Rep. Higgins strums, sings one of Abe’s favorite numbers

REP. BRIAN HIGGINS (D-NY 27) did something quite unusual before he accepted the Abe Breehey Legislator of the Year Award at the LEAP conference April 25. He strapped on a guitar and delivered a soulful rendition of Bob Dylan’s “Knocking on Heaven’s Door.”

The conference room hushed as Higgins strummed and sang the number. It was one of Abe’s favorites, and the two friends had practiced it often together.

Breehey died suddenly in April 2011 from a brain tumor at the age of 34. Widely respected as the Boilermakers’ Legislative Director, he was a top advocate for the Brotherhood and the AFL-CIO on Capitol Hill, especially on energy issues. His testimony before the Senate and his lobbying

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Local 13 fights refinery closings

First-timers on Capitol Hill

Construction industry meets environmental groups

Coal Under Fire

BESEIGED BY environmental groups, constrained by tough new EPA rules, and challenged by a rapidly-expanding natural gas industry, coal has fallen on hard times. Boilermakers and other trades that build and maintain coal-fired generation units have seen the number of new plants dwindle, even as older coal-fired plants are shut down.

A recent Billings Gazette news article highlights the struggles faced by union workers, energy providers, and communities in the face of these threats. See story on page 17.
Bank of Labor announces pro-union banking option

ORGANIZED LABOR received its first look at a unique banking opportunity April 30 during the AFL-CIO’s annual Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) Legislative Conference held at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel.

The newly-minted Bank of Labor rolled out promotional videos describing how unions can make better use of their funds through a financial institution dedicated to them, rather than to big business and anti-union organizations. More than 3,000 leaders in the Building Trades viewed the presentations.

“What Bank of Labor is offering the labor movement is a new and better approach to how labor invests its capital,” said International President Newton B. Jones, who is the bank Chairman and CEO.

IP Jones explained that many unions today place their money in big banks that have failed the country and failed their union customers.

“We’ve seen how Wall Street banks wrecked our economy through their greed and high-risk investment practices. For years, organized labor has had little choice but to invest in these banks, because, until now, there has not been a national labor bank that has reached out to the entire labor community. With the April 30th announcement, that has changed. The Bank of Labor is open for business.”

Jones said Bank of Labor is “the modern evolution” of a labor bank founded in 1924 in Kansas City, Kan., by the Boilermakers union. He noted that the institution has operated without interruption for nearly a century, a testament to the bank’s strength and performance. He said Bank of Labor is a logical and practical solution for organized labor.

“Unions no longer have to put their money in big banks that profit from organized labor then turn against us to support our adversaries and anti-union legislation,” he said. “Billions of dollars in labor pensions and other benefit plans, as well as operating see BANK OF LABOR, PG. 5

TOM JOHNSON (L) AND RANDY CRUSE, representing the Bank of Labor, provide information to delegates attending the Building and Construction Trades Department Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., April 30.

DOES YOUR BANK HOLD THE SAME CORE PRINCIPLES AS YOU DO?

We’ve been true to our values since we began in 1924. From our roots as Kansas City’s labor community bank to today’s modern online labor bank, we are unique in our mission to serve the financial needs and shared values of all organized labor unions and members. Trust your money to a bank that is as committed to hard work as you are.

Bank of Labor
BORN OF INTEGRITY
a division of Brotherhood Bank & Trust

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BCTD elects Sean McGarvey president

Former secretary-treasurer takes reins after death of Mark Ayers

THE GOVERNING BOARD of the Building and Construction Trades Department, in a special meeting April 16, unanimously elected Sean McGarvey President of the BCTD. His election followed the sudden death of BCTD President Mark H. Ayers, 63, on April 8. McGarvey had served as the department’s secretary-treasurer since 2005. The board also posthumously elected Ayers President Emeritus by unanimous vote.

McGarvey began his career with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) in 1981 as an apprentice glazier with Glazier’s Local 252 in Philadelphia, Pa. He graduated to journeyman status in 1984 and was later elected recording secretary and business representative of his local. McGarvey went on to serve as a general president’s representative for the Painter’s International, and then Assistant to the General President. In 2000, he was elected general vice president-at-large, and in May 2002 he was appointed government affairs director for the IUPAT.

Elected BCTD Secretary-Treasurer in 2005, McGarvey was re-elected to another five-year term in August 2010.

Boilermakers International President Newton B. Jones, a member of the BCTD Governing Board, expressed confidence in the choice of McGarvey to head the department.

“During this very sad time for organized labor, as we mourn the loss of our dear friend and brother, Mark Ayers, it is comforting to know that we have a superb leader in Sean McGarvey,” Jones said. “Sean has the experience, the qualities, and the spirit to continue the department’s extremely important mission of promoting excellence in the union construction industry.”

Jones said Ayers “served with extraordinary passion and commitment. He was a model unionist who worked tirelessly for the good of all the unions making up the Building Trades and was widely admired for his fortitude and his unwavering effort in furthering labor’s mission.

“As a personal friend to me and to the entire Boilermakers union, Mark was ready and willing to support our struggles and back our initiatives. He spoke at our conventions and conferences. He stood with us when we suffered the loss of our Legislative Director, Abe Breehey. Brother Ayers will be sorely missed as a close friend and one of labor’s stellar leaders.”

—IP NEWTON B. JONES

L-13 MeMBeR THOMas paYnteR holds up a sign in Washington, D.C., while protesting refinery closures. Photo by Rick Reinhard.

L-13 hopeful as refineries get new life

Union activism helps keep closures in public eye

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 13 (Philadelphia) are hopeful about the future of several oil refineries that had been slated for closure last year. Sunoco’s Marcus Hook and Philadelphia refineries — and Conoco’s Trainer facility — all reliable sources of maintenance work for generations of Boilermakers — recently faced permanent shutdowns due to unfavorable market conditions and millions of dollars in reported operating losses.

Two of those facilities — the Philadelphia and Trainer refineries — may survive, thanks to changes in ownership and operation.

Delta Airlines recently purchased the 185,000-barrel-per-day Trainer refinery to provide its own source of jet fuel. The airline plans to invest about $100 million to convert the plant for maximum jet fuel production and increase its daily output to about 200,000 barrels. The Building Trades and Delta subsidiary Monroe Energy have entered negotiations over a project labor agreement to perform the work.

Sunoco is in negotiations with private equity firm Carlyle Group to allow Carlyle to operate the Philadelphia facility, which is the oldest continuously-operating refinery in the world.

The future of the Marcus Hook refinery is less clear. The facility may be shuttered as a refinery and converted to a multipurpose industrial site. Nearly 600 jobs are expected to be lost.

BM-ST John Clark, who like his father and grandfather before him has worked at the refineries, said Sunoco
Construction conference grapples with industry challenges

Global forces shape economy, work opportunities

FROM THE FUKUSHIMA nuclear disaster in Japan to worries about shaky European economies, global forces are shaping the work outlook for Boilermakers and their contractors in a more inter-connected world.

This was a common theme running through many of the presentations at the 2012 Construction Sector Operations Conference held at Marco Island, Fla. March 5-8.

Such global developments, along with the U.S. economic recession and new environmental regulations, have created uncertainties for owners and lowered man-hour projections going forward, said International President Newton B. Jones in his opening remarks May 5.

“These EPA rules, these financial times, and these challenges are all impacting our craft. We can expect maybe 24 million man-hours here in the U.S. in 2012. That is down to 1990s numbers.”

He noted that abundant, cheap natural gas coupled with lower electricity demand have influenced owners as they try to determine what energy sources make the most sense.

“As a craft, we are going to have to adjust and figure out, in a very uncertain time, how we are going to go forward while maintaining our health as an organization,” he said.

Upheaval in the energy sector is impacting the United Mine Workers of America as well. Two guest speakers from the UMWA — attorney Gene Trisko and Director of Government Affairs Bill Banig — explained how many of the same challenges facing the Boilermakers union affect UMWA members who mine coal for a living.

Trisko gave a detailed presentation of various EPA regulations, asserting that the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) final rule is so restrictive that it would virtually prevent any new coal plants from being built. He said solidarity between the IBB and the UMWA is essential to fight for regulatory relief.

Joe Trisko, attorney for the United Mine Workers, calls for solidarity to get relief from strict new environmental regulations.

Canadian boom offers work to U.S. members

IP JONES TOLD the conference that while construction hours are down in the United States, things are booming north of the border. Canada needs workers across many industries and provinces, he said.

