Steel fabricator thrives with Boilermaker craftsmen

American Manufacturing has taken its lumps in recent decades, but one steel fabrication company located in rural Kansas has kept busy exporting quality, union-made products to customers around the world.

Headquartered in the community of Paola, some 45 miles southwest of Kansas City, Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, Inc. employs Boilermaker shop workers belonging to Local 84 at its main facility and Local 83 at its nearby Garnett, Kan., plant. The company has enough orders on the books to keep employees working 12-hour shifts day and night, six or seven days a week.

With a three-year contract ratified Jan. 23, management and labor can concentrate on filling orders.

"I would say our labor-management relationship here is very good," says Brent Mitzner, L-84’s president. "We have few grievances, and most of our issues can be resolved early in the process."
Boilermaker leaders set record straight on Kansas City Star attack articles

Officers blast Star’s blatant “yellow journalism”

Lodge leaders attending the Construction Sector Conference at Marco Island, Fla., sat down with International officers March 7 for a forthright discussion of allegations raised in attack articles published by the foundering Kansas City Star over the past 10 months.

During the two-hour meeting, International President Newton B. Jones presented a point-by-point rebuttal to the Star’s allegations. Business managers and senior staffers listened intently and at the conclusion rose repeatedly in sustained ovations to show their solidarity and support of the International officers. Some stood to voice their anger at certain members who have developed blogs to exploit, for their own agendas, the sensationalized and distorted reporting by Judy Thomas, the Kansas City Star’s apparent specialist in the dark art of yellow journalism.

IP Jones opened the discussion by telling the lodge leaders, “You may agree with us on some things and disagree with us on others, but we felt it was important to address the Kansas City Star’s contrived allegations with you face to face in this forum. We’re going to be absolutely straight with you, and you are free to ask questions on any topic.”

One of the first items discussed was yellow journalism behind the Star’s trashings of our union. It is clear that Thomas relied on anti-union, conservative “watchdogs” for many of the biased opinions expressed in her stories. Other top union leaders were being attacked in the media over compensation on the same day that the Star released its first article against the Boilermakers. These attacks continued as the weeks progressed. The president of the AFL-CIO was singled out, and an accompanying photo of him showed President Obama in the background in an obvious attempt to cast aspersions on both men. One story stressed a labor leader’s Italian name, as if to insinuate a mafia connection. There were other examples, too, suggesting that right-wing organizations orchestrated the attacks, seeking to divide organized labor during a presidential election year.

We strongly suspect that other sources for Thomas’s stories involved disgruntled former employees of the Brotherhood and the National Funds Office who had been terminated for various reasons. A decision to save the health and welfare fund approximately $20 to $30 million a year by switching to CIGNA left some former fund employees (members of the OPEIU) irate — even though trustees of the fund were legally bound to save the fund such a large sum of money and promote the best interest of the fund participants with their joint decision.

Star articles reek of innuendo, twisted facts

IP JONES WALKED lodge leaders through the litany of suggestive headlines Thomas used to construct a dark, sinister picture of International officers. He noted that the use of terms like lofty pay, plum jobs, dubious links, rumbles of discontent, shady deals, nepotism, and grand jury are all hallmark descriptors of yellow journalism and are intentionally used to arouse suspicion and flame emotions — even when the facts behind the allegations do not support such unprofessional journalistic characterization.

“They are code words that imply dishonesty, unethical, or illegal behavior. Ms. Thomas used them for a specific purpose, to divide the membership from its leaders and to feed into anti-union public sentiment. You use these terms to suggest wrongdoing when you can’t back up what you’re saying. We are seeing this kind of tactic used more and more against labor across the country. It’s a classic example of yellow journalism, a gutter journalistic practice first seen in the late 1800s.”

Yellow journalism intentionally uses inflammatory headlines, exaggeration, and innuendo to manipulate the perceptions of readers in an attempt to sell more newspapers or to accomplish a political agenda.

Some of the very anti-union sources used by the Kansas City Star purposely mischaracterize the salaries of union officers by adding business expenses and benefit contributions to the actual salaries.

“It’s just deceitful,” IP Jones said. “My salary is set by delegates during convention. I get paid what the delegates say I get paid. In fact, due to the drop in construction man-hours since the economic collapse and the more recent implementation of hyper-restrictive EPA rules, the International officers voluntarily reduced their own salaries by 15 percent. We’ve also lowered staff salaries by 10 percent until we can get through the impact of the EPA dictates.”

