L-1509 members upgrade legendary submersible

Workers build crew compartment for Alvin, a deep-ocean research vessel

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1509 (Cudahy, Wis.) are building a new sphere to house people and equipment on a tiny submarine named Alvin, the first submersible to illuminate the rusting hulk of the Titanic.

Commissioned in June 1964, Alvin was also the first submersible to carry scientists nearly three miles deep, where strange sea creatures live in total darkness. The vessel will be replaced by a more advanced submersible built in part by Boilermakers at Ladish Forging. However, the new Alvin, costing $50 million, may not be completely finished until 2015. In the meantime, the original Alvin body will be upgraded with the new personnel sphere. The upgrade will enable scientists to work longer and deeper, taking more samples.

See SUBMARINE, page 4

Tripartite conference addresses climate change, referral system

Substance abuse, rigging, manpower tracking, also top alliance’s agenda

PARTNERS IN THE MOST National Tripartite Alliance met at the 23rd annual conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Oct. 13-16 to address issues that are vital to the future of the member organizations. The alliance comprises the Boilermakers union, the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE), and the owner community.

More than 400 alliance representatives attended.

A primary topic was the future of coal as an energy source. Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones opened the conference with a discussion of climate change and the search for a solution to greenhouse gas emissions. He pointed out that, at last year’s conference, alliance members were deeply concerned about the ability to supply manpower for all the coal-powered generation stations being planned. That concern has diminished somewhat today.

“While we still have much work ahead of us, many of those coal-powered boiler projects have been cancelled,” he said. “What worked yesterday does not always work today, and it may need to be rethought.”

See TRIPARTITE, page 2
“If we don’t develop and implement the technologies that allow us to burn coal more cleanly, who will?”

— IP Newton B. Jones

Int'l. Pres. Newton B. Jones stresses the importance of clean coal technology.

“We don’t develop and implement the technologies that allow us to burn coal more cleanly, who will?” he asked.

Jeffrey Phillips, Ph.D., a senior project manager with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), gave the conference an overview of technologies being studied for carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the electric power industry.

He reviewed pre-combustion, post-combustion, and oxy-combustion methods of isolating CO2 at coal-powered plants. He also described how CO2 could be permanently stored underground in saline and depleted oil formations.

Phillips said the electric energy industry has a tremendous opportunity to recover much of the cost involved in capturing CO2. This can be done by selling CO2 to oil companies to enhance oil recovery from hard-to-reach or nearly depleted reservoirs. In this process, CO2 is pumped into the reservoirs, forcing oil out. Enhanced extraction is not new; however, the marketing of CO2 for this purpose by electric utilities is in its infancy.

Phillips cited Department of Energy estimates that there are enough oil fields that could benefit from enhanced oil extraction to handle the CO2 output of 45 new 500-MW, coal-fired power plants. The U.S. Department of Energy, together with EPRI and several other organizations (including Babcock & Wilcox) are working on making a 1,400-degrees F steam turbine coal plant a reality.

Breehey discusses greenhouse gas “politics”

Abe Breehey, director of Legislative Affairs for the Boilermakers, spoke about the political implications of reducing greenhouse gas or “GHG” emissions.

Breehey noted that whether or not people agree on the existence of climate change — and mankind’s role in it — governments are accepting that something must be done. He noted that both Senator Barack Obama and Senator John McCain have proposed legislation to address GHG emissions.

“The goal of the Boilermakers is to shape the debate and policy in ways that are good for our union and good for our alliance partners,” he said. “That means achievable, realistic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that minimize job losses and economic dislocations, and most importantly minimize fuel-switching for power generation from coal to natural gas.” Switching away from coal as a power source could lead to abandoning some older, coal-fired power plants rather than upgrading them, costing Boilermakers future work.

The Boilermakers have been active in promoting sensible climate change policy on Capitol Hill. Breehey, who has testified before the Senate Finance Committee on this issue, said Boilermakers and the AFL-CIO support a cap-and-trade law. Such a law would create “carbon credits” and set limits on the amount of CO2 industries could emit. These limits would be lowered over time. Plants that exceed the limits would need to buy carbon credits (also called “allowances”) from those that stay below the threshold. A government auction of these allowances would create a market for industries to buy, sell, or bank the credits.

The overall aim of cap-and-trade is to provide an incentive for companies to reduce their CO2 emissions. It would enable them to do so gradually, so firms do not suddenly abandon older facilities, causing job loss and economic disruption.

Breehey said the Boilermakers want to see utilities receive a certain amount of free allowances. Furthermore, some of the revenues generated by cap-and-trade should be returned to the industry in the form of tax credits for carbon capture and storage as well as other technologies to reduce emissions.

He added, “If the direction in which this policy moves — where we are auctioning off carbon allowances — it’s very important for our union that labor standards are part of the deal. Construction projects funded in part by revenue from the allowance auction should be covered under Davis-Bacon. This biggest infrastructure investment we’ve seen since the interstate highway system.”

Progress continues on referral system upgrade

IP JONES LAID out a vision of how the Boilermaker referral process can be upgraded so that all locals use the same system, one that is automated and can be accessed from anywhere in the world where there is an Internet connection.

“In my view, the technologies are finally available to us to build a system that will accomplish all of the good things that our current system offers our members and our partners — and corrects many of the bad things that our current system allows,” he said.

The systems envisioned will be centralized and will allow each local lodge and each individual member to have an account. Members will be able to have an account. Members will be able to

Reducing global warming emissions “could be the biggest infrastructure investment we’ve seen since the interstate highway system.”

— Abe Breehey, Director, Legislative Affairs

Building 45 new coal-fired plants with CO2 capture and using the CO2 for enhanced oil extraction would double U.S. oil production.

— Jeffrey Phillips, Ph.D., EPRI
L-154 BM Ray Ventrone discusses substance abuse intervention.

abuse. She explained the effects of various drugs, the excuses people give for testing positive, false positives, and the length of time it takes commonly-used drugs to clear the body.

Ventrone described some of the most dangerous drugs, including Ecstasy, which "will actually cook your body from the inside out if you overdose" and will "eat holes in your brain."

First Energy's Larry Wargo describes a successful outage project using tripartite principles.

spencer said train-the-trainer programs are being offered in all of the International vice-presidential areas. "We conducted a session in Pittsburgh [Northeast Area] in August and in Chicago [Great Lakes Area] during the last of September. The thing that struck me is the interest from the instructors at those classes. When they are this enthusiastic, you know it's going to work."

Spencer said train-the-trainer courses for the Western States and Southeast Areas were scheduled for later in 2008.

— Larry Wargo, consultant for contractor services at FirstEnergy Corp., provided an update on the MOST manpower tracking system. The system is an initiative designed to give tripartite partners real-time data on how construction Boilermakers are allocating projects around the country. It enables users to understand manpower demand on local, regional, and national levels. Wargo said the system now contains data from all but one or two con

TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE

October 2008

The Boilermaker Reporter - 3

Pat Pizzo, with Kroll Laboratory Specialists, explains drug toxicology.

able to log on to update qualifications, availability, and personal information. Dispatchers will be able to view manpower availability; sort members by classification, MOST certifications, and other criteria; and assign members to jobs in real time. Contractors will have limited access, allowing them to study manpower trends and availability. The referral system could be integrated with other automated databases such as the MOST manpower tracking system.

Jones said he will appoint committees to determine the criteria for referral rules, which will undergo some changes. "We will have a joint referral committee as we do now, to make the final decision as to how the criteria will be established and how the referral system will operate. But we need to get it online; we need to get it in place. I think it will be a much better system to provide our contractors and the owner community with qualified, skilled labor.

To give tripartite members an idea of how a centralized, automated referral system might work, Jayne Clemence of JBS Systems demonstrated an automated traveler’s list for U.S. Boilermakers. The demo software is based on a successful traveler’s list system JBS developed for Canadian Boilermakers. Clemence showed how individuals could access and update their accounts, and how dispatchers could sort data and assign members to jobs online.

The key benefit is that it’s easy to use," she said. “A member can access his or her account from anywhere, even from the comfort of home. And they’ll save money and time, so they don’t have to physically travel to a lodge to add their names to a list. This will also provide locals and their dispatchers with a nationwide system of members who are willing to travel in the U.S. to work.”

Jones said the automated traveler’s list forms "the basis for the full system" that will incorporate all of the various work lists. "I think it’s going to be great for us. It’s going to solve a lot of problems that we have, simply by getting it all on one system and having it nationwide."

Speakers address other issues

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS heard from speakers on a range of other topics — from substance abuse to a new rigging initiative, to the status of the manpower tracking system.

— Pat Pizzo, director of toxicology at Kroll Laboratory Specialists, discussed drugs and alcohol from the viewpoint of job-related screening for substance recovery programs.

Marty Spencer, Special Asst. to the Intl. Pres., explains the new MOST rigging program.

moving addicted members into rehab, post-rehab or "after care" attention, and ongoing support to keep addicts clean and sober.

Ventrone told the conference that his local is willing to assist other lodges across the country in setting up their own substance abuse committees — including traveling on-site.

— Marty Spencer, Special Asst. to the Intl. Pres., reviewed the new rigging training program recently rolled out under the MOST umbrella. Spencer said the program has been well received. It comprises four eight-hour modules and features extensive course materials and training aids, including DVD videos, job site photos on CDs, tests, and handouts.

First Energy's Larry Wargo describes a successful outage project using tripartite principles.

construction locals. Current plans call for contractors and owners to get access to the system by the end of 2008.

Wargo also told conference participants about an outage at his company’s Bruce Mansfield power plant near Pittsburgh in Oct. 2007. Because the job occurred in the peak outage season, project managers found themselves about 100 craft workers short, including about 70-80 welders. The project was on a tight, 10-week schedule. Wargo credited exceptional planning, communication, flexibility, and superb craftsmanship and production in bringing the project to completion three days early and under budget.

“The project exemplifies what the tripartite arrangement of owner, contractor, and union labor can accomplish. All three parties understood the plan, and communicated throughout its execution.”

Area tripartite bodies report

THE FIVE AREA tripartite alliances provided short summaries of their operations during the last year. Making the presentations were, for the Northeast Area and the Ohio Valley, IR-GO Marty Stanton; for Eastern Canada, IR-GO Kent Oliver; for the Southeast Area, IR-GO Steve Speed; for the Upper Midwest, IR-GO Tony Palmisano; and for the Western States, AIP Kyle Everson.

Join the Union Sportmen’s Alliance

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about — perhaps even addicted to — hunting, fishing, or spending time outdoors? If so, where do you turn when you want to know what other hunters are planting in their food plots, which shotgun or rod works best, where to find union-owned outfitting services offering discounts to union members, or how to share your bizarre outdoor experience or pick up a new hunting or fishing joke?