Western Canada International Vice President Joe Maloney presented an update on the work outlook. He emphasized that it is not just the oil sands region of Alberta that is creating jobs.

“Northwestern Saskatchewan is going to break wide open at the seams” as technology develops to extract oil trapped in shale rock. “It is going to be a phenomenal amount of growth for Boilermakers and other trades.”

Maloney also cited mining and utility work in British Columbia, nuclear projects in Ontario, mining and offshore oil platforms in Newfoundland, and major shipbuilding programs on both Canadian coasts.

He said the traditional ways of meeting man-hour peak demands — using travelers from sister Canadian locals and recruiting U.S. members — will not be sufficient. Moreover, the four-year apprenticeship program cannot turn out Boilermakers fast enough.

“Ed [Eastern Canada IVP Ed Power] and I, along with our construction business managers, have examined the shortfall numbers,” which are estimated at 45 percent of currently available welders, mechanics, and apprentices.

To address the demand, Boilermaker leadership in Canada has begun developing the National Membership Reserve Program. Essentially, the program will recruit “inter” journeypersons into the local lodges. The interns will become members but will work on probationary status until they can be fully assessed as to qualifications and disposition as a union Boilermaker. Training and testing for Red Seal certification (which allows a union member to work at the trade in any Canadian province) will be provided as needed.

Bank of Labor previewed

BANK OF LABOR, a modern evolution of Brotherhood Bank and Trust offering online banking for labor unions, received attention at the conference in advance of its formal unveiling at the 2012 Building and Construction Trades Legislative Conference.

IP Jones talked about the need for a labor-dedicated bank, especially after Wall Street banks failed unions and their pensions. He introduced a film describing the Bank of Labor and discussed other marketing initiatives such as a new website. He stressed that the bank is 60 percent owned by the International and some of the local lodges, and that its employees are represented by the United Mine Workers.

Ed Smith, President and CEO of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, announced during his presentation that Ullico will partner with the Bank of Labor by placing assets in the bank. “We are starting with a $10 million dollar deposit. That is just the tip of the iceberg. As we go forward, our relationship, our partnership between Ullico and the Bank of Labor is going to be strong.”

Part of the Bank of Labor’s mission is to support the causes of organized labor. Smith said Ullico has the same focus. “We put billions of dollars each year back into the Labor Movement, whether it is the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, the National Labor College, American Rights at Work, or the Building Trades. Anything that the Labor Movement is in a fight on, Ullico stands shoulder to shoulder with the Labor Movement, adding money and resources to support unions.”

Fred Meyers, Executive Director and CEO of the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, also spoke in support of the Bank of Labor and Brotherhood Bank and Trust.

“We are a small organization, but I will tell you, every dime that this organization brings in goes through Brotherhood Bank. We are very glad to be a part of supporting the bank.”

Pilot and safety specialist speaks about complacency and approachability

A FORMER U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, Jeff “Odie” Estenship, spoke about his time flying A-10 “Warthogs” and what he has learned about safety over the years.

The NACBE guest speaker explained how failing to follow safety rules even once can lead to complacency, which can end in disaster. He said this is just as true for Boilermakers as it is for pilots.

“You know, I don’t go to bed at night and think that I am going to
CSO CONFERENCE
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crash that big airplane. You know what keeps me up at night? It is the little things: inattention to detail, lack of focus, poor communication, complacency. It is failing to recognize all the hazards associated with work — somebody taking the short cut.”

Estenship said a safety shortcut led to the death of his brother and a friend when a private plane owned by Estenship crashed in Florida. That event spurred him to a career as a safety speaker.

He emphasized the need to “set the bar high” for safety and to develop a culture of “approachability in the workplace” so that people are able to speak out when they see poor safety habits.

National funds, other topics
fuel interest

WITH THE ECONOMY sputtering, the Boilermakers’ benefit plans continue to face challenges for investment growth. International Secretary-Treasurer Bill Creeden addressed the issue, as did National Funds Executive Director Rich Calaca, Marco Consulting Group representatives Jack Marco and Nick Trella, and Segal Group’s Tom Del Fiacco.

The discussion dealt with ways to best preserve the health of the funds in light of government regulations, lower man-hour numbers, and shifting financial markets.

Also discussed at the conference were developments in the nuclear power industry; MOST topics, including the MOST Boilermaker Delivery System; BNAP’s new Online Interactive Training System; changes to the Constitution and by-laws; financial reporting and invoicing; and the national agreements.

Additional topics included the Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Trust; the Boilermaker Archives; safety issues for U.S. and Canadian members; political and legislative developments; and plans for a new Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta) training center.

A week-long training session for new business managers preceded the Construction Sector Operations conference, drawing 24 newly-elected lodge leaders.

Local 263 wins NACBE safety award

Injury rates drop across three categories

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) presented its annual safety awards to the 2011 top-performing locals from the Boilermakers’ four U.S. vice-presidential sections March 5 during the annual Construction Sector Operations conference held at Marco Island, Fla.

Local 263 (Memphis, Tenn.), representing the Southeast, took national honors with zero lost-time accidents, zero compensable injuries, and zero OSHA-recordable injuries.

The three other lodges finishing first in their sections included Northeast Local 45 (Richmond, Va.); Great Lakes Local 85 (Toledo, Ohio); and Western States Local 627 (Phoenix, Ariz.).

BANK OF LABOR
Continued from page 2

capital, can now have a safe home in a bank that supports the Labor Movement — its philosophy, its devotion to workers, and its goals. Bank of Labor is committed to providing funding for union-built construction projects. We will help secure good-paying union jobs, and we will support labor affiliates and union contractors. We’ll also stand behind labor issues and causes with financial support, within the constraints of our federal, state, and local laws.”

Jones said the Bank of Labor offers unions “top-shelf services and products,” from online banking to credit cards, to trusts and fiduciary services. “Wherever you are, Bank of Labor is there, 24/7, through a host of online transaction services,” he said.

The bank’s Labor Advisory Board is composed of United Mine Workers of America President Cecil E. Roberts, Ullico President Edward M. Smith, Marco Consulting Group Chairman and CEO Jack M. Marco, and Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Executive Director Fred Myers. Until his unexpected death on April 8, BCTD President Mark H. Ayers also served on the Labor Advisory Board, and he is still listed there, in memoriam, to honor his service to organized labor.

The bank’s board of directors and advisory directors also include accomplished leaders from both labor and business.

“This is truly a groundbreaking effort that can strengthen the entire labor movement, and we couldn’t be more proud to offer this opportunity to America’s unions,” Jones said.

Bank of Labor is affiliated with Brotherhood Bank & Trust, and is headquartered in Kansas City, Kan., where the parent bank has operated continuously since 1924.
LEAP conference informs, inspires delegates

Boilermakers honor lost brothers, prep for election-year struggle

THE MOOD AT the Boilermakers’ 2012 LEAP conference April 23-26 alternated between somber reflection and downright anger, punctuated by periods of laughter and inspiration. It was a strange mix of emotions, to be sure, but there was much to trigger strong feelings.

Mike Autry, business manager of Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.), inspired delegates with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem. Mike Allen, business manager of Local 263 (Memphis, Tenn.), followed with an earnest prayer before summoning Bridget Martin to receive a memorial plaque honoring the late Abe Breehey.

Abe’s memory was invoked repeatedly at the conference. The event was dedicated in his honor, and 2012 marked the first presentation of the Abe Breehey Legislator of the Year Award (see related story on page 1). A popular and accomplished legislative director for the Boilermakers, Abe’s unexpected death on April 14, 2011, at the age of 34, stunned all who knew him. His absence continues to be felt.

Attacks against labor worsen, says IP Jones

BEFORE MAKING HIS official presentation to the delegates, International President Newton B. Jones took time to honor Abe as well as the late Mark Ayers, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO. The two men, who died a year apart (Ayers on April 8, 2012), made substantial contributions to the cause of unionism.

Jones referred to Abe as “a bright light gone out too soon.” He called Ayers one of organized labor’s “most stellar leaders.”

In his prepared remarks, Jones reflected on two previous addresses he had given to the LEAP conference, in 2010 and 2011, in which he castigated the Republican Party for its partisan obstructionism and assaults on labor. He noted that today things have gotten even worse.

“We face an opponent who—without shame and with callous disregard for the poor and middle class—seeks to bend this society to the will of big business and the very Wall Street banks that caused the Great Recession. The harsh reality is that Republicans and their allies seek nothing less than to dismantle government and...”

