Politics and economy frame discussions

UPCOMING NUCLEAR PLANT work, changes to the MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Safety, and Training) programs, and pension developments were among the key topics addressed at the 2010 Construction Division conference held at Marco Island, Fla., March 1-4.

Politics and the economy were common threads throughout the annual meeting. International President Newton B. Jones observed that while Congress focused on reforming health care during the past year, other leg-

Pres. Emeritus C.W. Jones dies at 86

Union career spanned more than 50 years

THE INTERNATIONAL Brotherhood of Boilermakers lost one of its most respected and successful leaders April 5 when President Emeritus Charles W. Jones passed away at a Kansas City, Mo., hospice. He was 86.

Jones, or “C.W.” as he was fondly called by many, had a remarkable career with the Brotherhood that spanned more than half a century, including 20 years (1983-2003) as International President. His firm hand and sharp intellect guided our union through some of its most trying years.

Jones’ strategic thinking and visionary leadership helped the Brotherhood survive the Reagan years, the massive relocation of America’s manufacturing base to other countries, the rise of “free” trade, and assaults on labor unions by employers and their political allies.

Jones’ imprint can be seen on the innovative programs he developed or expanded — and on three mergers that brought together other unions and the Brotherhood.

His career with the Boilermakers formally began in 1942 when he went to work as a helper with Local 193 (Baltimore). But the Brotherhood’s influence ran deep within him even before that. His father, Charles B. Jones,
CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

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isolation vital to the Boilermakers failed to advance. He cited a comprehensive energy policy, pension relief, and the Employee Free Choice Act as areas needing immediate attention.

Jones reminded business managers that a recovering economy and passage of an energy policy could spike demand for more electricity. He said Boilermakers must take the appropriate steps now to be ready for the work that will follow.

“We need to be prepared for when owners start moving forward with more projects — both new and retrofit,” he said. “There are going to be a whole lot of Boilermakers retiring in the next few years. Keep your eye on that and our apprenticeship program. We’ll also need to maintain a very strong recruiting program.”

Boilermakers rev up for nuclear work

THANKS TO FEDERAL loan guarantees from the Obama administration, new nuclear reactor projects could bring a lot of work to construction Boilermakers, according to John Fultz, Assistant Director for Construction Sector Operations. “We’re going to have Boilermakers on two nuclear sites by the end of 2010,” he told the conference.

Fultz reported that the Building and Construction Trades Department negotiated an agreement with Shaw and the Southern Company to provide skilled union trades for the two reactors that will be added to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant in Burke County, Ga. Shaw is the general contractor; Southern Company owns and operates the facility. Fultz said the BCTD also negotiated an agreement with Bechtel and Constellation Energy to build a third unit at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Maryland.

Site work has already begun on the Vogtle project, and a Boilermaker crew is expected to travel there this summer to begin work on the containment vessel and related items.

Getting in “on the ground floor” with these early nuclear projects is vital, Fultz noted, because the experience and additional training gained by union crews will give them an edge in obtaining new work as other projects develop.

Fultz called on all business managers to share information about nuclear work in their areas. He led a discussion about qualifications and certifications that will be required for work in the nuclear industry. He noted that new units will involve modular construction and that rigging — a Boilermaker specialty — will be an especially important skill set in the newer generation of reactors.

“There are a lot of man-hours in these plants for Boilermakers,” Fultz stressed. “They’re smaller crews, but the work is spread out for five years. We’re going after that work hard.”

MOST announces changes to shore up budget

BILL PALMISANO, ADMINISTRATOR of the MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Safety, and Training) trust, told the construction conference that the organization can no longer sustain all the programs that have been created over the years. He noted that the contributions to the trust have not increased in 10 years, even though the demand for new programs has continued to grow.

To deal with funding shortfalls, several programs were dropped or scaled back in September 2009. MOST no longer pays for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential. The “TWIC card” is required for workers in shipyards and other industrial facilities located in maritime areas of the country as a security measure under the Homeland Security Administration.

Additionally, MOST has dropped its pulmonary function/respiratory fit testing programs in all cases except where Common Arc testing on stainless steel and exotic metals require it.

MOST has also cut in half the number of recruiters — from six to three — and expanded the role of those early nuclear projects will involve Boilermakers.

“We’re going to have Boilermakers on two nuclear sites by the end of 2010.”

— AD-CSO John Fultz

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Democrats have 53 races that are con- worker-friendly majorities in Congress. a potential shift in balance away from coming election season and warned of DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL Affairs/energy policy dGa eyes mid-term elections, Better returns help connected, because redistricting will census. She said these events are closely earmor races and completion of the new mentions that are fast-approaching: 37 gov- percent for the Boilermakers National Annuity Trust, and 9.9 percent for the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund.

“We’ve got a lot of ground to make up from the negative returns of 2008,” he noted, “but we’re certainly headed in the right direction.”

Tom DelFiacco, vice president of the Segal Co., reported that legislation pending in Congress could help ease the burden faced by multi-employer pension plans in trying to deal with the heavy investment losses due to the stock market collapse. DelFiacco urged busi-
Film examines tax break abuses

IP Jones and former L-524 president join panel discussion on Union Tank Car closure

A DOCUMENTARY FILM from UNITE HERE on corporate abuse of tax breaks for economic development premiered at Teamsters headquarters in Washington, D.C., May 13. Union and congressional leaders heard about the issue from a panel that included AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka, Boilermakers International President Newton B. Jones, UNITE HERE President John Wilhelm, and Kelly Hounshell, President of Local 524 when the closing of Union Tank Car ended the lodge.

IP Jones said, “Real economic development means investing in people, skills, and infrastructure — not playing the system to enrich a corporation at the expense of a community and its citizens.”

Hounshell had worked at Union Tank Car’s East Chicago plant for 22 years when the owners closed it to take advantage of tax breaks offered in Louisiana. “I don’t want to see more companies taking advantage of their workers and their communities like Union Tank Car did to us,” he said.

Show Us the Tax Breaks is available on-line at showusthetaxbreaks.org.

Deadline nears for IS conference

Delegates must register by July 23; event runs August 17-19

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (IS) lodges have until July 23 to register their delegates for the second annual IS conference, to be held at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas August 17-19. Conference planners report that the event will offer a wealth of information, with plenary sessions for all participants and break-out sessions targeting specific areas.

Delegates can sign up by completing the forms mailed to each industrial lodge in February. Registration can also be handled online at boilermakers.org (click on the IS Conference graphic in the upper-right-hand corner of the home page to go to the sign-up page).

In addition, registration forms may be downloaded and printed. Choose the registration form link on the sign-up page (www.boilermakers.org, April-June 2010). Hotel room reservations must be handled separately by each lodge. The IS Services Department only processes the conference registration.

To reserve hotel rooms, call Caesar’s Palace at 1-866-227-5944 and request the Industrial Brotherhood of Boilermakers’ rate of $125 per night.

Lodges that are planning to send delegates are urged to obtain membership approval promptly to avoid missing the July 23 registration cut-off.

Conference offers something for everybody

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS will hear from speakers on topics of broad interest to union members as well as presenters offering nuts and bolts information on carrying out the duties of local lodge offices.

The keynote speaker is Elaine Bernard, executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School, which conducts labor research and provides education through the Harvard Trade Union Program. Bernard is known for her frank presentation style. She has written and spoken widely about labor issues. Her topic for the conference is “Lighting Fires vs. Putting Them Out.”

Also addressing the plenary session will be Phee Jung-sun, Materials Sector sectional officer for the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers Union. ICEM includes over 460 industrial trade unions which collectively represent more than 20 million workers in 132 countries. Jung-sun will discuss the importance of global involvement in dealing with multinational corporations.

The conference will feature several half-day workshops. Robert Schwartz, author of The FMLA Handbook, will provide in-depth information about the Family and Medical Leave Act. Schwartz’s handbook is the most widely-used publication of its kind for labor unions.

Don Taylor, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin’s School for Industrial and Labor Relations, will lead a workshop on building union power. Taylor brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in such areas as mobilization, leadership development, union communications, and contract campaign planning.

Among the other topics to be addressed are:

• Financial management for secretary-treasurers and auditors (including bookkeeping tips and an auditing workshop);
• Railroad-specific sessions on United Health Care, Railroad Retirement, conducting investigations, and other areas;
• Canada-specific sessions on arbitration, national plans, and safety;
• Shipbuilding-specific sessions on safety, legislative news, federal personnel policy, and the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act; and
• Boilermaker history.

Sessions will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily Tuesday through Thursday. Lunch will be provided, and there will be a reception on Monday evening before sessions begin. Delegates should arrange to check into the hotel on Monday, August 16, and leave Friday, August 20.

