Delegates make on-the-spot telephone calls to their congressional representatives in Washington, D.C., during a presentation by Bridget Martin, Director of Political Affairs.

The conference featured presentations from government officials representing the Department of Labor, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the National Labor Relations Board. Also taking part were attorneys from Blake & Uhlig, the Boilermaker National Funds office, and International staff.

“This conference was incredibly successful,” said Jim Pressley, Executive Director - Industrial, “This conference was incredibly successful,” said Jim Pressley, Executive Director - Industrial.
IS CONFERENCE
continued from page 1

Sector Operations. “Since it was our first such event, we were anticipating about 100 participants. We doubled that number, and we ended up using three hotels to accommodate the delegates. There was a wealth of information and expertise available to the participants. The feedback we’ve received has been very positive.”

Presley added, “One of the things we are pleased with is just how atten
tive our members were at the break-
outs. The attendance was excellent at
every session. Our members clearly came to learn.”

Conference reflects IIB restructuring

THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR conference reflects a new organizational model for the Brotherhood. In the past, industrial lodges generally interacted within their own industries — shipbuilding and marine; cement, lime and gypsum; stove and metal; railroad; forging; boiler shop; and manufacturing. Now all of those industries are covered under the same service and support structure, with a depart-
ment dedicated specifically to those lodges — the Industrial Sector Ser-
dices Department. International Vice President Warren Fairley represents the interests of the Industrial Sector on the International Executive Council.

“Your role is kind of unique,” said Fairley. “I am an advocate for all Industrial Sector lodges — no mat-
ter where they are located. I work in close coordination with the regional International Vice Presidents, who oversee the lodges in their respective geographic areas. We take a cooper-
tative approach to address the needs of the IS lodges.”

Construction lodges, which hold their own annual conference, have also been brought under one organ-
izational structure — Construction Sector Operations (CSO) — which is headed by Kyle Evenson, Execu-
tive Director. The Construction Divi-
sion, National Transient Division, and Non-Destructive Testing Division now receive services and support through CSO.

Intl. Pres. Newton Jones said the Industrial Sector conference “pre-
sented an opportunity to train together, to share experiences, and to build camaraderie across industries.” He added, “I believe our members in non-construction Boilermaker industries are excited to belong under one umbrella, with a new sense of direction.”

One common thread was how mergers over past decades brought together unions with diverse backgrounds, noting that each new merger partner was “plugged in” to the Boilermaker orga-

nization in a way that was functional and appropriate at the time. However, as industries continue to evolve, the Brotherhood must adapt as well, he said. Referring both to the Industrial Sector and the Con-
struction Sector, Jones said, “Now all the common interests have come together.”

Leadership reports on state of the union

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR DELEGATES heard from International leadership on topics ranging from the Brother-
hood’s finances to legislation of vital importance to Boilermaker members. IP Jones explained that despite the economic downturn the Brotherhood remains strong.

“We’re still operating quite well during a period when the economy is down, our investments are down, and we’re not seeing the investment income that we would normally see and have seen in the past,” he said. “This year we’re on track for about a $1 million increase in the budget. We remain very excited about the future of this organization.”

Intl. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden reported that the Brotherhood had fin-
ished the best year ever at the end of fiscal year 2008 (June 30 of last year) — before world economies headed into a steep recession later that fall. “We are still in good shape,” he said. The most recent financial report shows a net worth of $69 million. The union also retains an ownership in the Brother-
hood Bank worth approximately $20 million.

Creeden noted that membership was up slightly from a year ago (as of June 2009), standing at 63,411. “That’s a little more than what we had at the end of the November 2008 elections, so there will not be a contingency increase under 12.23 of the Constitu-
tion in January of [2010].” The Boil-
ermaker Constitution requires a per

capita increase if membership drops below the previous fiscal year’s level.

IP Jones also highlighted some of the critical legislation that the Brother-
hood is backing in Washington, D.C., including a national energy policy, health care reform, and the Employee Free Choice Act.

“We’re very much involved in the energy debate going on in Congress,” he said. “Abe Breehey, Director of Legislative Affairs, has been spectac-
ular in helping to fashion a bill that will work for this organization. We’re focused on maintaining the use of coal through cleaner coal technologies. It’s very important to this organization. You’re talking about $180 billion in investments in clean coal technology over the next decade or thereabout.”

Government presentations draw strong interest

MEMBERS INTERESTED IN infor-
mation about federal programs took advantage of opportunities offered by presenters from the Department of Labor (DOL), the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), and other agencies.

Patricia Preston, assistant director for the DOL’s Wage and Hour Division, spoke about recent changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act. Fran Gray, lead benefits advisor with the DOL’s Employee Benefits Security Administration, brings members up to speed on the changes to COBRA.

Glenn Tarkowski, director of mediation services for the FMCS Minneapolis Sub-region, explains how his agency works to resolve labor-management disputes.

Fran Gray, lead benefits advisor with the DOL’s Employee Benefits Security Administration, brings members up to speed on the changes to COBRA.

Patricia Preston, left, with the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division, discusses the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) with delegates following a presentation.

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lication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, AFL-CIO. It is published quarterly to disseminate information of use and interest to its members. Submissions from members, local lodges, and subsidi-
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Patricia Preston, left, with the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division, discusses the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) with delegates following a presentation.
Michael Stabler, regional solicitor for the DOL’s Region VII, brought members up to speed on the changes to COBRA. Glenn Tarkowski, director of mediation services for the FMCS Minneapolis Sub-region, explained services offered by his agency. And Daniel Hubbel, director of the NLRB’s Region 17, described how and when to file unfair labor practice (ULP) charges.

Other speakers represented the Federal Railroad Administration, the DOL’s Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Program, the Railroad Retirement Board, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, health insurance providers, and the Special Emergency Response Team.

**Members report on conference experiences**

FEEDBACK FORMS COMPLETED by conference participants showed an enthusiastic response and an overall approval rating of more than 90 percent. The event was not without a few glitches, though. Due to the large number of speakers and presenters, some members reported that additional time was needed to go into more detail on key topics. Others thought longer breaks were needed between sessions.

“We are taking all of the participants’ suggestions and concerns seriously,” said ED-ISO Pressley, “and we’ll be making refinements and improvements for the next conference. We expect next year’s event will be even better.”

Bridget Martin, Director of Political Affairs, said she was extremely pleased by the high-level of participation in fund raising for the Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF), the Boilermakers’ political action committee. “Participants at the IS conference generated more than $4,000,” she said. “That’s the largest single amount contributed at any conference I can recall.”

The conference also set a record in sign-ups for the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA), an outdoor club just for union members, which is affiliated with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. “We had nearly half of all conference participants join the USA,” said Nate Whiteman, the group’s national recruitment coordinator. “As a percentage, it was the highest sign-up we’ve ever had at a national event.”

The International has already begun developing plans for next year’s conference, which will be held at a location yet to be confirmed.
District Lodge D11 holds conference

Cement lodges discuss steward certification, bylaws, and revenue reporting

CEMENT DISTRICT LODGE D11 held its annual conference for training and information sharing July 7-9 in Kimberly, British Columbia, for union leaders representing the district’s 13 affiliated lodges.

Meeting topics included the Canadian Steward Certificate Level 2 Program, conducted by Intl. Rep Richard MacIntosh, and local lodge bylaws and revenue summary reports, presented by instructors from the International’s Industrial Sector Services Department (ISSD) — Tracy Buck, Jackie Judy, and Gary Powers. On July 9, Bus. Mgr. Rob Lauzon and ABM Kevin Forsyth discussed general business for the district lodge.

“We meet each year to share information and to form policies that are good for all of our affiliated lodges,” Lauzon reported. “This conference has proven to be a great opportunity to train local lodge leaders so we can improve service to our members.”

Formed in 1984 when the Cement, Lime, Gypsum, and Allied Workers Union merged with the Boilermakers, District Lodge D11 represents about 900 members in the cement, wall board, and quarrying industries. Affiliated lodges include, in Alberta, Locals D331 (Esloow), D345 (Calgary), and D359 and D513 (both in Edmonton); in British Columbia, Locals D277 (Bamberton), D385 and D400 (both in Vancouver), D479 (Invermere), D486 (New Westminster), and D503 (Kamloops); and in Manitoba, Locals D274 and D505 (both in Winnipeg), and D575 (Moosehorn).

Local lodge leaders attending the July conference included Claude Bibeau, Cyril Jennings, George Lister, and Kevin Mathews (Local D331); Stuart Bilodeau, Larry Blazeiko, and Glen Rosseker (Local D359); Gregg Dunning and Richard Smith (Local D385); Fred Mayer (Local D479); Steve Holt, Bill Hunt, Harpereet Kailri, Dave McMillan, and Jeffrey Riad (Local D486); Murray Adolph, Francis Aloc, Shawn Becker, and Steve Robinson (Local D513); Joe Diberardino, Michael Rezko, and Kevin Sheptycki (Local D575).

For more information on Cement District Lodge D11, please visit www.boilermaker.ca, click on “Lodges” (in menu bar at far right), then choose “Cement Division – West” (from the lodge listing at left). ☞

Boilermakers draw attention to problems with Lafarge, learn how ICEM works

IN JUNE, MEMBERS of the Boilermakers’ International Executive Council (IEC) and staff attended an executive meeting of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions (ICEM) in Geneva, Switzerland. Just as the AFL-CIO unites U.S. trade unions in order to wield more power against U.S. corporations, ICEM unites industrial unions worldwide in order to be more effective in dealing with multinational corporations. Currently, ICEM includes more than 460 industrial trade unions which collectively represent more than 20 million workers in 132 countries.

Boilermaker International Officers attended the executive meeting so they could better understand how the ICEM works and how we might use the power of those 20 million workers more effectively. They also took a message to the meeting: In the United States, Lafarge, the world’s largest cement company, is not abiding by the ICEM Global Framework Agreement it signed in 2005.

ICEM’s Global Framework Agreements (GFAs) encourage multinational corporations to adhere to high standards on trade union rights; health, safety and environmental practices; and quality of work principles across a company’s entire global operations. By signing a GFA, the company agrees to maintain these standards even where they are not required by a country’s laws. The GFA Lafarge signed with ICEM included, among other things, a promise to adhere to high labor rights standards in every country where it does business. But in the United States, at least, Lafarge has not kept their end of the bargain.

IVP IS Warren Fairley made the Brotherhood’s case. The ICEM executive was receptive, and Boilermaker IP Newton Jones expects the ICEM Materials Sector Committee to take action against Lafarge at their November meeting. “With a show of worldwide solidarity, we may succeed in halting Lafarge’s union-busting activities,” he said. IP Jones chairs the Materials Sector Committee, which includes unions in the cement, ceramics, and glass industries.

President Jones asked ICEM members to attend the June meeting in order to show our union’s resolve to be strong against a tough opponent, but he also wanted them to see firsthand how an international confederation operates and to learn what U.S. unions are up against. What they learned was sometimes disturbing.

“It was eye-opening,” IVP Tom Baca said after the meeting, “to hear delegates from several countries — including some third-world countries — tell us how bad they felt about the weak labor laws in the United States.”

Attending the ICEM meeting were IP Jones; IST William Creeden; IVP’s Larry McManamon (Great Lakes), Saim May (Southeast), Ed Power (Eastern Canada), Fairley (Industrial Sector), and Baca (Western States); ED-ISO/D-AAIP James A. Pressley; and D-CED/SAIP Donald Casswell. ☞

Reporters wins ILCA awards

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR Communications Association (ILCA) has announced the winners of its 2009 Labor Media Contest for publications issued in 2008, selecting the Boilermaker Reporter for the following awards:

- First award for best informational graphic;
- Third award for best publication;
- Third award for best series of articles;
- Third award for best organizing story; and
- Honorable mention for best photo essay.