The answer is easy: The Union Sportmen’s Alliance (USA), a hunting and fishing club created exclusively for union members, retirees, and their families. Thanks to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), the international Brotherhood of Boilermakers, and 19 other AFL-CIO unions, hunters and anglers now have their own club to connect with union members across the United States and Canada who share a love for the great outdoors.

Through a monthly e-newsletter, an interactive Web site, and a soon-to-launch outdoor newspaper, club membership in the USA offers you a portal to share stories and photos, trade trips, buy or sell gear, and learn from the experiences and mistakes of fellow hunters and anglers.

Membership also brings you access to money-saving deals and discounts, special offers, and chances to win fantastic giveaways throughout the year, including a Triton boat, a Beretta Al391 Uno, 2 Gold shotgun, Buck knives, and more.

For more information, visit UnionSportsmen.org or call toll-free at 1-877-USA-2211.
**L-D27’s dispute with Lafarge draws attention at Paris meeting**

**Local struggles to preserve retiree health care benefits**

THE STRUGGLE of Local D27 members (Independence, Mo.) to keep French-owned Lafarge from cutting retiree health care benefits during collective bargaining reached an international forum in Paris Oct. 3 and 4. Lafarge employs 55 Local D27 members at its Sugar Creek, Mo., cement plant.

Warren Fairley, IVP-Industrial Sector, brought the matter to the attention of the forum, which includes Lafarge, Swiss-owned Holcim, the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers’ Unions (ICEM), and the Building and Wood Workers International Federation (BWI).

The BWI published a report about Local D27’s plight on its Web site. The local also issued a press release on the situation.

Lafarge and Local D27 last met in contract talks Oct. 7. The company notified the union Oct. 20 that it will declare an impasse. Employers often follow such declarations with the unilateral implementation of their contract proposal. Meanwhile, ICEM has requested another meeting with Lafarge in Paris.

**SUBMARINE**

The members began to shape each hemisphere by first heating a six-inch-thick, 11-foot-wide titanium disk. They had to move fast, as a piece that large cools quickly. While the disk was still blistering hot, they rammed a giant press into it to form a giant cup. What took literally seconds to form will now take up to two years to complete.

The two cups will be forged, welded together, machined, and heat treated. Five viewing ports (the old Alvin has three) will be cut out. Then the testing will begin.

The completed personnel sphere will measure seven feet across — one foot wider than its predecessor. Its volume will be 18 percent larger, allowing twice as much room for equipment and a little more room for passengers.

At Ladish Forging, L-1509 members heat up one of two titanium disks they will mold into hemispheres.

**Local 726 strike ends, expenses remain**

Lodge struggles with legal fees, other costs

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 726 (Owensboro, Ky.) began returning to work Sept. 26 ending their eight-week strike against Daramic, a manufacturer of battery separators. Union employees agreed to work under the old contract, which expired in April, for a period of 18 months. In the meantime, negotiations for a new contract will resume.

The 163-member lodge struck Aug. 6 after five months of negotiations hung up over vague company proposals to consolidate jobs and after seniority rights. Local 726 President Jeff Campbell said his members are concerned that the proposals could be harmful to older workers — and could be an attempt to “weed out employees.”

Intl. Rep David Lawrence said, “These members have concerns about how cross-training will affect safety. They are concerned also that those who are not eligible for cross-training will be laid off.”

Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones has authorized Local 726 to request support from other Boilermaker locals to help defray legal fees and other expenses incurred during the strike.

Local lodge or individual contributions may be made to the Local 726 Strike Relief Fund, Attn: Larry Sims, L-726 Sec.-Treas., 1115 Mapleleaf Ct., Owensboro, KY 42301.

**International wins six ILCA awards**

“The Reporter” competes with other labor publications

THE BOILERMAKERS’ Communication Department won a first-place award, a second-place award, and four third-place awards from the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) for work performed in 2007. All six awards were for excellence in newspaper publishing.

“The Reporter” competed at the national/international level with other labor publications. It took first place in the “best informational graphic” category and second for “best political action story.” It won third-place for “general excellence,” “best publication design,” “best editorial or column,” and “best publication.”

Founded in 1955, the ILCA is the professional organization of labor communicators in North America. Its several hundred members produce publications with a total circulation in the millions.
Boilermaker-backed candidates win

Activist locals lead by example, help elect Obama and other pro-worker candidates

IT SHOULD COME as no surprise that a Boilermaker appeared in Barack Obama’s half-hour, prime-time television commercial that aired Oct. 29, an ad that was seen by more than 33 million viewers. After all, Boilermaker volunteers across the country worked tirelessly to push for working family candidates and the promise of change.

The Boilermaker in that commercial was Fred Chamberlain, Sec.-Treas. of Local 19 (Philadelphia). Chamberlain appears in a segment that was filmed just before the Pennsylvania primary election back in March. In that clip, Obama addresses a small group at the West Avenue Grille in Jenkintown, Pa. “Four of us from the shipyard took a day of vacation and went up there to campaign for Obama and for Tim Murphy [U.S. Congressman, 18th-District, PA],” Chamberlain recalled. The Obama campaign picked Chamberlain to take part in the commercial. “At the time, I had no idea how that commercial would be used — or that it would later become part of the half-hour ad.”

Chamberlain is one of the many members who donated their time and energy to changing the political direction of this country. And Local 19 is one of the many locals that got behind worker-friendly candidates during the 2007-08 election cycle.

Evidence of Boilermaker activity can be seen in the videos that have appeared on YouTube, a popular video-sharing Web site, and on the AFL-CIO Web site. In one clip, Jim Chase, President of Local 2910 (Portsmouth, N.H.), appears at a Labor Day breakfast in Manchester, N.H. Chase is seen urging union voters to back Obama, saying, “This is the most important election of my lifetime.” In another clip, Local 29 (Boston) member Ed Gorham, who is also president of the Maine AFL-CIO, describes in one word what change means to him: “Jobs!”

Other clips show Boilermakers talking about jobs and workplace issues. Mike Griffith, a member of Local D263 (Clark, Nev.) explains his concerns about free trade; at Local 696 (Marietta, Wis.) members pass out leaflets supporting worker issues as a night shift comes on at the shipyard; and in Colorado, IR Jim Cooksey leaflets the Comanche Power Plant in Pueblo, Colo. “The efforts of our locals and our members in this historic election have been nothing short of phenomenal,” said Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones. “There can be no doubt that Boilermaker activism — and the work of organized labor as a whole — helped win key races for pro-worker candidates and helped put a strong union supporter in the White House. I know I speak for all the International officers in saying that we’re proud of the work done by our members, our locals, and the Department of Government Affairs (DGA) during this long election cycle.”

DGA Director Bridget Martin said, “This year’s campaign was the largest, broadest, and most targeted effort in Boilermaker history. We ran a nine-month mobilization program to engage our members on the economy, energy, pensions, health care, and other issues important to working families. Our program reached union members, members of union households, and retirees. The Boilermakers engaged in three gubernatorial races, 13 Senate races, and 60 House contests, as well as the presidential race.

“Over the course of the campaign, Boilermakers made phone calls, knocked on doors, delivered flyers at worksites, and sent local union mail. The International also made phone calls and sent mail to targeted union households in critical battleground states. More union members heard from our union this election cycle than ever before. And thanks to voluntary financial contributions from our members, we helped fund the campaigns of pro-worker House and Senate candidates.”

Unions show strength beyond their numbers

AS A PERCENTAGE of U.S. workers, union members have dwindled to about 12 percent (from a high of 35 percent in the 1950s). But you wouldn’t know that come election time. Unions — including Boilermakers — know how to mobilize and get out the vote. In battleground (or “swing” states), AFL-CIO union members supported Obama by more than 2-to-1. On Election Day, 70 percent of union members viewed Obama positively, according to polling.

To get a sense of the magnitude of union political involvement, consider just one of the swing states, Pennsylvania. The state’s AFL-CIO Council reported that, with four days left before the election, labor had already placed more than one million phone calls to union members and their families, knocked on over 600,000 doors, and distributed 3.5 million union flyers to over 500 worksites.

“Your campaign was the largest, broadest, and most targeted effort in Boilermaker history.”

— Bridget Martin

Director, Government Affairs

Nationswide, union volunteers made 76 million phone calls, knocked on 14 million doors, and delivered 29 million flyers at worksites. The AFL-CIO and its affiliate unions sent 57 million pieces of mail to union households this year. As a result of this effort, 84 percent of union members in battleground states said they heard from their union this election cycle.

Boilermaker locals and their members played a big role in Pennsylvania, as they did in other swing states and across the country. Boilermakers received media attention in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Virginia.

Virginia became one of the most closely-watched swing states in the nation. The Boilermakers’ own Cecile Conroy, Research and Legislative Assistant to the DGA Director, served as the AFL-CIO’s Labor 2008 director in that state. Conroy led labor’s successful effort there, helping turn Virginia from red to blue. Virginia went for Obama, and pro-worker candidates picked up three seats in the U.S. House and one in the U.S. Senate.

Brotherhood anticipates seat at the table

IN ANNOUNCING the Brotherhood’s early endorsement of Barack Obama, IP

See ELECTION, page 6
Bill Coleman, President of Local 1620 (Portland, Ind.), and 6-year-old Bryce Martin launch the Boilermakers for Obama blimp at a rally in Manassas, Va., Nov. 3.

Bill Coleman, President of Local 1620 (Portland, Ind.), and 6-year-old Bryce Martin launch the Boilermakers for Obama blimp at a rally in Manassas, Va., Nov. 3.

West Virginia Governor Manchin honors Sistersville Mayor David Fox

DAVID FOX, a seven-year member of Local 667 (Charleston, W.Va.), was recently re-elected to his second term as mayor of Sistersville, W.Va. He was also awarded a certificate of recognition from the state of West Virginia for his “outstanding service to both the city of Sistersville and Tyler County.”

“There’s no special criteria [for the award],” said Matt Turner, press secretary for Gov. Manchin. “When someone has done something above and beyond . . . their call of duty to serve their city, county, and state, it deserves to be recognized. His [Mayor Fox’s] accomplishments were brought to Gov. Manchin’s attention and he agreed.”

Fox organized the Tyler County Mayors Association. Four area mayors meet monthly to brainstorm and discuss problems each town or city may have. The association allows the communities to work together and share equipment. Fox also serves as a member of the Tyler County Development Board and writes a weekly article in the county paper updating readers on what is being accomplished in the city and county.

Even though Fox attends at least three (sometimes as many as 12) meetings a week, he still works as a Boilermaker in power plants in West Virginia and Ohio.

Local 667 member earns award for political service

ELECTION

continued from p. 5

Jones described how long and hard he and the International Executive Council weighed the merits of the various candidates. Ultimately, that decision was based on who would best serve the interest of Boilermaker members and the country as a whole.