Local 500 earns national safety award

Lost-time injury rate dips to lowest figure ever: 0.39

INJURY RATES FOR field construction Boilermakers continued to trend lower in 2009, according to John Erickson, executive director of the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE), who presented his findings during the annual construction conference at Marco Island, Fla., March 4. One of the key safety indicators, the lost-time injury rate, dipped to 0.39, the lowest figure ever recorded by NACBE since it began a safety index in 1990.

Erickson joined with Boilermaker International officials in recognizing the top-performing locals from four U.S. vice-presidential areas. Local 500 (Salem, Ore.), from the Western States area, won the national honors. L-500 BM-ST Darin McCarthy accepted the award. L-500 was among 38 lodges with a zero lost-time injury rate and 12 lodges with zero compensable injuries.

Three other lodges finished first in their areas: Local 108, Birmingham, Ala. (Southeast); Local 193, Baltimore (Northeast); and Local 744, Cleveland (Great Lakes).

In situations where multiple lodges have perfect safety records, NACBE uses the total man-hours worked by contractors participating in the index to determine the national and area winners.

“One again, it was a very close competition,” Erickson said. “An outstanding job was done by all of your members.”

In addition to the all-time-low rate of 0.39 for lost-time injuries, Erickson reported that the compensable-injury rate (all injuries, lost time or not) dropped to 7.16 in 2009, down from 9.49 in 2008, while OSHA-recordable injuries dipped to 2.48, down from 3.25 in 2008.

More than 50 Boilermaker contractors participate in the NACBE safety index.
L-13’s Jayne named TAUC Craftperson of the Year

Award recognizes excellence in union construction

THE ASSOCIATION OF Union Constructors presented Local 13 (Philadelphia) member Roger Jayne with the annual James J. Willis Craftperson of the Year Award May 13 during the 2010 TAUC leadership conference in Phoenix. The award recognizes quality craftsmanship and labor-management cooperation in the construction industry.

Jayne was honored for his work as a general foreman on two consecutive maintenance outages at Pennsylvania Power and Light’s (PPL) Brunner Island Power Station in York Haven, Pa., in the spring and fall of 2009. He was nominated for the award by Minnette Contracting Corp., where he worked as a foreman.

Erik Galis, VP of operations for Minnette, called Jayne’s work “amazing.” He said that during the spring outage Jayne “became a major contributor and an extension of our management team. His ideas to perfect complicated rigging systems and his ability to recognize talent and optimize crews enabled Minnette to beat PPL’s expectations in terms of schedule and quality and, most importantly, led to the completion of over 322,000 man-hours without a single recordable injury.”

Jayne started with the Boilermakers in 1989, graduating from the apprenticeship program in 1994. He took his first general foreman position in 1995.

When presenting the award, TAUC President Robert W. Santillo told Jayne, “You’ve proven that you can work at the highest level and get the job done without sacrificing the core values of safety, quality, leadership, and cooperation. You’ve earned the respect not only of your fellow Boilermakers, but of the contractor and the customer as well.”

International President Newton B. Jones praised Jayne for “exemplifying the very best of what Boilermakers offer to the construction industry. On behalf of the International Executive Council, I congratulate him, Local Lodge 13, and the Boilermakers who worked with him on the two outages for this high honor,” he said. “This is an achievement that brings great pride to our organization.”

Jayne, who is married with two sons, said he didn’t realize “the magnitude of the award” until he traveled to the TAUC conference in Phoenix for the presentation. Reflecting on the honor, he said, “In my eyes, it wasn’t just me who won the award — the Boilermakers won it.”

TAUC consists of more than 2,500 union contractors, local union contractor associations, and vendors in the industrial maintenance and construction field.

JONES

Continued from page 1

was a staff representative and later business manager for Local 154 (Pittsburgh). His two brothers and two uncles were also construction Boilermakers.

C.W. worked less than a year with Local 193 before being drafted into the Army during World War II. He attained the rank of staff sergeant and served in the Pacific Theater, receiving an honorable discharge in 1945.

Jones returned to work as a Boilermaker after the war and soon demonstrated a dedication and zeal for unionism that would become a trade-mark throughout his career. While employed in field construction, he paid his own way to a Boilermaker conference in Chicago. Later, he used benefits under the G.I. Bill to attend the Harvard Trade Union Program.

International President Charles MacGowan (1944-1954) was so impressed by the young, self-directed Jones that he appointed him to the International staff in 1947 as a District Representative. Jones traveled the country organizing workers until 1956, when International President William Calvin (1954-1962) appointed him Research Director at International headquarters. Just four years later, in 1960, Calvin appointed Jones International Vice President for the Gulf Coast (now the Southeast) Section. As an JVP, Jones was extremely active and successful in overseeing organizing drives in southern states, which traditionally have resisted unions.
LEAP focuses on jobs

IP Jones blasts
GOP obstructionism

WITH UNEMPLOYMENT still hovering around 10 percent overall (and much higher in the construction industry), it was no surprise that jobs would be a primary focus during the LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., April 25-30. Presenters at the conference took aim at some of the underlying causes of job losses: Wall Street excesses, unfair trade, and partisanship on Capitol Hill.

In his opening remarks, International President Newton B. Jones blasted the GOP for holding up progress on economic recovery. “The hope and optimism that was felt following the president’s inauguration was followed by a summer of vitriol, partisanship, and general deterioration of our country’s political dialogue,” Jones said. “At the core of this vitriol remains the Republican Party, voting no, in obstructionist lockstep on the critical issues that face our country.”

The conference was punctuated by somber moments of remembrance, as conference participants stood in silent tribute to Charles W. Jones, the Brotherhood’s late President Emeritus, who passed away April 5 in Kansas City, Mo.

Recognizing Workers Memorial Day, which coincided with this year’s LEAP conference on April 28, Boilermakers and guests also paused to remember those who have been killed on the job or who have died from job-related illnesses.

(continued p. 7)
Trumka calls for job creation, financial reform

AFL-CIO PRESIDENT Rich Trumka delivered a passionate call to put Americans back to work, calling Wall Street investment firms and big banks “looters of our economy,” and outlining a five-step job creation plan.

“Wall Street created this mess,” he said. “They gambled our money on phony financial instruments like subprime mortgages and derivatives and choked off the credit that so many of our employers depended upon. It’s way past time for our country to go back to basics, to making money by making things, real things, not financial fantasies.”

Trumka said the AFL-CIO is calling on Congress and the Obama administration to extend unemployment and COBRA benefits; invest in infrastructure and green jobs; dramatically increase aid to state and local governments; create jobs directly, especially in distressed communities; and to redirect federal TARP funds for loans to small and mid-size businesses.

Trumka railed against Wall Street “suits” who, he said, destroyed 11 million jobs through their recklessness and greed. “We think Wall Street should pay to get those jobs back.” He said creating a financial transaction tax on stocks, bonds, and derivatives would raise as much as $300 billion a year for job creation. He also proposed making hedge funds, private equity funds, and venture capital funds pay taxes at the same rate as American workers to raise more money for job creation.

“We’re fighting for financial reform,” he said. “We’re looking fundamentally for a different kind of economy, an economy that really does work for the working people and not just those at the top.”

McAuliffe pushes for green jobs

TERRY MCAULIFFE, a successful entrepreneur, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and candidate for Virginia governor in the 2009 race, stressed the importance of green jobs to Boilermakers and the U.S. economy.

He said that a recent trip to the Middle East with former President Bill Clinton was an eye-opener. McAuliffe related a conversation he had with Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah in which the monarch discussed plans to invest $80 billion in his country on wind, solar, and nuclear power — with the goal of becoming 100 percent reliant on alternative energy in six years. McAuliffe said that when he asked Abdullah why such an oil-rich country would do that, the king replied, “Terry, it’s very simple. We use oil internally at $2.74 a barrel. If I’m not using it here, I’m selling it [to the United States] for $85 a barrel. I make more money.”

McAuliffe said it is time for the United States to stop being “chumps,” and start leading the way in alternative energy. He reported that he is forming a new company that will make hybrid and electric cars. “I’m going to put it right in the heart of Virginia,” he said. “And we’re going to have 2,000 folks down there — all of them union members — and show that when you do it right, everybody benefits, including the state of Virginia.”

McAuliffe noted that Virginia has not brought in a manufacturing plant in 15 years, for fear of introducing unions into the state.

LOY Courtney thanks Boilermakers for support

REP. JOE COURTNEY (D-2nd CT) received the Brotherhood’s 2009 Legislators of the Year Award from IP Jones before addressing the LEAP conference about just how important every vote can be.

Running for his first term in 2006, Courtney won his seat by only 83 votes out of 241,000 cast. “That’s one three-hundredth of a percentage point,” Courtney said. “So anytime I get an invitation to speak to a room that is larger than my margin of victory, I’m happy to do so,” he quipped.

On a more serious note, Courtney said that if 42 of those who voted in the election had picked the other candidate, he would still be back in Connecticut. Instead, he said, “I was here to be part of a new agenda, to work with Boilermakers to create new jobs in shipbuilding, but also to fight on important national issues like the health care excise tax.”