For more information on Cement District Lodge D11, please visit www.boilermaker.ca, click on “Lodges” (in menu bar at far right), then choose “Cement Division – West” (from the lodge listing at left). ☞

Local leaders from seven affiliated lodges attend the annual conference of Cement District Lodge D11, July 7-9, in Kimberly, British Columbia.
We need an energy bill that protects jobs as well as the environment

ONE WAY OR another, the federal government will soon begin acting on the issue of global warming. Either an energy bill with a cap-and-trade program to lower greenhouse gases will pass Congress and be signed by President Obama, or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin using its regulatory authority to lower emissions.

A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision gave EPA the authority to regulate carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions under the Clean Air Act if Congress fails to pass legislation, and the agency has opened the door to their involvement by issuing a finding that greenhouse gases endanger the public health and welfare by contributing to climate change.

Boilermaker Director of Legislative Affairs Abe Breehey says we can’t afford to leave such a complex and far-reaching problem to the EPA. The Clean Air Act was written over 30 years ago to address local and regional pollution problems. Using it to address global warming could cause significant economic harm and would be unlikely to accomplish much environmental good.

“We absolutely need an energy bill that contains a workable cap-and-trade program,” he explains. “That is the fastest, most cost-efficient way to lower CO2 emissions. But our domestic efforts must be coupled with a global strategy. If we insist that U.S. businesses lower their emissions, then we must also insist that our global partners and competitors make a comparable effort.”

Breehey favors an “international reserve allowance” that would adjust the price of energy-intensive imports to account for carbon content, in effect imposing a “carbon tariff” on imports from countries that don’t lower their emissions. The House energy bill contains such a provision.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman agrees. In his daily blog, he explained that “there’s perfectly sound economics behind border adjustments related to cap-and-trade. . . If you only impose restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions from domestic sources, you give consumers no incentive to avoid purchasing products that cause emissions in other countries.”

He went on to say that carbon tariffs would probably be allowed under current trade law, because they would level the playing field, but not give any one country an unfair advantage.

Support for this approach also came from 10 senators who wrote a letter to President Obama August 6 supporting measures to ensure a strong U.S. manufacturing sector. They named four possibilities: providing short-term assistance to trade-exposed industries; making trade agreements address manufacturing competitiveness; holding countries accountable for emissions reduction; and investing in energy efficiency and clean technology.

“Doing nothing is not an option,” Breehey says. “With the right provisions, the energy bill can significantly reduce greenhouse emissions without wrecking the economy, and create thousands of Boilermaker jobs building new pollution control technology.”

— Abe Breehey, Boilermaker Director of Legislative Affairs

Boilermakers rally for health care reform

MORE THAN TWO DOZEN Boilermakers took part in a rally for health care reform at Capitol Hill June 25. They joined thousands of activists from across the country — including many representing labor unions — in demanding that Congress fix the broken health care system. President Barack Obama has proposed major revisions in order to contain cost and make health care available to all Americans.

Representing the Boilermakers were Local 13 (Philadelphia), Local 45 (Richmond, Va.), and Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio).

Top Left: Representing Local 13 are, l. to r., Mike Impagliazzo, lodge president; Jim Banford, BM-ST; and Bill Bradley, trustee.

Bottom Left: Local 45 BM-ST Frank Hartsoe (back row, far left) and President Wilbur Brown (front row, third from right) join other L-45 members in urging health care reform.

Below Right: Local 85 members display their “calling card” near the capitol.
And now your local news... brought to you from India

AMERICANS GROWING WEARY of seeing their jobs off-shored now have another indignity to endure — reading “local” newspapers that are written in India. The Labor Letter reports that a small California community newspaper, Pasadena Now, dumped seven local reporters and hired six replacements in India. The foreign reporters cover city hall meetings via live video streaming and make extensive use of press releases and the Internet. And it’s not just small newspapers going this route. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch moved its ad preparation work to India, eliminating 11 American workers — most of them over the age of 50.

Quebec imposes labor contract on Wal-Mart

THERE’S FINALLY A chink in the armor of mighty Wal-Mart, the world’s largest retailer with more than two million employees and 7,870 stores worldwide. In July, eight employees in the tire and lube department at the Wal-Mart in Gatineau, Quebec, became the only group of workers in North America that is party to a labor contract with the company. Wal-Mart didn’t exactly agree to the deal — the Quebec Labor Relations Board imposed that contract after negotiations collapsed. The unit, part of the United Food and Commercial Workers Canada, had organized in 2005. The new contract calls for starting wages to increase from $8.40 to $10.89 an hour.

It remains to be seen how long the union’s success will last. Wal-Mart is notorious for taking extreme measures to keep unions out, including eliminating job positions and closing down stores.

What is a worker’s life worth?

THE AVERAGE PENALTY for a worker killed on the job is $11,300, the AFL-CIO’s director of health and safety told a House panel in Washington, D.C., earlier this year. Peg Seminario, testifying before the Education and Labor Committee, said that workplace safety and health laws carry such minimal penalties that many employers simply ignore them. She said the maximum penalty for a serious violation that injures or kills workers is $7,000, and $700 for willful and repeated violations.

Seminario concluded: “The entire OSHA penalty formula and policies should be reviewed and revamped. Too many should use its full statutory authority to impose meaningful penalties for serious, willful, and repeat violations.

Seminario concluded: “The entire OSHA penalty formula and policies should be reviewed and revamped. Too many employers simply ignore them. She said the maximum penalty for a serious violation that injures or kills workers is $7,000, and $700 for willful and repeated violations.

Meanwhile, unions in the United States once again lead the way in securing benefits for workers. The EPI cites a study of the entire American workforce that shows that after negotiations, union members receive 26.6 percent more paid vacation weeks than non-union workers.

For event details, including a registration form, visit the Boilermakers’ Web site at www.boilermakers.org

Boilermakers to host USA shoot in Kansas City

EVENT WILL RAISE MONEY FOR UNION-ONLY HUNTING AND FISHING

UNION MEMBERS CAN test their shooting skills in friendly competition at the first annual Midwest Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA) Sporting Clays Shoot in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 23. The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers is hosting the event, which will be held at the Saddle and Sirloin Club.

Participants can take part as individual shooters, shooting teams, or event sponsors. Information is available for first-time shooters. “The Brotherhood is proud to be a part of this effort,” said Int. Sec.-Treas. Bill Creeden, who is co-chair for the event (Intl. Pres. Newton Jones is chair). “All proceeds go to support the USA and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, whose mission is to guarantee all of us a place to hunt and fish,” said Creeden.

For event details, including a registration form, visit the Boilermakers’ Web site at www.boilermakers.org

Minimum wage hits $7.25

Studies show increases are good for economy, don’t cause job losses

THE FEDERAL MINIMUM wage jumped from $5.85 an hour to $7.25 per hour. It was the third and final 70-cent raise in a three-step hike passed by Congress in 2007. For 10 years the rate had stagnated at $5.15 an hour, until new Democratic majorities in the U.S. House and Senate pushed the increase through. The hike bumped the rate to $5.85 in 2007 and $6.55 in 2008. An estimated 10 million workers in 31 states will benefit from the hike. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia already have minimum wage rates at $7.25 per hour or higher, so workers there will not be affected.

California and Massachusetts, for example, have minimum wage rates of $8 per hour. The state of Washington’s is $8.55.

Raising the minimum wage has long been a sore spot with corporate lobbyists, who claim such increases cause job losses. However, studies indicate that’s not true. A 2006 study involving more than 650 economists — including five Nobel laureates — found that raising the minimum wage “significantly improves the lives of low-income workers and their families, without the adverse effects critics have warned about.”

According to the Economic Policy Institute’s Minimum Wage Issue Guide:
• The average minimum wage worker brings home more than 80 percent of her family’s weekly earnings;
• 76 percent of workers whose wages will be raised by the minimum wage increase are adults;
• 63 percent of workers who will benefit from an increase to $7.25 are women; and
• A disproportionate share of minorities will benefit from a minimum wage increase. Afri-Can-Americans represent 11 percent of the total workforce, but are 18 percent of the workers affected by an increase. Similarly, 14 percent of the total workforce is Hispanic, but Hispanics are 19 percent affected by an increase.

The EPI also projects that increasing the minimum wage to $7.25 an hour will stimulate the economy, boosting consumer spending by $5.5 billion over the next 12 months. Even with an individual earning the current $7.25 in a standard work year, that person would earn $14,500 — slightly below the federal poverty level for a family of two.

The minimum wage first became law in 1938 as part of the Fair Labor Standards Act, when Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt promoted the measure as part of his plan to end the Great Depression. The initial rate was set at 25 cents an hour.
MOST conducts project management training

Twenty attend course in Kansas City

TWENTY CONSTRUCTION Boilermakers from 15 lodges attended the MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training) trust’s project management program in Kansas City, Mo., July 26-31. The week-long course “provides instruction on how to manage projects in a business-like manner and make decisions that positively impact project goals and provide an overall benefit to the owner, the contractor, the Boilermakers union, and other union crafts,” said Roger Erickson, MOST safety representative.

Attending the course were, front row, l. to r.: Bridget Connors, MOST safety rep; Marty Cochran, Local 110 (Hattiesburg, Miss.); Preston Penick, Local 13 (Philadelphia); Scott Campbell, Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.); Roman Roulst, Local 502 (Tacoma, Wash.); Chris Strickland, Local 582 (Baton Rouge, La.); Robert Porter, Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.); and Lewis Slade Jr., Local 134 (Pittsburgh). Second row, l. to r.: Jarvis Ranager, Local 110; Patrick Collins, Local 92 (Los Angeles); Kenneth A. Burk, Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio); Greg Devereaux, Local 83; James Mora, Local 92; Scott Locke, Local 105 (Chillum, Md.); Jason Cutsinger, Local 503 (East St. Louis, Ill.); Wayne Vickers, Local 112 (Mobile, Ala.); and Roger Erickson, MOST safety rep. Third row, l. to r.: Dale “Skipper” Branscum, AIP/DCS; Gerry Klimo, instructor; Michael Stinnett, Local 454 (Chattanooga, Tenn.); Jonathan Mongold, Local 45 (Richmond, Va.); Michael Petraglia, Local 154; Chris Morrell, Local 647 (Memphis); Ryan Stauffer, Local 13; and Chuck Connor, instructor.

Letters to the Editor

Davis family takes pride in Boilermaker heritage

THE DAVIS FAMILY is proud to carry the title “Boilermaker” for generation after generation. My grandfather, Ernie L. Davis, was a member of Local 40 (Helena, Mont.). My father also has three grandchildren who are apprentices, and five of his six children are Boilermakers: Mark A. Davis, Local 107 (Milwaukee, Wis.); Larry G. Davis Jr., Local 26; Jeffrey L. Davis, Local 26; Kathleen Davis Raynor, Local 455 (Sheffield, Ala.); and Loretta G. Hellenguard, Local 11 (Helena, Mont.). My father also has three grandchildren who are apprentices.

Jeffrey L. Davis, Local 26
Savannah, Ga.

L-28 BM-ST thanks Flynn for service

I WOULD LIKE to express my gratitude to Robert W. Flynn Sr. for his dedication to Boilermakers Local 28 [Newark, N.J.] and all its members. Bob retired the end of May after 28 years of service as recording secretary. I’m pretty sure that he has worked at every Boilermaker discipline. He has also been a foreman, general foreman, and shop steward. Bob was appointed as an assistant business agent in 2001 and served in that position with three business managers. I believe that he long ago earned the respect of his union brothers and sisters, along with the contractors and clients. I am honored to have worked with a man like Robert W. Flynn Sr. My words cannot do him justice.

Edward P. Latacz II
L-28 BM-ST
Bayonne, N.J.

Check out our Web site!

Got a question? Go to www.boilermakers.org for the answer!

THE BOILERMAKERS’ WEB SITE is the information highway our members travel most to find out the latest in union news. Just log onto www.boilermakers.org to

- Read news stories
- View back issues of the Boilermaker Reporter
- Learn about safety and health issues
- Check on training programs
- Become politically active
- Find out about Union Plus benefits
- Visit sites for Boilermaker trust funds and local lodges
- E-mail other members (under Resources)
- Learn about the union’s structure, leadership, and much, much more.

