaves behind a 4-year-old daughter, Maddi.

The Boilermaker family is very kind and we appreciate your thoughtfulness during this very sad time. I am thankful for any of you who got to know my son and his sense of humor. I am putting together a memory box for his daughter. If you have a story you would like to share, please send to rndaughter@yahoo.com.

ROBIN LAPAGE, mother of Justin Haase, and family

Wife of L-83’s Neely says husband was a proud Boilermaker

MY HUSBAND, BILL NEELY, passed away Nov. 12, 2007, of cancer. He was proud to be a member of Local 83 [Kansas City, Mo.]. I’ll never forget when they organized Quinn Machine and Foundry Corp. It was a hard fight, and he was proud to be part of it.

Thank you for taking care of all your union members.

BEV G. NEELY, wife of L-83 member

Got something to say? Send a letter to the editor:

The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Ave Ste 570
Kansas City KS 66101
FAX: (913) 281-8104
E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org
Locals award service pins

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

55 YEARS — Eugene Wick;
30 YEARS — Edward Ryan, Mark Vanderway, Walter Wielicki; and
25 YEARS — August Pusateri.

Local 37 — New Orleans
David Hegeman, BM-ST of Local 37, New Orleans, reports presentation of a membership pin to the following retiree:

35 YEARS — Larry Chapoton.

Local 146 — Edmonton, Alberta
Warren Fraleigh, BM-ST of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

50 YEARS — Albert Milton, James Neufeld, Frank Newman, Earl Sinn;
45 YEARS — Paul Nielsen;
40 YEARS — Richard A. Bright, Gary Bucley, Dyve, Albert Courtemanche, Albert Gaasbeek, E. Norman Grayson, Dieter Hesse, Dalton Issac, Erich Kainer, Darwyn Loring, Richard Pechel, John Peczlik, John D. Spark; and
35 YEARS — Augustus Cluney, James Doyle, Gary Galambos, Bernard House, Frank Klatt, Robert Lee, Manren Lorenzo, Daniel Morrissee, Rene Nielsen, Kevin Power, Sandy Sadden, Michele Spinnelli;

Local 169 — Detroit
Tony Jacobs, BM-ST of Local 169, Detroit, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

65 YEARS — Robert Postlewate, George Radke;
60 YEARS — Donald C. Buchanan, Ger-nard Leblanc, Kyle L. Robinson;
55 YEARS — Robert E. Hoppe, Barney G. Judell, William E. Perry;
50 YEARS — Odis F. White;
45 YEARS — Nickola Basiliscio, William M. Murray;
40 YEARS — Jackie D. Hughes, Donald G. Olson, Stanley S. Lesiak Jr., Bruce L. Neddow;
30 YEARS — Abraham Boulley Jr., Ear-nest (Dale) Goerbig, Ronald Mullet;

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

60 YEARS — Virgil R. Plowman, Richard P. Powell;
50 YEARS — Major L. Hays Jr.;
45 YEARS — George W. Cullom, Norm- man Douad;
35 YEARS — Alfredo Aguirre, Richard S. Willis;

Retirees enjoy luncheon


Local 647 — Minneapolis
Bernard Hillia, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