Part of the new health care legislation recently signed into law, the tax affects high-end health insurance plans. Courtney led the charge against the tax. In the bill’s final version, the threshold on the tax was raised so that most plans (including the Boilermakers National Health & Welfare plan) are not affected. The tax is not scheduled to go into effect until 2018.

Reflecting on his first election, Courtney said, “I will never forget as long as I live the work the Boilermakers did.”

America needs to make things, says McCotter

IF AMERICA IS to retain its position as a world leader, it needs to rebuild its manufacturing base, Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-11th MI) told Boilermaker delegates. “America needs to make things,” he said. “We cannot simply have a consumptive economy.”

McCotter said organized labor must play a key role in restoring industry. “I’ve seen with my own eyes how it can improve the quality of our lives. Labor must not be viewed as an enemy; it must be viewed as a partner.”

Noting that Detroit was once the envy of other nations for its auto industry, McCotter said globalization and Wall Street failures nearly destroyed “Motor City.” He said the collaboration of management and the United Auto Workers to survive those forces is some-
LEAP honors two members for activism

Winger, Maciejewski receive recognition

TWO MEMBERS WHO exemplify outstanding political activism received special recognition at this year’s LEAP conference.

Robert Winger, president of Local 11 (Helena, Mont.), received a certificate of appreciation for promoting clean coal technology. Winger has built positive relationships with the offices of Montana’s senators.

He is “the first active field construction Boilermaker to be invited to testify before a United States Senate committee,” said D-PA/SAIP Bridget Martin. He appeared before the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee last Oct. 29.

Gerard “Mozzy” Maciejewski, Local 107 (Milwaukee), was recognized for his tireless efforts and creativity in support of the Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) and the Legislative Education Fund (LEF). Martin said, “Mozzy is constantly working and thinking of new ways to raise money. He fund raises like nobody’s business!”

thing that should be repeated across other industries.

McCotter expressed deep concern about the threat posed to America from communist China. “If we continue to allow our deliberate strategy of eroding America’s manufacturing base through unfair competition, through currency manipulation, we will find ourselves in the position where we can no longer defend ourselves.”

Industry experts, government officials examine job issues

FIVE SPEAKERS FROM industry groups, White House staff positions, and the Department of Energy also addressed the conference on topics related to jobs.

Scott Paul, executive director of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, told delegates that the loss of “productive industry” jobs in the United States (those in which people actually make things) has been startling.

“Over the last decade, we’ve lost a third of all of the manufacturing jobs in the United States,” Paul said. “We’ve lost 1,000 factories. You think about our great country, there aren’t even 1,000 factories in the U.S. today that employ over 1,000 people.”

Paul linked the sudden and steep manufacturing decline to China’s entry into the world trade system, China’s refusal to honor trade rules, Wall Street’s preference for investing in manufacturing outside of the United States, and the failure of our government to take appropriate action.

“We’re the only industrial country in the world that doesn’t have an industrial policy,” he said. “We let Wall Street run our manufacturing base. And that’s the biggest mistake of all, and that’s the thing we have to change around.”

Cynthia Brown, president of the American Shipbuilding Association, detailed her organization’s legislative agenda for fiscal year 2011 and encouraged delegates to press congressional decision-makers for support.

The ASA, which works closely with the Boilermakers’ Department of Government Affairs on lobbying efforts, represents the six largest shipbuilders in the United States, including five that employ substantial numbers of Boilermakers.

A primary aim of the ASA is to ensure that shipbuilding is maintained at sufficient levels to sustain the work force and keep the industry healthy. She warned of China’s aggressive shipbuilding efforts, stating: “China is going to lead the world in shipbuilding, and China’s navy is going to overtake the Navy of the United States in just a few years.”

Michael Blake, deputy associate director of the office of intergovernmental affairs for the White House, gave an inspirational talk to delegates, asking them to reach out to young people and to develop them into Boilermakers of the future.

Blake recalled his humble beginnings in a Jamaican family, some of whom emigrated to the United States and other countries to pursue their dreams. He said it was organized labor that put him on a path to Barack Obama’s presidential campaign — and ultimately to a position in the White House. He said his mother told him, “Baby, you went from no house to the White House.”

Blake called on Boilermakers to reach out to their communities and to recognize and train others. “If you take a chance just to labor with that person, train them up, develop them ... some great things can happen,” he said.

Nate Tamarin, the Obama administration’s liaison with organized labor and associate director of political affairs, told delegates that unions have seen substantial improvements thanks to their strong relationship with the president.

“This president has a commitment to organized labor, working families, and the rights of working people at work,” he said.

He contrasted Obama’s first two years in office with the previous eight years under George W. Bush. He said the Bush administration undermined the labor movement, “taking rights away from working people and empowering management.”

Tamarin cited the many steps Obama has taken to restore and enhance those rights, including his recent appointments of two labor advocates to the National Labor Relations Board.

James Wood, deputy assistant secretary for clean coal at the Department of Energy, said the DOE hopes to accelerate leading-edge and second-generation clean coal technology with about $3.5 billion in grants.

The funding is aimed at carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies proposed by various companies at sites across the country. Wood said five demonstration projects have been selected to date. Three are post-combustion (separating carbon dioxide after burning coal in a boiler); two are pre-combustion IGCC (integrated gasification combined cycle), which turns coal into synthesized gas, removes impurities, and then burns the gas.

Second generation technologies such as ultra-supercritical boilers (capable of withstanding higher temperatures and pressures) and oxycombustion (burning coal in pure oxygen instead of air) are the focus of $400 million in DOE research and development funding, Wood noted.
Delegates lobby a gridlocked Congress

Some politicians appear cautious, others distant

THE WINDS OF politics can shift rapidly in Washington, as delegates lobbying Capitol Hill can attest. At last year’s LEAP conference, Boilermakers found that many pro-worker politicians had a discernable bounce in their step. And those who are traditionally less friendly to labor seemed more willing to listen to their union constituents.

But that was then — just months after the historic election of Barack Obama and congressional elections that left both houses of Congress firmly in the grasp of Democrats. Fast forward to this year’s conference, and things were quite different. Many delegates reported that Democrats took a cautious stance about the prospects of labor-friendly legislation moving forward while Republicans generally weren’t as approachable as last year.

So what changed? As International President Newton B. Jones observed, the Republican Party has voted no “in lockstep” on legislative initiatives sought by the Obama administration in order to deny the president any victories. Partisan rancor and gridlock have resulted. With mid-term elections looming in November, and heated rhetoric angering many voters, more than a few pro-labor politicians face tough races.

Despite the divisive political climate, Boilermaker delegates pressed ahead, urging lawmakers to move on key issues, especially support for American manufacturing, an energy and climate change policy, investments in shipbuilding, stronger worker protection laws, pension funding relief, and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

One issue from last year was noticeably absent — health care reform. Passing that legislation was a tortuous and protracted effort which proved that, even in a gridlocked Congress, progress is possible.
Money helps pro-worker candidates, builds strong member education

BOILERMAKERS WHO EXCELLED at raising money for CAF and LEF in 2009 received recognition during the annual LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., April 28. International President Newton B. Jones presented crystal “capitol dome” awards to U.S. vice-presidential sections and individual local lodges for exceptional performance.

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

The LEAP conference recognized the Northeast Section (IVP Sean Murphy) for the highest CAF contribution for a section in 2009 — $183,335.41. Local 154, Pittsburgh, garnered the award for largest contribution by a local lodge, raising $81,767.60. Local 744, Cleveland, won for highest contribution per member at $109.74 ($42,908.13 total CAF contribution).

Local 26 (Savannah, Ga.) won the award for most-improved lodge, raising their CAF contributions from $190 in 2008 to $7,562.55 in 2009. The Western States Section (IVP J. Tom Baca) won the award for most-improved section, increasing their CAF contributions 39.9 percent, from $65,913.88 in 2008 to $92,220.07 in 2009.

Retirees contributed a total of $125,018.53 to CAF in 2009, including $119,678.53 from National Pension Trust Plan participants, and $5,340 from Officers & Employees Pension Plan participants. International staff and officers contributed another $52,691.

In all, Boilermakers donated $667,017.65 to CAF in 2009, with just 77 locals out of 236 participating. Nearly all of the locals forwarding large contributions have included a CAF payroll deduction in their contracts. Payroll deductions are the easiest way to raise money.

Most people hardly notice a payroll deduction of $2 a week. Yet donating a couple of dollars a week to CAF can raise more than $100 over a year’s time.

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

To learn how to begin contributing to CAF and how to include a voluntary CAF payroll check-off clause in a contract, call the Government Affairs Department at 202-756-2868 or see pages 39-44 of the new LEAP manual.