If you view this article on the Web site, clicking on each of these bulleted items will automatically link you to that page.

Send a Letter to the Editor: The Boilermaker Reporter, 753 State Ave. Suite 570, Kansas City KS 66101 | FAX: (913) 281-8110 | E-mail: davisw@boilermakers.org
Conducting an Investigation

GRIEVANCES ARE WON and lost based on how well they are investigated. A thorough investigation gives you the tools you need to build a strong argument. Every grievance is different, so every investigation will lead you in different directions, but employing a few basic strategies can improve your investigations and thereby improve your chances of winning.

Plan your investigation

Begin with the grievant.

When you’ve finished the interview, it is a good idea to have the witness read your notes and sign them to indicate they are accurate. The witness can make changes to what you’ve written, if he or she sees something not quite right, but always make sure they initial these changes before signing.

Some stewards have witnesses write out their own statements, and then they go back over the written statement and ask questions for clarification. Both methods have good points as well as bad ones. Many people are better at speaking than writing; in addition, you can ask questions for clarification as you go. On the other hand, writing down the statement will force the witness to get to the point quickly—a problem some people have when speaking.

When using witnesses, numbers do count. If only one witness backs up your member’s account while five remember something very close to what the supervisor says happened, it may indicate management’s case is stronger. And vice versa, of course.

Advise witnesses that their statements and responses to questions may be made available to the employee and to management, and that they may be called to give testimony at a hearing.

Good investigators keep digging

WHEN YOU HAVE covered these basic questions, try to imagine what management will say about the case so you can begin formulating your response. Look for areas in your argument where the facts are weak and try to find back-up evidence. Perhaps you could only find one person who will testify to seeing your grievant at work during the time he is accused of being AWOL, and she was pretty far away. Can you find a witness that places your grievant far away from the scene just before the incident took place? Can you demonstrate that he performed a task on the job during that time period?

The more information you get, the more likely you are to uncover a detail that will unlock the case. Many stewards have stories about how asking one more question or looking just a little bit deeper into the issue at hand ended up turning a grievance around. For example, a college teacher was fired for alleged sexual harassment of a student. There were no witnesses, and the professor denied everything, but the student was a credible witness who gave many convincing details regarding their affair. She even told how on a certain day the teacher had driven to her apartment and demanded entry.

But the union attorney believed the teacher, and just to be thorough, he did some more investigation. That’s when he learned that during the time the professor was supposed to have driven to her house, the city was being hit by a terrible storm, and the police had blocked the roads. To make the drive as she had claimed, he would have had to go through the police barricade on a night when the police had advised against all travel. This hole in the claimant’s case made her testimony less credible, and the arbitrator reduced the discharge.

—Donald Caswell
Local lodge leaders attend summer training institute

Courses cover wide range of union-related topics

FIFTY-ONE LOCAL lodge leaders attended classes at the 52nd annual Summer Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin’s School for Workers held July 26 through August 7, in Madison, Wis. Over a two-week period, the institute offered basic and advanced courses.

The Boilermakers have been holding these summer seminars at the School for Workers since 1958. They are an integral part of the Brotherhood’s training and leadership development program. This year, the courses were held at the Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus.

The basic course addressed contract administration, labor and IBB history, collective bargaining, workers and the global economy, political action, safety and health, FMLA, communication skills, and the Boilermaker organization.

Coursework for the advanced class is designed for those who have completed the basic training. Advanced participants study elections, common sense economics, communication skills, problem solving and grievance handling, grievance arbitration, workers and the global economy, health care bargaining, labor and IBB history, building the union, and membership mobilization. The advanced class also heard from David Newby, president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO.

As with previous institutes, members took advantage of their time together to share experiences from across the spectrum of Boilermaker industries and occupations: from building naval ships to coal mining, from forging aerospace products to building cranes, from field construction to dismantling nuclear submarines, and from fabricating piping and industrial tanks to maintaining military aircraft.

In addition to participating in a focused learning environment, members enjoyed opportunities to socialize after hours, build friendships, and explore the state capital city of Madison and the University of Wisconsin.

Institutes instructors included professors from UW-Madison’s School for Workers, Boilermaker staff providing instruction included Donald Caswell, Director of the Communication and Education Department; Bridget Martin, Director of Political Affairs; Cecile Conroy, Assistant Director of the Department of Government Affairs; Mark Garrett, Safety and Health Specialist; and Mike Linderer, writer and editor in the Communication and Education Department.

Members attending the 2009 basic course included Daniel DeCarlo, Local 7 (Buffalo, N.Y.); Cynthia Escobar, Local D46 (Santa Cruz, Calif.); Kevin Wilson, Local 57 (Portsmouth, Va.); Clayton Knepp III, Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.); Joshua Gettino and Jay Long, Local 84 (Peoria, Kan.); Steve Maupin, Local 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio); Robert Mika, Local 290 (Bremerton, Wash.); Susan Dunn, Justin Kohut, Rebecca Smith, and Christopher Stockwell, Local 344 (Ridgecrest, Calif.); Jason McKinley and Mike McMillin, Local 363 (East St. Louis, Ill.); Gregory Hay, Jeremy Mahrenholz, and Joey Pennington, Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.); Kurt Alet and Dave Kaczowski, Local 443 (Manitowoc, Wis.); Mark Heinbecher and Jeremy Walls, Local 449 (Sturgeon Bay, Wis.); Terry Bailey, Local 656 (Chattanooga, Tenn.); Tom Grun, Mark Nason, Reynold Nelson, John Semrau, and Cindy Swette, Local 696 (Marinette, Wis.); John Jackson, Sean Momberg, David Roberts, and Jerod Romanowski, Local 1509 (Cudahy, Wis.); Jim Grosse, Local 1600 (St. Charles, Ill.); and Terry McFall and Norman Underwood, Local 1626 (Champaign, Ill.).

Members attending the 2009 advanced course included Daniel Bradley, Keith Clayton, and Ronnie Pinkston, Local S8 (Equality, Ill.); John Kosinski, Local 290; Sean Burgess, Joshua Conrad, and Robert Lampkin Jr., Local 344; Earl Babb, Local 656; Ed Doyen, Wayne Johnson, William Lockhart, and Cindy Swette, Local 696; Duane Larson, Charles Sandor, and Daniel Seng, Local 1509; and Scott Deaville, Local 1626.
**APPRENTICE NEWS**

**REGIONAL APPRENTICE COMPETITIONS**

**Northeast & Great Lakes**

The Northeast and Great Lakes areas held their 23rd annual joint graduate apprentice competitions May 4-8 at Local 5 Zone 197 (Albany, N.Y.). The top two finishers in each contest will represent their area in the national contest in Kansas City, Kan., Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

Toth and Buskey win Northeast

Michael Toth of Local 237 (Hartford, Conn.) and Eric Buskey Sr. of Local 5 Zone 197 placed first and second, respectively, in the Northeast Area Apprentice Committee’s (NEAAC) John J. Harrington Apprentice of the Year competition.

Also competing were James Raab, Local 7 (Buffalo, N.Y.); Stephen Raleigh, Local 13 (Philadelphia); Patrick O’Farrell, Local 363 (Salem, Ore.); and Anthony Gesuale, Local 154 (Pittsburgh).

The contestants were later honored at their area’s semi-annual meeting July 15 in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Union judges for the NEAAC contest were Jerry Couser, Local 197 (Baltimore); Matt Josephson, Local 687; Kevin Miller, Local 26; Quinn Hatton, Local 263; Matthew Schmitt, Simakas Rocco Puglin, and Michael Stanton; Ray Orsi Jr., ISO; James Horkay, Local 154 retiree; and L-13 welding instructor; Bob Heine, IR; David Dupuis, retired tor; Ernie Dorsey, retired L-193 BM-ST.

**Vodraska and Woods win Great Lakes**

MATTHEW VODRASKA OF Local 744 (Cleveland) and Ryan Woods of Local 27 (St. Louis) placed first and second, respectively, in the Great Lakes Area Boilermaker Apprentice Program (GLABAP) competition.

Also competing were Noel Springhart, Local 1 (Chicago); Wayne Hayes, Local 60 (Peoria, Ill.); Jeffrey Rose, Local 107 (Milwaukee, Wis.); Josue Fuentes, Local 169 (Detroit); Matt Smith, Local 363 (East St. Louis, Ill.); Timothy Esparza, Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.); and Brady Blotks, Local 647 (Minneapolis).

Union judges included Bob Schwartz, L-1 business agent; Mike Card, L-169 business agent; and Mark Lester, L-27 training instructor. Contractor judges included Shane Gor, Innovative Foundry; and Don Placco, Hayes Mechanical.

According to co-coordinators Lawrence McManamon Jr. and Mark Gustafson, the 2009 GLABAP competition was their area’s largest competition yet, with nine lodges sending contestants. To honor the outstanding apprentices, the GLABAP held its 15th annual Robert McDonough, John Mooney, and John Nooter Awards Banquet on the Odyssey cruise ship, located on Chicago’s Navy pier, June 10.

**Great Lakes Area contestants include, front row, l. to r.: Matt Smith, Local 363; Brady Blotks, Local 647; Noel Springhart, Local 1; and Wayne Hayes, Local 60. Back row, l. to r.: Ryan Woods, Local 27 (runner-up); Jeffrey Rose, Local 107; Timothy Esparza, Local 374; Josue Fuentes, Local 169; and Matthew Vodraska, Local 744 (winner).**

**Southeast**

Winning the 41st annual competition entitled Tucker and Brown to compete both individually and as a team in the national contest Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

Other graduate apprentices competing were Kevin Miller, Local 26 (Savannah, Ga.); Marc Dingeo, Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.); Woody English, Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.); Gregory Wilbum, Local 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio); John Weldon, Local 108 (Birmingham, Ala.); James Eubanks, Local 110 (Hattiesburg, Miss.); John Baierlein, Local 193 (Baltimore); Steffon Hendrieth, Local 199; James Nunley, Local 263 (Memphis, Tenn.); Randall Copeland, Local 433 (Tampa, Fla.); Adam Sosebee, Local 454 (Chattanooga, Tenn.); Quinn Hatton, Local 455 (Sheffield, Ala.); Danny Vanscoy II, Local 667 (Charleston, W.Va.); and Matthew Josephson, Local 687 (Charleston Heights, S.C.).

Union judges included AIP Dennis King, Intl. Reps William “Dusty” Garmon and Steve Speed, and retired Intl. Reps Barry Edwards and Bill Eldor. Contractor judges included Bob Righter of AP Com Power, Chuck Harvey of B&W Const., Kelly Lykins and Scott Soeghi of Enerfab, and Randall James of M&D Const. SAJAC Coordinator Mike McCluskey served as testing coordinator and Robert Simmons, a retired business manager of Operators Local 673, operated the tugger for the candidates.

SAJAC Director Michael Peterson said the competition provides a great opportunity to see how well the apprentice graduates apply the skills they’ve been taught to real work situations. “It’s always a pleasure watching these new journeymen work,” he said. “Boilermakers always rise to the occasion when called upon and always do their best. That’s all we’ve ever expected out of any contestant, just their best.”

**Western States**

The Western States Apprentice/Ship competition was held May 10-14 at Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.). Local 549’s David Hoogendoorn placed second. Both will represent the Western States at the national contest in Kansas City, Kan., Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

Nine construction lodges participated in this year’s event. Other graduate apprentices competing included Michelle Kele, Local 4 (Fayette, Ariz.); Justin Ketzenberg, Local 902 (Tacoma, Wash.); Carlin Yazzie, Local 627 (Phoenix); Louis Arguello, Local 92 (Los Angeles); Kirk Hampton, Local 500 (Salem, Ore.); Bradley Green, Local 11 (Helena, Mont.); and David Merrill, Local 101 (Denver).

Union judges included L-594 retirees Otis Edwards and John Riccobuono, and L-627 retiree David Barndol lar. Contractor judges included Ken Null, Babcock & Wilcox; David Gleason, Contractors Cargo; and Daryl Crum, PML.