55 YEARS — Laverne J. Hellem;
50 YEARS — Anthony J. Flygre, Gerald L. Shilts, Ronald L. Thick;
45 YEARS — Robert D. Browne, Larry E. Hansson, Franklin E. Jacobson, Gerald O. Olson, Roland C. Skoog;
35 YEARS — Bertie H. Bakkethun, Dennis L. Frank, William M. Haspel, Lauren T. Hogan, Richard L. Pekoske, Albert L. Perrin Jr., Donald E. Perry, David Yanish;
30 YEARS — James A. Doerr, Warren J. Eiden, Jeffrey B. Erickson, Jerry J. Hartung, Dennis A. Johnson, James H. Kaz, Dennis L. Kraft, Mark L. Knecht, Donald L. Vee, Steven L. Schlosser, Larry Schmidt, Joseph H. Wedrickas;
25 YEARS — Michael C. Barber, David J. Brown, Ben J. Breedlove, Ronald F. Lehrke, Michael J. Norenberg, Gordon O. Olson, Gerald A. Schaf, Timothy J. Thiel, Myron N. Whipple;
20 YEARS — David A. Fettig, Kenneth L. Janssen, Steven W. Karna, Richard P. Klein, Mark L. Knadel, Ronald J. Kobylinski, Gerald E. Olson, David O. Ruprecht, Robert E. Stegmiller, Michael J. Timp, Richard Young, Bradley S. Zellman; and
15 YEARS — Thomas G. Adams, Michael Funston, Ronald A. Miller, Lane R. Steffel, Albert W. Uwellinger, Mark J. Vetter.
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.

Bordner, Harry E.

See IST Deaths page 23
### DEATH BENEFITS

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

**LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT**

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To the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

Note: These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who are covered under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure your lodge records, and contact the Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101, at the earliest possible date.**

If you have any questions, contact the Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101.
## Death Benefits

*Continued from p. 22*

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## Retired IVP Bechtholdt passes

**HENRY W. BECHTHOLDT, 74, retired International Vice President-at-Large for the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers (CLGW) Division, passed away May 16.**

Bechtholdt retired in 1994 following 29 years of service to the labor movement — most of which was spent on the road. At the time of his retirement, Bechtholdt said, “Very few people can make a good living at a job which is a cause they believe in. I’ve been fortunate to have had that opportunity. I owe a lot to the labor movement.”

Bechtholdt served as the first director of the CLGW Division, following the 1984 merger of the Boilermakers union with the United Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers. At the Twenty-Seventh Consolidated Convention in 1986, Bechtholdt was elected International Vice President-at-Large for the CLGW Division, a position he held until his October 1994 retirement.

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## L-112 loses last charter member

**HARWELL MOOSE, 91, the last surviving charter member of Local 112 (Mobile, Ala.) passed away Feb. 21. Moose joined the Boilermakers union in 1933 as a helper, becoming a journeyman in 1937. Following the charter of Local 112 in 1938, Moose worked as an organizer, signing up new members. He also served the lodge as secretary-treasurer and taught at the local’s first welding school.**

“Mr. Moose will be sadly missed by the members of our local,” said L-112 BM-ST Curtis Brooks. “His contribution to Local 112 and the Boilermakers will never be forgotten.”

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## IST-reported deaths

*Continued from p. 21*

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## Moving? Tell us where . . .

### Mail form to:

**International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Union**

753 State Avenue, Suite 565
Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)
GOP candidate promotes corporations and the wealthy over workers

THE CANDIDATE OF Senator John McCain is an enigma. His reputation as a “straight-shooter” and a “maverick” has convinced many Democrats and Independents he would be a welcome change from the current administration. But his voting record and public statements—particularly during the past two years—depict a candidate who offers no change at all.

Since President Bush took office in 2001, McCain has voted to support positions 89 percent of the time. Since January 2007, McCain’s support has grown to 95 percent.

And when you analyze his public statements on the issues that most greatly affect working Americans—the economy, trade, taxes, health care, Social Security, OSHA, prevailing wages, and many others—he begins to sound exactly like Bush.

But apparently many American voters have not figured that out yet. Bush’s approval rating has sunk to 28 percent—in the past 50 years, only Richard Nixon has polled lower. Yet a March 2008 poll gave McCain a 67 percent approval rating among voters. Considering how close their positions are, this survey result does not make sense.

McCain is neither a straight-shooter, nor a maverick.

THIS DISCREPANCY MAY be explained by McCain’s ability to get away with being deceptive. During his 2000 presidential campaign, McCain diabolically had his tour bus use the “Straight-Talk Express,” convincing journalists and the public that he was a rare entity in the political world—a candidate who did not “spin” the truth, but always gave an honest, straightforward answer—even if it made him look bad.