The qualities of Barack Obama — his support for labor unions, his commitment to the Employee Free Choice Act, his backing of clean coal technology, his desire to protect pensions, and his many other pro-worker positions — made him the logical choice.

“The Boilermakers’ commitment and support have not been lost on the Obama-Biden ticket,” said IP Jones into a tent where an inner circle of supporters (called a “clutch”) gathered. “You will have a seat at the table,” Biden told Jones. “We will not forget labor unions.”

Then, on Nov. 3, in Manassas, Va., at his last rally before the election, Sen. Obama also invited Jones into the clutch. Outside the tent, the Boilermakers’ RV — which has been a symbol of the Brotherhood’s support for Obama — sat alongside the Obama motorcade. The crowd on that day swelled to 90,000 people.

“Sen. Obama thanked me personally in Manassas for the work our locals and our members have done for him,” said Jones. “As president-elect, he now will begin to assess and prepare for the challenges facing our country. As he does so, I am confident that he will give the Brotherhood and all unions a fair hearing on the issues that are vital to us.”

YOU WILL HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE. WE WILL NOT FORGET LABOR UNIONS.

— Joe Biden, Vice President-Elect

New lodge officers attend training

Program held in five cities in United States and Canada

2008 WAS AN election year — not only for the governments of Canada and the United States, but also for Boilermaker local lodges in both countries. While U.S. lodges must hold elections every three years, Canadian lodges do so every five years. Occasionally, the Boilermaker local lodge election cycles coincide, as they did in 2008.

There is no training program (unfortunately) for newly-elected politicians, but there is for newly-elected Boilermaker local lodge officers. From September to November, the Boilermakers’ Department of Education and Training Services sponsored four sessions in the United States and one in Canada.

This training covered the legal foundations of unions, duties of officers, local lodge bylaws, committees and meetings, political action, safety and health, communication skills, and handling financial obligations. Participants learned how to do a thorough quarterly audit by conducting a mock audit.

Participants in the 2008 New Officer Training in St. John’s, Newfoundland, included Cement District Lodge D11 Assistant Bus. Agent Kevin Forsyth; Local 73 (Halifax, Nova Scotia) chairman of trustees Kevin Wood; and trustees Lloyd Raiche and Dominic Duguay; Local 129 (Toronto, Ontario) President David Lewis; Recording Sec. Ben Gouche; chairman of trustees Kenny Kilday; and trustees Colin Docherty and Frank Robinson; Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) inspector Blair Savoie; Local 285 (St. John’s, Newfoundland) inspector Wayne Searle; Local D274 (Winnipeg, Manitoba) President Dwayne Bochen; Local D277 (Brampton, British Columbia) ST Cabo Haide; Local 359 (Vancouver, British Columbia) President John Cole; ST Ken Noga; and trustees Dave Braithwaite and Al Dingwall; Local D66 (Mississauga, Ontario) ST Dave Lenarduzzi and plant union chairman George Ribble; Local D835 (Vancouver, British Columbia) ST Ken Fenske; Local D486 (New Westminster, British Columbia) ST Steve Holt; Local D913 (Edmonton, Alberta) ST Michael Reiko; Local 532 (Regina, Saskatchewan) President Curtis Nessel; ST Leonard Brodmann, and trustee Perry Lindgren; Local 555 (Winnipeg, Manitoba) President Marc Lagasse; Recording Sec. Nathan Ebenal; trustee Mike LeFley, and sergeant-at-arms Andrew Levesque; and Local D579 (Lettis, Nova Scotia) President Laurier Prozeran and ST Glen Cantfield.

Participants in the 2008 New Officer Training in Chicago included Local 98 (Equality, Ill.) President Greg Fort, Vice President Rodney Shires, ST Keith Clayton, and trustees Mark Malone and Troy Young; Local D27 (Independence, Mo.) President J. David Hermon and Recording Sec. Bernard Brunig; Local 66 (Little Rock, Ark.) chairman of trustees John Mansker and trustee Kevin Chastain; Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) chairman of trustees Joe Lewandowski; Local 84 (Paloa, Kan.) President Brent Mitzner and ST Doug Damon; Local D239 (Three Forks, Mont.) President Randy Tochi and Recording Sec. Nick Allen; Local D357 (Fairborn, Ohio) ST David Silcott and Recording Sec. Brett Silcott; Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.) President William Lopez, Recording Sec. Eric Estes, and chairman of trustees Sean Burke; Local D421 (Tulsa, Okla.) President Kevin Conoveritch and ST Rebecca Thompson; Local 443 (Mantowoc, Wis.) ST William Johnson and trustees Dave Kaczrowski; Local 449 (Sturgeon Bay, Wis.) VP Mark Heitmbecher; ST Rodney Gallertich, chairman of trustees Gary Combs, and trustees Randy Gossen and Joshua Mastalliri; Local D979 (Genoa, Ohio) ST Alfred Reyes; Local 647 (Miltonoplis) President Kory Olson and chairman of trustees Luke Voight; Local 650 (Lake City, Minn.) President Roy Demegli Local 1247 (Chicago) President Jesse Butler, VP James Young, ST Leroy Sykes, Recording Sec. Marco Robles, and inspector Roberto Cabrera; and Local 1620 (Portland, Ind.) President William Coleman, chairman of trustees Mark Sharone, and trustees Mike Chapman and Sean Landess.

Participants in the 2008 New Officer Training in Oakland, Calif., included Local 4 (Paseo, Ariz.) President Lester Begay, VP Burke Gehrig, chairman of trustees Frank Luxen Jr., and trustees Lionel Benally and Ernest Coleman; Local 6 (Oakland, Calif.) business rep. Juan D. Garcia; Local D37 (Seattle) ST Dale Ryker; Local D46 (Santa Cruz, Calif.) President Eric Kato, ST Cynthia Reyes, and trustee Dimitrios Tsevolos; Local 90 (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii) ST Keola Marz; Local 104 (Seattle) President Dean Calhoun, VP Sheldon Murray, Recording Sec. Kathleen See TRAINING PARTICIPANTS, page 8
Canada improves training for Aboriginals

Renewed funding for Native American program is announced at Local 146 hall

TRADE WINDS TO SUCCESS — a training program funded by Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) and renewal of its funding May 23 at the Boilermakers’ Local 146 hall in Edmonton, Alberta. The project will provide Aboriginals with career decision-making, pre-apprenticeship intervention; and personal and academic support to prepare them for careers in the construction trades.

ASEP’s objective is sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic industries, leading to lasting benefits for their communities and families.

“This is the second generation of this program,” reports L-146 BM-ST Warren Fraleigh. “The first program was initiated in 2004 and ran until 2008. The program has now been renewed for another four or five years. During the first program, we trained 70 candidates in both Edmonton and Calgary, with better than 90 percent of the candidates being successful. We would hope that numbers for the new program would be similar.”

The government of Canada is contributing up to $4.5 million for the project. In addition, Aboriginal organizations, the Union Training Trust Fund, and the government of Alberta are all partners in this initiative. Total funding could reach up to $10 million over five years.

According to Fraleigh, Local 146 is reimbursed for program expenses based on a per person formula. “There is no cost to the local to conduct the training, and we end up with some very solid candidates for our apprenticeship program. The candidates receive eight weeks of pre-apprenticeship training in all aspects of the trade with a focus on safety that allows them to hit the ground running.”
Locals 359, 532, 555 members participate in steward training programs

Steward Sourcebook

Information requests are valuable tool

They can be used for more than just gathering facts

TO HANDLE A GRIEVANCE properly, you need a lot of information. Often your search for facts will lead you to make a request to your employer for information they have on file.

Employers have a legal obligation to provide information that union stewards need in order to handle a grievance or to negotiate changes in working conditions not covered by the collective bargaining agreement.

The company may initially resist turning over the documents and other items you seek, but an outright refusal to comply with a legitimate request can result in an unfair labor practice charge.

Stewards can request a wide range of documents, data, and other materials, as long as they are relevant to the grievance. Items requested might include accident reports, attendance records, disciplinary records, OSHA logs, time cards, vacation requests, work rules — even photographs and drawings.

For disciplinary grievances, it’s a good idea to request the entire contents of the grievant’s personnel file and the names of other employees who have committed similar offenses, along with the penalties imposed on them.

To get the most out of your information request, here are some things to consider:

- **Make your request in writing.** Employers often stall responding to requests or do not provide all the information requested. You may need written evidence of when you made the request and exactly what you asked for.
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Often your search for facts will lead you to make a request to your employer for information they have on file.

Employers have a legal obligation to provide information that union stewards need in order to handle a grievance or to negotiate changes in working conditions not covered by the collective bargaining agreement.

The company may initially resist turning over the documents and other items you seek, but an outright refusal to comply with a legitimate request can result in an unfair labor practice charge.

Stewards can request a wide range of documents, data, and other materials, as long as they are relevant to the grievance. Items requested might include accident reports, attendance records, disciplinary records, OSHA logs, time cards, vacation requests, work rules — even photographs and drawings.

For disciplinary grievances, it’s a good idea to request the entire contents of the grievant’s personnel file and the names of other employees who have committed similar offenses, along with the penalties imposed on them.

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Information requests are an important tool in the steward’s toolbox. You can’t argue a case well unless you have all the facts. Like every interaction you have with your employer, a professionally-handled information request raises your credibility — with the company and, if the grievance goes to arbitration, with the arbitrator as well.

Sometimes making an information request can yield results even though you never get the information. If the company doesn’t want to release the information, or if complying with the request would be burdensome, they may be willing to agree to a reasonable compromise on the grievance to avoid giving you the information. However, don’t make an overly broad or burdensome request just to have something to bargain with. The law doesn’t protect “fishing expeditions,” nor do you have the right to information that you cannot clearly link to the grievance in question.

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If you have suggestions for topics or would like to contribute an article for this column, please contact the Reporter editorial office or e-mail Donald Caswell at dcaswell@boilermakers.org. The editors also welcome nominations for Star Steward recognition.
APPRENTICE NEWS

REGIONAL APPRENTICE COMPETITIONS

Northeast & Great Lakes

Goodwin and Cawley win Northeast; Zeman and Avery win Great Lakes

THE NORTH EAST AND GREAT LAKES AREAS HELD THEIR ANNUAL GRADUATE APPRENTICE COMPETITIONS JUNE 15-17 AT LOCAL 13 (PHILADELPHIA) FACILITIES IN NEWPORT NEWS, VA. LOCALS 13 AND 28 (NEWARK, N.J.) HOSTED THE EVENT.

DONALD GOODWIN OF LOCAL 154 (PITTSBURGH) AND JOHN CAVELLY OF LOCAL 13 PLACED FIRST AND SECOND, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE NORTHEAST AREA BOILERMAKER APPRENTICE PROGRAM (NEABAP) COMPETITION.