**Western States Apprentice/Ship competitions include, l. to r.: Michelle Kele, Local 4; Justin Ketzenberg, Local 902; Carlin Yazzie, Local 627; Louis Arguello, Local 92; David Hoogendoorn, Local 549 (runner-up); Kirk Hampton, Local 500; Bradley Green, Local 11; David Merrill, Local 101; and Luke Lafley, Local 242 (winner).**

Lafley and Hoogendoorn win Western States

LUKE LAFLHEY OF Local 242 (Spokane, Wash.) won the James F. Precht Award as the top apprentice in the 22nd annual Western States Area Outstanding Graduate Apprentice Competition held May 10-14 at Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.). Local 549’s David Hoogendoorn placed second. Both will represent the Western States at the national contest in Kansas City, Kan., Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

**Southeast**

Tucker and Brown win Southeast

FOR THE FIRST TIME, a Local 69 (Lit tle Rock, Ark.) member has won the Paul D. Wedge Memorial Award for the Outstanding Graduate Apprentice of the Southeast Area. Thomas Tucker took the top honor at the Southeast Area Joint Apprentice Committee’s (SAJAC) event held July 27-30 at Local 199’s Michael C. Peterson Training Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Northern contestants include, l. to r.: Michelle Kele, Local 4; Justin Ketzenberg, Local 902; Carlin Yazzie, Local 627; Louis Arguello, Local 92; David Hoogendoorn, Local 549 (runner-up); Kirk Hampton, Local 500; Bradley Green, Local 11; David Merrill, Local 101; and Luke Lafley, Local 242 (winner).
Local 667 graduates its first
Helmet to Hardhats apprentices

Eight military veterans become journeymen
Boilermakers

LOCAL LODGE 667 (Charleston, W.Va.) graduated its first apprenticeship class with eight members indentured from Helmets to Hardhats, a national program that connects former military personnel with career opportunities in the building and construction trades.

The February graduates include Tom Abbott, Aaron Bradley, Dewey Greear, Chad Pinkerman, Anthony Reynolds, Jake Samples, Alan Staats, and Joshua Whitecotton.

Craig Phillips, apprentice coordinator for Local 667, believes the military played an important role in the development of these new journeyman Boilermakers.

“ Their military lifestyles proved to be a great advantage when it came to performing a job task as instructed, showing up for work on a regular basis, and having very strong work ethics,” Phillips said. “ Throughout the 6,000 hours of on-the-job training and 576 hours of classroom and shop training, these men showed determination and dedication. They came to the local training center on their own time with journeyman Boilermakers who were willing to help them with their welding skills.”

When first indentured, these individuals had no real idea of what a Boilermaker is, or what being a Boilermaker would mean to them, Phillips said. Most had no maintenance skills and had never struck an arc with a welding machine. But by the end of the program, all eight had become certified tube welders with multiple contractors, and one was also certified in plate welding.

“These apprentices started as individuals with no union work experience,” Phillips said, “but I am proud to report that they are now graduates, skilled journeyman Boilermakers.”

Boilermakers march for Free Choice in Little Rock

NEARLY TWO DOZEN members of Local 69 (Little Rock, Ark.) and other Boilermaker locals joined about 500 union members and supporters in a march on the Arkansas state capitol in July to urge support for the Employee Free Choice Act. The legislation would make it easier for workers to form unions, letting them decide whether or not to conduct secret ballot elections — instead of the employer making that decision. It would also stiffen the penalties for employers who illegally fire or intimidate workers during organizing drives, as well as provide mediation and arbitration, if needed, to secure a first contract between the parties.

“ Along the way to the capitol, we stopped by the office of Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.),” said L-69 BM-ST Frank Brown. “ In the past, Sen. Lincoln has supported and co-sponsored union bills, but she is currently undecided on Free Choice. She was not present when we arrived, but [I understand that] she has met with several national labor leaders in recent weeks, and she indicated that she shares their goals.”

Brown said one of the themes of the march was, “ Workers rights are civil rights.” It was fitting, he said, that participants gathered at Little Rock Central High School prior to the event. “ The school has been a hub of civil rights activity in Arkansas. It became internationally known on Sept. 2, 1957, when Gov. Orval Forbus sent Arkansas National Guardsmen to prevent nine black students from entering the all-white school. Those nine students, now known as the ‘ Little Rock Nine,’ should have had a choice — and workers should have a choice also.”

Joining Brown in the march were, also from L-69, apprentice instructors Donnie Jones, Clay Rice, and Thomas “ Tommy” Tucker, and apprentices Barrett Adams, Chris Bales, Zack Carrack, Roy Garrett, Jason Johnson, Seth Johnson, Johnathan Lindsey, Kevin Luna, David Maxwell, Kurtis Neal, Bill Pearson, Quincey Powell, John Rego, and Jerry Walter. Attending from other locals were apprentice instructors Clyde Brown, Local 263 (Memphis, Tenn.); apprentice Chris Harris, L-37 (New Orleans); and apprentices John Brookbank and Trevor Porter, both of L-592 (Tulsa, Okla.).

L-667 graduate apprentices from the Helmets to Hardhats program include, l. to r.: front row, Aaron Bradley, Anthony Reynolds, Dewey Greear, and Tom Abbott; back row, L-667 BM-ST George Pinkerman, Alan Staats, Chad Pinkerman, Joshua Whitecotton, Jake Samples, and L-667 Apprentice Coordinator Craig Phillips.

L-60 apprentices graduate

THE OFFICERS AND members of Local 60 (Peoria, Ill.) offer their congratulations to the March 2009 graduate apprentices. Pictured at left are: L. to r.: front row, Christopher Hahn, Lonnie Irrel, Douglass Pratt, Nathan Priddle, and Kelly List. Back row: Jason Priddle, William Embree, William Herman, Sidney Dove, Wayne Hayes, and Jon Tortat.

L-667 graduate apprentices take part in a march in Little Rock, Ark., for the Employee Free Choice Act. Behind them is Little Rock Central High School, site of an infamous civil rights incident in 1957 in which the state’s governor kept black students from entering the then all-white school.
COMPETITION
continued from page 1

Local 128 gets kudos for facility, hard work

CONTESTANTS AT THE competition found Local 128’s new training facility much to their liking. “Everything you needed was there — and all the tools were new,” said Matteau. “And they did just a great job with the preparation.”

Canadian National Training Coordinator Grant Jacobs agreed. “The staff of Local 128 and Ed Hoffmann, the instructor at Humber College, were exceptional this year,” he said. Jacobs recalled that Jim Tinney, the former Local 128 business manager and secretary-treasurer, approached him right after the new hall and training center opened to request that the lodge be considered as a host site. “I’m proud to say that with the commitment of Local 128 Business Manager Jim Watson, that we pulled it off.”

Local 128’s hall and 6,800-sq.-ft. training center were completed in 2007. Much of the facility has been equipped with advanced tools and systems courtesy of a $1.4 million grant from the Canadian Federal and Ontario Provincial governments.

This year’s test coordinators were Ed Hoffmann, Humber College, and Ed Hoffmann, Local 128.

Judges from the technical colleges included Ken Bachand, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology; Jim Beauchamp, Red River College; Winnipeg; and Marcel Losier, New Brunswick Community College.

Union judges included Mike Bayens, L-146; Al Bennett, Local 359; Darrell Bray, Local 555; Bill Healey, Local 203; and Ted Stark, Local 555.

Employer judges included Styve Dumouzel, Lorneville Mechanical; Kim Jones, B&W; Richard Leblanc, Kamtech Services; and Ron Takacs, Alstom Canada.

Alternate judges were Marty Albright of Alstom Canada and Dave Ralph of Local 146.

“It takes a lot of training to get our members prepared to do the jobs at hand.” — Fabian Tompkins

“Each year, the apprentice competition tests journeyman tradecraft. The contest begins with a six-hour written exam that includes about 300 multiple-choice questions drawn from the apprentice training curriculum, the Boilermaker Constitution, and local lodge bylaws. Curriculum-related content includes such topics as cutting and welding; hand and power tools; construction materials; metallurgy; blueprint reading; layout and fitting; math; rigging; and boilers, heat exchangers, furnaces, and tanks.”

During the three days following the written exam, contestantsCompete in practical projects designed to test the application of their knowledge and skills, with a focus on welding and cutting, layout and fitting, tube rolling, and rigging.

In all four practical tests, judges grade for safety performance as well as completion of the project specifications.

Contestants in the 2009 Canadian Apprenticeship Competition include, l. to r., Jason Matteau, L-73 (winner); Greg Cameron, L-128; Kenneth Simms, L-203; Geoffrey Moore, L-148; Garrett Parthenay, L-505; Jean Blanchard, L-271; and Dan Fraught, L-359.

“...the Boilermaker Reporter

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This year’s welding and cutting test required the contestants to weld two sets of coupons (small steel plates) – one in the flat position, the other in the horizontal position. Candidates were required to cut a double bevel in each set. The contestants also were required to cut a lifting lug from steel plate.

In the waterwall exercise, the apprentices cut and removed a bad section of tube, prepared the wall stub ends, and prepared and installed a 14-in. replacement pup. (A pup is a short piece of tube that is beveled on both ends to fit into the tube that has been cut.) Specifications called for a 1/8-in. gap at the top of the pup and a 3/32-in. gap at the bottom.

The hopper test challenged contestants to build a small hopper, measuring 3’8” x 2’10” x 1’10”, from 3/16-in. plate steel. The design included 45-degree flanges. Hopper components had to be laid out on a 4 x 8 sheet of 3/16-in. plate steel, cut, and welded together. Material waste and completion time were factored into the grading.

The rigging exercise required contestants to lift a 10,000-lb. heat exchanger to the first level of the rigging platform and drift the load for placement onto the structure. The test required using two tuggers and rigging blocks and snatch blocks. Contestants acted as the lead rigger. They gave directions to their “crew” (including volunteer apprentices from Local 128 and the lodge’s health and safety instructor, Blair Allin), planned and set up the lift, inspected the condition of all rigging tools and equipment, set up a safe work perimeter, and calculated lift loads and sling angles.
L-105 retiree Roscoe Cartwright

“Like [many veterans], the first trip was rough,” he said. “We went back to the village where my unit was nearly overrun.” Cartwright and his wife, Deborah, who reside in New Richmond, Ohio, send money to the village each year to help care for its residents. “That’s the kind of guy Roscoe is,” said L-105 BM-ST Van Stephens. “I’ve known him for over 30 years and was aware that he served in the military, but it wasn’t until he was inducted into the Military Hall of Fame for Valor that I learned of his heroism. The leadership qualities he showed in the military were also apparent in his work as a Boilermaker and his involvement with the union. He is an outstanding person and an outstanding member. Whether he was serving as a union steward, a general foreman, or a supervisor, he always treated people very well.”

Witz family marks three generations of Local 107 Boilermakers

L-105 retiree receives military honor

Veterans group inducts Roscoe Cartwright into hall of fame

RETIRE Local 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio) member Roscoe Cartwright Jr., 66, was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor for his service during the war in Vietnam. The induction ceremony took place May 1 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

Cartwright worked for 27 years as a Boilermaker, retiring in 1999. He served two combat tours in Vietnam between 1965 and 1970, first as a helicopter door gunner and later as a captain commanding F Troop, 17th Cavalry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. His decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantry Badge, 14 Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Cross of Gallantry.

While leading F Troop in 1970, Capt. Cartwright earned a Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device (for valor) for removing wounded crewmen from a tank hit by a rocket-propelled grenade while under hostile fire. Cartwright suffered serious wounds when the tank exploded but still led his men in a successful assault on North Vietnamese Army positions.

“The induction brought back some memories, and it put me in touch with guys that I had served with,” said Cartwright, who has traveled back to Vietnam twice, in 1998 and 2007, to make peace with the past.

L-105 member Ralph Polite got an interest-free loan through Union Plus while waiting for approval of his disability claim.

“I want to thank [Union Plus] for the help we got during some tough times,” says Polite. “I hope you’ll let other union members know that this program was there for me, and it can be there for them as well.”