Jones expressed dissatisfaction with the ineffectiveness of congressional Democrats to counter the Right’s oppression, but he applauded the grassroots of union resistance, from Wisconsin, to the nation’s “rust belt,” to New Hampshire.

He noted that the Boilermakers union and other labor organizations have been frustrated at times with the Obama administration. “But with a few exceptions he has taken our side and had our back.”

That cannot be said for the GOP’s presumptive candidate for president, Mitt Romney, Jones added. “Mr. Romney does not believe in prevailing wage laws, project labor agreements, and a whole host of other labor protections. I can assure each and every one of our members, our union has no friend in Mitt Romney.”

Bill Press contrasts Obama, far right

“I’VE GOT THE best job in the world,” Bill Press told Boilermaker delegates. “I listen to Rush Limbaugh so you don’t have to.”

Press was only half-joking. As a radio commentator and host of “The Bill Press Show,” a big part of his job is staying current with rhetoric from both the left and the right. He has long been involved in political debate and once co-hosted CNN’s popular “Crossfire” television program.

Press contrasted President Obama’s record with that of the far right, noting that the very first bill Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which gives women more time to file suit over pay discrimination. Press also cited Obama for “saving the American auto industry,” and once co-hosted CNN’s popular “Crossfire” television program.

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Delegates show anger at diminished coal focus

WHILE LEAP SESSIONS covered many topics important to Boilermakers, it was clear that one, in particular, had delegates fired up—and several speakers felt the heat.

D-PA BRIDGET MARTIN receives a memorial plaque honoring Abe Breehey from L-263 BM-ST Mike Allen.

“I LISTEN TO RUSH LIMBAUGH SO YOU DON’T HAVE TO.” — BILL PRESS

“REPUBLICANS AND THEIR ALLIES SEEK NOTHING LESS THAN TO DISMANTLE GOVERNMENT AND DESTROY LABOR UNIONS.” — IP NEWTON JONES
LEAP
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Patrick Gaspard, Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee, heard a discussion about the upcoming presidential election and opened the microphones for questions, when the subject turned to coal.

Members spoke about coal-fired power plant closings, anti-coal environmental groups, and strict new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency.

"During [Obama's election campaign in 2008] we heard a lot of talk about clean coal, but we haven't heard anything about coal in two years," said International Rep Jim Cooksey.

"It's like coal can't be mentioned. In the West, our coal plants are shutting down. We're getting a lot of feedback from our members against the administration because they see their jobs going out the window. I hope you can relay that."

Local 11 President Bob Winger, a lifelong Democrat who is running for the state House in Montana, told Gaspard, "I'm tired of [the party's] allegiance to the Sierra Club. He said the environmental group is "fighting any new coal-fired power plant," no matter how much its carbon footprint is reduced through advanced technology. "We have spent our careers cleaning up coal [to lower emissions], and it creates the kind of jobs this country needs," he added.

Dale Mason, assistant business manager and dispatcher for Local 502 (Tacoma, Wash.), said he normally dispatches about 400 people each spring for power plant outages. "Friday [April 20], I dispatched 25 people. They're closing those plants down. It's killing our trade. We need help."

Dan Engle, Local 28 (Newark, N.J.), said the plant closing in Bangor, Pa., is destroying the community. "Seventy-five percent of my town works at the coal plant. They're all going to be out. Plus, small businesses are going to be out. My wife is a teacher. She's going to lose her job because of the lost tax base. Companies need some kind of incentive to invest in environmental controls."

Another speaker to hear from delegates was Joe Goffman, senior counsel to the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency. In his presentation, Goffman discussed the recent EPA regulations targeting coal-fired power plants. The cost of complying with those regulations has been a major factor in plant closures.

Jack Tuttle, Local 449 (Sturgeon Bay, Wis.) expressed his concerns with the EPA regulations, telling Goffman, "With the existing plants that are online right now and the EPA standards set where they are, some of the plants can't reach your target numbers in order to be in compliance. So they're shutting down, and when they shut down, we lose members that are working those plants. We've already lowered the emission standards. We've come a long way from 10 or 15 years ago. Give us some additional time to let the technology catch up before we spend all the money to get into compliance and then say, well, that's not good enough."

Gary Evenson, Director of Construction Organizing Services, summed up the frustration that many construction Boilermakers feel with the excessive lawsuits and the aggressive, anti-coal posture of environmental groups. He told Goffman, "Recently the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity have been bringing about a list of power plants they've shut down. The new push is solar and wind. Now I just read in the paper yesterday, they are trying to shut down a wind turbine plant in California because it's killing golden eagles and condors. They're trying to shut down solar power plants because they're shading the desert floor and disturbing desert tortoises. They don't like nuclear power. They want to decommission every dam in this country. Has anyone from the Sierra Club or any of the environmental groups [identified for] the EPA an acceptable form of power generation — or do they even have one?"

Presenter Scott Segal expressed empathy for the Boilermakers union. A partner with the law firm of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP, Segal has worked with the department has taken an aggressive role in defending Davis-Bacon and enforcing OSHA regulations.

She said President Obama “has never stopped pushing to get Americans back to work” and has made a record investment in clean coal technology.

MAYS said “working people are being worn down by the agenda of the one percent — by their cuts in education and infrastructure, and by corporations shipping our jobs overseas, and by a continuous race to the bottom.”

She praised Cecile Conroy, the Brotherhood’s Legislative Director, for her service as Virginia’s Labor 2008 state director, helping to move
Delegates support picketing hotel workers

Unite Here members reach “historic” agreement

AS DAY TWO of the LEAP conference general sessions got underway April 24, delegates learned that union workers employed by the Hyatt Regency had begun an informational picket in front of the hotel. The picket was a shock to the Brotherhood. The hotel had been booked three years in advance, and we had not been informed that Unite Here Local 25 members were working without a contract at D.C.-area hotels.

International President Newton B. Jones quickly took charge of the situation, personally meeting with the picketers and inviting Local 25 President John Boardman to address the LEAP conference. Pres. Boardman accepted the invitation and used the opportunity to inform our delegates about the issues facing his members.

Boilermakers gave Boardman a standing ovation, and some delegates and staff joined the picket line. The picketers accommodated our LEAP conference by ending their action prior to the start of our congressional reception so legislators could enter the hotel.

The situation had a happy ending. Soon after the LEAP conference concluded, Unite Here reached an agreement that the union described as “the best in Local 25’s history.” Ratified by more than 99 percent of voting members, the contract covers workers at 21 hotels.

WOMEN ARE FAR BETTER ON LABOR ISSUES THAN GUYS ARE, ON AVERAGE.

— Sam Bennett

the state into the Democratic column for the first time in 44 years. “I’m very proud of her, and you should be, too.”

Cindy Smalls, the AFL-CIO’s National Voter Protection Manager, explained the danger of voter suppression in the 2012 elections. She said that since the 2010 mid-term elections, which saw the GOP win a majority in the U.S. House, close the gap in the U.S. Senate, and move many state legislatures and governorships to GOP control, a growing movement has been under way to make it more difficult for people to vote.

Smalls said the right-wing organization ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) has largely been behind the voter suppression effort, with numerous states introducing voter-restrictive legislation.

She said such laws tend to affect “people of color, low-income Americans, young people, students, and Americans with disabilities.”

Advocate links labor’s future to women in public office

“WOMEN ARE FAR better on labor issues than guys are, on average,” Siobhan “Sam” Bennett told delegates, during a presentation about the Women’s Campaign Fund, an organization that seeks to put more women in public office. What is more, Bennett claims that electing more women is the solution to a shrinking labor movement.

Bennett serves as the Fund’s president and CEO. An accomplished businesswoman, community activist, and past political candidate for local and national offices, she is a frequent guest on national news shows.

Bennett cited a recent study about women and politics to back up her assertions. She said the study shows that women, regardless of party affiliation, are more likely to support labor issues because they “tend to care a lot more than men do about” equal pay, family leave, education, health care for all, and other issues vital to unions.

The problem is that women are reluctant to get into politics, even when they are more qualified than their male counterparts, she said.

“The U.S. is ranked 97th in the world in the number of women in elected office; we are behind Cuba and Afghanistan. And you tell me why the labor movement is under fire!”

BREEHEY AWARD

Continued from page 1

efforts with congressional members helped shape legislation aimed at a sensible and achievable energy policy to benefit his beloved Boilermakers.

Breehey was a proud member of Local 19 (Philadelphia).