Conference recognizes top LEF donors

THE BOILERMAKERS LEGISLATIVE Education Fund (LEF) is the Brotherhood’s non-federal 527 account, which is used to influence elections and appointments to federal, state, and/or local office, and to offices in political organizations. It is not used for direct contributions to federal candidates. Without this fund, local lodges would get virtually no political or legislative support.

Pursuant to a resolution passed at the Boilermakers’ Consolidated Convention in 2006, delegates approved a constitutional change that requires all U.S. lodges to contribute at least 25 cents per member per month from the lodge’s treasury. Of course, lodges may contribute more than that if they wish, and some lodges were contributing a higher amount before the constitutional change.

The award for the highest LEF contribution for a section in 2009 went to the Great Lakes (IVP Larry McManamon), which raised $59,220.85. Local 27 (St. Louis) won the award for the highest contribution by a local, with $31,500.

The award for most-improved section also went to the Great Lakes, which increased its contribution 16 percent, from $51,054.42 in 2008 to $59,220.85 in 2009.

LEF contributions in 2009 totaled $240,742.44.

In addition to raising funds for CAF and LEF, Boilermakers also supported the Turn Around America Media Fund, an AFL-CIO initiative to inform Americans about the importance of the Employee Free Choice Act. Local lodges gave nearly $187,000 to the effort while the International contributed $250,000.

Conference delegates raise money, too

DELEGATES TO EACH LEAP conference get an up-close look at politics. One thing they quickly learn is the road to elected office carries a high price tag. Getting good pro-worker candidates in office — and keeping them there — requires all the financial help we can muster. And maintaining a strong Boilermaker presence on Capitol Hill also requires resources.

This year, delegates gave $5,650 to CAF through pre-conference contributions and fund-raising activity during the event. Some delegates also presented monies from their lodge CAF and LEF fund-raisers in person at the conference. In all, donations made during the conference totaled $7,985 for CAF and $24,250 for LEF.

Boilermakers receive awards for CAF, LEF support
FOR BOILERMAKER delegates attending the LEAP conference, the congressional reception is a special opportunity to build on the relationships they have established with U.S. senators and representatives.

Members of Congress, as well as government officials, Boilermaker employers, and other guests, mix in a more stress-free atmosphere than is possible in the busy, meeting-packed environment of House and Senate offices. When delegates lobby on Capitol Hill during the week, they may only get a few minutes to speak with their elected officials or their aides. But at the reception, the pace is much more relaxed, and there is often time for informal banter as well as discussing important issues in more detail.

Getting members of Congress away from ringing telephones and legislative demands means they have more time to focus on the needs of Boilermaker members and their families — and that is the primary aim of the LEAP conference.
REPRESENTATIVES PHIL HARE (D-17th IL), sixth from right, with IP Newton Jones to Hare’s right, IR Bill Staggs to Jones’ right, and delegates and guests from Local Lodges 1, 58, 60, and 363.

REPRESENTATIVE TIM RYAN (D-17th OH), seated second from right, with IR Don Hamric, seated far left; IP Newton Jones, seated at center; IR Len Gunderson, seated at right; IR Pat Stefancin, second row, third from left; ED-Iso Jim Pressley, back row, second from left; and delegates from Ohio Lodges M68, 85, 105, 106, 900, and 1073.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY RYAN (D-17th OH), seated second from right, with IR Don Hamric, seated far left; IP Newton Jones, seated at center; IR Len Gunderson, seated at right; IR Pat Stefancin, second row, third from left; ED-Iso Jim Pressley, back row, second from left; and delegates from Ohio Lodges M68, 85, 105, 106, 900, and 1073.

REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS MOORE (D-3rd KS), second from right, with wife Stephanie; IP Newton Jones at left; and John Seward Jr., Local 83.

REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL LIPINSKI (D-3rd IL), second from left, with (l. to r.) Benjamin Kosiek; Jeremy Tabor and Richard Roberts Jr., Local 169; IP Newton Jones; and Local 169’s Mark Wertz, Bob Hutsell, Jim Calouette, and Jim Kaffenberger.

REPRESENTATIVE DONALD PAYNE (D-10th NJ), third from right, with (l. to r.) Daniel Engle, Local 28; IP Newton Jones; Ed Latack, Local 28; D-PA-DGA/SAIL Bridget Martin; and John DeVin, Local 28.

REPRESENTATIVE MARY JO KILROY (D-15th OH), with delegates from Ohio and IP Newton Jones, seated second from right; IR Don Hamric, second row, second from left; IR Pat Stefancin, second row, fourth from left; and IR Len Gunderson, back row, second from left.

REPRESENTATIVE THADDEUS MCCOTTER (R-11th MI), center, with (l. to r.) SAIP Tony Jacobs; Jeremy Tabor and Richard Roberts Jr., Local 169; IP Newton Jones; and Local 169’s Mark Wertz, Bob Hutsell, Jim Calouette, and Jim Kaffenberger.
REP. SHELLEY BERKLEY (D-1st NV), center, with (l. to r.) IP Newton Jones, Charmayne Cooksey, IR Jim Cooksey, Linda Marquez, Local 92’s Eddie Marquez, and IVP J. Tom Baca.

REP. ELIOT ENGEL (D-17th NY), third from right, with (l. to r.) Tom Klein and Tom Cook, Local 5; IP Newton Jones; and Kevin O’Brien and Thomas Ryan, Local 5.

REP. CHRISTOPHER CARNEY (D-10th PA), third from right, with (l. to r.) Aker Shipbuilding CEO Jim Miller; Gary Gaydosh, president of the Philadelphia Metal Trades Council; Fred Chamberlain, Local 19; IP Newton Jones; Jose Rivera, Local 19; and IR Phil Evans.

REP. CAROLYN MALONEY (D-14th NY) with IP Newton Jones, third from left, and (l. to r.) Kevin O’Brien, Tom Klein, Tom Cook, and Thomas Ryan.

REP. GLENN NYE (D-2nd VA), second from left, with (l. to r.) Frank Hartsoe, Local 45; IP Newton Jones; Michael Patterson, Local 684; and Wilbur Brown, Local 45.

REP. SANDER LEVIN (D-12th MI), center, with IP Newton Jones fourth from left and (l. to r.) SAIP Tony Jacobs, and Local 169’s Jeremy Tabor, Mark Wertz, Richard Roberts Jr., Bob Hutsell, Jim Kaffenberger, and Jim Calouette.

HELMETS TO HARD HATS REPRESENTATIVES (l. to r.) Lisa Ford, executive assistant; Darrell Roberts, executive director; and Rob Schwartz, Wounded Warrior Program director; with IP Newton Jones, far left.

AKER SHIPYARD CEO JIM MILLER, left, with (l. to r.) IVP Sean Murphy, IP Newton Jones, Local 19’s David Gaillard, and Aker Shipyard’s Washington rep John Graykowski.

REP. PATRICK MURPHY (D-8th PA), fourth from left, with (l. to r.) Aker Shipbuilding CEO Jim Miller; Gary Gaydosh, president of the Philadelphia Metal Trades Council; Fred Chamberlain, Local 19; IP Newton Jones; Jose Rivera, Local 19; and IR Phil Evans.
REP. BILL FOSTER (D-14th IL), seventh from right, with (l. to r.) AIP Eugene Forkin; Local 58 delegates Rodney Shires, Gary Smith, Greg Fort, and Keith Clayton; IP Newton Jones; Benjamin Kosiak, Local 1; Kirk Cooper, Local 60; IR Bill Staggs and family; and Mike McMillin, Local 363.

REP. FRANK KRATOVIL JR. (D-1st MD), second from left, with (l. to r.) Local 193 delegates Ernie Dorsey and Matthew Malesick, and IP Newton Jones.

MEL ADAMS, Northrop Grumman Director of Labor Relations, center, with (l. to r.) Roosevelt “Bubba” Barrett, Local 693; IP Newton Jones; Frank Ludgood, Local 693; and IVP Warren Fairley.

REP. ESTATE YARMUTH (D-3rd KY), center, with (l. to r.) IP Newton Jones and Local 40 delegates Mike Autry, William Link, and Bryan Parsons.

REP. DALE KILDEE (D-5th MI), center, with (l. to r.) SAIP Tony Jacobs; Jeremy Tabor and Mark Wertz, Local 169; IP Newton Jones; and Local 169’s Jim Kaffenberger, Bob Hutse, and Richard Roberts Jr.
Local 146 honors top apprentices, graduates

Annual banquet provides opportunity to praise training efforts

AT THE LOCAL 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) 36th annual banquet, held Jan. 30 at the Delta Edmonton South Hotel, members of all ranks — from entry-level apprentices to retirees with over 55 years of service — celebrated their love for the union by honoring members earning service pins (see page 20), graduating apprentices, and top-level apprentices.

Finishing the year at the head of their class are Boilermaker top graduate apprentice Geoffrey Moore, welder top graduate apprentice Jose Alvarez Rocha, Boilermaker second- and third-year top apprentice Aslan Bouzaid, Boilermaker first-year top apprentice Chris Thoms, welder second-year top apprentice Erin Zier, and welder first-year top apprentice Elmer Kerry.