The Union Plus Mortgage Program offers a full range of mortgage products for union members and their parents and children. Union Plus Mortgages are guaranteed to be held through Chase for the life of the mortgage. To learn more, call 1-800-848-6466 from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or visit UnionPlus.org/Mortgage to find a local office near you.

If you have had a Union Plus mortgage, credit card, or insurance policy for at least a year and are facing financial difficulty, help may be available through the Union SAFE program. Visit UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE for more information on loan modification, disability, education, and hospital care grants available to Union Plus program participants. If you’re worried you might lose your home, whether you have a union mortgage or not, call the Union Plus Save My Home Hotline at 1-866-490-5361 any time day or night.

Union Plus was founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986 to develop and manage the Union Plus benefits program using the combined buying power of America’s union members to obtain top-quality goods and services at competitive prices. In addition to a money-saving credit card, the Union Plus programs include free and discounted legal services, education services, discounted health services, a home-buying program, travel and recreation discounts, and much more. To learn more, visit www.UnionPlus.org.
L-28 members install ICE at Princeton

New economizers are part of university’s energy conservation project

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 28 (Newark, N.J.) working for new Boilermaker contractor A&B Mechanical completed a waste heat recovery system in July as part of an energy conservation project at Princeton University.

According to Michael Phillips, manager of construction operations for the general contractor Tozour-Trane, the Boilermakers installed three indirect contact economizers (ICE) to increase the thermal efficiency of the university’s boilers. Each ICE weighed in excess of 25,000 pounds and had to be placed in a space with less than a few inches of clearance. During the four-month job, the crew also fabricated and installed the breeching between the ICE and the existing flue gas ducts, and three very large dampers.

L-454’s Littlejohn has doctor daughter, lawyer son

JAYNE LITTLEJOHN (second from left), daughter of Ross Littlejohn of Local 454, Chattanooga, Tenn. (second from right), and his wife, Ellen (at left), graduated from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia with a Doctor of Medicine degree May 22. Her brother, Dylan (at right), is an attorney practicing law in Atlanta. Ms. Littlejohn began her internship in internal medicine in June at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital located in Philadelphia. Ross Littlejohn retired in 2007 after 30 years of service and resides with his wife in LaFayette, Ga.

L-374’s Bell is a boilermaker by trade, alma mater

New Purdue graduate earns three job offers with job experience and MET degree

FOR ANDY BELL, a May graduate of the mechanical engineering technology program at Purdue University’s College of Technology in W. Lafayette, Ind., being a Boilermaker is more than just rooting for Purdue on game day — it’s a way of life.

The Purdue University is home to the “fighting Boilermakers.” The first use of the term “Boilermaker” in connection with the Purdue football team was made in a newspaper report in 1891, and has stayed with the university to this date. It is a symbol of a tireless work ethic — a roll-up-your-sleeves, get-the-job-done attitude that remains true today.

Bell, who earned a bachelor’s degree at the school, has been employed as a professional Boilermaker — working mainly in the power industry — since he was 19. A member of Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.), Bell followed in the footsteps of his father, Pat, who was a Boilermaker out of Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.). However, at age 21, Andy decided that he wanted to take a slightly different path.

“A lot of my friends attended Purdue, so I started thinking about it myself,” he said. “I’ve always enjoyed engineering, so I thought the MET program would be right for me.”

Bell, a 2002 graduate of Milan (Ind.) High School, began the MET program at the College of Technology in Columbus. After a year, he transferred to the West Lafayette campus. He said he briefly considered studying mechanical engineering, but decided that the emphasis on applying engineering knowledge to real-world situations made him a perfect fit for MET.

While attending college, he continued his work as a Boilermaker. As a member of Local 374, he has worked in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois. He also is a skilled tube welder with more than 6,000 hours of experience, which gives him an edge in the job market.

“Welding is a critical part of being a good Boilermaker, but you have to be a jack-of-all trades to be a good Boilermaker,” he said. “There are not many people from other crafts that can be a Boilermaker, but Boilermakers often work in other crafts when their skills are needed. We are highly skilled in what we do, and we are a proud of that. That is what I love about being a Boilermaker. One day you might be welding something together, and another day you’re working with the second-largest crane in the U.S., making huge lifts.”

Bell said the life of a Boilermaker can be difficult, and working conditions can be dangerous, hot, and dirty.

“We often work long hours, through holidays and weekends, around the clock, and have to be ready to go when a boiler comes off line, wherever it might be,” Bell said.

Bell said that to his MET degree, he had no trouble finding a job after graduation. Bell started a job with BMW Constructors Inc. in Munster, Ind., where he is in charge of quality control and project engineering for three NIPSCO plants in northeastern Indiana.

Bell said that thanks to his MET degree, he had no trouble finding a job after graduation. In fact, the offer from BMW Constructors was among three that he received.

“The power industry is becoming more regulated, with new standards for emissions, clean air, and environmental laws,” he said. “Because of the complex issues involved, power companies are wanting employees with more education. BMW liked that I had a lot of hands-on experience, but they wouldn’t have hired me without a bachelor’s degree.”

Even in his new job capacity, Bell will remain a Boilermaker and hopes to “become more involved with the local now that school is over.”

Story source: Kim Medaris, Purdue Marketing and Media

Local 374’s Andy Bell put himself through school working as a boilermaker.
International announces scholarship winners

Twenty-six Boilermaker dependents earn awards totaling $50,000

THE BOILERMAKERS’ International Executive Council scholarship committee announced the winners of its 2009 scholarship program April 14. A total of $50,000 was awarded to 26 scholarship recipients: $38,000 to United States students and $12,000 to Canadian students.

The one-year grants included one $5,000 award, two $3,500 awards, seven $2,000 awards, and 16 $1,500 awards. The committee chose recipients from a pool of 140 applicants—26 Boilermaker dependents in their senior year of high school. Winners were chosen based on their high academic achievement, leadership skills, participation in extra-curricular activities, and performance on a 300-500 word essay on this year’s topic: “Navigate the biggest challenge facing unions in the next 10 years.”

HEATHER HAMILTON, daughter of John Hamilton, Local Lodge 363 (East St. Louis, Ill.), earned the top scholarship award of $5,000. A member of the National Honor Society and recipient of the Silver Medallion Award, Heather also worked part-time at the Madison County Agriculture Auction and two area golf courses while going to high school. She plans to study agriculture at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Ill.

Two Boilermaker dependents selected to receive $3,500 grants

KIERAN CARLISLE, son of John Carlisle Jr. and grandson of John Carlisle, both members of Local Lodge 13 (Philadelphia), plans to attend the Pennsylvania State University College of Engineering, working toward a degree in architectural engineering. Kieran is an accomplished drummer, playing four years with his high school jazz band. He served three years as captain of the school’s drum line that earned two district band awards and two drum line championships.

WHITNEY RICE, daughter of David Rice, Local Lodge 51 (Indianapolis), has been accepted into the Hutton Honors College at Indiana University, where she plans to complete her undergraduate degree in speech and hearing sciences, and then pursue a master’s degree in speech pathology.

Seven scholarship applicants were selected to receive $2,000 awards

ANNELEISE CHASE, daughter of Roy Chase, Local Lodge 146 (Edmonton, Alberta), a graduate of Ascension Collegiate, will attend Memorial University of Newfoundland.

SARAH DENSMORE, daughter of Robert Wade Densmore, Local Lodge 73 (Halifax, Nova Scotia), will attend St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia.

STEPHANIE GUAY, daughter of Marc Guay, Local Lodge 128 (Toronto, Ontario), is enrolled in the Child, Youth, and Family Studies Program at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

AREK HAUTALUOMA, son of John Hautaluoma, Local Lodge 191 (Victroria, British Columbia), will work this fall then attend Camosun College next spring, where he will major in journalism.

MATTHEW MILNE, son of Bradley Milne, Local Lodge D385 (Vancouver, British Columbia), plans to attend McGill University in Quebec.

SARA WIGGINTON, daughter of Mark Wigginton, Local Lodge D995 (Kosmosdale, Ky.), was the Bethlehem High School’s 2009 Valedictorian, student council president, varsity soccer captain, and most valuable player. She will attend Western Kentucky University and major in biology.

RYAN YEH, son of John Yeh, Local Lodge 146, will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Committee selects 16 $1,500 award winners

THE COMMITTEE ALSO selected the following 16 scholarship winners to receive a $1,500 grant.

NATALIA ALVAREZ, daughter of Edgar Alvarez, Local Lodge 1255 (Chicago), will attend Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She hopes to become a biomedical engineer and work in research to improve the lives of handicapped people.

ANDREW BARNETT, son of Robert Barnett, Local Lodge 684 (Norfolk, Va.), will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Kettering University in Flint, Mich.

LISA BARRETT, daughter of William Barrett, Local Lodge 13, will major in biology at the University of Michigan. A member of the Pennsylvania Governor’s School of Excellence, she plans to study animal behavior in the wild.

ALEXANDRA BRANDT, daughter of Mark Brandt, Local Lodge 1509 (Cudahy, Wis.), plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and eventually enter medical school to become a physician.

HEATHER CARMITCHELL, daughter of Charles Carmitchel, Local Lodge 83 (Kansas City, Mo.), was a member of the Basehor-Linwood High School’s Gold Honor Roll for four years. She was selected as a Kansas Honor Scholar and a Governor’s Scholar and plans to study architecture at the Kansas State University in Manhattan.

JAMIE ENGCREIGHT, daughter of Michael Engbrecht, Local Lodge 647 (Minneapolis), will attend St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn.

RYAN ESTEP, son of Walter Estep, Local Lodge D408 (Dundee, Mich.), will major in computer engineering at the University of Toledo.

SHANA JO HARRISON, daughter of Benjamin Harrison, Local Lodge 60 (Peoria, Ill.), is enrolled at the College of Business at the University of Illinois in Urbana, where she plans to major in marketing and eventually go on to law school.

NICHOLE LETZIA, daughter of Lawrence Letzia, Local Lodge 28 (Newark, N.J.), will study architecture at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. A National Honor Society member, Nichole earned varsity letters in cross country and in both indoor and outdoor track.

MARNEY MASON, daughter of Dale Mason, Local Lodge 502 (Tacoma, Wash.), received the Washington State Honors Award, the President’s Education Award for Educational Excellence, and was named the Rotary Club’s student of the year and the Edmonds School District marketing student of the year. She will attend Seattle University.

KORI MOORE, daughter of Hilton Moore Jr., Local Lodge D397 (Fremont, Ark.), will be attending Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Kori was valedictorian, president of the National Honor Society and student council, senior class vice president, and captain of the cheerleading squad.

KALEIGH NAMIOKA, daughter of Larry Namiotka, Local Lodge 13, finished second in her senior class, and was selected as one of the top 25 best all-around area high school students by the Scranton Times-Tribune. She plans to study pre-med at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 17
Other scholarship winners

IEC scholarship committee announces local, CFL winners

THE BOILERMAKERS’ International Executive Council (IEC) scholarship committee has announced its selection of scholarship award recipients for two local lodges and the Canadian Federation of Labour (CFL).

Brittany Burd, step-daughter of Local 105 member Gregory Stephens, and Tristan Rumfield, step-daughter of Local 105 member Jeremy Grubb, were each selected from five applicants for a $2,000 award from Local 105, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Ryan Yeh, son of Local 146 member John Yeh, was selected as a $2,000 award recipient, and Erin Baker, daughter of Local 146 member Kenneth Baker, was chosen as a $1,000 scholarship winner from 10 applicants to the Local 146 scholarship program in Edmonton, Alberta.

Both Ryan and Erin were also selected to receive a $1,000 grant from the CFL.

Local 13 awards 28 grants totaling $224,000

LOCAL LODGE 13, Philadelphia, announces the winners of 28 scholarship awards, each totaling $8,000, to dependents of Local 13 members who participated in the local’s annual competition. Winners were selected based on the results of a college aptitude test administered and graded by St. Joseph’s University. The grants will be awarded over a period of four years — $1,000 per semester for eight semesters. The Local 13 scholarship committee does not release names of scholarship winners for publication.