At the 2011 Consolidated Convention, delegates approved a resolution renaming the Legislator of the Year Award in Abe’s honor. Later, as the Brotherhood’s leadership considered worthy candidates for the legislative award, Brian Higgins became the clear favorite, not only for his ties to Abe, but also for his strong labor record.

Higgins had met and befriended Abe during their time at the New York state capital of Albany, years ago.

Marty Spencer, BNAP National Coordinator, presented the award to Higgins. Spencer also has ties to Higgins. The men grew up in the same Buffalo, N.Y., neighborhood.

Higgins’ musical tribute left many damp eyes in the conference room as delegates recalled their own relationships with Abe, whose charm, optimism, and boundless energy were an inspiration to those who knew him.

BNAP NATIONAL COORDINATOR MARTY SPENCER, right, presents Rep. Brian Higgins with the first Abe Breehey Legislator of the Year Award.
LEAP first-timers speak out on Capitol Hill

Conference spurs members to action

LOBBYING ON CAPITOL Hill can be an eye-opener for LEAP first-timers interested in becoming more politically involved. This was the case for Ykalo "Nicco" Abraha, a member of Local 104, (Portland, Ore.), who attended his very first LEAP conference in April. Abraha is chief steward for the Boilermakers at Integrated Power Services (IPS), where he works as an electric motor/generator mechanic in Portland. He also doubles as a field technician outside the shop, visiting paper mills, power plants, and steel mills. A nationalized U.S. citizen from the east African nation of Eritrea, Abraha is fluent in multiple languages and had previously worked for the United States Refugee Resettlement Office (USSSRO) as an interpreter/translator in Khartoum, Sudan, before immigrating to the United States.

He was urged to attend the LEAP conference because of his enthusiasm for political issues and his regular attendance at union meetings, said L-104 Business Agent Lance Hickey.

A highlight for Abraha was meeting with Republican Senator Mary Capwell and speaking about coal-fired power plant closures and their impact on the U.S. power generation industry and the economy. Abraha said of Capwell, “She was interested in working with us on matters of concern not only to the Boilermakers but workers in general, and took great care to accommodate us.”

Abraha also discussed issues of local concern, including the closures of paper mills and mines in Washington State. “I was able to bring my own concerns to the table, as well as discuss the larger issues,” he said.

Abraha is active with the Democratic Party in Vancouver, Wash., on a volunteer basis, visiting different locales in the area, and going door-to-door encouraging people to register to vote.

Lobbying not “rocket science,” says L-687’s Davis

“IT’S NOT ROCKET science” is the way Mike Davis of Local 687 (Charleston Heights, S.C.) described his first experience as a lobbyist on Capitol Hill. Thanks to a list of top union issues prepared by the Department of Government Affairs, Boilermakers going into these sessions for the first time always have something to bring to the table.

“First and foremost, it’s important to find common ground,” said Davis. Keeping to a schedule of half-hour afternoon meetings, he spoke with Travis O’Cooke, legislative assistant for North Carolina’s Democratic Senator Kay Hagan; Gaston Mooney for South Carolina’s Republican Senator Jim DeMint; and Matthew Dockham for North Carolina’s Republican Senator Richard Burr.

Issues discussed included the Trans-Pacific trade agreement, China’s currency manipulation, and carbon capture and storage. Davis stressed that the phasing out of coal-fired power plants has wider industrial ramifications; it could potentially hurt the cement industry, which makes use of coal byproducts gypsum and sulphur, produced at low cost by wet scrubber technology.

“It felt good to advocate,” recalls L-29’s Fearon

TWO OTHER FIRST-TIMERS to Capitol Hill were Local 29 (Boston) members Brandon Fearon and Alfred Corey III. They accompanied L-29 BM-ST Tom Saccoach and lodge president Charles Hancock, both of whom are experienced participants at LEAP conferences.

Fearon said of his first meeting in legislative offices, “I didn’t know what to expect the first day, but two days in I got the hang of things. It felt good to advocate on behalf of my local and Boilermakers all across the country.’ He said one of his main concerns is the need for job creation in his home state of Maine, and he was able to join in the discussions on that topic. Corey’s observations were similar to Fearon’s. “I was a little nervous on the first day; it can be intimidating meeting congressmen. It’s important to do your research and stick to the issues you are comfortable with. I came away with a better perspective on Boilermaker issues, which I can bring back to the guys on the job. I’m looking forward to going back next year.”

According to Fearon, the Boston local has what his lodge leaders call an “easy relationship” with their U.S. senators, developed through years of LEAP conferences and other dealings. These relationships are important in maintaining a political presence on local and national levels, as well as familiarizing legislators with Boilermaker-specific and other labor issues.

For Abraha, Davis, Fearon, and Corey, as well as for other first-timers at the 2012 LEAP conference, engaging politicians at the national level is valuable leadership experience and a necessary step in becoming a political activist.

An important goal of veteran delegates and the Government Affairs Department is to provide “newbies” with the tools, techniques, and knowledge they will need to be a voice for Boilermaker issues and concerns.
Conference recognizes top CAF, LEF donors

Donations build Brotherhood’s political strength

LODGES, VICE PRESIDENTIAL sections, and individual members that excelled in raising money for CAF and LEF in 2011 received special recognition during the LEAP conference in Washington, D.C., April 23-26.

CAF stands for Campaign Assistance Fund. As the Boilermakers’ political action fund, CAF money goes to support worker-friendly candidates for the U.S. House and Senate.

By law, no money from a local lodge treasury or member dues can be used for CAF purposes. Money must be voluntarily donated or come from fundraising activities to be eligible. Only active and retired members, and their immediate families, can contribute to the fund.

LEF is used exclusively for election-related purposes and legislative activities. The fund helps influence elections and appointments to state and/or local office, and to offices in political organizations. It is not used for direct contributions to federal candidates.

Nearly everything the DGA does is funded through LEF. Without this fund, lodges would get virtually no political or legislative support. Virtually all state and local political expenditures are funded through LEF. In addition, LEF keeps lodges free of federal, state, and local reporting requirements, placing that burden on the International instead.

Boilermaker lodges benefit from this fund and are required to contribute to LEF pursuant to a 2006 resolution passed at the Boilermakers’ 31st Consolidated Convention.

Northeast Section and L-154 are top CAF donors

THE LEAP CONFERENCE recognized the Northeast Section (IVP D. David Haggerty) for the highest CAF contribution by a section in 2011 — $154,962. Local 154 (Pittsburgh) received the award for largest donation of $92,304.

Blacksmith National Pension Trust and $5,060 from the Officers & Employees Pension Plan.

International staff and officers contributed another $47,130.

Conference-related contributions and fund-raising activities accounted for $11,418. An additional $16,073 was raised for CAF during the 2011 Consolidated Convention.

Top individual fundraisers for CAF included Local 107’s Gerald “Mozy” Maciejewski at $6,762.

In all, Boilermakers donated $586,996 to CAF in 2011, with just 46 percent of locals 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.

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 view pages 39-44 of the current LEAP manual.

Great Lakes Section and Local 83 take first in LEF

THE AWARD FOR the highest LEF contribution for a section in 2011 went to the Great Lakes (IVP Larry McManamon), which raised $62,492. Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) won the award for the highest contribution by a local, with $26,834.

The award for most improved local went to Local 13, raising its donation 664 percent, from $2,268 in 2010 to $17,322 in 2011.

LEF contributions in 2011 totaled $210,892, with 93 percent of locals participating. In addition, the Construction Division contributed $27,500; the Railroad Division gave $1,650; and District 57 donated $27,000.

LEF donations made during the 2012 conference totaled $35,000.

“Individual and group contributions make our political and legislative efforts possible,” said Political Director Bridget Martin. “For some geographic areas, securing donations can be especially challenging, due to long-standing antiunion political climates. District 57, with its impressive $10,000 donations to CAF in 2011 and 2012, is one example of what can be done, even in historically right-leaning, right-to-work states. We salute them and all Boilermakers who work so hard throughout the year to make our union a political force well beyond what our membership numbers might suggest.”

Editor’s Note: In most cases, donations to CAF and LEF appearing in this article have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

LOCATIONS DONATING TO LEF

L-83 KANSAS CITY, MO. $26,834
L-13 PHILADELPHIA $17,322
DISTRICT 57* CHATTANOOGA, TENN. $10,000
L-549 PITTSBURG, CALIF. $6,558
L-60 PEORIA, ILL. $6,196
L-154 PITTSBURG $5,915
L-693 PACOGAULA, MISS. $3,870
L-104 SEATTLE $3,720
L-906 DONORA, PA. $3,300
L-374 HAMMOND, IND. $3,294
L-454 CHATTANOOGA, TENN. $2,949

* District 57 includes local lodges 263, 453, 454, 455, and 687.