RICHARD ZEMAN OF LOCAL 647 (MINNEAPOLIS) AND MATTHEW AVERY OF LOCAL 85 (TOLEDO, OHIO) PLACED FIRST AND SECOND, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE GREAT LAKES AREA BOILERMAKER APPRENTICE PROGRAM (GLABAP) COMPETITION.

THE TOP TWO FINISHERS IN EACH CATEGORY WERE CHOSEN AS NATIONAL RUNNER-UP. THE TWO MEN ALSO WON THE TEAM COMPETITION.

Also competing in the NEABAP contest were Daniel Badiali, Local 263; Christopher Carpenter, Local 667 (Runner-up); Herschel Brown, Local 26; Brent Sexton, Local 105; and Asbury Waltz IV, Local 687. Back row, l. to r.: Brian Coln, Local 13 apprentice; William Swift, Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.); and Robert E. Theisen, Local 169 (Detroit).

Union judges for the NEABAP contest were Howie Anderson, L-28 welding instructor; Ernie Dorsely, L-193 BM-ST; Nick Gushue, L-13 welding instructor; Bob Heine, Intl. Rep.; James Horky, L-194 retiree; Phil Homburger, L-197 welding instructor; Ray Orsi, L-154 welding instructor; Bob Pandori, L-197 welding instructor; and Michael Stanton, L-154 welding instructor.

Construction judges included Mike Bray, Shelby Mechanical Inc.; John Cammuso, Babcock Power Inc.; Peter Carey, Boiler Erection & Repair; John Carey Sr., Boiler Erection & Repair; Larry Ross, NAES Power Contractors; and Matthew Schmitt, Simakas Brothers Co.

The two top finishers in each contest went on to represent their areas in the national contest in Kansas City, Kan., Sept. 23-25. Avery won that competition, and Zeman was the national runner-up. The two men also won the team competition.

Nine construction judges participated in the event this year. Other graduate apprentices competing in the three-day event included Susanne Donahue, Local 11 (Helena, Mont.); Patrick Collins, Local 92; David Ulh, Local 101 (Denver); Jacob Carver, Local 500 (Salem, Ore.); Johnny Brown, Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.); and Carrie Sanders, Local 627 (Phoenix).

Western States

Rosas takes top spot, Van Dam places second

JEREMY ROSAS OF LOCAL 242 (SPOKANE, WASH.) WON THE JAMES F. PRECHT AWARD AS THE TOP APPRENTICE IN THE 21ST ANNUAL WESTERN STATES AREA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE APPRENTICE COMPETITION HELD MAY 12-14 AT LOCAL 242. BRIAN VAN DAM OF LOCAL 182 (SALT LAKE CITY) PLACED SECOND.

The Greg Streblow Scholastic Award went to Lionel Benally of Local 4 (Page, Ariz.), and the Don Lacerfield Local 242 Apprentice of the Year Award went to Local 29 (Los Angeles).

Nine construction judges participated in the event this year. Other graduate apprentices competing in the southern area apprentice contestants include, l. to r.: Matthew Avery, Local 85 (Area runner-up and later national award winner); John Swift, Local 374; Robert E. Theisen, Local 169; and Richard Zeman, Local 647 (Area winner and later national runner-up).

Southeast

Local 40 places first for third consecutive year


Winning the 40th annual event entitled the two men to compete in the national contest Sept. 21-25 in Kansas City, Kan.

Other graduate apprentices competed in the Southeast Area apprentice contest included Brian Colon, Local 263 (Memphis, Tenn.); Herschel Brown, Local 26 (Savannah, Ga.); Brent Sexton, Local 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio); Ashbury Waltz IV, Local 687; Charles Collins, Local 549 (Salt Lake City, S.C.); and Zephyr Salazar, Local 549 (Salt Lake City, S.C.).

Union judges for the contest were Intl. Rep. William “Dusty” Garmon and retired Intl. Reps Barry Edwards, William Eldor, Gene Lefley, and Louis Novak. Contractor judges included Chuck Harvey, B&W Const.; Randall James, M&D Const.; Kelly Lykins, Enerfab; Jeff Sutherland, APC Power; and Scott Stoghi, Enerfab. SAJAC Coordinator Mike McCluskey served as the testing coordinator.

Mike Peterson, SAJAC Director, said this was the fifth year in a row that the welding segment of the competition did not affect the overall outcome. Every contestant did well on the test. He added, “We want to thank the members of Local Lodge 433 and Business Manager James Barnes for hosting the competition and a dinner for the participants. And we’d like to thank H&S Tool and F&M Mafco for once again loaning the equipment used in the competition.”

Other graduate apprentices competing in the annual Western States Area Outstanding Apprentice Contest include, l. to r.: Jeremy Rosas, Local 242 (winner); Brian Van Dam, Local 182 (runner-up); David Ulh, Local 101; Robert E. Theisen, Local 169; Jacob Carver, Local 500; Lionel Benally, Local 4; Patrick Collins, Local 92; Johnny Brown Jr., Local 549; and Carrie Sanders, Local 627.

See photos of regional winners in action during the national contest pg. 11-13.
Local 85’s Avery wins national apprentice competition

L-647’s Zeman takes second place

MATTHEW AVERY, a fourth-generation Boilermaker from Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio), placed first in the 21st annual Boilermakers National Outstanding Apprenticeship Competition Sept. 21-25. Teammate Richard Zeman, Local 647 (Minneapolis), took second. The pair also won the team award, representing the Great Lakes Area.

Results of the four-day competition, held at the Boilermakers National Training Center in Kansas City, Kan., were announced at an awards banquet Sept. 25 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Other graduate apprentices competing this year were, from the Western States, Jeremy Rosas, Local 242 (Spokane, Wash.); and Brian Van Dam, Local 182 (Salt Lake City); from the Southeast Area, William Dietzch, Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.); and Christopher Carpenter, Local 667 (Charleston, W.Va.); and from the Northeast Area, Donald Goodwin Jr., Local 154 (Pittsburgh), and John Cawley, Local 13 (Philadelphia).

All eight contestants earned their way to the national event by winning the top spots in their local competition and finishing in one of the top two spots in their area competition.

Apprentices compete in four areas

BNA P LEAD INSTRUCTOR John Standish said the 2008 competition mirrored last year’s event, with contestants vying for points in four areas: classroom, rigging, Boilermaker skills, and welding. Contestants could earn a maximum of 300 points in each area.

The classroom work included a 10-hour written exam on Boilermaker history and organization, OSHA safety rules, and on-the-job training issues.

In the rigging test, contestants set up and performed a test lift using winches, boom derrick, and an equalizer beam, controlling the lift using hand signals. The tank had to be placed onto a pad at a specific elevation and nozzle location. The test required contestants to receive a four-part list and calculate the percentages of the load to be carried by the line and the derrick. Also in this section, contestants showed their skills with ropes and knots as well as blocks and reeving.

Apprentices competed in five areas under the Boilermaker skills’ section. These included tube rolling, layout and fabrication, boiler component identification, tool identification and use, and CPR. Contestants laid out a small boiler hopper replica to scale, calculated dimensions, cut, and bent the metal, and assembled the replica. Another task involved laying out a structural member with precise alignment of bolt holes.

In the welding section, judges evaluated the contestants’ skills in tube welding, plate welding (using 3/16- and 5/32-diameter welding rods), burning, stud welding, arc gouging, and safety.

The apprentices were given five hours to remove and replace a failed tube from a waterwall section. They measured and cut the tube, then replaced it using heliarc and SMAW techniques. Judges assessed measuring skills, quality of cuts, beveling, and membrane welding. Welds were tested by X-ray for conformance to ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) standards, with points deducted for any weld failures.

“One of the inspectors told me he was impressed by the exceptional quality of these welds,” said Standish. “And he was surprised to learn they were made by graduate apprentices. I have noticed in recent years that the quality of welds during our competition has become consistently high. I take my hat off to all the Boilermaker instructors around the country who are teaching these apprentices superb welding skills.” Judges for the 2008 competition were, from the Great Lakes Area, Robert Schwartz, Assistant Business Manager for Local 1 (Chicago), and Joe Fisher of Enerfab Inc.; from the Northeast Area, Bob Pandori, Local 5, Zone 197 (New York), and Larry Ross of NAES Power Constructors; from the Southeast Area, International Rep Stephen Speed, and Randall James of M & D Power Constructors; from the Western States, Douglas Farnes, retired Boilermaker from Local 11 (Helena, Mont.); and Kenneth Null of Babcock & Wilcox Construction Co. Inc.; and from the National Transient Division, International Rep Ronny Vanscoy and George Deem of Fisher Tank Co.

William Elrod, retired AIP, served as the test administrator.

Banquet honors contestants

THE RESULTS of the 2008 competition were announced during the awards banquet held on the final day of the event. The banquet honored all of the contestants and acknowledged those who promote the Boilermaker apprenticeship program throughout the year.

“These apprentice graduates are our future,” said Pat Smith, National Coordinator for the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program (BNA P). “They conducted themselves at a professional level this week, and I’m very proud of them.

“One of the contractors at the competition told me he would be willing to hire every one of these apprentices. He said, ‘They can go to work for me tomorrow and they won’t be in the field very long. They will [soon] be in management and supervision.’

This year’s ceremonies included a change in format — there was no National Recognition Award. Intl. Vice President Sean Murphy, chairman of the BNA P board of trustees, said, “There are just so many people who support the apprenticeship program, who offer their knowledge and expertise, their personal time, and their commitment. It has become difficult to single out one or two people each year without omitting others who are equally deserving. Also, International President Jones and I feel the focus really needs to stay on the contestants. Our purpose is to honor them and their achievements.”

“Didn’t think I had a chance.”

FOR 27-YEAR-OLD Matthew Avery, winning the national apprentice competition was totally unexpected. “Didn’t think I had a chance,” he said, noting that in the Great Lakes Area competition, which qualified him for the nationals, he placed second behind Richard Zeman, his partner at the nationals.

Added to the stress of competition was the fact that Avery and his wife, Jennifer, who live in Bowling Green, Ohio, were expecting the birth of their second child in the days leading up to the national event. “We were worried she wouldn’t come in time,” he said. Daughter Mae Lynn arrived Sept. 14, exactly one week before the competition.

Avery said he is looking forward to following in the footsteps of other Boilermaker family members. His father, Buck, is a superintendent for URS Washington Group in Monroe, Mich. His grandfather, Charles, worked as a Boilermaker, and his great-grandfather, Earle, was a Boilermaker at the Toledo, Ohio, shipyards.

Avery said one thing he learned at the national competition is just how similar Boilermakers are, no matter what part of the country they are from. “We’re all roughnecks who like to get the job done — and do it right.”