According to L-146 apprentice coordinator Allan Belter, Local 146 offers two very different types of apprenticeship programs, both of three-year duration. Their Boilermakers apprenticeship program, similar to what is found in the United States, covers a variety of skills. Their welding program provides graduates with a “welder” journeyperson status. Belter says most members do one apprenticeship or the other, but some graduate apprentices have gone on to complete both programs.

Recent graduates of the Local 146 Boilermaker apprenticeship program include Cody Allen, Basil Babineau, Sheldon Bratland, Travis Brochu, Donald Gagne, Robert Hawkins, Chris Jeffrey, Philip Kelly, Miles Klatt, Ryan Lanning, Michael MacDonald, Daniel Maes, Michael Manfield, Rod McPherson, Dale Mercedi, Paul Miller, Ryland Morgensen, Christian Salazar, Ricky Sens, Richard Tabor, and Terry Vanhill.


Local 146, a shop and construction lodge, was chartered in 1948.

Renee Dupuis thrives on training and racing

Office worker is NASCAR driver

DURING THE WEEK, Renee Dupuis can be found working away in the office of the Boilermakers’ Northeast Area Apprenticeship Program in East Hartford, Conn. But on the weekends you’ll find her pursuing her 30-year passion as a championship-winning race car driver.

She began her career in motor sports at the age of four driving in the Quarter Midget ranks. At age 15, she moved into a Pro Four Modified, where she secured several feature wins and a series championship. She then advanced to the NASCAR Modified division.

For the last several years, Dupuis has competed with NASCAR’s ultra-competitive Whelen Modified Tour. In the 26-year history of the tour, Dupuis is the only woman to earn a front-row starting position and top-ten finishes.

In 2007, she competed on “Setup,” a racing-themed reality TV show that aired in primetime on SPEED. 2010 marks the third year she has earned sponsorship from the UNION Insurance Group.

Dupuis has been inducted into two separate sports exhibits in the “Women’s Museum: An Institute for the Future,” an official Smithsonian Institution affiliate museum.

Local 60 apprentices graduate

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL 60 (Peoria, Ill.) offer their congratulations to the March graduate apprentices. L. to r.: Nicholas Bernath, Richard Billings, Henry Mclothin, Casey Servis, Michael Wallarab, Marc Huddleston, Tommy Hall, Josh Ackerman, James Cook, Matthew Rauh, Nathan Baima, Darren Wade, Matthew Forristall, Jurgina Breeding-Fulton, Ben Doty, Tamera Heiser, James Haas, and Lynwood Dillman.
Navy awards additional contract, guaranteeing work through 2012

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1998 (National City, Calif.) witnessed the successful launching of the USNS Charles Drew Feb. 27. It was the 10th in a series of 12 ships the members are building; the remaining two are in various stages of construction at the San Diego shipyard. But the best news of the day quickly followed: The Navy was awarding them another contract to increase the total number of ships to 14, guaranteeing them steady work through 2012.

The series began in 2001 when the U.S. Navy awarded the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO), a subsidiary of General Dynamics, with a $709-million contract to design and build the first two ships in the T-AKE program. T-AKE vessels are a new class of combat logistics force ships. The award included options exercisable by the Navy for 10 additional ships over the next six years, for a potential contract value of $3.7 billion.

Those options were increased this February, when NASSCO received an $825 million contract for T-AKE 13 and 14, bringing the total contract value to about $5.2 billion. This additional funding gives NASSCO a firm backlog of shipbuilding through 2012.

The T-AKE class is a dry cargo/ammunition ship measuring nearly 700 feet in length, with berthing, messing, and leisure and community spaces for nearly 200 military and civilian personnel. These ships provide logistic lift from sources of supply either in port or at sea. They transfer such cargo as ammunition, food, fuel, repair parts, and expendable supplies and material to station ships and other naval warfare forces at sea. The T-AKE will replace the aging T-AE ammunition ships and T-AFS combat stores ships that are nearing the end of their service lives.

The T-AKE-10 is named in honor of Dr. Charles R. Drew (1904–1950), who developed improved techniques for blood storage and applied his expert knowledge in developing large-scale blood banks early in World War II, saving thousands of Allied lives.

According to John Chapman, Asst. Director of the Boilermakers Industrial Sector Operations, Local 1998 represents about 1,900 of the 2,400 workers at the shipyard. Other bargaining units include Steelworkers, Carpenters, Painters, Teamsters, and Operating Engineers.

L-1998 launches USNS Charles Drew

THE AFT OF THE USNS CHARLES DREW, the 10th boat in the T-AKE class built by Local 1998 members at NASSCO in San Diego.
L-D66 members earn top mine safety award

Honor is first for National Gypsum Co.

OPEN PIT GYPSUM miners from Local D66 (Fort Dodge, Iowa), working for National Gypsum Co., received the 2008 Sentinels of Safety award last November. Sponsored by the National Mining Association and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration, the honor recognizes facilities with outstanding safety records. Local D66 members worked more than 10 years without a single lost workday injury.

Twenty “Sentinels” are given each year across eight mining categories. This is the first time National Gypsum has received the award. The Fort Dodge facility won in the small open pit division.

“Safety is our number one priority here at Local D66,” said Lodge President Michael Schiek. “Our members have always demonstrated safety leadership and knowledge in everyday tasks, year in, year out. On every job, on every entry and exit of equipment, and in adverse weather conditions, attention to safety pays off. The number one benefit of the Sentinels of Safety award is that it means all of us returned home to our families at the end of the day.”

Local 66’s Willie Sandoval receives Kenefick Award

Union Pacific recognizes locomotive shop Boilermaker

WILLIE SANDOVAL JR., a 40-year member of Local 66 (Little Rock, Ark.), is the recipient of the 2009 Kenefick Safety Award from Union Pacific. Sandoval has worked injury-free for over 40 years at the railroad’s locomotive shop in Fort Worth, Texas.

“Willie is never shy and intervenes when he observes at-risk behavior, coaching and mentoring fellow employees to change their actions in a constructive way,” said Russ Lowe, UP director of regional operations. “In fact, he challenges employees to look after one another and congratulates co-workers on a job well done.”

Since its inception in 1986, the Kenefick award has recognized a UP agreement employee who has demonstrated outstanding on-the-job safety achievement.

As a Boilermaker in the mechanical department, Sandoval builds locomotives and repairs those with structural damage. He is a peer trainer and helped to develop UP’s argon gas welding training program.

Sandoval has taken the lead to perform job safety analysis for Boilermaker work. He has also helped other departments (train, engine, and yard employees) begin new safety programs by leading the railroad’s Fort Worth Critical 5 Team, which establishes best-practice procedures for safe-working habits systemwide.

Outside the shop, Sandoval personally funds a quarterly “safety feed” for the first-shift employees — about 150 individuals. As the lead chef, he gathers everyone together as a family to give thanks and blessing for their safety. Money collected during the meal is donated to the Friend to Friend Network, a UP-employee club that helps active and retired railroad families in need.

Story source: Union Pacific

L-D66 members receive Kenefick award
Local 28 member builds submarine

Daniel Lance’s passion for underwater exploration began at young age

NO MATTER WHAT people say, television does influence children, says Local 28 (Newark, N.J.) member Daniel Lance. A 30-year field construction Boilermaker, Lance grew up watching such TV programs as “Diver Dan,” “Sea Hunt,” and “The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau.” At a young age, he learned how to scuba dive and spent weekends diving off the coast of New York and New Jersey.

In 1982, he spotted an ad in the “Skin Diver” magazine for plans to build a two-man submarine. With Jules Verne’s story, “20,000 Leagues under the Sea” (that he read in the fourth grade), never far from his mind, Lance mailed his check for $300 to the Maine address listed in the ad.

The plans arrived, but that was all. It was not a kit project; the designer only listed in the ad.

The plans called for pressure-vessel-quality steel. Lance contacted several area steel suppliers and shops that built pressure vessels. The largest steel section came from a steel mill; smaller pieces came from a fabricator who built equipment for local oil refineries. Lance did all the welding and most of the machining himself, except for a few components that required a larger lathe than he owned. He estimates he spent about 2,000 hours building the sub, which he officially launched from a friend’s dock in Beaufort, N.C., in June 2000.

The initial test run proved successful — all he had to do was tighten one hull fitting and add 100 pounds of lead ballast (to help balance the vessel).

“Progress was directly related to the availability of time and money,” Lance explained. “When I was working, I had money, but not much spare time. When I was laid off, the opposite was true. On any given weekend, you could find me laboring away in the workshop behind my house. I could never have accomplished this without my wife’s understanding and support.”