REMINDER

LODGES MUST SUBMIT LEF FUNDS

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

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

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

William T. Creeden
International Sec.-Treas.
753 State Ave, Ste 565
Kansas City KS 66101-2511
Boilermakers host congressional reception

Event connects members, legislators

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS of attending conference sessions and visiting the Hill to lobby for Boilermaker priorities, delegates enjoyed an opportunity April 24 for some casual time with an evening reception for members of Congress. The reception also drew guests from affiliated labor organizations and government agencies.

Congressional receptions are a staple on Capitol Hill. They give legislators and their constituents time to spend together outside of bustling congressional offices.

Boilermaker delegates greeted their legislators or legislative aides near the entrance to one of the Hyatt Regency ballrooms for group photos and invited them to stay for refreshments and conversation.

Building personal relationships with elected officials in this way is an important function for any group or organization seeking to promote its cause or defend its position against harmful legislative or regulatory measures.
ANN KIRKPATRICK, a former Democratic congresswoman who is running to recapture her seat in Arizona’s 1st U.S. District, center, with (l. to r.) Gary Aycock and Russell Crossan, L-627; Gary Everson, D-CDS; IVP J. Tom Baca; Louis Dodson Jr., Local 4; and Kirkpatrick’s husband, Roger Curly.

REP. ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY 17th), second from right, with Local 5’s Tom Ryan, Kevin O’Brien, and Tom Klein.

REP. DONNA EDWARDS (D-MD 4th), second from right, with D-PA Bridget Martin and Local 199’s Jeff Baerlein and Matthew Malesick.

REP. PATRICK MEEHAN (R-PA 7th), fourth from right, with delegates from Local 13 and Local 19.
REP. GENE GREEN (D-TX 29th), second from left, with IVP J. Tom Baca, Helen Green, and Mark Thompson, Local 132.

SEN. SANDER LEVIN (D-MI), second from right, with L-169’s Bob Hutsell, Mark Wertz, and Jim Kaffenberger.

REP. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD (D-CA 34th), with Local 549’s Mike Genosick and Timothy Jeffries, and IVP J. Tom Baca.

REP. C.A. “DUTCH” RUPPERSBERGER (D-MD 2nd), second from right, with Local 550’s Efram Bell, Wilton Barnett, and Alex Poling.

SEN. FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ), center, with delegates from Local 19 and Local 28.

REP. EARL BLUMENAUER (D-OR 3rd), seventh from left, with delegates from Local 104, Local 290, and Local 502.
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY WHIP STENY HOYER (MD 5TH), third from right, with (l. to r.) Local 550’s Alex Poling, Wilton Barnett, and Efrem Bell; D-PA Bridget Martin; and Local 193’s Jeff Baerlein and Matt Malesick.

REP. JOHN TIERNEY (D-MA 6th), center, with (l. to r.) Local 29’s Tom Saccoach, Alfred Corey III, Brandon Fearon, and Charles Hancock.

VIRGINIA AFL-CIO PRESIDENT DORIS CROUSE-MAYS, center, with Kevin Battle, L-45; D-LA Cecile Conroy; Frank Hartsoe, L-45; and D-PA Bridget Martin.

REP. LEONARD LANCE (R-NJ 7th), second from right, with Local 19’s Sean Harvey, Robert Chowning, and Max Tritz.

REP. TIM BISHOP (D-NY 1st), second from right, with Local 5’s Tom Ryan, Kevin O’Brien, and Tom Klein.
REP. LEONARD LANCE (R-NJ 7th), third from left, with L-28’s Jim Chew Jr., Ed Latacz, Dan Engel, Jay Brophy, and John Devlin.

REP. STEVE COHEN (D-TN 9th), third from right, with John Lundsford Jr., L-454; William Shannon Tate, L-454; Roy Crownover, L-453; Michael Allen, L-263; and Jon Hill, L-454.

REP. RICK LARSEN (D-WA 2nd), third from left, with Mark Leighton, L-290; Ykalo Abraha, L 104; IVP J. Tom Baca; Fred Rumsey, L-242; Sheldon Murray, L-104; and Richard Jones, L-104.

SHELLEY BERKLEY, a Democratic Senate candidate and current congresswoman representing the 1st U.S. District in Nevada, center, with D-IRA Bridget Martin, IR Jim Cooksey, Charmayne Cooksey, and IVP J. Tom Baca.

BUILDING TRADES PRESIDENT SEAN MCGLARVEY and Director of Political Affairs Bridget Martin.

REP. LACY CLAY (D-MO 1st), right, with Randy Cruse, Brotherhood Bank and Trust.

MTD PRESIDENT RON AULT, 2nd from right, with, l to r, IR Steve Brade; John Barry, Metal Trades Department (MTD); D-IRA Bridget Martin; and Daniel Duncan, MTD.
$70 million project brings upgrades to Colstrip plant

Editor’s Note: The following story, written by Tom Howard of the Billings Gazette, describes how external forces are impacting workers and local communities near the southeastern Montana town of Colstrip, where one of the largest U.S. coal-fired power plants has operated since 1975. Reprinted with permission.

More than 500 workers busy refurbishing massive boiler in Unit 1

COLSTRIP — Jason Small [Local 11 (Helena, Mont.)] says a $70 million renovation of Unit 1 of the Colstrip Steam Electric Station translates into steady work for hundreds of people like him. “If you’re a craftsman and a boilermaker, you count on these outages for a primary source of income,” Small said. “The bigger (the project) the better for us. This is our bread and butter.”

Small lives in Kirby, a tiny community south of Busby and just outside the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. His commute is an hour each way, but when roads are slick during the winter, he’ll pile on another hour of travel time each way.

All four of the units that make up the massive generating plant must be taken out of commission periodically to perform essential maintenance. The project now under way at Unit 1, Colstrip’s oldest, is referred to as an outage or a turnaround. More than 500 workers have been busy refurbishing the inside of the unit’s massive boiler, and miles of condenser tubes, piping and other equipment are being repaired or replaced.

The Unit 1 outage began in early March and will wrap up within a few weeks.

Workers described their work as essential to the economy and the state. A recent study by University of Montana economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin concludes that the Colstrip plant accounts for 3,740 jobs and $360 million in personal income for Montanans.

“Without Colstrip, the economy around us would be smaller, less prosperous and less populous,” Barkey and Polzin wrote.

Yet many workers worry that their jobs could be in danger because of end its reliance on electricity derived from coal.

Grant Ringel, a spokesman for PSE, said the utility strives for a balanced approach to its energy portfolio. The company has invested more than $1.5 billion in wind capacity, but the affordable electricity generated from coal remains a key component to PSE’s portfolio.

“We have no plans to change our relationship with Colstrip,” Ringel said.

Because their work is highly specialized, boilermakers, pipefitters and other key workers often must travel long distances to do their jobs. “We’re like a big band of gypsies,” Small said.

For Stewart, Colstrip is the latest stop on a winding career that has taken him all over the country. John Roeber understands the importance of clean air and clean water. The Local 11 (Helena, Mont.) BM-ST also understands the importance of keeping the lodge’s members employed in constructing and maintaining coal-fired power plants.

“We care about the environment, too,” Roeber told the Boilermaker Reporter recently. “We have families. Our contractors have families. The owners have families. None of us wants to see our environment harmed. The whole purpose of the Colstrip project is to lower emissions. This is something Boilermakers have done and are doing across the country.”

Roeber expressed concern that environmental groups like the Sierra Club are aggressively going after Colstrip and other coal-fired plants while the U.S. EPA is setting strict new regulations that are hampering new projects.

“We have been involved in Montana in an effort to support the Colstrip project and have submitted testimony in a case where environmental groups want the EPA to release information that [according to PPL] would reveal trade secrets and confidential information that could harm the company’s competitive position.”

A federal judge issued a temporary order May 4 blocking the EPA from releasing the information before Aug. 17, to allow PPA time to prepare a challenge.

... IF THEY WOULD TAKE THE COAL INDUSTRY AWAY OR TAX US OUT OF EXISTENCE, IT WOULD DEVASTATE MANY FAMILIES, AND IT WOULD DEVASTATE COLSTRIP!”

environmental regulations and opposition to the coal industry.