Matthew Avery of L-85 (Toledo, Ohio) raises his first-place trophy during the 2008 National Outstanding Apprenticeship Award banquet held in Kansas City Sept. 25.
APPRENTICE NEWS

BNAP COMPETITORS

LARGE PHOTOS
Pictured at bottom from l. to r.:

Jeremy Rosas, Local 242, reeves a block during the rigging exercise.
Brian Van Dam, Local 182, punches a template during the burn test.
Richard Dietsch, Local 40, works through a reeving test.
John Cawley, Local 13, uses arc gouging to remove a weld.

Rosas & Van Dam | Boiler hopper
Goodwin | Grinding membrane
Rosas | Tube rolling
Zeman & Avery | Tank lift
Avery | Knot tying

Zeman | Tube welding
IN ACTION

LARGE PHOTOS
Pictured at top from far left:
Christopher Carpenter, Local 667, welds a new tube section.
Richard Zeman, Local 647, burns a French curve pattern in plate steel.
Donald Goodwin Jr., Local 154, tests a stud weld.
Matthew Avery, Local 85, uses a “lady slipper” to bead a tube (protecting the tube end from abrasion).

Donald Goodwin Jr., Local 154, tests a stud weld.
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Local 199 dedicates new rigging facility

Structure named in honor of SAJAC's Mike Peterson

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 199 (Jacksonville, Fla.) dedicated their new rigging training structure to Michael Peterson Aug. 29. Peterson, a graduate apprentice and member of Local 199, serves as an Assistant to the International President and Director of SAJAC — the Boilermakers' Southeast Area Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

The new rigging structure was completed just two days before Local 199 hosted its first fourth-year apprenticeship class. By a unanimous vote at the local lodge's July membership meeting, the structure was named the Michael C. Peterson Training Center in recognition of Peterson's support of and cooperation with the lodge as it developed its training program.

In the accompanying photo, Peterson kneels in front of the apprentice-made sign for the rigging facility. Also pictured are fourth-year instructors Lee Kemp, David McKendree, Eric Olson, and Joe Rush, along with apprentices from Locals 26 (Savannah, Ga.), 199, 433 (Tampa), and 687 (Charleston Heights, S.C.). Not pictured are instructors Clyde Brown and Doug Walker.

L-128 apprentices graduate

Joe McLean receives outstanding apprentice award

NINE GRADUATING apprentices of Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) were among those honored May 20th at the 40th anniversary of the Sarnia/Lambton County Mechanical Trades Apprenticeship Graduation of Southern Ontario.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper congratulated the graduates for choosing such a rewarding career and spoke on the need for more skilled tradespersons in Canada.

Harper presented an award to Local 128 graduate apprentice Joe McLean as the outstanding apprentice for all trades in the Sarnia/Lambton County of Southern Ontario. McLean had earned the highest marks of all trades’ apprentices during his apprenticeship.

In front of Boilermakers, Ironworkers, Pipefitters, Millwrights, Operating Engineers, and other trades, McLean accepted his award, thanking his instructors and expressing a wish for trade solidarity.

“I want to thank Ed Hoffmann, my Boilermaker instructor, for everything he did. He made the class enjoyable and made us work for our marks,” McLean said. “Ed Freerotte, Lodge 128’s training coordinator, also helped me a lot. People should know — if they don’t know already — that Ed Freerotte is a good man.”

McLean, who represented L-128 at the 2007 Canadian Boilermaker apprenticeship competition, further stated: “I wish all the trades would get along; it would just move our cause further ahead. We are all union members working together to get the job done right the first time.”

Graduating with McLean were Local 128 members Jarred Cook, Todd Gardner, Jamie Hastings, Art Lukasiewicz, Stephanie Maughn, Dave McCarthy, Scot McDonald, and Rod McLelland.


APPRENTICES MARCH IN FLAG DAY PARADE

ON JUNE 13 Boilermaker apprentices from the Southeast Area Joint Apprenticeship Committee (SAJAC) Program marched in a Flag Day parade in Jacksonville, Fla. Joined by SAJAC instructors, they represented Florida Locals 199 (Jacksonville) and 433 (Tampa), South Carolina Local 687 (Charleston Heights), and Tennessee Local 263 (Memphis).

“The first-year apprenticeship class represented their trade with dignity and pride,” reports SAJAC instructor and L-263 member Rodney Evans. Fifty apprentices and four instructors participated in the event, making them one of the largest groups in the parade.

Holding a banner at the Jacksonville, Fla., Flag Day parade with SAJAC instructor Eric Olson (second from left) are first-year apprentices (l. to r.) Glen Wiley, Matt Hersey, and Warren Bush.
L-359 signs on for aluminum plant modernization

Project labor agreement called “one of a kind”

RIO TINTO ALCAN’S planned modernization of its aluminum smelter operations in Kitimat, British Columbia, reached a milestone Aug. 28 when Local 359 (Vancouver, British Columbia) and 15 other labor unions joined the Kitimat Employer Association in signing a project labor agreement (PLA).

The $2.5-billion project will apply Rio Tinto’s proprietary AP technology to increase aluminum production capacity by more than 40 percent (from 275,000 tons per year to 400,000) while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, according to the company.

A Rio Tinto press release described the project labor agreement as “one of a kind.” L-359 BM-ST Phil Halley agrees. “This is an unusual PLA in that each of the 16 unions on the project will essentially keep the existing agreements they have with the various contractors. While the PLA will set some conditions, such as pre-screening for alcohol and drugs and establishing hours of work, the wages, benefits, and other contractual terms that exist between the unions and their employers will remain in effect.”

The PLA also calls for hiring local residents in British Columbia, including from Native American tribes in the area (called First Nations in Canada).

Halley said about 300 Boilermakers will be needed on the job, and work is estimated to last between one-and-a-half to two years. Rio Tinto estimates that the modernization will involve about 2,000 workers, and about 1,000 permanent jobs will be created.

Jean Simon, president of Rio Tinto’s Primary Metal North America, said, “The tight construction market has been a concern for the Kitimat Modernization Project, and this agreement directly addresses that key issue as we go forward for final board approval.”

The Kitimat Employer Association includes project manager Bechtel and contractors and subcontractors participating in the agreement.

Maiara uses blacksmithing skills on and off the job

INSIDE THE SANITATION Department’s massive Central Repair Shop in Woodside, N.Y., Ray Maiara sweats away at a job that many people think disappeared along with the horse and buggy.

He’s a blacksmith — one of the few left working for New York City. He spends his days forging metal and steel, creating parts for Sanitation Department vehicles.

But in his free time, Maiara gets to put his talents to more creative use by crafting ornamental swords and jewelry for his wife and teenage daughter. He also enjoys etching and blowing glass.

A member of New York Local 5, Maiara also put his talents to use designing a medallion to give to family members of victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Maiara, 49, has deep family roots in the field. His great-grandfather started a blacksmith business when he arrived in the United States from Italy in the late 1800s. His mother’s Irish family members also were blacksmiths.

He admits the title seems “archaic,” but insists the work of a blacksmith is vital to modern-day needs. Maiara makes parts for salt spreaders, collection trucks, and other vehicles — parts that are either obsolete or hard to get on a timely basis.

As a number of blacksmiths on the city payroll dwindle, the number of lesser-paid metalwork mechanics has increased. This is a concern for Maiara, a shop steward for Local 5.

These blue-collar, city jobs are even more important, given New York’s loss of manufacturing businesses over the years, he said.

KUDOS

Allegheny Energy values relationship with Local 667

ON BEHALF OF Allegheny Energy, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you (L-667 BM-ST George Pinkerman) and the members of Local 667 [Charleston, W.Va.] for helping to make our recent Ft. Martin Unit #2 outage a success.

Working as a team, the Boilermakers helped Allegheny Energy and Minnotte Contracting bring the unit back on budget and ahead of schedule. The effort put forth by the Boilermakers, in a safety-conscious manner, was a major factor in this outage being a success.

In times like these when work is plentiful, we sincerely value the relationship that we have established with the Boilermakers over the years. We realize that skilled craftsmen are at a premium, and we appreciate the response from the Boilermakers and their leadership to staff our project at Ft. Martin — one of Allegheny’s most important plants.

Thanks again, and we look forward to our continued good relationship on future projects.

George J. Farah, construction exec. dir.
Anthony J. Cantanese, gen. maint. dir.
L-128 members form society to help others

Bruce Society of Boilermakers has raised over $40,000 for groups and individuals

WHEN MEMBERS OF Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) learned that one of their members had a brain tumor, they collected money at the plant gate to help support him and planned a golf tournament to raise more funds. Their efforts were so successful they decided to continue their work by forming the Bruce Society of Boilermakers. They have since raised over $40,000 to help people in need.

The group is based loosely on the United Society of Boilermakers of 1834 in Great Britain. Its members meet monthly and help the community where they live in Bruce County, hence the name Bruce Society of Boilermakers.

“When Terry Keenan was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor, we all thought he was gone,” explained committee member Kenny Kilday. “But he has amazed everyone with his grit and determination not to allow this tumor to stand in his way. Our efforts to help him led to the formation of this committee.”

Members of the Bruce Society of Boilermakers include L-128 members, l. to r., Jim Watson, Kenny Kilday, Terry Keenan, Dan Greig, Gerry Burke, and Jim Barefoot.

Rep. Tim Murphy (R-18th PA), right, joins Keith Quinn, son of L-154 Sec.-Treas. Dan Quinn, in a Steve Miller number.

Rep. Murphy ‘in tune’ with Local 154

Congressman plays guitar for members on Labor Day

WHEN LOCAL 154 (Pittsburgh) members say U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy rocks, they really mean it. Not only does the Republican representative (18th District) support many of the lodge’s issues — he even lends his musical talent to entertain its members.

That was the case Sept. 1, when Murphy strapped himself to a guitar at the lodge’s Labor Day celebration and strummed away with the band, “Pita.”

“Congressman Murphy joined the band for a Steve Miller number called ‘The Joker,’” said Dan Quinn, L-154 Sec.-Treas., whose son, Keith, is a member of the band. “The crowd loved it!” Quinn said. “They didn’t want him to quit.”

Quinn said over a thousand members and guests attended the Labor Day picnic, which attracted local and state officials as well as U.S. Rep. Murphy. Boilermakers and their guests marched together in the annual parade in Pittsburgh before returning to the union hall for lunch and entertainment.

Daughter of L-105 member earns medical degree

Union scholarship winner to practice internal medicine

MIRANDA BETH BINION graduated May 12 with honors from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine Degree. She is the daughter of Sheila Flaugher Binion and Jesse F. Binion, a 29-year member of Local 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio), and granddaughter of retired Local 105 members Jack Binion and the late Ed Flaugher.

Once she completes her three-year residency at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, Dr. Binion plans to practice internal medicine near her hometown of Grayson, Ky.

Dr. Binion was a 1999 recipient of the Local 105 Don Storey Scholarship Award and a $4,000 Union Plus Scholarship winner. Her sister, Jessica, earned the Local 105 scholarship in 1997.