He pointed out the hypocrisy of the Kansas City Star in going after the salaries of union leaders while the chairman of its parent company, The McClatchy Newspapers, pulled in millions of dollars annually — even though the company’s common stock value has plummeted by more than 90 percent and the Kansas City Star has seen round after round of layoffs.

Perhaps the company’s stockholders should stand up and demand the McClatchy Company bigwigs take some salary cuts of their own.

IP Jones made it clear that the Boilermakers do not own any jets. The International did purchase four shares (similar to timeshares) in two separate propeller-drive planes to ensure they could travel where they needed.
to be in a timely manner, something that cannot be guaranteed by commercial airlines. International officers travel throughout most of the year to perform union business. That travel can be nearly every week for most, and officers spend many hours in the air catching up on work, responding to emails, and preparing for the next meeting or presentation.

“The use of this type of air travel service is simply a tool to get our jobs done better,” said IP Jones, “no different than the tools our members may use to get their jobs completed better and quicker. Are you more efficient and effective walking up 200 feet of stairs to the boiler penthouse, or are you more efficient taking the more costly freight elevator up in the morning? It’s all relative.”

International Secretary-Treasurer Bill Creeden added, “No non-employee family member flies on the Brotherhood’s nickel on any commercial flight or air service. If you bring your wife along, you’re on your own.” IP Jones said reports by the Star that indicated otherwise were “unequivocally false.”

He also said there was no “shady deal” involving a loan made by Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) to the International involving the union’s bank. In fact, the loan purchase agreement with the bank received the pre-approval of both the FDIC and the Kansas Office of the State Bank Commissioner prior to the transaction. Furthermore, it was entirely legal and ethical for the former business manager to approve investing the lodge’s assets in an instrument that paid higher interest than the tools our members may have used.

“In the last three weeks, we have heard many of our leaders tell us what we need to hear — but what we need is leadership that will be forthcoming and honest and tell us what we need to hear — maybe not what we want to hear — but what we need to hear.” — Dale “Skipper” Branscum, D-CDS

He said many current local lodge leaders were helped by their family members and they themselves seek to encourage their relatives to pursue a career with the union.

“I hired exactly two family members in the nine years I have been president,” IP Jones stated. “Unfortunately, I had to let one of them, my son, go, because he was low man on the totem pole during a time when cutbacks have become necessary. And, for the record, I hope to rehire him. The other one is my brother Charles, who, with a 40-year membership history as a working Boilermaker, and a university degree in art, is more than qualified to lead our History Preservation Department and has done a spectacular job.”

Regarding the Star’s reference to a grand jury, IP Jones stated unequivocally that the International is not aware of any investigation directed against the Boilermakers union. IP Jones went on to address numerous other allegations in depth, demonstrating that they were inaccurate, distorted, twisted, or exaggerated by Ms. Thomas.

He urged construction business managers to take an interest in social media, as members are increasingly sharing their concerns on blogs and other Internet sites, and that those concerns may be misjudged, thanks to the misinformation put out by the Kansas City Star.

“We have leaders that lead”

As the discussion wrapped up, business managers and staff members addressed the group to express their feelings. Local 154 Business Manager Ray Ventrone told the group, “This is the greatest organization in the country. We’re Boilermakers; we go out and get it done. And we were taught by this group of guys [the International officers].”

Ventrone said C.W. Jones, the late International President Emeritus, was “one of the greatest guys I’ve ever known. I can tell you that the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. You don’t even know what [Newton B. Jones] has been up against. These guys shouldn’t even be up here dealing with this. It’s just bullshit.”

Gary Evenson, Director of Construction Recruitment Services, recounted his decades-long association with the elected officers. “Every one of these guys has always been driven by what’s good for the members of this organization,” he said. “It’s time everybody stands up to them.”

“IT MEANS A LOT TO KNOW WE HAVE LEADERSHIP THAT WILL BE FORTHCOMING AND HONEST AND TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO HEAR — MAYBE NOT WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR — BUT WHAT WE NEED TO HEAR.”

Source: Webster’s Online Dictionary

YELLOW JOURNALISM DEFINED

YELLOW JOURNALISM is a pejorative reference to journalism that features scandal-mongering, sensationalism, or other unethical or unprofessional practices by news media organizations or journalists. It has been loosely defined as “not quite libel.”