Lance figures he spent about $30,000 to build his sub, which includes the cost of underwater communication equipment. The vessel is 14-feet long, including fore and aft main ballast tanks. The pressure hull is three feet in diameter and eight feet in length.

The sub weighs 4,300 pounds and can carry two people. Its three motors are powered by eight deep-cycle batteries (endurance is equal to an electric golf cart driving around an 18-hole golf course).

It has eight acrylic view ports, a dive depth of 350 feet, and dive time of six to eight hours with a 72-hour back-up oxygen supply on board. The sub’s top speed is five knots. Depending on underwater visibility (compare it to driving your car in fog), Lance says you don’t want to go too fast anyway, as you’ll miss out on the view.

Lance’s retirement plans include diving his submarine off the coast of North Carolina and Florida so he can hunt for shipwrecks, explore marine geology, and collect rare sea shells. “Seventy percent of the earth’s surface is covered by water,” Lance says. “Who knows what I might discover!”

Union-backed, high-tech center to use robotics, computer simulation in treatments

A NEW REHABILITATION facility that features some of the latest technology is being funded in part by a $500,000 gift from Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta). Known as the Building Trades of Alberta Courage Center, the facility is part of the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

Unions in the province raised a total of $2.5 million for the new, $4-million facility, which is expected to open this fall. Joining Local 146 with their own donations of $500,000 each were the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 488 and the Alberta Regional Council of Carpenters and Allied Workers. The Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation donated another $1 million, with money being raised at construction sites through lottery ticket sales.

The Courage Center will use robotics, virtual-reality simulation, and other advanced technology to assist patients in overcoming debilitating accidents and injuries.

Local 146 BM-ST Warren Fraleigh said, “The unions chose this project because of their close ties with the facility and the benefit the new rehab center will bring, not just to the community, but to many of our own members. You never know when a tragedy will strike close to home. Many of our members have used the Glenrose facilities in the past.”

Fraleigh added that Local 146’s gift also secured legacy naming rights to the simulation area within the center, which will be called the “Boilermakers Local 146 Virtual Reality Zone.”

Joe Maloney, IVP for Western Canada, hailed the donation as “another example of how the Boilermakers in Local 146 care about the greater community.” He added, “This generous donation will be assisting people in their time of need for many years to come, and we are all very proud. Hats off to 146.”

Local 92 rallies for jobs in L.A.

BUREAUCRACY AND RED tape are delaying the distribution of federal stimulus money and holding up tens of thousands of jobs in California. That was the message delivered at the Los Angeles City Hall April 14, where Boilermaker Local 92 joined in a jobs rally with other unions, community groups, and elected officials to protest the delay.

The Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council organized the event and invited L-92 BM-ST Eddie Marquez to be one of the speakers. Marquez described how job delays are affecting Boilermakers and their families. He said that when unions support politicians they expect those politicians to represent union interests and keep the promises they made to get union votes.

Also representing Local 92 at the rally were lodge president Mark Thomas, trustee Oscar Davila, Kipp Wikum, Santiago Ramirez, Stan Kelley, Robin Bewsee, Steve Cleland, Octavio Morales, Paul Gonzales, Oney Pineda, Marcos Del Rio, Jason Proctor, Jeff Neahr, John Koepp, and Guillermo Villanes. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa addressed the rally in support of the unions.

The construction industry in Los Angeles currently has an unemployment rate near 35 percent, according to Mayor Villaraigosa.
Daughter of L-128 member returns to Haiti

KIRSTY HENDERSON, daughter of Local 128 (Toronto, Ontario) member William “Willy” Henderson, has returned to Haiti for a second time following that country’s devastating January 12 earthquake.

Working with Hands On Disaster Response, a U.S.-based non-profit organization that provides help to survivors of natural disasters around the world, Henderson is no newcomer to hard work. According to her father, she has spent the last 10 years traveling the world and working part time as a volunteer in disaster zones. To help fund her efforts, she released an e-book in March titled, “The Underground Guide to International Volunteering.” Half of the proceeds ($7) from each book’s sale will be donated to Hands On Disaster Response. (For more information visit www.nerdynomad.com)

In Henderson’s blog, she writes about her efforts in Haiti: “It seems impossible that one person could make any difference in this mess, but when you get a bunch of hard-working people together, it’s amazing what can be accomplished.

My first two full days of work were on a home that had collapsed into a pile of rubble and tangled rebar, and I was pretty overwhelmed at first. But having done several Hands On projects, I should have known that it would be cleared impossibly quickly. As usual, I was surrounded by some of the hardest workers I’ve ever met and the high-intensity day in the hot sun was draining and painful but rewarding, and it served as an immediate reminder as to why I keep coming back to these things.”

Henderson’s dad began his boilermaker career in 1967 in Glasgow, Scotland, where members of Vancouver Local 680 (St. Catharines, Ontario) in 1980, and is currently a

Steelworkers cite IBB solidarity for ending strike

Boilermaker cement lodges in western Canada are credited with helping to end a strike and lockout between Lafarge and United Steelworkers (USW) Local 816 in early May.

IBB Local D385 (Vancouver, British Columbia) and Local D277 (Bamberg, British Columbia) refused to unload barges carrying lime from quarries operated by the Steelworkers following a strike and subsequent lockout. The labor dispute ran from April 27 to May 6.

“Our agreement with Lafarge states that we will not unload any product that originates from behind a picket line,” said Cement District Lodge D11 Business Manager Rob Lauzon. After we refused to unload the barges and filed a grievance, the company met with the Steelworkers and worked out an agreement within 24 hours.”

USW District 3 staff rep Early Graham wrote a letter praising the Boilermakers for their solidarity. He stated that the Boilermakers’ refusal to unload the barges “put an enormous amount of pressure on the company.” He noted that “the company’s negotiators showed up at the Labour Relations Board unannounced to us and wanted to reconsider their positions.”

Joe Maloney, Boilermaker IVP for Western Canada, said the successful resolution of the dispute demonstrates the power of solidarity. “This is a great example of how mutual support between unions can help resolve conflict with management. We are happy that the Steelworkers were able to end the strike and lockout, and get back to work. I’m proud that our members stood their ground with Lafarge.”

Plant consolidation helps Local 359

Employees receive first profit-sharing check

FACING TOUGH ECONOMIC times and lagging orders for heavy-duty trailers, manufacturer McCoy Corp. had to decide whether to keep its unionized plant in Penticton, British Columbia, where members of Vancouver Local 359 are employed, or consolidate those operations at its nonunion plant in Edmonton, Alberta.

To preserve good union jobs, Local 359 negotiated a new agreement that helps the company remain competitive in a tight market, said BM-ST Phil Halley. The agreement resulted in McCoy closing its nonunion plant late last year and consolidating manufacturing at the Penticton facility.

Halley said that approximately 60 L-359 members have been recalled from layoffs, and the company is seeking to add additional employees. He noted that members received their first profit-sharing check in April. Profit sharing was added during the most recent contract negotiations.

In a letter to Halley, Andy McEachern, president of trailer manufacturing for McCoy Corp., praised the union for its cooperation during a down economy.

“Manufacturing lead times are down, quality is up, and morale and employee engagement is growing daily,” McEachern wrote.

The Penticton plant manufactures products under the Peerless and Scona brands, including heavy-haul trailers, oil field trailers, forestry trailers, and custom-built trailers.

Local 13’s Kelley bags Russian bear

WITH ONLY ONE shell left, Rich Kelley climbed 500 yards up the side of a mountain on his hands and knees, looking for the bear he hoped had fallen from his earlier shots. He was lucky. The animal was down, and he had his first Russian bear kill.

Kelley, a member of Philadelphia Local 13, is an avid sportsman. He took a dream trip to Russia’s Kamchatka Peninsula in May to hunt brown bear.

Hiking along the Plotnikov River, it wasn’t until his third day that he found a bear that he could shoot, but he missed. A few hours later, he spotted another bear at 470 yards. His first three shots missed. He knew his fourth shot hit, but the bear took off running. He kept shooting and missing.

With only three shells left, he reloaded his gun and had a misfire. Once again he loaded up, one sole shell left in his pocket, and fired. Again he hit the bear, but the bear kept running. After crawling some 500 yards up the snow-covered mountain, he spotted the fallen bear about 20 yards down the other side.

His advice for those who are planning a big hunt like this: “Don’t leave any shells at the main camp when you are going to a drop camp overnight; make sure you bring them all with you!”
Proud to serve with Boilermakers

I AM BEGINNING my 39th year of unbroken service in the Boilermakers union [in April 2010]. In August I will apply for my pension. I have served with the greatest men and women the U.S.A. and Canada have to offer.

As a teenager, I started out as a tankie mechanic — there was no apprenticeship program. The work was hard and extremely dangerous. The men I worked with were very tough in those days. Many of them, as teenagers, had fought in World War II and Korea. They were two-fisted, hard-working, hard-fighting, and sometimes hard-drinking men who were fiercely proud to serve as Boilermakers. Today’s Canadian and American Boilermakers are still proud. Thankfully, education and safety have progressed to the point that we lose very few men nowadays.