Miranda Beth Binion, daughter of L-105 member Jesse Binion, graduated with honors from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.
L-104 members keep boat ‘ship-shape’ for TV show

Northwestern completes its fourth season on “Deadliest Catch”

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 104 not only built the Northwestern, a fishing vessel owned by the Hansen family in Seattle, but they keep it in good working order between seasons of the television series, “Deadliest Catch.”

The boat is one of six fishing vessels featured on the Discovery Channel program, which documents Alaskan king crab and Opilio crab fishing in the Bering Sea. In between television seasons (the show just completed its fourth), Local 104 members make sure the vessel is seaworthy at Pacific Fisherman Inc., a small shipyard owned by a group of commercial fishermen in Seattle.

“When I watch the show, two things always come to mind,” reports Gary Powers, Local 104 BM-ST. “First, our guys are responsible for always keeping our guys are responsible for always keeping the boats and crews safe. Second, I always keep an eye on the catch. After all, a good season for the show just completed its fourth, Local 104 members make sure the vessel is seaworthy at Pacific Fisherman Inc., a small shipyard owned by a group of commercial fishermen in Seattle.

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“When I watch the show, two things always come to mind,” reports Gary Powers, Local 104 BM-ST. “First, our guys are responsible for always keeping the boats and crews safe. Second, I always keep an eye on the catch. After all, a good season for the show just completed its fourth, Local 104 members make sure the vessel is seaworthy at Pacific Fisherman Inc., a small shipyard owned by a group of commercial fishermen in Seattle.
Retired Local 69 officer races horses

Retired L-69 BM-ST Donnie Ray Jones is living his dream, breeding and racing horses. A Boilermaker since 1976, Jones served two terms as the lodge's top officer before calling it quits last year. But retirement didn’t mean Jones was ready to sit back in an easy chair. Instead, he stayed active at his farm in Romance, Ark., raising thoroughbreds. He entered several horses in races, and on Dec. 9, 2007, one of them put him in the winner’s circle. On that day, Sum Boilermaker streaked to the finish line to place first at the Blue Ribbon Downs in Sallisaw, Okla.

“Sum Boilermaker — what a great name!” Jones said. “As do all Boilermakers, my horse performed and gave me his all.”

Jones came early to his passion for horse racing, riding his uncle’s work horse when he was a young boy. “At age 16, I was an exercise jockey for a horse called Billy Bar Bull, which was the grandson of Man o’ War [a horse some consider to be the greatest thoroughbred of all time].”

Jones credits the Boilermakers’ union and its leadership throughout the years for the opportunity to earn a good living and fulfill his dream in retirement.

Local 5 donates hand tools to soldiers

NEW YORK LOCAL 5 members enjoy a “topping off” ceremony to celebrate placement of the highest beam at the Yaphank Long Island work site, where they raised funds to purchase hand tools for the 1st Battalion, “Fighting 69th” Infantry (Mechanized). The 1/69th is a New York Army National Guard unit. The soldiers were redeployed to Afghanistan, and had asked for tools to make repairs. The Local 5 purchase included wrench sets, air tool kits, hoses, drills, saws, and flashlights.

Grandson lands the big one

KALOB HALLAUER, center, uses hand gestures to show how he landed an eight-pound bass in Perryville, Mo. The 8-year-old is the grandson of Larry Rumsey, a seven-year member of the National Transient Lodge (at left) and his wife, Debbie.

Hamilton’s son will play college baseball

BJ. HAMILTON, son of Railroad Services Division Dir. Danny Hamilton, will play baseball at Pikeville College in Pikeville, Ky., next spring. A standout pitcher, outfielder, and catcher while at Russell High School in Russell, Ky., Hamilton signed with the Division I, NAIA, Bears earlier this year.
Local 1 — Chicago
John Shermentz, BM-ST of Local 1 Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
40 Years — James McIntyre;
35 Years — William Holmes, John D. Mooney;
30 Years — James McGillie Jr., Christopher Pranger; and
25 Years — Dennis Bjorgo, Steven Lambert, Russell Showalter.

Local 169 — Detroit
Anthony Jacobs, BM-ST of Local 169, Detroit, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
65 Years — Delmar Visser;
60 Years — Raymond W. Bauer, Robert Showalter;
55 Years — Charles E. Forsbusch, Carl C. Wannerus;
50 Years — Marvin D. Stichney, Bobby G. Warman;
45 Years — James Hartzog, William Kuntze;
30 Years — James Allen, Paul S. Geronmid I; and
25 Years — Kenneth D. Brydon, Lee M. Busbong, Ross W. MacLeod, Timothy L. Moubray, Gregory V. Theodore, Bruce A. Vardon, Ted C. Vore, Michael A. Zobl.

Baltimore retired L-193 member Eldon P. Gold receives his 50-year membership pin.

L-502 — Tacoma, Wash.
Randy Robbins, BM-ST of Local 502, Tacoma, Wash., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
50 Years — John Bleichner, Robert Eddy;
45 Years — Earl Force, Tighle Mounts;
40 Years — Robert Aldo, Michael Begay, Maurice Crawford, Robert DeMarco, Ed Eichenberger, Lex Rigby, John Robinson, James Sams;
35 Years — David Becker, Ken Boe, Wallace Cox Sr., Ed Goeidal, David Grundvig, Rod Karrpinn, Ken Kelley, Donald Norris, Randy Robbins;
30 Years — David Dooley, Jeff Gilligan, Robert Hanes, Ken Linden, Johnny Magdaleno; and
25 Years — Michael Copley, John Gaskell, Ed Mathieson, Kris Morse.

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

L-13 — Philadelphia
Effective April 23, 2008 to March 31, 2011, for four members of Local 13, Philadelphia, who perform shop and field work in the oil and gas division of Integra Services Technologies Inc.

L-M18 — Buffalo, N.Y.
Effective June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2011, for 24 members of Local M18, Buffalo, N.Y., who make metal plating at the Keystone Corp.

L-M68 — Cincinnati
Effective April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2010, for 75 members of Local M68, Cincinnati, who work at Micro Metal Finishing, LLC, providing high volume metal finishing services for the automotive, appliance, tool, and fastener industries.

L-128 — Toronto

L-158 — Peoria, Ill.
Effective Feb. 18, 2008 to Feb. 13, 2010, for six members of Local 158, Peoria, Ill., who make equipment for railroad track maintenance at Teleweld. Founded in 1939 as a welding contractor for the railroad industry, Teleweld also manufactures grinders, rail saws, and other related equipment it has developed over the years.

L-S185 — Belleville, Ill.
Effective April 15, 2008 to April 15, 2009, for 33 members of Local S185, Belleville, Ill., who perform fabrication work at Roesch Inc. Founded in 1916 as a porcelain enamel contract manufacturer, Roesch has expanded as a custom jobber to major cooking appliance, heating, ventilating, and air conditioning manufacturers.

L-242 — Spokane, Wash.
Effective May 3, 2008 to May 4, 2011, for 74 members of Local 242, Spokane, Wash., who make pre-engineered steel buildings for Garco Building Systems. Garco has been designing, manufacturing, and distributing steel building systems for industrial, community, and agricultural applications since 1958.

L-D449 — West Windsor, Vt.
Effective May 12, 2008 to May 11, 2011, for 23 members of Local D449, West Windsor, Vt., who make talc at Luzenac America for the paper, plastic, paint, rubber, cosmetic, ceramic, pharmaceutical, animal feed, soap, and roofing industries.

L-480 — Jacksonville, Ill.
Effective May 17, 2008 to May 17, 2011, for 330 members of Local 480, Jacksonville, Ill., who make cooking and food plant A.C. Humko. Products include shortening, salad oil, margarine, vegetable oil, and meat fats.

L-D494 — Burlington, Ontario
Effective Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2010, for 22 members of Local D494, Burlington, Ontario, who work in the Caledon aggregate quarry for Lafarge Canada Inc. Lafarge provides aggregates for a broad range of construction applications. Products include a full line of graded stone in various sizes, as well as concrete and masonry sand, gravel, and slag aggregates.

L-D500 — Rogers City, Mich.

L-558 — Windsor, Conn.
Effective June 30, 2008 to June 26, 2011, for 65 members of Local 558, Windsor, Conn., who work at the Westinghouse Electric Co., fabricating fuel product components for nuclear reactors such as fuel grids, cages, top and bottom end fittings, fuel rod end caps, and control element assemblies.

L-744 — Cleveland
Effective Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2010, for members of Local 744, Cleveland, who work at Eagle Mechanical LLC, a mechanical and heating contractor in Youngstown, Ohio.

L-1247 — Chicago
Effective Feb. 23, 2008 to Feb. 22, 2011, for five members of Local 1247, Chicago, who work in maintenance at Aramark Uniforms & Career Apparel LLC, a provider of uniforms andugs (and uniform cleaning) to health care institutions, universities and school districts, stadiums and arenas, and businesses around the world. And effective April 15, 2008 to April 15, 2011, for 43 Local 1247 members who work at Midwestern Rust Proof Inc., a provider of functional and decorative metal coating services for over 80 years.

L-1620 — Portland, Ind.
Effective May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2013, for 178 members of L-1620, Portland, Ind., who work at Portland Forge, producing custom, impression die hot forgings for auto, truck, and other industries.
SIX LITTLE WORDS
by David Sirota

History books teem with six-word phrases. From the comforting (“Nothing to fear but fear itself”) to the inspiring (“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall”) to the embarrassing (“Read my lips, no new taxes”). But the six words, “on the basis of union membership” could be more momentous than any of those. Though hardly Roosevelt’s rhetoric, Reagan’s bluster, or Bush’s clumsiness, the clause could solve America’s wage crisis.

Of course, when Tom Geoghegan told me this in a Chicago park two weeks ago, I almost snarfed my coffee through my nose. Solving major social problems typically demands more than six words. But as the longtime labor lawyer and author explained his idea to me on a muggy afternoon, it started making sense.

Geoghegan reminded me that data show the more union members in an economy, the better workers’ pay. The problem, he said, is that weakened labor laws are allowing companies to bully and fire union-sympathetic workers, thus driving down union membership and wages.

Enter Geoghegan’s six words. If the Civil Rights Act was amended to prevent discrimination “on the basis of union membership,” it would curtail corporations’ anti-labor assault by making the right to join a union an official civil right.

“Hang on,” I interrupted. “Joining a union isn’t a civil right?”

Correct.

Under current law, if you are fired for union activity, you can only take your grievance to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) — a byzantine agency deliberately made more Kafkaesque by right-wing appointees and budget cuts. Today, the NLRB takes years to rule on labor law violations, often granting victims only their back pay — a tiny cost of doing business.

Union leaders are now focused on reforming the NLRB — an admirable goal — but Geoghegan’s plan implies that workers are harmed by being legally leashed to Washington in the first place. His proposal says rather than being forced to rely on an unreliable bureaucracy for protection, workers should be empowered to defend themselves.