Others, like Local 29 BM-ST Tom Saccoach, said they wished it were possible for IP Jones or the International vice presidents to come to their locals and make a similar presentation. Some offered that business managers could spread the word to their executive boards and through face-to-face meetings with members.

“We have leaders that lead,” Dale ‘Skipper’ Branscum, D-CDS, told the group. “Now sometimes leaders make decisions that not everybody likes. Sometimes the message is not what we want to hear. It’s a crying shame that President Jones and the other officers had to come here and make this presentation. But I want to thank them for doing it. I think, for all of us here, it means a lot to know we have leadership that will be forthcoming and honest and tell us what we need to hear — maybe not what we want to hear — but what we need to hear.”

IR Clay Herford stated: “You got a problem? Bring it to the convention. Our forefathers knew that if we start fighting against each other, it takes away from the battles that need to be fought.”

District 57 BM-ES Ed Vance told the conference, “These people are trying to tear our organization apart. We are not going to let them do it!”

IP Jones agreed, stating, “That is exactly what the right-wing, conservative movement and their obedient media attack dogs want. They want to pit union members against their union leaders in a calculated effort to manipulate our unions into self-destruction. But they will not succeed. Boilermakers fight back.”
Pressley recalls challenges and rewards

Sometimes union leadership is a trial-by-fire experience. That was the case for Jim Pressley in 1987, when he filed the unexpected vacancy of president of Local 900 just two weeks before contract negotiations were set to start.

“We worked without a contract for 16 months,” he recalled. “We implemented an in-plant strategy [staying on the job while conducting solidarity measures] and ultimately prevailed.”

That experience would become important when Pressley faced other challenges after joining the International Union as an International Rep and Assistant Director, and later Director, of Collective Bargaining Services.

Between 2002 and 2006, Pressley worked with local lodge leaders and the Brotherhood leadership to fend off union-busting efforts by Joy Mining Manufacturing, Celanese Corporation, and Wabash Alloys.

Local 483 (Alton, Ill.) recovered more than $1 million in back wages after Joy Mining Manufacturing, Celanese Corporation, and Wabash Alloys engaged in such tactics as hiring replacement workers and union-busting security firms, and videotaping union members and their families. The resolve of the lodge members, International leadership, legal and financial support, and political and public pressure enabled both local lodges to maintain union representation at the plants.

International President Newton B. Jones wrote at the time, “Much of the credit for [these settlements] has to go to Jim Pressley. He spearheaded the union’s effort; he was the one on the ground, day after day, leading the charge and dealing with the pressures. He did a remarkable job.”

Pressley said he is proud of the way the union pulled together during all three of these crises. He added that one of the biggest highlights of his career was his involvement with Industrial Sector Operations. “President Jones allowed me to play a role in the fostering and operation of the ISO. We’ve had three very successful conferences now. I think the payoff will be that Industrial Sector members will have a more prominent voice in the Brotherhood.”

Pressley said that his long involvement in organized labor has taught him that “without a union, life as we know it would be much different. There’s got to be someone standing between the workers and management, especially organized management that collaborates against workers.”

He added, “What higher calling can there be than to serve your fellow man? That’s a tremendous responsibility. This is an honorable profession.”

— IP Jim Pressley
Regional tripartite conferences promote problem solving

This year, regional tripartite conferences will again draw leaders from the Boilermaker, contractor, and owner communities together in a mutual effort to identify and resolve issues within the Boilermaker construction industry. Similar in function to the annual general tripartite conference hosted by MOST, the regional events have a sharper focus within geographical areas of the country and the specific challenges those areas present.

In 2012, much of the attention at U.S. conferences naturally turned to the looming general elections and the struggling economy. Slow work, EPA regulations, green energy, and cheap natural gas were high-profile topics, too. Ongoing issues such as jobsite safety, manpower needs, and utilization of MOST programs remind participants of the need to continually work to ensure the Boilermaker craft is positioned at the very top of the industry, offering unmatched performance and value.

At the Eastern Canada Tripartite Conference, held in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, August 19-21, a key issue was not slow work but how to meet manpower needs for the country’s booming construction trend.

Other regional meetings are held in the Southeast, Northeast, Western States, Ohio Valley, Great Lakes, and Upper Midwest. The Ohio Valley Tripartite Conference is the longest-running meeting of this kind, dating back to the 1980s. It is credited with being an early inspiration for the national tripartite initiative.