The Boilermakers have been extremely kind to me. In 1985, I was presented with the 30-year pin, which was a great honor for me. I am now proud to have served 40 years with the Boilermakers.

Riveting is not a completely lost art

I READ THE article in the Boilermaker Reporter about riveting [“Film captures story of Boilermaker”, p.3, Jan-Mar issue] and would like to let you know it’s not a completely lost art. I’m a journeyman out of Local 85 [Toledo, Ohio]. My brothers, Tim [a former 10-year L-85 member], Terry [an active member who joined L-85 in 1992 with Todd], and I still drive rivets on Great Lakes’ freighters, as well as on high-pressure digesters in the Canadian paper mills.

We have also driven rivets on the Panama Canal and Liberty ship, the John Brown. The 4½-inch by 1¼-inch rivet gun takes 90 seconds wide open on a 120-volt gun that would hardly make your apprentice sweat! Not to mention that bobbing the rivets, caulking the seams, reaming, and counterboring is almost as brutal as driving the rivet itself!

Todd Jagielo, L-85 member
Osseo, Mich.

Local 1-Chicago
JOHN SKERMONT, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, reports the following membership pin presentation.

55 YEARS Edward J. Downs

Local 40 - Elizabethtown, KY
RAY PARROTT, BM-ST of Local 40, Elizabethtown, Ky., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

65 YEARS James M. Harrison;
60 YEARS Richard Meier, Lloyd Remington, Don Shumaker;
55 YEARS Eugene Arnold Jr., Harold Rafferty;
45 YEARS Lester W. Atkins, Howard O. Hardeman;
45 YEARS Dennis D. Barker, Dennis W. Chumbley, Vernon Hardeman, William L. Hite, James G. Kennedy, Mitchell McDougall, Winston L. Short, Samuel A. Wilcox;
35 YEARS Ralph Ballard, Ritchie L. Brack, Ivan Coomes, Luther C. Chaney, Wavie Drake, Dannie A. English, Gary M. Frank, Kenneth Frantz, William E. Goff, Larry G. Guynes, David Harlan, James H. Hay, Michael L. Johnson, James D. Lambert, Jeffrey V. Latham, Phillip Lernast, Charles Moneymaker, Mike Neihoff, Gerald W. Stokes, Hovey A. Tankersley, James C. Thomas, Ronald C. Webster, Ronald Whitescarver, Leo S. Williams, Reathel W. Woodcock, Rudy L. Young;
15 YEARS Mark A. Barker, Carl W. Burton, Richard D. Clark, Lloyd R. Duncan, Randall W. Fullerson, Wesley Harris, Billy L. Kouns Jr., Ryan Peay, Johnny Pennington, Bearl Roy, Donald E. Sammons, Daniel S. Stanford, David P. Tackett, and Steven W. Vincent.

Local 146 - Edmonton, Alberta
WARREN FRALEIGH, BM-ST of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, reports the following membership pin presentations:

55 YEARS Joseph Zavala Sr., Adolf Zeit;
50 YEARS Peter Flipsen, Robert Parker, Vernon Pelletier, Olaf Valan;
45 YEARS John Brophy, Dan Korchinski, John Missel, Donald Pustanyk, Kenneth Smale;
40 YEARS Warren Anderson, Randy Drelich, Lance Dyck, Doug Eljoke, John Fitzsimons, Allan Frederick, Robert Frost, Jim Gascoyne, Maynard Gauthier, Delbert Grainger, Alfred Jackson, Johannes Jongeling, Frank Klutz, Raymond Klutz, Lajos Kovacs, Mustafa Koybasli, Jerry Leicht, David Myers, Vic Niska Aro, John Nyari Sr., Vernon Parker, George Plaquin, Ronald Regan, Herman Valan, Walter Vanleest, Engo Wegien, Jerry Zurburg;
35 YEARS Marston Albright, Robert Althouse, Jean Luc Arsenault, Dennis Aucoin, Daniel Babin, Brian Badry, Martin Carllsen, John Carlson, Roger Cherkewick, Kuichee (Fred) Chong, John Czajkowski, Daryl Dorey, Leo Emberley, Wayne Enjesinski, Carey Gaasbeek, John Goodhelpsen, Jack Holiday, Robert Hutzulak, Geert Jakobsen, John Kavanagh, Gerald Kucy, Timothy Lechowicz, Walter Lewandowski,
Walter Linka, Stephen Marshall, Wayne Miller, David Moir, Joe Nikkila, Robert Ostrom, Frank Pegoraro, John Peregoddoff, Allan Perlovello, Zorans Petrovic, David Politeski, George Smith, Ed Thomas, Dennis Turyk, Gordon Weiers, Clarence Weisheap;
30 YEARS James Barber, Kim Bayrack, Terry Brennan, Brian Brown, Gary Brown, Shane Carylsme-Smith, Bruce Crowther, Donald Curtin, Terry Defreitas, Reginal Delbrook, Joseph Deschner, Brent Eisenman, Thomas Ellis, Peter Emberton, Glen Evans, Michael Fzejaks, Robert Foster, Dietrich Gross, Robert Hamilton, Terry Hanke, Danny Hogg, Lyle Jackson, Roger Jubrinville, Jacob Kabatoff, Ramiz Kazic, Wayne Koch, Richard Lundy, Michael Martin, Surender Minocha, Allan Parr, Mike Petryshen, Ceslaw Pichit, James Power, Michael Pudney, Douglass Rider, Randal Shaw, Robin Sundstrom, Milun Vojnovic, Andrew West, Darryl Wilson, Ken Wilson, Robert Wynia; and;

L-146, ALBERTA, 55-YEAR PIN recipients, L to R: Adolf Zelt and Joseph Zavala Sr.
35 YEARS

30 YEARS

Local NEWS

Local 154 • Pittsburgh

RAY VENTRONE, BM of Local 154, Pittsburgh, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

55 YEARS
Frank F. Belmont, James R. McFetridge;
50 YEARS
Anthony Conforti, Charles A. Linderman;
45 YEARS
40 YEARS
35 YEARS
30 YEARS
30 YEARS
25 YEARS
20 YEARS
20 YEARS
15 YEARS

Local 169 • Detroit

ROBERT HUTSELL, BM-ST of Local 169, Detroit, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

55 YEARS
Charles Dunn;
50 YEARS
Jerome Baron, Joseph Henkle, Ed Rotuski, Rich Wimmer, Rich Woods;
45 YEARS
Babyulas Bourdages, Donald Campbell, Richard Ferenz, Thomas Fountes, Charles Gould, Chris Lanzon, Bob Macleod, Dick Schultz, Daniel Thornton, Mike Usher, Robert Usher, Alfred Vanderbrink, David Wilson;
40 YEARS
David Atherall, Marty Closser, Doyle Erickson, Charles Flashans, Raymond Gould, Russell Griffin, John Hubbard, John Ivey, Randy Ivey, George Johnson, John Kent, Ronald Robertson, Gordon Sanders, William Stelzer, Duane Suluk, Hurshel Turner Jr., Chuck Westphal, Bernie Williams;
35 YEARS
30 YEARS
20 YEARS
John Bergman, Mike Card, Donald Cobb, James Empson, James Gould, Rich Norris, Dan Southwell; and
15 YEARS
William Bass, Steven Chase, Chuck Choinard, Richard Vesey, Paul Easley, Jeff Fetterly, D. Frank Golden, Adam Howard, Kerry Johnson, Ron Johnson, Donald Kisleiewicz, Chris Lanzon, Carl Mitchell, Spencer Moorfield, Jaime Schulte, Mike Slomzenski, Brad Smith, Terry Sullivan, Michael Trousdale, John Vardon, and Mike West.