Local 83 awards two $3,000 grants

LOCAL LODGE 83, Kansas City, Mo., announces the winners of two $3,000 scholarship awards to dependents of Local 83 members who participated in the local’s annual competition. (See photo below)

The winners were selected by members of the local’s Special Funds Committee. Receiving a $3,000 grant were Halley Marie Collins, daughter of L-83 member Michael Collins; and Heather Elaine Carmitchel, daughter of L-83 member Charles Carmitchel. Halley plans to attend Kansas University in Lawrence, Kan.; Heather will be going to Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan.

Local 108 awards scholarship

LOCAL LODGE 108, Birmingham, Ala., has awarded a $2,000 grant to Heather Nicole Eubanks, daughter of L-108 member Benny Eubanks.

This is the third year the local has issued a scholarship award. Local 108 BM-ST Ronnie Dexter says Recording Secretary Timothy Simmons was instrumental in setting up the lodge’s scholarship fund.

Local 83 presents $3,000 scholarship awards to Halley Collins (third from left) and Heather Carmitchel (second from right). Also pictured are, front row, l. to r.: Sherrie Collins, Michael Collins, Charles Carmitchel, and L-83 BM-ST Randy Cruse. Back row, second from left, L-83 President Larry Horseman, and Special Funds Committee members, from l. to r., Dave Leimer, Scott Albertson, and Joe Levandowski.

How to apply for a L-13, L-83, L-105, L-146, or CFL scholarship

DEPENDENTS OF LOCAL 13 and Local 83 members who meet the eligibility requirements of the International Executive Council (IEC) Scholarship Program (listed at www.boilermakers.org) may also apply separately to Local 13 or Local 83 for their awards program.

Dependents of Local 105 and Local 146 members, who are eligible and apply for the Boilermakers IEC Scholarship, are also considered applicants to their respective local lodge award programs.

 dependents of Canadian members who are eligible and apply for the Boilermakers IEC Scholarship are also considered applicants to the CFL scholarship program.

To learn more about how to apply for a Boilermaker scholarship, check out our Web site: www.boilermakers.org
Kaiser Silica Trust announces deadlines for personal injury claims

Some claimants must file by Dec. 31, 2009

THE KAISER ALUMINUM & Chemical Corporation Silica Personal Injury Trust (the “Kaiser Silica Trust”) has announced an outreach program to notify potential claimants about eligibility requirements and compensate those claimants who are eligible. As of Aug. 10, 2009, the trust was paying 75 percent of allowed claim values. The claim values (for five categories of diseases) range from $2,500 to $250,000.

To be eligible, claimants must meet the following two requirements: Have a silica-related disease that was first diagnosed on or after Feb. 12, 2002; and those claimants who are eligible. As of Dec. 31, 2009, to request a claim form by mail, write to the Kaiser Silica Trust c/o Trust Services Inc., P.O. Box 1299, Greenville, Texas 75403-1299. Claims may be submitted to the Kaiser Silica Trust directly or with the assistance of legal counsel.

Additional information is available by calling the Kaiser Silica Trust at 1-877-453-0150. To download a claim form, go to www.kaisersilicatrust.com. To request a claim form by mail, write to the Kaiser Silica Trust c/o Trust Services Inc., P.O. Box 1299, Greenville, Texas 75403-1299. Claims may be submitted to the Kaiser Silica Trust directly or with the assistance of legal counsel.

Five locals win NMAPC Zero Injury Safety Awards

FIVE BOILERMAKER Locals have been awarded a total of six Zero Injury Safety Awards by the National Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee (NMAPC). These awards recognize the union, the contractor, and the customer equity for their contribution to world-class safety on projects worked under the National Maintenance Agreement.

The award winners are as follows:

Local 11, Helena, Mont.
Contractor: NewMech Companies Inc.
Owner: ExxonMobil
Project Name: Exchanger, Piping and Structural Steel Modifications
Plant: Billings Refinery, Billings, Mont.
Hours Worked: 55,794

Local 74, Houston, Texas
Contractor: APComPower Inc.
Owner: Lower Colorado River Authority
Project Name: Fayette Power Project
Plant: La Grange, Texas
Hours Worked: 83,766

Local 744, Cleveland, Ohio
Contractor: Enerfab Corporation
Owner: FirstEnergy Corp.
Project Name: Routine Maintenance
Plant: Thomas Hill Energy Center, Clifton Hill, Mo.
Hours Worked: 79,422

Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.
Contractor: Enerfab Corporation
Owner: Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.
Project Name: Routine Maintenance
Plant: Thomas Hill Energy Center, Clifton Hill, Mo.
Hours Worked: 444,396

Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Contractor: Minnottie Contracting Corp.
Owner: Alpen Energy Supply
Project Name: Preparation/Preparation Balance Draft-Conversion
Plant: Hatfield’s Ferry Generation Station, Maysontown, PA
Hours Worked: 58,264

Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Contractor: Enerfab Corporation
Owner: FirstEnergy Corp.
Project Name: Outages and Maintenance
Plant: W.H. Sammis Plant
Hours Worked: 268,500

Worker deaths decline in 2007 to 5,657

Construction sector has largest number of fatal injuries, followed by transportation

WORKER FATALITIES FROM traumatic injuries on the job declined in 2007 from the previous year — 5,657 compared to 5,840 — according to an AFL-CIO report. Since its first publication in 1975, “Death on the Job: The Fatal Toll,” the report has documented nearly 11,000 workers were injured or made ill each day in 2007, and 15 workers died each day. The report does not include deaths from occupational diseases, which claim the lives of an estimated 30,000 workers each year.

According to the report, highway crashes are the leading cause of workplace deaths, accounting for one-fourth of the fatal work injury total (1,414). The report also shows an increase in the number of fatalities by falls (847), assaults and violent acts (864), and workplace homicides (628).

While the number of deaths in construction decreased in 2007 (from 1,259 in 2006 to 1,204 in 2007), the construction sector still has the largest number of fatal work injuries of any industry, followed by transportation and warehousing (890).


Boilermakers purchase bench at National Workers Memorial

In honor of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives through injuries or illnesses suffered on the job, we dedicate this bench, that they may never be forgotten ...

Inscription honors fallen members

BOILERMAKERS WHO HAVE died from injuries or illnesses suffered on the job will be remembered at the new National Workers Memorial to be constructed at the National Labor College (NLC) in Silver Spring, Md., this year.

In January, International President Newton B. Jones authorized the purchase of a granite bench, with the inscription: “In honor of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives through injuries or illnesses suffered on the job, we dedicate this bench, that they may never be forgotten, 1880-Present — International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers.”

Located in the center of the campus, the $500,000 memorial will feature a plaza of bricks surrounded by granite benches and pavers. Bench sponsorships are intended for categories of workers, says the NLC. Individual bricks, pavers, and special markers may also be sponsored.

For more information on the memorial, including how to become a sponsor, visit the NLC Web site at www.nlc.edu/alumniCommunity/GivingToNLC/WorkersMemorial.html.
Mount Vernon Joy Mining employees win TAA benefits

Eligible workers can now apply for assistance under the Trade Act thanks to efforts of 10 former co-workers.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 483 (Alton, Ill.) who worked for Joy Technologies Inc., d/b/a Joy Mining Machinery in Mount Vernon, Ill., are now eligible for government benefits under the Trade Act of 1974, thanks to the efforts of 10 former co-workers and two lawyers who worked on the case pro- bono (without compensation, for the public good).

“Since the plant closed in 2006, 10 former Joy employees have been fighting a battle against the Department of Labor to get these benefits,” said L-483 Pres. Jerome Tobin. “If you don’t know, the Department of Labor is not for the working man. We were turned down several times, and we almost gave up hope until two lawyers took on the case pro- bono.”

Mel Schwechter and Emily Dephour of the New York law firm, Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, challenged the DOL and won benefits and services that help eligible workers get back to work. “If you get the system to work, it’s slow, but if you persevere you can win in the end,” said Tobin.

Tobin, Moore, and Verlin Fritchley, among the 10 former co-workers, have since found other work, though millions of dollars are still too many who are out of work.

The former employees of Joy Mining Machinery are now eligible for the following government programs: Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which helps individuals get back to work with training benefits; Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)—income support while participating in full-time training; or Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), a wage subsidy of up to $10,000 for older workers who accept re-employment at a lower wage and for whom retraining may not be appropriate.

Among the members who pursued the case was John Moore, who served as “point man” between the law firm and ex-employees who helped fight this case. “He never gave up and fought to the end,” Tobin said of Moore.

Tobin, Moore, and Verlin Fritchley, who were among the 10 former co-workers for the former Joy employees, are among the first to qualify for TAA cash benefits. Moore plans to use his money for his son’s college expenses, Tobin will pay down some of his credit card debt, and Fritchley’s benefits will go toward his retirement.

Eligible workers are now busy filling out the necessary paperwork to get the benefits. Over 175 members have signed up, and members should start receiving benefits within two weeks. “The process is slow,” says Tobin, “but not as slow as it took to win a favorable decision from the DOL.”

Established by the Trade Act of 1974, the TAA program was designed to provide training, and in some cases financial assistance, to workers who lose their jobs because of a foreign trade agreement. The program was recently expanded by the Trade Readjustment and Reinvestment Act of 2009, better known as the “stimulus bill,” to include workers who lose their jobs to countries that do not have a trade agreement with the United States (for example, China).

IR Bill Staggs, who was president of Local 483 when Joy Mining closed, said the awarding of TAA benefits is a great victory for the union members.

When the Mount Vernon plant closed in 2006, over 180 Local 483 members found themselves without a job. “This is news that most of the members have since found other work, in some other shops, and some as field construction Boilermakers. But there are still too many who are out of work or working at jobs for lower wages. “The training opportunities and services TAA provides will greatly benefit these members,” Staggs said.

Joy Technologies manufactures deep mining equipment, machines that bore into coal seams or slice coal from the wall of a seam. Local 483 members at the company’s Mount Vernon plant repaired those machines, which weighed up to 100 tons and cost millions of dollars.

The Mount Vernon facility also included Joy’s “Brake and Clutch Center of Excellence,” where brakes and clutches for these machines were repaired. The Boilermakers had re- worked them since 1978.

New contract summaries

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

NTD/L-106 — Cincinnati

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2009 to May 31, 2012, administered by the National Transient Division for four members of Local 106 (Cincinnati) who perform steel plate fabrication at Enerfab Inc.

L-4 — Page, Ariz.

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010, for two members of Local 4 (Page, Ariz.) who work in the repair shop at A&P Construction in North Salt Lake, Utah.

L-5 — New York

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2010, for four members of Local 5 Zone 5 (New York) who work for Quickway Metal Fabricators Inc. in Monticello, N.Y.

L-13 — Philadelphia

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2009 to Feb. 28, 2012, for members of Local Lodge 13 (Philadelphia) who perform maintenance work at Damson Boiler, a small boiler installation & repair company.

L-D23 — Clinchfield, Ga.

EFFECTIVE APRIL 26, 2009 to Dec. 15, 2013, for 90 members of Local D23 (Clinchfield, Ga.) who make cement products and perform maintenance work at Cemex SE.

L-27 — St. Louis

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2009 to Jan. 1, 2012, for 10 members of Local 27 (St. Louis) who work for Jones & Lockhart Welding Inc., a welding repair service specializing in carbon steel, aluminum, and stainless steel.

L-37 — New Orleans

EFFECTIVE APRIL 30, 2009 to April 30, 2010, for one member of Local 37 (New Orleans) who works for Basell USA Inc. in Westlake, La. Owned by Lyondell & Basell, the manufacturing facility makes polymers for various consumer products, such as dishwasher-safe plastics and fibers for indoor and outdoor carpets.

L-328 — Cheektowaga

EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2009 to May 15, 2012, for 26 members of Local D328 (Cheektowaga, N.Y.) who work in production and maintenance at Buffalo Crushed Stone, the primary supplier of asphalt, cement, and stone products in Western New York and Western Pennsylvania.