The six words would do just that. Regardless of whether the NLRB is strengthened or further weakened, persecuted workers would be able to haul union-busting thugs into court. There — unlike at the NLRB — plaintiffs can subpoena company records and win costly punitive damages.

Bolstering his argument, Geoghegan told me to consider variations in corporate behavior.

For example, because the Civil Rights Act bars racial discrimination, businesses are motivated to try to prevent bigotry: They want to avoid being sued. This is why no company brags about being racist.

But when it comes to unions, there is no such deterrent. The lack of civil rights’ protection effectively encourages businesses to punish pro-union employees — and publicize the abuse to intimidate their workforce. By making the six words law, the dynamic would shift. Companies would have a reason — fear of litigation — to respect workers’ rights.

When Geoghegan and I finished chatting, I remembered why I believe he is America’s most talented writer and thinker on labor issues. His relative anonymity is a tragicomic commentary on the media and the American Left. The Milton Friedmans are celebrated by pundits and cast in bronze by conservative think tanks, while the Geoghegans are dismissed by the chattering class and ignored by a progressive movement that regularly venerates Hollywood celebrities as its heroes.

Perhaps, though, this proposal will change things. In developing a way to shift incentives, Geoghegan has discovered a solution that both unionists and economists can love. It crib the best from liberals’ pro-union sympathies and conservatives’ distrust of Big Government, and should make him famous (or at least a cabinet secretary). After all, anyone who can bring such disparate ideologies and adversaries together is worthy of serious consideration — as is his six-word stroke of genius.

— By David Sirota

L-19 ST expresses gratitude to new president

I WOULD LIKE to thank everyone for your condolences, flowers, and cards. It is of the utmost importance to his family that Ray [past New Jersey Local 28 BM-ST] be remembered for the man he was and the dedication he gave to his union and his family.

Our experiences with the Boilermakers have marked our lives indelibly. We will treasure these memories always.

FAMILY OF RAY CUSHING JR.:
wife, Debbie; sons, Ryan and Kevin; daughter, Casey Ann; mother, Dolores; sisters: Kelly McGovern; niece and nephew, Katie and Danny McGovern

Like Boilermaker father, like son

I JOINED LOCAL 6 [Oakland, Calif.] in 1942 after returning from the Naval Air Station Midway [Midway Islands, U.S.] in the South Pacific. I worked in shipyards, shops, on the railroad, and in field construction during my last 35 years.

My son, Jack, was the first Boilermaker apprentice to graduate out of Local 6. His first job was in 1971 at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Project in Avila Beach, Calif. He worked for me on the job site for several contractors during the 17 years I was there. He was a foreman at Diablo Can- yon and a steward on several jobs. Jack could do it all — certified tank welder, high rigger — all phases of our trade.

I retired out of Local 549 [Pittsburg, Calif.] in 1987, the same local Jack worked out of until his retirement. [I just wanted to say] thanks for the years I spent as a Boilermaker.

TOM VELASCO, LOCAL 549 retiree

Letters to the Editor

Send a letter to the editor:
The Boilermaker Reporter 753 State Ave., Suite 570 Kansas City KS 66101

FAX: (913) 281-8110
E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org
Union-business alliance seeks pension relief

NEARLY 300 organizations with defined-benefit pension plans have joined together to ask Congress for legislative relief in light of the current economic tail-spin and restrictive regulations under the Pension Protection Act. In a letter to the Ways and Means Committee (reprinted below), the alliance explains the difficulties that pension plans are facing during these troubling times.

November 12, 2008

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel and Ranking Member McCrery:

As you are aware, the current financial crisis not only impacts workers today but also will have severe, short-term negative effects on the pension plans in which they participate, reduce benefits, undermining retirement security, and, if prompt action is not taken, causing significant job loss and impairing the national economic recovery. The problems stem from a global financial meltdown and were not caused by companies that sponsor defined benefit pension plans or the pension plans they maintain. On behalf of the millions of our employees to whom we provide retirement benefits, the undersigned companies and organizations urge you to consider legislation that would help companies navigate the current economic crisis while minimizing adverse impacts on the defined benefit pension plans they sponsor.

The drop in the value of pension plan assets coupled with the current credit crunch has placed defined benefit plan sponsors in an untenable position. No one who drafted the recently enacted defined benefit plan funding rules anticipated the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and a once in a hundred years “Credit Tsunami.” Yet, at a time when companies desperately need cash to keep their businesses afloat, the new funding rules will also require huge, countercyclical contributions to their pension plans. Consequently, many companies will divert cash needed for current job retention, job creation and needed business investments and instead contribute the cash to their pension plans to fund long-term obligations due many years after the current market conditions return to normal. We do not believe that, in enacting the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (“PPA”), Congress intended companies to be forced to make this kind of decision. Unless the funding rules are modified, we will increase U.S. unemployment and slow our economic recovery.

For example, a Florida company with four defined benefit plans faces an increase in required contributions of more than 2100%, from $673,000 in 2008 to an estimated $15,186,000 in 2009. The company’s consultant states that in light of this increase, “this client, like many others, may be forced to freeze their plans and may have to eliminate jobs to afford those contributions.” Another larger company has estimated that its 3-year contribution for 2008-2010 will increase from $36 million to $2.18 billion, an increase of almost 6000%. We are in no way advocating an overhaul of the PPA funding changes. Rather, we urge Congress to consider making technical corrections to the PPA that we believe implement Congressional intent, and adopting temporary provisions that deal with the current financial crisis facing us today. Such provisions should include permitting full smoothing of unexpected losses, removing restrictions on asset smoothing, allowing sufficient time to transition to the PPA’s 100% funded target, providing automatic IRS approval for certain funding elections to keep plans viable, clarifying end-of-year valuations, and permitting fixed interest rates to be used for Code section 415 limit purposes so as to avoid benefit reductions.

Employers who contribute to the more than 1500 multiemployerdefined benefit plans (more than 90% of which employ 20 or fewer employees), are also severely affected by the financial crisis. While these plans are subject to a separate set of funding rules, similar temporary relief designed to moderate the effects of the aggressive funding targets contained in the PPA is essential to avert devastating burdens and inevitable job losses arising from massive contribution increases and unavoidable benefit reductions that will be required to comply with those rules.

Thank you in advance for considering our request for critical pension legislation. We and employers generally are extremely concerned about the viability of their defined benefit pension plans during this economic recovery. Please feel free to call on any of us if we can help you or your staff craft or enact legislation that will help our country’s economic recovery and avoid unnecessary job loss, while securing sound long-term pension plan funding.

Sincerely,

Alliant Energy Corp.

Alleghehny Technologies Inc.

Ameren Corp.

America’s Health Insurance Plans

American Assn. of Railroads

American Benefits Council

American Chemistry Council

American Electric Power
American Forest & Paper Assn.

American Foundry Society

American Gas Assn.

American Public Power Assn.

ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries

Assn. for Financial Professionals

Assn. of American Railroads

Boise Inc.

Ball Corp.

Bechtel Construction Co.

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Boise Cascade LLC

BP America Inc.

BCTD, AFL-CIO

Business Roundtable

Celanese Corp.

Chrysler LLC

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Med. Ctr.

CMS Energy

Committee on Investment of Employee Benefit Assets

Consolidated Edison, Inc.

Constellation Energy

Cummins Inc.

Deere & Co.

Delta Oil Company

DTE Energy

Duke Energy

Duquesne Light Co.

Edison Electric Institute

Edison International

Electro-Motive Diesel, Inc.

Entergy Corp.

ERISA Industry Committee

Evrav Claymont Steel

Exelon Corp.

Federal Signal

First Energy Corp.

Ford Motor Co.

Foundation Coal

Fox Entertainment Group, Inc.

Frontier Communications

General Devices Co., Inc.

GlaxoSmithKline

Goodrich Corp.

Hawaiian Electric Co., Inc.

Honeywell International, Inc.

HR Policy Assn.

IBM Corp.

Indianapolis Power and Light Co.

Ingram Industries Inc.

Intelsat Corp.

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Joy Global

Kansas City Power & Light

MassMutual Financial Group

MD Helicopters, Inc.

Monsanto

MOOG Inc.

Natl. Assn. of Insurance and Financial Advisors

Natl. Assn. of Mfrs.

Natl. Coord. Committee for Multiemployer Plans

Natl. Gypsum


Navistar

Norfolk Southern Corp.

Northeast Utilities

Northrop Grumman Corp.

NorthWestern Energy Corp.

Ohio Transmission Corp.

ONGCO, Inc.

Peabody Energy

Peerless Machine & Tool Corp.

PG&E Corp.

PNM Resources

Portland General Electric

Prestolite Electric Inc.

Progress Energy

Prudential Financial

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ Natl. Assn.

Southern Company

The Boeing Company

The Dow Chemical Company

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

The Segal Company

The Timken Company

Unisource Energy Corp.

United Association

United Illuminating Co.

United Plan Administrators, Inc.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

United States Steel Corp.

United Technologies Corp.

Vector Corp.

Westar Energy

Westinghouse Electric Co.

Whirlpool Corp.

Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.

Xcel Energy, Inc.*

* Nearly 200 other companies, associations, and unions also signed this letter. See the Boilermakers’ Web site (www.boilermakers.org) for a complete listing.
### 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.

#### 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.

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<th>MEMBER ID</th>
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For information on these programs and other member-only benefits, go to [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org).

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

See DEATH BENEFITS, page 23
IN MEMORIAM

263 Taylor, John 367.50
305 Campbell, Robert W. 6,000.00
358 Pierson, Paul R. 6,000.00
363 Chapman, Robert W. 3,000.00
363 Kuchar, Lawrence A. 6,000.00
363 Winch, Loren A. 6,000.00
397 Tyreman, Willard D. 6,000.00
433 Brown, Herbert C. 6,000.00
449 Zettle, Richard 1,635.72
455 Bayless, Richard D. 6,000.00
455 Escue, Michael H. 6,000.00
455 Justice, Charlie D. 6,000.00
455 Kemp, C.W. 6,000.00
502 Puckett, James H. 6,000.00
500 Theys, Louis A. 6,000.00
500 O’Niel, Victor L. 6,000.00
500 Laford, Raymond H. 6,000.00
500 Catt, Donald F. 6,000.00
500 O’Niel, Victor L. 6,000.00
502 Puckett, James H. 6,000.00
511 Washington, Lovern 6,000.00
511 Kotas, Venzel J. 6,000.00
511 Chaney, John H. 6,000.00
511 Curtis, John C. 6,000.00
511 Kemp, C.W. 6,000.00
511 Ruffino, Joe A. 6,000.00
511 Bilbo, James F. 6,000.00
511 Camp, Norman M. 6,000.00
511 Vercher Jr., Joe 6,000.00
511 Butts, Ricky D. 6,000.00
627 Mallam, Richard A. 6,000.00
627 Hummel, Conrad W. 3,000.00
627 Richardson, Forrest J. 3,000.00
627 Tiedke, Arnold L. 6,000.00
627 Ludwig, Homer C. 6,000.00
627 Miller, Walter S. 6,000.00
627 Collett, Homer G. 6,000.00
627 Walston, Clyde 6,000.00
627 Worley, William 6,000.00
627 Smith, Joseph S. 6,000.00
627 DeWitt, Luke D. 6,000.00
627 Price, Roy A. 8,075.00
627 Ellis, James E. 6,000.00
627 Jackson, Ira 6,000.00
1086 White, Leroy D. 4,000.00
1191 Dedmon, Leon 6,000.00
1191 Byrne, Michael J. 6,000.00
1191 Chapa, Victoriano G. 1,000.00
1191 Frisko, Norman H. 6,000.00
1191 Hinckle, Chester K. 6,000.00
1191 Thomas, Thomas 6,000.00
1603 Heestand, William D. 3,500.00
1603 Rice, Dale L. 6,000.00
1603 Rohrer, William C. 6,000.00
1670 Kirchner, Melvin H. 6,000.00
1978 Pagliaro, Jerome S. 2,899.97

Who doesn’t need money for college next year?