Perhaps, in 2000, he was. Not in 2008.

Today, when he spins like a top, claiming one day that he doesn’t “know as much about economics” as he should, and a month later claiming to be “well-versed in economics.” Then there is his now-infamous claim that General Petraeus goes through the streets of Baghdad “every day” in an unarmed Humvee,” and photographs of McCain’s office later said the general “never forgot the service he gave this country when his plane was shot down in Vietnam and he became a prisoner of the North Vietnamese Army.

But being held captive does not necessarily prepare a person for the White House. We must examine McCain’s votes and his public statements and determine whether he is with working Americans or against us. Using that yardstick and no other, the senator falls short.

McCain supports the wealthy at the expense of workers.

ON ONE ISSUE, we can agree with McCain. He has taken some heat for his support of a cap-and-trade policy that would enable the United States to reduce CO2 emissions while allowing the construction of coal-fired power plants to meet our nation’s growing electrical energy needs. Cap-and-trade can be environmentally friendly while keeping Boilermakers employed, and we are pleased to see he is with us on that issue.

But on almost every other issue, McCain is not with us.

He is not with us on the economy. As recently as January 10 of this year, he still did not believe the economy was moving toward a recession, claiming “I believe the fundamentals of this economy are strong, and I believe they will remain strong.” For millions of working Americans, the recession is already here. The average worker’s wages have gone down since President Bush took office, oil prices are causing everything to go up, and a record 243,000 home mortgages were foreclosed in April—tripled the number of two years ago.

Yet McCain didn’t even bother to vote on the economic stimulus package that sent rebate checks of $600 to $1,200 to most working families. Instead, he proposed a gasoline tax holiday during the summer months. If not paying the 18 cents per gallon federal gas tax would net most families about $30 over a four-month span. If McCain thinks $30 will turn the tide on the national economy or help a working family avoid a foreclosure, he truly doesn’t know as much about economics as he should.

He is not with us on trade. McCain has never voted against a free-trade bill.

In February, he was quoted in the New York Sun as saying, “Free trade is something I think that is vital to the future of America. As a free trader, I will open up every market in the world.”

He is not with us on prevailing wages (Davis-Bacon). McCain has voted to prevent Davis-Bacon being applied in disaster areas and on many occasions has voted to waive Davis-Bacon for specific projects. He voted against a sense-of-Congress resolution stating Davis-Bacon should be maintained.

He is not with us on job creation and infrastructure improvement. In 2004 he voted against highway bills that would have created five million jobs over six years in new highway and transit construction projects. The bills contained Davis-Bacon protections. In 2005 he voted against a six-year infrastructure modernization program that would have created a million family-supporting Davis-Bacon jobs.

He is not with us on overtime protections. In 2004 he supported President Bush’s tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, nearly all the benefits of which went to high-income Americans. The Congressional Budget Office has said the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy will cost the federal government $2 trillion in the next 20 years. He wants to lower the corporate income tax and make permanent Bush’s tax cuts of 2001 and 2003.

He is not with us on Social Security. McCain has said he wasBXW-generated by the BGR

His approach does nothing to bring down health care costs, provides a wind- fall for high-wage families who already have health care, and does not provide enough money for low-wage workers to buy insurance.

He is not with us on workers’ rights. He supports so-called “right-to-work” and opposes the Employee Free Choice Act.

This list could go on, because, on nearly every economic or workplace issue, McCain’s position is not good for working families who pur- chase insurance.

ELEVEN POINTS OF SEPARATION

McCain is NOT with us on these 11 critical issues (and many others)

- THE ECONOMY
- TRADE
- DAVIS-BACON
- INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT
- OVERTIME PROTECTIONS
- OSHA PROTECTIONS
- TAXES
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- MEDICARE
- HEALTH CARE
- WORKER’S RIGHTS

http://capwiz.com/boilermaker
http://www.boilermakers.org

Newton B. Jones
International President

The Boilermaker Reporter
24 - Apr  Jun 2008