L-342 — Plattsburgh

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2009 to April 30, 2012, for 22 members of Local D342 (Plattsburgh, N.Y.) who work in production and maintenance at Graymont Materials’ Plattsburgh Quarry Division, supplying construction aggregates, calcium, mix concrete, and asphalt to nearby Clinton County.

L-483 — Alton, Ill.

EFFECTIVE MAY 31, 2009 to May 31, 2012, for 11 members of Local 483 (Alton, Ill.) who work in production at Diamond Plating, chrome plating a variety of products, including chairs and barbeque grates.

L-D523 — Savannah

EFFECTIVE FEB. 29, 2009 to Feb. 28, 2011, for 17 members of Local D523 (Savannah, Ga.) who work in production and maintenance at the Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co. in Sandersville, Ga.

L-549 — Pittsburg, Calif.

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2010, for eight members of Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.) who work in production & maintenance at Bay City Boiler Works in San Francisco, and effective May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2012, for 10 Local 549 members who perform metal plating at Industrial Plating in San Carlos, Calif.

L-D575 — Moosehorn

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012, for 30 members of Local D575 (Moosehorn, Manitoba) who work in production and maintenance at Graymont Inc.’s Faulkner lime plant, located within two miles of the shore of Lake Manitoba. The plant has a...
Local 1 — Chicago
JOHN SKERNOMT, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
35 Years — Richard S. Bartos.

35 Years — John Colloca, John Oswald, James Waldron;
30 Years — Charles Archer, Dave Bartholomew, Mark Denny, Bob Ferguson, Don John, Franklin Zult;
25 Years — Gary Jones; and
15 Years — John Blauvelt, Ron Canale, Steve Cannady, Blaine Carusone, Francis Corinza, Gary Fazio, Rick Gilbert, Steve Griffin, James Harrington, Pete Harrington, Steve Isgar, Ralph Lobb, Greg Peterson, Tom Scrolton, Jon Smith, Daniel Spunk, Ted Sutton, Rick Visconti, Gary Willis, Kevin Wiltsee.

Local 5 Zone 175 (Albany, N.Y.)
35 Years — Frank Harper;
30 Years — Rick Boyer, Gerald Buck, David Domanico, Mike Drinkwine, Tom Harper, Monroe Kennison, David Ketchov, Jeffrey Ladau, Walter McKay, Thomas Newton, Robert Wappner;
25 Years — Scott Bentley, Robert Domanico, John Dott, Dave Flood, Kirk Gandron, John Greer, Michael Gregory, George Hasting, Claudia Hebert, Wayne Vandervoort;
20 Years — Robert Adamczyk, Ron Charbonneau, Kevin Dune, Shane Elliott, Edward Engel, John Evans, John Gustafson Jr., Joe Jankovic, William Jones, Phillip Koener, Jay Ruff, Doug Smith Jr., Mike Stewart, Glen Storm, David Teidman; and

Local 13 — Philadelphia
JAMES BAXFORD Jr., BM-ST of Local 13, Philadelphia, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
65 Years — Albert Dziedzina Sr., Jack Peifer;
60 Years — Joseph Reilly;
55 Years — Robert Rowe;
50 Years — Arthur Namiotka, Milton White;
45 Years — Stanley Goss;
40 Years — Carl Absher, James Dykes, Daniel Evans, Thomas Evans, Vincent Kern, Joseph Malloy, Michael Mongelli, Joseph Sweitzer Sr., Arthur H. Wilson Sr.;
25 Years — Wayne Leister Jr., Joseph F. Smith Jr.;
20 Years — Robert Birchmeier, Anthony Ciferri Jr., James C. Coleman, James Gieder, Gary Gresko, Glenn Gostrophy, Clayton Hartman III, Steve Italiano, Edward Johonson, Kenneth Klinger, Mark Mangiamele, Brian Monahan, Randall Monahan Jr., Michael Redmond, Dennis Reiprish, Mark Strachan, Timothy Wiemers, Timothy Wilson; and
15 Years — Thomas Bill, Thomas Carlisle, Fred Creis, Frank MacKay, George McCook, Bernard Nowak III.

Local 40 — Elizabethtown
RAY PARROTT, BM-ST of Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
65 Years — Rudolph Qualls;
55 Years — William D. Walker;
45 Years — Gary B. Dorris, William L. Meredith, James R. Perry;
25 Years — John M. Allison, Randy E. Bailey, Steven R. Carter, Joseph N. Demars, Benny R. Green, Joel O. Green, Bill P. Hood, William J. McCay;
20 Years — Jackie Banks, Elmer Burchett, Harold C. Bush, Jeanette Calloway, John S. Clevenger, Mark Coleman, Douglas Collins, Paul Crisp, Gernie Eldridge, Don Embry, Mark S. Embry, Michael Ferrall, Jeffrey Flaugher, Thomas Gollihue, George Grant, Ronald Lloyd, Mark McDavid, Donald Phillips, Thomas Placam, James Ratcliff, Keith Ratcliff, Robert Ratcliff, William Ratcliff, Johnny Tackett, Billy Joe Thomas Jr., David Warman, Charles Wathen, Bruce White; and

See SERVICE PINS, page 23

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

These dues and fees, which are authorized by law, represent a fair share of sustaining the broad range of programs offered by the Boilermakers in support of you and your fellow workers. The most important job right you can have is the right to collective bargaining. The working conditions of all bargaining unit employees are improved immeasurably when the union gains higher wages, better health care and pensions, fairness in the disciplinary system, overtime pay, vacations, and many other improvements in working conditions at the bargaining table.

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

An objecting nonmember who is subject to a union security clause has a legal right to file objections to funding expenditures which are not germane to the collective bargaining process. Fee-paying nonmembers who choose to file such objections should advise the international Brotherhood of Boilermakers in writing, in the form of a letter, signed by the objector, and sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, 753 State Ave., Suite 565, Kansas City, KS 66101.

The letter must contain the objector’s home address and local lodge number, if known.

Upon receipt of the objection, the International President shall provide a description of the procedures to be followed. This objec- tion must be filed no later than the 15th day of the month of November, or within the first 30 days in which the objector is required to pay dues or fees to the union, or within 30 days after the objector becomes a nonmember.

Examples of expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for the negotiation, enforcement, and administration of collective bargaining agreements, meetings with employer and union representatives, proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, arbitration proceedings, servicing the bargaining units that we represent, internal union administration, and matters related to these activities. Examples of expenditures not germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for political purposes, for general community service, for charitable activities, for non-worker related legis- lative activities, for members-only benefits, and for certain affiliation costs.

In considering these matters, you should be aware that only members have the following rights:

• to vote on the terms of your collective bargaining agreement;
• to participate in the development of contract proposals;
• to nominate and vote for local union officers;
• to attend International conventions as a delegate;
• to participate in strike votes; and
• to numerous other benefits available only to members, such as those described above and in the Union Plus programs described on pages 21-23.

It is clearly to your advantage to continue to be a full, active member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Only through unity and solidarity can we better our working conditions and reap benefits for ourselves and our families.

LOCAL NEWS

L-587—Orange, Texas
EFFECTIVE FEB. 1, 2009 to Feb. 1, 2012, for 43 members of L-587 (Orange, Texas) who work in production at Gulf Coast Machine & Supply Company (Gulfco), a forging & machine shop specializing in field servicing of expenditures not germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for the negotiation, enforcement, and administration of collective bargaining agreements, meetings with employer and union representatives, proceedings on behalf of workers under the grievance procedure, arbitration proceedings, servicing the bargaining units that we represent, internal union administration, and matters related to these activities. Examples of expenditures not germane to the collective bargaining process are those made for political purposes, for general community service, for charitable activities, for non-worker related legis- lative activities, for members-only benefits, and for certain affiliation costs.

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It is clearly to your advantage to continue to be a full, active member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Only through unity and solidarity can we better our working conditions and reap benefits for ourselves and our families.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Death Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graham, Dana M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thompson, Robert</td>
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<td>Martinez, Trinity F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coulembier, Alphonse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratcliff Jr., Raymond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stinson, Gerald</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IN MEMORIAM

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge, Name &amp; Benefit</th>
<th>Death Beneficiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNF Wards, Thomas L.</td>
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<td>Intl. Johnson, June A.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Coulombe, Gerard R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Davis, James D.</td>
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<td>NTL Graham, Daryl L.</td>
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<td>NTL Kimble, Tony H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Legg, Lawrence D.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Manley, Leon R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL McDermott, Charles</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTL Reeves, Kenneth*</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL Rumsey, Adam P.</td>
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<td>NTL Trice, James</td>
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<td>NTL Ward, Paul L.*</td>
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<td>NTL Wright, David</td>
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<td>1 Duncan, Paul E.</td>
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<td>6 Barno***, Tony V.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 Doty Sr., Charles E.</td>
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<td>7 Vergan, Richard C.*</td>
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<td>7 Graham, Dana M.</td>
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<td>7 MacMillan, Percy A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Strachan, Ronald J.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 workers who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge, Name &amp; Benefit</th>
<th>Death Beneficiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Surzinski, Joseph A.*</td>
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<td>26 Lovell, Van A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Seiler, Louis C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Danks, Thomas C.</td>
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<td>27 Vibbard, Oran R.</td>
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<td>27 Petillo, Gavin S.</td>
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<td>27 Weiss, Clarence C.</td>
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See DEATH BENEFITS page 22
### Death Benefits

**Continued from p. 21**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>1004 Schultz, William J.</td>
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<tr>
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**Freeman, Floyd J.** 6,000.00

**LeCompte, Marcel** 2,000.00

**Michalsin, John** 6,000.00

**Patterson, Richard L.** 6,000.00

**Singles, Leslie R.** 6,000.00

**Salciaich, Franklin** 6,000.00

**Stevens, Jimmy E.** 6,000.00

**Tydeman, James F.** 6,000.00

**Undereiner, Lance A.** 6,000.00

**Bette, Bernard I.** 6,000.00

**Gerard, Clayton M.** 6,000.00

**McAllister, George W.** 3,000.00

**Nass, Robert D.** 6,000.00

**Oswald, Charles K.** 6,000.00

**Blassnik, John R.** 3,000.00

**Zittlow, Richard J.** 2,367.94

**Arpin, Earl H.** 6,000.00

**Harris, Will W.** 6,000.00

**Heiner, William W.** 6,000.00

**Comer, Marshall T.** 6,000.00

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**Bodeen, Robert B.** 6,000.00

**Adams, Harold D.** 6,000.00

**Hillard, Carl L.** 6,000.00

**McCoy, John** 6,000.00

**Williams, Wesley C.** 857.40

**Ennis, Fred** 6,000.00

**Kenyon, Bernard E.** 6,000.00

**Sheridan, William A.** 6,000.00

**Beaupre, Al J.** 6,000.00

**Cress, Ralph W.** 6,000.00

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**Folts, Obie E.** 6,000.00

**Green, Harold A.** 6,000.00

**Day, James C.** 6,000.00

**Michek, Lucian L.** 6,000.00

**Acosta, William J.** 6,000.00

**Beachler, Victor W.** 6,000.00

**Thomas, Lawrence** 6,000.00

**Clark, Donald E.** 2,000.00

**Dudek, Frank G.** 6,000.00

**Feltly, Hugh G.** 6,000.00

**Lawrence, Donald E.** 6,000.00

**Fizpy, Frank N.** 6,000.00

**Stephens, Glen L.** 2,305.05

### Need financial help?

**Union SAFE benefits may be the answer.**

#### Union Plus program helps with job loss, nonreimbursed hospital bills, college savings

WITH MANY FAMILIES in financial distress as a result of the sharp downturn in the U.S. economy, Union Plus is launching a program of new and enhanced benefits to assist eligible union members facing hardships.

The new benefits program, called **UnionSAFE** — for Security, Assistance, and Financial Education — provides a wide array of benefits, including help for those suffering from layoffs, to soaring health care costs, mortgage debt, and college savings.