Apply now for an IBB scholarship!

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

Winners are chosen based on a variety of criteria that include grades, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, and a written essay on an assigned topic.

Applications are available after December 15 from your local lodge and will be accepted from January 1 to March 1, 2009. Applications postmarked after the March 1, 2009, deadline cannot be considered. Contact your local lodge to get an application. The international will not mail applications to individuals. Some local lodges have their own scholarship programs. Scholarships are also available through the Union Plus credit card program and some state and regional labor councils. For information on these scholarship possibilities, contact these organizations directly.

Who doesn’t need money for college next year?

Apply now for an IBB scholarship!

ONE OF THE most popular benefits of being a Boilermaker is the college scholarship program that helps dependents of Boilermakers get started with their college education. These one-year grants reward the hard work and success of young members of Boilermaker families and encourage members of the next generation of college-educated workers to remember the union advantage.

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

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Moving? Tell us where . . .

Name ____________________________
New Address ______________________
City _____________________________ State or Province __________ Zip _______
Local Lodge No. __________________ Register No. ______
E-Mail Address ____________________

Mail form to:
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Union
753 State Avenue, Suite 565
Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

Continued from p. 22

Death Benefits

263 Taylor, John 367.50
305 Campbell, Robert W. 6,000.00
358 Pierson, Paul R. 6,000.00
363 Chapman, Robert W. 3,000.00
363 Kuchar, Lawrence A. 6,000.00
363 Winch, Loren A. 6,000.00
374 Maysey, Marshall D. 6,000.00
374 Zuelly, Randall K. 6,000.00
397 Tyreman, Willard D. 6,000.00
433 Brown, Herbert C. 6,000.00
449 Zettle, Richard 1,635.72
500 Theys, Louis A. 6,000.00
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511 Kemp, C.W. 6,000.00
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627 Smith, Joseph S. 6,000.00
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1086 White, Leroy D. 4,000.00
1191 Dedmon, Leon 6,000.00
1247 Byrne, Michael J. 6,000.00
1509 Chapa, Victoriano G. 1,000.00
1509 Frisko, Norman H. 6,000.00
1509 Hinckle, Chester K. 6,000.00
1509 Thomas, Thomas 6,000.00
1603 Heestand, William D. 3,500.00
1637 Rice, Dale L. 6,000.00
1637 Rohrer, William C. 6,000.00
1670 Kirchner, Melvin H. 6,000.00
1978 Pagliaro, Jerome S. 2,899.97
Congress must adjust Pension Protection Act

Those who framed the tight funding rules for the PPA did not expect a credit tsunami and stock market collapse

THE EXTRAORDINARY COLLAPSE of America’s financial system in October has plunged the country — in fact, the world — into a recession that may be longer and deeper than any downturn we’ve seen in 25 years. What former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan GreenSPAN described as “a credit tsunami” has resulted in bank failures, mortgage foreclosures, a shrinking economy, and rising unemployment. The Dow Jones average dropped from its historic high of over 14,000 points in Oct. 2007 to barely above 8,200 in Oct. 2008, a decline of over 40 percent.

Although the stock market has recovered some since that low, the Dow is still down about 37 percent as of this writing (Nov. 10), and analysts do not expect it to return to its previous highs (if any) by the end of the year. Losses of this magnitude are playing havoc with those who rely on investments for their income — including the millions of union members whose pension funds have been hit hard. When the credit market froze, Congress voted quickly to spend over $700 billion to bail out the banks and mortgage insurance companies at the center of the crisis. Their bold, rapid action has been praised by economists worldwide as the kind of action that may stave off a national — and international — economic disaster.

Now it’s time for Congress and the Treasury Department to turn their attention to the nation’s defined-benefit pensions. Pensions have been hammered by the stock market crash, and defined-benefit pensions may soon be dealt a death blow, not by an economic collapse, but by a law passed in 2006 that was intended to protect these pensions.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) made aggressive adjustments to ERISA’s standards for how defined-benefit pensions must account for the costs of future benefit payments. The new standards are so aggressive that many pensions, still struggling to make up for the slowly recovering stock market, have been experiencing since the recession of 2001, have already had to make painful adjustments this year.

The Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension was one of them. The adjustments that became effective Oct. 1 of this year were painful for all participants. But those adjustments are mild compared to what the PPA will require the Pension Trust to do in 2009 if the market remains near its current level.

On Wall Street, a strong market with constantly rising stock prices is called a bull market. A bear market is the opposite — prices that decline over a long period of time. Currently we have a bear market. Congress and the U.S. Treasury need to act so that bear doesn’t eat up our pensions. The BoilermakerBlacksmith union has joined with nearly 300 other organizations in co-signing a letter to Congress requesting that measures be taken to adjust the PPE, at least until the financial crisis has ended. That letter is reprinted in this issue on page 21.

PPA’s funding formula is the problem

WHENEVER WE TALK about problems that our national funds face, many plan participants jump to the conclusion that the funds’ trustees or the money managers those trustees employ have been doing a poor job. That is definitely not the case. All Boilermakers’ national funds are some of the best-managed Taft-Hartley funds around. That isn’t my personal opinion. That is what I have been told by consultants who monitor pension funds and rate them.

All of the Boilermakers’ national funds are invested conservatively. In downturns like the one we’ve been experiencing for the past year, our funds lose less money than many funds that take greater risks. That is a good part of the reason our Boilermaker-Blacksmith Pension has never missed a benefit payment since its creation in 1960 and was, in fact, able to raise the payout factor 20 times in its first 43 years.

The trustees have established a sound investment strategy and conservative target for returns on investments. They hire competent money managers and monitor them to make sure they are delivering returns that meet or exceed the target. Neither their actions nor the actions of the money managers are to blame for the current threat to our pension. That threat is the result of an unusually bad stock market combined with pension funding rules that handicap the funds’ administrators.

Pensions operate on a timeline that is significantly different from anything most of us ever do. Because they accumulate funds over a person’s lifetime, they rely on a lifetime of investment gains to fund that person’s retirement. Actuaries use life expectancy formulas and projected earnings to determine how much pension the money can pay each pensioner on retirement. The long-term nature of this work goes against the normal way of seeing the world.

An accountant can tell you that you’re bankrupt. An actuary can tell you that you’re going to go bankrupt in 25 years — or 30 or 40. Pension funds rely on that long window when setting benefit levels. When pensions take a 40 percent reduction in assets over a single year, it is not unreasonable to expect them to create a fund that will get that loss back over a long period of time. After all, most pension plan participants are still decades away from collecting their pensions.

But the PPA imposes much shorter windows. It requires annual projections about a fund rather than looking at a fund’s projected performance over a longer period. In a bull market or a market enjoying modest gains, their rigid funding rules do not damage to pension funds, while ensuring that defined-benefit pensions are well-funded. Even in a “typical” bearmarket, the PPA rules might require some modest benefit reductions, but they would not threaten the viability of defined-benefit pensions.

But when the market falls 40 percent in one year, no fund can be expected to regain all those lost assets in just a few years. Nonetheless, the trustees of the Boilermaker-Blacksmith Pension must look at the fund’s performance in 2008 — the worst year for stocks since before World War II — and make adjustments to the benefit formula to account for all those losses.

The PPA does not even take into account the fact that some of those losses will never be realized. They are only “paper” losses — for example, stocks whose prices went down this year, but which regain their value next year or in the near future. When the markets rise again, the loss disappears. But the pension is required to act on the amount recorded this year.

It is truly ironic that a law intended to protect defined-benefit pensions might actually destroy them. But that is what could happen without government action.

Congress and Treasury should relax PPA regulations

Since the financial crisis began, the federal government has begun to shore up financial markets, hoping to ease credit and ultimately spur the economy to rebound. That is well and good. Credit makes the world go round. Without access to credit, many businesses cannot survive, and the economy falls into a deep and prolonged recession.

Now it’s time for the government to turn their attention to defined-benefit pensions. They must take action so that pension plans can get that loss back over a long period of time. After all, most pension plan participants are still decades away from collecting their pensions.

The strongest pension funds will have trouble meeting these rigid requirements. The Boilermakers’ funds office is working very closely with the National Coordinating Committee of Multi-Employer Plans and others to find a way to get through this crisis. We are hopeful that with our many allies in Congress — and in the White House — we can see this reform accomplished.

Relaxing the PPA — perhaps only temporarily — will enable the pension trustees and money managers to avoid making benefit cuts that destroy our pensions. The Boilermaker-Blacksmith Pension has weathered stock market downturns before — in the 1970s, in 1987, and in the early part of this decade. I have every confidence in the experience and dedicated trustees who oversee the pension funds, the administrators and staff, and the consultants who provide advice and direction.

They have guided our funds successfully for decades, and they will continue to make sound decisions based on the best interests of plan participants and the long-term viability of the plan. I am confident they can get us through this crisis without allowing the recent financial collapse to destroy the primary source of retirement security for more than 73,000 Boilermakers.

But first the government has to take their handcuffs off.

“The PPA’s overly-restrictive accounting formula could end up destroying the defined-benefit pensions it was intended to protect.”

Newton B. Jones
International President

Congress and Treasury should relax PPA regulations

It is no surprise that participants in the Boilermaker Annuity have seen the value of their assets plunge over the past year. Those who are nearing retirement may want to take the advice of fund administrators.

They advise that you don’t have to cash in your annuity at the same time you begin retirement under the pension plan. If you plan to retire soon and you don’t need that cash immediately, you might want to let it sit for a few more years rather than locking in your losses. When the stock market fell 22 percent in a single day in 1987, it was back to its pre-crash high in less than two years.