Local 647 • Minneapolis

BERNARD "BARKY" HILLA, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

45 YEARS
Kenneth E. Shirts;
45 YEARS
James B. Guss, Curtis M. Kragro, Gary E. Streed;
40 YEARS
35 YEARS
30 YEARS
Curtiss J. Bendickson, Elmer D. Bohn, George C. Fluent Jr., Bryan E. Gjelhaug, Mark M. Grewatz, Margaret A. Haugen, Kevin Knettel, Peter Leither, John L. Maglik, Thomas R. Nierenhausen, Daniel A. Olson, Jack A. Pleinis, Darcy L. Sailer;
30 YEARS
20 YEARS
Gary R. Bartz, Dale J. Bee, Alan M. Fleck, David J. Fluey, and
15 YEARS
Dion Bennelle, Lee R. Bertram, Scott A. Groew, and Scott R. Martin.
WITH DEEP SORROW, the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer’s office and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

**DEATH BENEFITS**

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

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

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**Lodge** | **Name** | **Benefit** |
--- | --- | --- |
NTL | Anderson, Joseph Q. | 6,000.00 |
NTT | Baptiste Sr., Claude | 4,800.00 |
NTL | Boyer, Mervin | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Cornelius, Claude | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Drake, Wilbur | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Johnson, Marvin | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Jones, Maurice | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Ludd, Eugene O. | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Liles, Grady | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Rainwater, Jessie D. | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Sittar, Edwin | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Swaditch, Donald | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Watson, James | 6,000.00 |
NTL | White, Walter L. | 6,000.00 |
1 | Adams, Arthur | 6,000.00 |
1 | Anderson, George | 6,000.00 |
S | King, Benton | 6,000.00 |
S | Generous, Thomas E. | 6,000.00 |
D | Deppe, James | 6,000.00 |
G | Gordon, Murray | 6,000.00 |
D | McGuigh, John | 6,000.00 |
S | Santora, James V. | 6,000.00 |
T | Turdo, Frank | 6,000.00 |
N | Norris, John | 6,000.00 |
S | Serna, Enrique S. | 6,000.00 |
W | Wohrer, Edwin | 6,000.00 |
C | Cobb, Floyd | 6,000.00 |
C | Coyne, Ernest | 6,000.00 |
H | Hauser, Jerry | 6,000.00 |
H | Holland, James | 6,000.00 |
M | Melski, Patrick | 6,000.00 |
T | Tenhagen, Daniel | 6,000.00 |
D | Tredinnick III, Earl | 6,000.00 |
D | Suncan, Dustin | 6,000.00 |
B | Benson, Spencer | 6,000.00 |
C | Crawford, Rondy | 6,000.00 |
D12 | Falassi, Arthur | 6,000.00 |
B | Bib, Edward | 6,000.00 |
M | Mulhauser, James M. | 6,000.00 |
D | Stone, James F. | 6,000.00 |
S13 | Surzinski, Joseph | 6,000.00 |
M18 | Fell, James | 6,000.00 |
26 | Bashlor, James W. | 6,000.00 |
M | Morrow, William | 6,000.00 |
D | Usery, Herbert | 6,000.00 |

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**Lodge** | **Name** | **Benefit** |
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NTL | Starlings, Ervin H. | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Stauffer, Edwin E. | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Stevens, Robert L. | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Swaditch, Donald | 6,000.00 |
NTL | Troup, Carl E. | 6,000.00 |
1 | Baranowski, Thomas P. | 2,000.00 |
1 | Bills, Sean W. | 6,000.00 |
1 | Jacobs, Clarence | 1,200.00 |
1 | Kuczynski, Leo | 6,000.00 |
5 | Campbell, Richard J. | 6,000.00 |
1 | Corbett, Robert A. | 6,000.00 |
5 | Dutas, Robert K. | 6,000.00 |
5 | Dutton, Ronald A. | 6,000.00 |
6 | Emmett, Charles R. | 6,000.00 |
6 | Eveland, Steve | 6,000.00 |

See DEATH BENEFITS, page 23
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Building a culture of safety is a worthy goal

Milestones mark progress, but tragedies loom large

WE ARE AN ORGANIZATION that places a high value on the safety and health of our members. This is evident both in our Construction Sector and our Industrial Sector, whether our lodges are bringing in a complex job without a single recordable injury or winning awards for working safely in plants, shops, and shipyards. It is evident as well in our commitment to the MOST safety training programs, our apprentice training efforts, and the work of our health and safety directors in Canada and the United States.

We have made tremendous progress over the decades in building a culture of safety. In this endeavor, we are often — although not always — working in cooperation with our contractors and employers who understand, as we do, that putting safety first is not only the morally right thing to do; it is also the smartest and most productive use of our most precious resource.

To be really effective, progress must be measurable. Since 1990, the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) has tracked the safety performance of our local lodges and participating contractors annually, recording lost-time injuries, compensable injuries, and OSHA-recordable injuries. We have seen injuries in all three areas decline steadily over the years.

At this year’s construction conference, we heard from NACBE Executive Director John Erickson that in 2009 38 lodges recorded zero lost-time injuries and 12 recorded zero compensable injuries. Those are incredible achievements, particularly in the field construction industry with its inherent hazards. Erickson also reported a new milestone: an all-time-low lost-time injury rate of 0.39 per 200,000 man-hours worked, down from 13.54 when the safety index was first begun.

We can also be proud of the great safety work being done in our Industrial Sector. Two stories in this issue of the Reporter highlight several awards our members received recently. Local 66 (Little Rock, Ark.) member Willie Sandoval Jr. was recently honored with Union Pacific’s Kenefick Safety Award for 2009 for his outstanding on-the-job safety achievements at the company’s Fort Worth, Texas, locomotive shop. And Local D06 members in Fort Dodge, Iowa, won the 2008 Sentinels of Safety award for working 10 years without a single lost workday injury. Presented by the National Mining Association and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), it was the first such award for their employer, National Gypsum Co.

These are but a few examples of how our members embrace safety programs and demonstrate their commitment to protecting themselves and each other on the job.

Accidents still harm our members

WHILE WE CELEBRATE our steady progress in safety and health, we know that danger is never far away, and serious injuries and fatalities continue to occur. Since April of last year, our union has lost seven of its brothers to workplace accidents, including two this past May. Each death has been a shock and a tragedy — for families, friends, fellow members, and our entire Brotherhood.

To help families and local lodges cope with catastrophic events that result in death and major injuries, our union has established a relationship with the law firm of Becker, Schroader, and Chapman. This firm maintains a special emergency response team (SERT) to investigate catastrophic accidents, preserve evidence, and advise families and lodges on legal matters. There is no charge to families or lodges for these services. More information about SERT is available through Mark Garrett, Director of Health and Safety Services, (225) 276-6796.

Whether an injury or fatality is caused by defective equipment, a momentary mental lapse, poor job site safety practices, or outright negligence, the fact is that incidents are preventable. Someone or something did not perform as intended. With the right training, the right policies and practices, and the right mindset by workers and employers, accidents need not happen.

To some, safety is a low priority

IT IS AN UNFORTUNATE reality that some organizations — often those that are the most vehemently anti-union — place profit ahead of the safety of their workers. A recent example is Massey Energy, the largest coal company in Central Appalachia, and a fiercely anti-union company.

When Massey’s Upper Big Branch coal mine in West Virginia blew up in April, killing 29 miners, the media revealed that the company had compiled a horrendous safety record. The Washington Post reported that MSHA had cited the mine for over 3,000 violations, including 638 since 2009. Between January 2009 and April 2010, the agency ordered the Upper Big Branch mine evacuated 64 times. The newspaper added that the mine’s record for “significant and substantial” violations is more than 11 times the national average.

Yet, thanks to a loophole in the law that allows companies to continue operating mines while appealing serious infractions, Massey kept the Upper Big Branch going, the Post noted.

Without a union, the miners in the Upper Big Branch had few protections. Some testified before Congress that they were intimidated by supervisors and prevented from talking with MSHA investigators.

Some observers argue that with a law on the books like the Employee Free Choice Act (which is still pending in Congress), these miners might have successfully organized. And the 29 who died might still be going home to their families.

Health and safety laws must be strengthened

WHAT HAPPENED AT the Upper Big Branch mine illustrates how laws that are intended to protect workers can sometimes be circumvented — or simply lack the necessary enforcement tools. We see this not only in the mining industry but also in occupations covered under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) of 1970, which created OSHA.

That is why the Boilermakers have joined with the AFL-CIO to support the Protect America’s Workers Act, which would strengthen the OSH Act. This is one of the issues our delegates presented to their lawmakers while lobbying during the Legislative Education Action Program conference in late April. If enacted, the legislation would increase civil and criminal penalties for job safety violations. It would enhance whistleblower protections for workers who raise job safety concerns and report injuries or illnesses. It would require the employer to correct hazards even while appeals are pending. And it would provide OSHA protections to state and local public sector workers and to others who lack full coverage under the act.

Many of these same provisions are needed in the mining industry health and safety laws as well.

Organized labor has done more to promote the safety of all workers — union and non-union — than any other group.

Unions lead the way in safety

ORGANIZED LABOR has done more to promote the safety of all workers — union and nonunion — than any other group. We have been the watchdogs and the activists that clamor for better laws and broader participation from employers. By commemorating Workers Memorial Day each April 28, we acknowledge the price that workers have paid over the years — and continue to pay. Fourteen workers are killed on the job each day in the United States; hundreds more die from workplace-related illnesses. These are appalling numbers, especially for a society as advanced and as wealthy as ours.

Our Brotherhood has made great strides in building a culture of safety throughout our organization, and we will continue that effort going forward. But all workers deserve a high level of protection on the job. Achieving that goal will require a national commitment to change and the cooperation and support of employers throughout our society.

“A lost-time injury rate of 0.39 per 200,000 man-hours is the lowest rate ever for the Boilermakers.”