“What we do here is very important to the country,” said pipefitter Greg Stewart. “I’m 110 percent pro-union. But if they would take the coal industry away or tax us out of existence, it would devastate many families, and it would devastate Colstrip.”

Last week the Sierra Club launched an effort urging Puget Sound Energy, a part owner in Colstrip, to stop buying electricity from coal-fired power plants. A petition drive urges PSE to

Photo courtesy of Billings Gazette, reprinted with permission.
Continued from previous page

“I’ve been doing this for 43 years,” Stewart said. He moved to Colstrip about a year ago, working at the power plant until June 2011. After short stints working in a Billings fabrication shop and doing some refinery work, he returned to Colstrip last October and has worked there since.

“What I know the best is the coal-fired units,” Stewart said. “I was raised in them and chased them all over the country in the ’70s while the big boom was going on. I worked in California for nine years, but there’s no coal fire there. It’s all kind of this New Age stuff. But this is what I’m about.”

Pipefitter Matt Erickson of Miles City says most people don’t understand that Colstrip’s operator and co-owner, PPL Montana, constantly strives to make the plant run more efficiently.

“I have read some stuff in The Billings Gazette, and I think this plant gets a bad rap,” Erickson said. “Per kilowatt hour, this is one of the cleanest plants out there, and I don’t think people understand how clean these plants are.”

One of the advantages of coal-generated electricity is that it’s a steady, reliable source of power, Erickson said. “Wind and solar is good, but it comes and goes. These guys are on line all the time, and it seems like they (PPL) are always tweaking it a little to get them to run a little more efficient.”

Anne Hedges, program director for the Montana Environmental Information Center, said burning coal to generate electricity has environmental consequences. The Colstrip facility ranks eighth in the nation in greenhouse gas emissions, she said.

“Puget Sound Energy needs to think hard about what the future of the plant is. The liabilities are extensive,” Hedges said.

“Nationally, coal’s share of electric generation has fallen by 20 percent in recent years. Competition from cheap natural gas and strict environmental regulations for new coal-fired power plants have eroded coal’s dominance in electrical generation, according to an analysis by the Associated Press. Meanwhile, coal producers have boosted exports to power-hungry Asian markets.”

Tary Hanson, a power cycle engineer and project manager for PPL Montana, is aware of increasing coal exports. Just the same, he prefers to burn coal in the United States because Colstrip’s units are designed to pollute less and can squeeze more kilowatts out of each pound of coal, he said.

Operating a plant more efficiently not only generates more profits for the company, it’s also better for the environment, he said.

During a tour of the plant, Hanson called attention to long arrays of coiled tubes that are being installed in a piece of equipment known as the economizer. The economizer is a heat exchange device in which hot flue gases are used to preheat water that’s eventually turned into steam.

“The new tube design, with these fins, makes it a lot more efficient,” Hanson said.

Unit 1’s boiler is a steel-walled enclosure that’s several times larger than a boxcar. When the plant is operating, air and finely powdered coal are blown inside the boiler, where the mixture burns in a hellish, tornado-like vortex.

“This whole wall is getting replaced. You can see where there’s damage from clinkers falling,” Hanson said, pointing to a dented section of the boiler’s ribbed steel wall.

Larry Miller, PPL’s manager of projects at Colstrip, said the efforts of boilermakers, pipetitters and other specialized workers keep the plant running efficiently.

Besides, the economic impacts of the maintenance project reach much wider than Colstrip.

“If you go through our vendor list, you would find many of them are from Billings,” Miller said."

## KUDOS

Day & Zimmerman praises Local 263 outage work

**DAY & ZIMMERMAN** would like to congratulate the members of Boilermakers Local 263 for outstanding performance during the recent Allen Fossil Plant Unit 2 spring outage...on Lake McKeever in Memphis, Tenn. This outage was scheduled for a 52-day duration and returned to service in 49 days. The Boilermakers performed work on a secondary superheat header, reheat header, SCR, cyclones, precipitators, and auxiliary equipment.

Unit 2 is a B&W tower unit with the headers located in vestibules on the front and rear of the boiler. The SSH inlet and intermediate vestibule were completely removed to allow access to the intermediate header. The SSH intermediate header was 45-ft. long with an outside diameter of 15 and ½ feet and weighed approximately 11 tons. Removal of the header was accomplished by the use of a monorail inside the boiler, a second monorail outside, a track, and turntable wagons designed and fabricated by members of L-263 and agreed to by engineering.

Once the header was cut from the boiler, it was transported down the first monorail, transferred to the second monorail, lowered to the track, and moved to the edge of the building on wagons. Once there, it was moved from the seventh floor to the ground between Unit 2 and Unit 3. This required threading the header through the piping and building steel utilizing a 3900 crane.

This process was reversed to bring the new header into position inside the boiler. During the course of the header replacement, there were 980 SSH tube welds performed, with a weld reject rate of 2.8 percent.

The reheat header work consisted of removing and replacing 62 header stubs, repairing 31 ligament cracks between bore holes, and then fitting and welding 62 header stubs and 62 dutchmen. A total of 180 catalyst module lifts were made, each weighing 3,500 pounds.

The scope of the cyclone and boiler work consisted of replacing ductchmen, installing two slag tank vent panels, and replacing over 5,000 cyclone parts.

Precipitator work included replacing mass electrodes and collector plates. Much of this work was performed in very tight spaces and under challenging temperature conditions. Through the changing conditions of the outage, the Boilermakers completed their work with ZERO injuries.

**EDDIE BRANT**

**Director-Fossil Operations**

**RAY JOHNSON**

**SVP TVA Contract**

NAES cites Local 83 for Sunflower Electric job

**ON BEHALF OF NAES Power Contractors, I would like to express our gratitude to you [BM-ST Scot Alberson, Chris Urie, Bud Owens, and all of the Local 83 Boilermakers that helped to make our recent project at Sunflower Electric a success.**

This low NOx burner and OFA retrofit was engineered by our client, Hitachi Power Systems North America. This was an extremely fast-track project. The NAES PC team was lead by Local 83 Boilermakers: John Cameron, our site manager; and Darrell Manroe, Donald Douglas, and Leroy Elliott as craft supervisors. The challenges that were presented were overcome by the onsite team, allowing NAES PC to complete the project two days ahead of schedule.

Safety was never compromised on this project, despite the adversity of the schedule. NAES PC had a low number of safety incidents, along with high craft attendance.

Thank you, your staff, and the Local 83 Boilermakers for a job well done.

**RUSS BRIGHT**

Regional Manager

**NAES Power Contractors**
BNAP hosts train-the-trainer course for new system administration

SETTING UP AND administering the new BNAP Online Interactive Training System was the focus of a train-the-trainer course held May 1-3 in Kansas City, Mo. BNAP staff, E-Learning Group representatives, and Boilermaker subject matter experts from across the United States participated.

The new system, which is still under development, will upgrade, update, and standardize the apprentice training curriculum. BNAP National Coordinator Marty Spencer said the system will “revolutionize” the way training is delivered by making use of interactive, Internet-based functionality, including video teaching tools and the option of either instructor-guided or student-driven learning.

Subject matter experts attending the train-the-trainer course will work in small teams this summer to bring local lodge apprentice coordinators and instructors up to speed on the system, including the online version of the Related Studies Lessons. Rollout of the first-year apprenticeship courses will begin this fall.

Local 83 holds steward’s training class

ATTENDING THE FIRST BNAP ONLINE INTERACTIVE TRAINING SYSTEM administrative train-the-trainer course are, first row, l. to r., E-Learning Group specialist Ken Rogers, BNAP class controller Tiffany Mellott, BNAP office manager Barbara Dunham, E-Learning specialist Tom Winterstein, and SIAJAC coordinator Collin Kesling. Second row, BNAP National Coordinator Marty Spencer, L-502 coordinator Dale Mason, L-28 apprentice coordinator Jack O’Halloran, SIAJAC Director Eric Olson, BNAP lead instructor John Standish, L-199 apprentice instructor Shane Ferguson; BNAP instructor Terry Collins, and GLABAP co-coordinator Mark Gustafson. Third row, NEAAC co-coordinator Jason Dupuis, L-744 instructor Jim Condrich, GLABAP co-coordinator Larry McManamon Jr., NEAAC co-coordinator Stephen Murphy, and BNAP instructor David Vallacqua.

EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF LOCAL 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) completed a steward’s training class Feb. 17, 2012, at the lodge’s union hall. Front row, l. to r., Joe Lewandowski, Dale “Skipper” Branscum (Director – Construction Division Services and class instructor), Jason Hennigh, Brad Smith, L-83 President Tom Dye Jr., Chris Brown, L-83 Vice President Chris Urie, Gordon Gorajewski, and Robbie Gant. Back row, Paul McCarthy, Brian Williams, Joe Navarro, Gerald Calvert, Kevin Coones, Randy Kalleck, Ryan Oliveira, Bob Devereux, Rich Peve, and Danny Coones.
National Transient Division
MARK VANDIVER, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL TRANSIENT DIVISION SERVICES, reports presentation of service pins to the following:
65 YEARS Charles W. Coburn; and
40, 45 & 50 YEARS Eddie Lynn.

Local 1 • Chicago
JOHN SKERMONT, BM-ST of Local 3, Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
50 YEARS Kenneth R. Malecki; and

Local 106 • Cincinnati, Ohio
TONY STAHL, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 106, Cincinnati, Ohio, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
35 YEARS Steve Brooks, Chris Durbin, Lee Jenkins; and
15 YEARS Reggie Weber.

Local 433 • Tampa, Fla.
JAMES BARNES JR., BM-ST of Local 433, Tampa, Fla., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
55 YEARS Harold G. Revette;
45 YEARS James E. Barnes, Gary B. Gray, Marvin L. Parter;
30 YEARS Robert P. Maxey; and
20 YEARS Frankie D. Ford.

Local 647 • Minneapolis
LUKE A. VOIGT, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:
60 YEARS Richard I. McPheeters;
50 YEARS Richard A. Brunkhorst, Hugh R. Burrington;
40 YEARS James R. Field, Gerald L. Pelke, Ricky Taylor;
35 YEARS Teddy L. Haff, Devere E. Klemm, Lance M. Hutman, James A. Rollag;
30 YEARS William A. Linder;
25 YEARS Bernard M. Chrisman, Timothy Traynor, Mark P. Weirens;
20 YEARS Douglas G. Anderson, Steven D. Golden, Jeffery P. Lodermier, Nhat Nguyen, George Platz, Marvin M. Schlosser; and
15 YEARS Philip L. Brantner Jr., Kevin M. Hanson, Christian Schruth, Joel Tomlinson.

**In Memoriam**

With deep sorrow, the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer’s office and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

NTL Anderson, Bobby K.
NTL Armstrong, Melvin J.
NTL Dawson, Louis A.
NTL Dotson, Richard H.
NTL England, Billy W.
NTL Giddens, Needham M.
NTL Hackett, Patrick
NTL Howerton, John J.
NTL Ledford, Calvin W.
NTL Main, Miles F.
NTL McCreery, Larry L.
NTL Parish, William M.
NTL Ridgway, George A.
NTL Slayton, Donald L.
NTL Stansberry, David E.
NTL Underkoifler, Robert J.
NTL Zeth, Joseph E.

1 Floyd, Ernest D.
1 Kavanaugh, Timothy A.
1 Kurzawa, Joseph
1 Setina, Leonard C.
5 Connolly, Ronald F.
6 Baca, Charles M.
6 Cleveland, Robert R.
6 Cooke, William V.
6 Cowan, Ronald L.
6 Dorroh, Charles C.
6 Gunn, A.
6 Hamer, Michael G.
6 Sayers, Kenneth L.
6 Shaw, Lester D.
11 Gregori, Lando J.
13 Layou, Alan C.
13 Malishka, Alexander
13 Purin, Thomas R.
26 Jackson, James H.
26 Lee Jr., John W.
26 Newman, Paul E.
27 Casson, David E.
27 Hucklebee, Calvin M.
27 Hynes, Francis
27 Mostkiewicz, Chester A.
29 Rice, Clifford A.
29 Vories, Louis
33 Vitale, Michael
37 Barnes, Ricky E.
37 Bonnette, Norbert J.
40 Jones, Lemar R.
40 Ritchie, Jarsh B.
44 Close, Elmer H.
45 Brewer, Zachary I.
45 Smith, Luther A.
60 Klimek, Raymond B.
69 Barber, Delbert W.
70 Oneth, Ralph R.
72 Blake, James G.
72 Krause, Harold R.
72 Roberts, Larry
72 Siler, Stanley R.
73 Linden, Ambrose
74 Birmingham, Percy
74 Crawford, Henry
74 Dunburg, John C.
75 Doychak, John
80 Weber, Louis J.
83 Campbell, Jerry D.
83 Clark, Scott D.
83 Eastwood, Walter L.
83 Jones, William T.
83 Meyer, Michael T.
83 Niemeister, Robert B.
83 Schwarz, Daniel J.
85 Bostic, William T.
85 Rucker, Harlie A.
90 Camat, Carlito F.
92 Aguinaga, Richard S.
92 Barron, Tony
92 Bittner, Walter
92 Chavez, Jesus R.
92 Lopez, Pedro C.
92 Pate, Raymond S.
92 Poplar, Odell
100 Slavick, Joseph
101 Walker, Donald A.
101 Woods, Carl
104 Barberg, Harald
104 Gregory, Danny W.
104 Irwin, George D.
104 Mason, Darrell R.
104 Plum, Ernest R.
104 Sanayei, Javad
104 Steele, Patrick S.
105 Chamberlin, Paul M.
105 Grizzell, Arthur W.
105 Steele, Patrick S.
106 Cullen, Arthur
107 Moody Jr., Ira F.
108 Gipson, Jerry L.
110 Weeks, Willie E.
112 Andrews, Charles N.
112 Honeycutt, Chester G.
112 Lamey Jr., John H.
112 McGowan, Roy
113 Bunn, Lewis A.
113 Lowder, Maxine
113 Scott, Lawton J.
114 Milc Zakre, Thomas J.
114 Easby, F. J.
116 Germotte, John
116 Henderson, Rick
116 Korchinski, T. P.
116 Pavan, Sergio
116 R. P. R. D. E. W. A.
116 Rana, Robert A.
116 Seen, William
116 Huber, Regis L.
116 Tuie, Robert R.
116 Basilisco, Nickola
116 Barth, Thomas J.
116 O’Dowd, Bruce L.
116 Roeding, Ryan P.
116 Webb, Gregory G.
119 Hoffert, Dennis R.
119 Pocock, Derrick
119 Kove, Theodore
120 Hynes, Robert G.
120 Tana, James T.
125 Buck, Henry
125 Biglin, Charles G.
125 Glass, Edwin P.
127 Ecclestone, Louie
127 Caldwell, William T.
132 Hirst, Robert J.
132 Mosteller, Robert J.
136 Reed, Jackie
137 Tracy, Sr., Joseph W.
138 Brown, Terrence R.
138 England, Cleo J.
138 Jonas, Roland K.
138 Spencer, Marlin L.
139 Mostellar, Robert J.
141 Mestrovich, Louis
141 Albritton, William T.
141 Bolin, Benson
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143 Mayo, Joe M.
143 Philipp, Anton
143 Tallacher, James M.
143 Wise, B. J.
149 Kramer, Robert M.
149 Craig, William E.
150 Dutton, Thomas G.

continued page 22
If you have not yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information, and forward to theAdministrative 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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**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.
## In Memoriam  Continued from page 20

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### The Charles W. Jones Award

Promoting excellence in safety through the MOST Programs.

- MOST OSHA 10/30 Program
- MOST Steel Erection Program
- MOST Common Arc Program
- MOST Rigging Program
- MOST Substance Abuse Program
- MOST Leadership Program
- MOST Scaffolding Program

The second annual award will be announced during the 2012 National Tripartite Alliance conference.

**MOST** The Boilermaker Advantage

For more information, please call 1-800-395-1089

---

*Additional Death Benefits Paid*
Since 2008, the MOST Rigging Program has highlighted the hazards associated with rigging on the job site while providing pre-job training and a qualified Boilermaker.

Safety played an important role in the establishment of this program. Participants in the MOST OSHA 10 and 30 hour classes saw the need for, and requested, more rigging training. This program was adopted by MOST as a way to handle the needs of the membership as well as provide a better rigging and safety-trained workforce for our owners and contractors.

Ongoing training helps to ensure a prepared workforce. For example, the rigging handbook is the perfect size for a lunch box or workbag, MOST makes these on-the-go reference guides available to boilermakers for review at home or prior to a lift on the job site.