These benefits include:

- **Credit Counseling Services,** budgeting advice, and no-fee debt management and bankruptcy counseling benefits.

- **Hospital Care Grants of $1,000 to help members who have been hit with large, unreimbursed hospital expenses who participate in the Union Plus Credit Card, Mortgage, or UnionSecure Insurance programs.**

- **Job Loss Grants of $250 for Union Plus Credit Card holders who have been recently laid off for more than 90 days.**

- **Mortgage Assistance Grant help Union Plus Mortgage holders who become unemployed, disabled, or go on strike make their mortgage payments.**

In addition, the Union SAFE initiative expands and increases other Union Plus benefits, such as:

- **Increasing the number of Union Plus Credit Card Disability Grants (which range from $1,000 to $2,000 available to cardholders who have experienced a significant loss of income within the past six months due to a recent disability that has kept them out of work for 90 days.**

- **Expanding availability of $500 Disaster Relief Grants to participants in the Union Plus Credit Card, Mortgage, and UnionSecure Insurance programs.**

More information and grant applications are available at www.UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE.

**Union Privilege,** founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986, develops and manages the Union Plus benefits program, which uses the combined buying power of America’s union members to obtain top quality goods and services at competitive prices. In addition to a money-saving credit card, the Union Plus programs include free and discounted legal services, education services, discounted health services, a home buying program, travel and recreation discounts, and much more. For more information visit www.UnionPlus.org.

### National funds administrator, archivist, passes away

THOMAS LUSK WANDS JR., 80, retired administrator of the Boilermakers’ national funds office, former archivist for the Boilermakers union, and 54-year member of the National Transient Lodge, passed away June 21.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Wands owned the James Lusk Co. before beginning a career with the Boilermakers in 1955.

In 1960, Wands became the first administrator of the Boilermakers’ national pension and health and welfare funds, a position he held until his retirement Dec. 31, 1985.

In 1991, the International union contracted with Wands to work as its national archivist. A third-generation member, Wands’ family history with the union dates back to the early 1900s. Relying on his personal experience and his artistic abilities (Wands designed various logos for the International, including the union’s official seal), he kept many hours researching records and the union’s official publications to piece together the puzzle of artifacts he found in piles at the union’s Kansas City headquarters.

During his term as archivist (1991-2004), Wands put together a museum-quality display depicting the union’s history from the 19th century to the present day. That display can still be viewed at the National Archives building, located just one block west of International headquarters.

In 2005, Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones presented Wands with the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the International union bestows.

Wands is survived by his wife, Betty, Overland Park, Kan.; son and daughter-in-law, Hayden and Martina Wands of Naperville, Ill.; and two grandchildren, Brittany and Carter.

**For more information, visit www.UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE.**

### IN MEMORIAM

**Thomas L. Wands Jr. 1929-2009**

**In 2003, Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones presented Wands with the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the International union bestows.**

Wands is survived by his wife, Betty, Overland Park, Kan.; son and daughter-in-law, Hayden and Martina Wands of Naperville, Ill.; and two grandchildren, Brittany and Carter.

**For more information, visit www.UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE.**

**See DEATH BENEFITS, page 23.**
Death Benefits

Continued from p. 22

587 Williams, Estoline 4,000.00
590 Norris, Kathleen 6,000.00
592 Bradly, Kenneth E. 6,000.00
593 Neighbors, Albert L. 6,000.00
627 Roper, Lewis W. 6,000.00
627 Yazzie, Russell 6,000.00
647 Boyd, Clarence H. 6,000.00
647 Donohue, James H.* 3,000.00
647 Flygare, Anthony J. 6,000.00
647 Howane, George Ed 6,000.00
647 Hunter, Rexford E. 6,000.00
647 Janisch, Alfred E. 6,000.00
647 Krenz, Vernon L. 6,000.00
647 Pederson, David G. 6,000.00
647 Ricker, Joseph 6,000.00
647 Gray, James O. 6,000.00
647 Greer, Toby P. 6,000.00
647 Harlow, Albert J. 6,000.00
647 Talbert, Gerald W. 634.95
653 Daniel Sr., William 6,000.00
679 Bryant, Roger 6,000.00
679 Epperson, M.R. 6,000.00
679 Marshall, William B. 6,000.00
687 Smith Sr., John H. 6,000.00
696 Carot, Phillip E. 6,000.00
696 McPherson, Ronald 6,000.00
696 Katzenberger, Glen 6,000.00
696 Panske, Reinhold 6,000.00
700 Schenkenfelder, James 6,000.00
712 Delrycke, Robert L. 6,000.00
744 Christie, Nicholas T. 6,000.00
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802 Leinhauszer, Francis 6,000.00
802 Stout, George H.* 3,000.00
802 Sullivan, Cleve 6,000.00
802 Rowlands, William 6,000.00
898 Shepherd, Ralph 6,000.00
1212 Elston, Willie D. 6,000.00
1234 Amellia, Antonina* 3,000.00
1234 Maldonado, Jesus 6,000.00
1234 Nacinoovich, John 6,000.00
1240 Slone, Ronnie E.* 1,143.68
1247 Woods Jr., Mike 6,000.00
1509 Czaplewski Jr., Ed 6,000.00
1509 Kabacinis, Michael 6,000.00
1509 Majewska, Stanley 6,000.00
1509 Michalski, Joseph 6,000.00
1509 Swenson, John E. 6,000.00
1570 Rutak, Edwin M. 6,000.00
1592 Schwenk, Richard 6,000.00
1603 Rinner, Dale V. 6,000.00
1603 Rome, Robert V. 6,000.00
1627 Ellerbee, James R.* 4,500.00
1637 Jones, Harold T. 6,000.00
1666 Barnett, Harold E. 6,000.00
1670 Aigars, Natalia 6,000.00
1670 Sands, Fred D. 6,000.00
1702 Vootsky, Robert L. 3,600.00
2000 Hudgins, Norman 6,000.00

* Additional Death Benefits Paid

Service Pins

Continued from p. 20


Local 108 — Birmingham

DANNY ROMINE, ABM of Local 108, Birmingham, Ala., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

40 YEARS – Andrew L. Blackmon;
35 YEARS – Roger L. Blevins;
25 YEARS – David W. Jones, Jeffrey D. McLarty; and

Local 374 — Hammond

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

50 YEARS – Leonard M. Faulkenberg, Melvin L. Wilderman;
45 YEARS – William D. Francis;
40 YEARS – Lynn E. Angermier, Charles S. Beard, John S. Rednash, William V. Gidley, James M. Goffinet, Walter E. Pflingston, Robert L. Styka;
30 YEARS – Stephen W. Carr, Randell E. Harrell, Fred Lalonde, Alan A. Watkins, Harry E. Wiseman;
25 YEARS – James I. Nickels;

IN MEMORIAM

Below, Ken S. Chmielowicz, Michael T. Helmick, George R. Kennedy, Jim F. Phelan, and Charles W. Reams; also, the following 34-year members:

Inside, the following 34-year members:

Paul L. Crowel, Michael E. Moore, and John C. Knox Jr.;
Charles A. Deom, William Morris, Gerald Rust, and Robert Symons; and
Charles W. Ferguson III, Jim D. Finneran, Timothy J. Fowler, and Andrew Lill.

Death Benefits

Continued from p. 22

35 YEARS — Danny A. Cornell, Roger L. Blevins, and Mary E. Gourley; and

Local 108 — Birmingham

DANNY ROMINE, ABM of Local 108, Birmingham, Ala., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

40 YEARS — Andrew L. Blackmon;
35 YEARS — Roger L. Blevins;
30 YEARS — Eulcus C. Clemons Jr., Kenneth B. Eaves, Charles W. Ferguson III, Jim D. Finneran, Timothy J. Fowler, Andrew Lill;
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50 YEARS – Leonard M. Faulkenberg, Melvin L. Wilderman;
45 YEARS – William D. Francis;
40 YEARS – Lynn E. Angermier, Charles S. Beard, John S. Rednash, William V. Gidley, James M. Goffinet, Walter E. Pflingston, Robert L. Styka;
30 YEARS – Stephen W. Carr, Randell E. Harrell, Fred Lalonde, Alan A. Watkins, Harry E. Wiseman;
25 YEARS – James I. Nickels;

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(Allow five weeks for change of address.)
We can’t let misinformation destroy health care reform

THROUGHOUT AUGUST, support for President Obama’s health care plan began to slow as criticism of the plan grew. That fading support is a disturbing development, because the plan many citizens oppose is a fiction, created by anti-reformers who want to stigmatize this proposal and continue to crop up on television and in the media.

A recent NBC News survey uncovered this pernicious trend. When shown key components of Obama’s reform plan, 40 percent of those surveyed who said they would support such a plan, a majority of Americans said they would. But when asked questions about what they believe the constituencies said it would provide free health care to illegal aliens, would use taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions, and would result in a government takeover of the health care system, forty-five percent believe the plan allows government officials to decide when to stop providing medical care to the elderly.

None of these claims is true, according to numerous independent, nonpartisan fact-checkers who have studied the plan extensively. These features are not in the bill now and have never been in the plan.

These myths have been spread by a variety of anti-reform individu- als and groups, often passed along by anonymous e-mails that move from computer to computer like a virus. The authors know that few people will read them. They know that only a few will be interested in the many variations that the House and Senate will create before it finally passes, so they distort what is in — or out — of the proposals.

Independent analysts, not connected with either political party and not in the employ of insurance or drug compa- nies, confirm that these features simply aren’t in the bill.

But that hasn’t stopped prominent public figures such as Sarah Palin from using the bill for her own ends. In interviews and on her Facebook page she has claimed that seniors are being cut out of Medicare, or that the House and Senate will create government health care before it even passes, so they distort what is in — or out — of the proposals.

Independent analysts, not connected with either political party and not in the employ of insurance or drug compa- nies, confirm that these features simply aren’t in the bill.

Some of these features are especially appealing. Increased efficiency and competition from the public option are expected to lower costs. Requiring everyone to have some form of coverage will more equitably distribute the costs of care.

We can afford reform

A RECURRING COMPLAINT from those opposed to reforming health care is that President Obama’s plan will cost too much. They are right. But the current system costs a lot of money, as well. And if you think we can’t afford to pay for health care for everyone, think again. We are already paying for it. We are just doing so in an inefficient way.

Under the current system, most Americans pay for their health care primarily through insurance. And nearly all of them get their health care insurance in one of five ways: through their employers, on their own, through Medicare, through Medicaid, or through the Veterans Administration.

But tens of millions are unable to get health care through one of these avenues. Without insurance, they often can’t afford preventive care. They don’t get routine exams or take medications to help manage their conditions, such as blood pressure pills.

And when they get sick, they tend to go to the emergency room, the most expensive and inefficient way of delivering routine care. The bill for those ER visits gets passed on to the rest of us, in the form of higher hospital, lab, and medical equipment, and most important, higher insurance premiums.

This inefficient system is driving costs up rapidly. Health insurance premiums are expected to double over the next 10 years. In contrast, if you get a percent increase each of those 10 years, your income will go up less than 20 percent. How long before you can no longer afford to pay your premiums?

Without some fundamental change in the way we pay for medical care, these inequities will remain. President Obama’s plan goes a long way toward eliminating them. It is not perfect, but we can’t wait for perfection. We need improvement now.

The health care systems of other industrialized countries differ signifi- cantly, but they all have two things in common: they cover everyone, regardless of age, income, or pre-existing condition; and they provide high-quality care far cheaper than we do in the United States.

Obama’s plan will move us in that direction. I urge you to contact your senators and representatives and let them know you want to seize this opportunity to improve health care.

We may not see another opportunity for a long time.

We have an opportunity to fix a faulty system

Newton B. Jones
International President

HARD-WORKING AMERICANS should not be denied coverage because they have a pre-existing medical condition, and the decision whether a person gets medical care should be left to the patient’s physicians, not bureaucrats at insurance companies who get bonuses for denying coverage.

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