Jack O’Halloran, the apprentice coordinator for Boilermakers Local 28, Eastampton, NJ, knows the program and its benefits first hand. “Our four supplemental rigging modules contain a wealth of information for today’s professional rigger,” said O’Halloran.

Module One explains the responsibilities of a rigger, helps familiarize the student with rigging components and covers in great detail the inspection criteria necessary to ensure safe rigging equipment.

Module Two includes very detailed information on blocks, hoists and the calculations needed to safely rig loads without the benefit of a crane.

Module Three covers the safety aspects of crane use and proper interpretation of crane capacity charts. The training also covers the correct usage of crane signals per OSHA’s Subpart CG, which states that in order to signal a crane, a person must be trained, tested and have documentation of that training. This module meets OSHA’s requirements to be considered qualified to signal a crane, either by hand signals or other approved methods.

Module Four has extremely important information regarding the interpretation of rigging drawings and finding center of gravity, gross weight and net weight of loads.

“We are professionals,” O’Halloran says. “Would anyone go to a lawyer, an accountant or a doctor who has never taken a class after he graduated in order to keep himself sharp? We are no different. Our employers depend on the well trained and highly skilled professionals that Boilermakers are to stay in business and keep us in business.”

“The MOST Rigging Program is an excellent course for Boilermakers to refresh and sharpen their rigging skills.”
- Eric Olson, SA JAC

“In my opinion the MOST Supplemental Rigging modules 1-4 make for an outstanding program.

It encompasses all of OSHA’s requirements in the 1926.1400 standard and gives our Boilermakers the skills needed to safely complete all rigging assignments. The hands-on is a vital part of this program.”
- Mike Davis, Local 687

“OHSAs requirements to be considered qualified to signal a crane, either by hand signals or other approved methods.

Module Four has extremely important information regarding the interpretation of rigging drawings and finding center of gravity, gross weight and net weight of loads.

“We are professionals,” O’Halloran says. “Would anyone go to a lawyer, an accountant or a doctor who has never taken a class after he graduated in order to keep himself sharp? We are no different. Our employers depend on the well trained and highly skilled professionals that Boilermakers are to stay in business and keep us in business.”

“The MOST Rigging Program is the key to maintaining qualified people on the job.”
- Scott May, Local 454

The MOST Rigging Program provides a detailed curriculum that is specific to the trade. The program highlights the hazards associated with rigging on the job site while providing pre-job training and a qualified Boilermaker.

Just one of the seventeen programs proven to add value. MOSTprograms.com

Committing to Raising Awareness in the Industry.
WAR AGAINST COAL is hurting America

U.S. must re-assess its path to reliable energy

ACROSS THE NATION, thousands of good-paying jobs are disappearing and the communities that depend on them are withering as scores of coal-fired power plants shut their doors. The plants, and the working families and businesses whose livelihoods are tied to them, are victims of a powerful alignment of external forces: virulent environmentalism, a slow economy, strict new EPA regulations, and soaring competition from natural gas.

The Boilermakers union has been a leader among the labor and business organizations that seek to shepherd the coal-fired energy sector through the worst effects of these forces. And we continue in those efforts.

Energy generated from coal has long been the driving force behind our manufacturing strength and our prosperity as a nation. Recent decades have witnessed remarkable strides in reducing the environmental impact of coal emissions, and our field construction members have been at the forefront of those achievements. Advanced technologies hold the promise of the cleanest coal use yet.

With 200 years of reserves and the infrastructure in place to produce coal-fired electricity reliably and economically well into the future, it does not make sense to abandon this valuable resource. We are on the cusp of world leadership in clean coal technology. It would be foolish to cede that leadership to other countries — particularly China and India — that are quickly ramping up their coal use.

Sierra Club pushes dangerous fantasy for electric power

THE SIERRA CLUB has declared war on coal, publicly calling for the closure of every coal-fired power plant in the nation. Through litigation and public relations campaigns, it has sought to stop the construction of advanced new power plants that are among the cleanest in the world.

The group is even calling for a halt to all coal mining in the United States, a demand that, if met, would destroy tens of thousands of good union jobs and do major harm to communities that have developed around mining.

The extreme posture of the Sierra Club has distorted the national debate over energy policy and has resulted in wasted resources as energy providers contend with lawsuits at every turn.

The club’s notion that the United States can simply close some 600 coal plants and replace them with solar and wind power is delusional. The massive build-out of solar and wind power facilities required to achieve the same output as coal generation would take decades to achieve. And extensive new infrastructure would be required for transmission lines. Environmental groups are already filing lawsuits against some solar and wind projects because they, too, have environmental consequences. Imagine the nightmare of litigation should such projects multiply a thousand-fold to replace coal.

Some experts assert that even if enough wind and solar facilities could be constructed, as much as 90 percent of the power they produced would need to be duplicated by conventional power plants as a back-up to the intermittently nature of these alternative power sources.

The truth is that every energy source, including coal, natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, thermal, hydro, and tidal, carries certain limitations and environmental considerations. Even the new darling of electric power — natural gas derived from shale — has its own environmental issues, including the release of methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Demonizing coal or any other energy source is not the answer. If the United States is to see an economic resurgence, we will need every component in our energy portfolio — and the technological advances to continuously optimize their use.

Environmental groups seem not to care about the consequences of killing off the nation’s base load energy supply. They have virtually eviscerated nuclear power development. Their aggressive attacks on coal are being followed by efforts to stop natural gas mining using hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.” Without these base load energy sources, America’s energy production would become entirely unstable and unreliable, and our economy would suffer grievously for it.

Congress should act to relax overly-stringent EPA rules

NEW REGULATIONS developed by the Environmental Protection Agency are so restrictive and so costly that they practically ensure the decline of coal-fired energy. Two of the most costly EPA regulations include the following:

- **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSPAR)** — requires reduction of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide; and
- **Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Rule** — as its name implies, requires reduction of mercury, particulate matter, and such toxics as arsenic, acid gas, nickel, selenium and cyanide.

Still other EPA regulations concern coal ash handling, cooling towers, and surface mining.

Some of the emissions targeted by these regulations are already being handled by environmental control technologies. According to the National Energy Technology Laboratory, modern coal-fired plants emit 90 percent less sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, particulates, and mercury than the plants they replaced from the 1970s.

Many in the energy industry argue that the positive health effect of enacting further rules is so minimal that the extreme cost cannot be justified.

Perhaps the most severe regulation to be promulgated by the EPA requires new coal-fired plants to reduce CO2 emissions by more than 40 percent, essentially matching the emission levels of natural gas-fired plants. That requirement means every new coal-fired plant (except those that begin construction within a 12-month window of the rule’s enactment) would have to incorporate carbon capture and storage technology. However, this technology has not been commercially demonstrated and will not be economically viable for the foreseeable future. In essence, the EPA is making a requirement that new plants employ technology that is not ready for deployment.

Steve Miller, the CEO and President of Clean Coal Electricity, stated that the new rule for CO2 “will make it impossible to build any new coal-fired power plants and could cause the premature closure of many more coal-fired power plants operating today.”

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.) expressed anger about the series of EPA rules targeting coal, stating, “This EPA is fully engaging in a war on coal.”

The governor is right to be angry about the severity of the EPA rules. But let’s not forget that it was up to the U.S. Congress several years ago to enact legislation governing how we deal with greenhouse gases — and it failed to do so. The Brotherhood’s late Legislative Director, Abe Breehey, had helped fashion a sensible strategy to put a price on carbon dioxide to promote industry-wide improvements in emissions and prevent the rampant, job-killing plant closings we are seeing today. Unfortunately, conservatives in the Senate blocked the plan.

Absent new legislation to deal with greenhouse gases and directed by a 2007 Supreme Court decision to treat CO2 as a pollutant regulated under the 1990 Clean Air Act, the EPA has undertaken steps to establish rules as it sees fit. And we are feeling the pain of those rules today.

It is not too late for Congress to create new greenhouse gas legislation that will provide certainty in the industry and save coal from further constriction. The strategy championed by Abe Breehey remains workable and deserves to be considered.

There are still thousands of good blue-collar jobs that can be saved. There are still scores of communities that can be spared the ravages of a major employer closing its doors. And there are still compelling reasons to keep coal as a major source of energy.

Environmental groups will perhaps always be at war with coal, but if Congress does its job, the EPA need not be. Congress can give the agency a new framework upon which to develop regulations. That framework should be much less severe and should set the stage for a healthy coal industry that continually advances as emissions control technology evolves.

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