Proud of our leadership and this organization

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I just left a business managers’ conference at Marco Island, Florida, and I find it appalling that our president, Newton B. Jones, and all the Vice Presidents (Executive Council) had to explain to us the articles that have been coming out of the Kansas City Star newspaper.

It was not necessary for our leaders to explain; we elected them to do the job, and speaking for myself and others within Mississippi River District 5 that I have discussed this with, the International officers are doing an excellent job.

I remember when President Jones was serving as Vice President of the Southeast Section and times were tough financially for our members. He stood his ground to raise our wages and benefits when several of the contactors were resisting. Due to his hard work and persistence, we received a wage increase of $6.00 per hour plus full benefits, which came to about a $10.00 dollar increase.

Time and time again, he has proven his leadership — as Southeast Vice President and now as International President.

Newton Jones has been an asset to this organization.

Our current Southeast Section Vice President, Warren Fairley, is doing a great job, and he is always on the move, keeping the Southeast Section above expectations. I have seen him in action. At one particular meeting, he told the client, contractor, and building trades just what was on his mind without any hesitation. He stood up for our craft and for what was right and never deviated from it.

Over the years, I have worked around all the Vice Presidents, and you hardly ever see them with a spare moment. They either are on the phone working or in meetings. Our leadership has our craft growing, with new training facilities across the country and programs that no other crafts can match.

I am proud to be a member of this prestigious organization.

At the conference, every business manager from across the country was in agreement with our leadership’s message, and no one in the room said otherwise. We applauded our leadership with standing ovations for their commitment to this organization.

For those of you who are sending out letters [against the union’s leadership], please save your money; we aren’t interested. The only thing you have accomplished is harm to our reputation as a great organization.

David Hegeman
District 5 Business Manager
and all Mississippi River District 5 Business Managers

Local 28 thanks Brotherhood for Sandy relief

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members in our great organization for your concern and support for the members affected by Hurricane Sandy. As you know, this storm left much destruction in its wake.

Hurricane Sandy destroyed members’ homes and left many without power for weeks. Although the road to recovery will take some time, I am proud to belong to an organization where the leadership and the membership came together to help those in need. On behalf of the members of Local 28 and myself, we are forever grateful.

Jim Chew
Boilermakers Local 28
Business Mgr./Secretary-Treasurer

Retiree appreciates Hurricane Sandy support

Just a note of thanks to all Brotherhood members who made it possible for those of us who suffered damage from [Hurricane] Sandy to help us out in rebuilding our homes.

Thanks from a 65-year member and a 22-year retiree.

Frank Segalla Sr.
Local 28 [Newark, N.J.]

Get Something To Say?

We welcome letters of fewer than 150 words on topics of interest to our members and their families. We do not publish personal attacks on members or unsigned letters.

The Boilermaker Reporter
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LEAP 2013 tentative issues

**PRESIDENT OBAMA’S** re-election in November of 2012 signaled confidence from the American people regarding the direction of the country — and a strong rebuke of the Republican candidate’s vision for our nation. There was cautious hope that the 113th Congress, which began this past January, could begin to address America’s most pressing priorities.

Unfortunately, the partisan bickering and legislative gridlock on Capitol Hill have not changed.

**BUDGET/SEQUESTRATION/JOBS/SHIPBUILDING**

Congress has continued to kick the can down the road on the budget, and recent developments indicate more of the same. We have heard repeatedly about the need to deal with the deficit. There is some truth to that. If our deficit gets so large that servicing payments costs us more of our GDP and inhibits real growth, then, yes, we have a deficit problem.

But our main challenge right now is not the budget deficit — it is our jobs deficit. Those who are the loudest in advocating that we deal with the budget deficit before addressing any other pressing issue are using it as an excuse to gut many domestic programs including Medicare, Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, and Social Security. And they don’t care that Social Security does not contribute to our budget deficit.

Unfortunately, instead of doing their jobs as legislators and negotiating in good faith to resolve our most pressing needs — job creation and real budget proposals — Congress instead came up with the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011. The BCA imposed caps on discretionary programs that will reduce their funding by more than $1 trillion over the 10 years from 2012 through 2021. In addition to those caps, a “super committee” was supposed to produce legislation to reduce projected deficits by at least an additional $1.2 trillion through 2021. But on Nov. 21, 2011, the committee’s co-chairs announced they could not reach agreement. That failure triggered what is called “sequestration.”

Sequestration is a fall-back mechanism to ensure that $1.2 trillion in deficit reduction would be achieved if the super committee failed to reach a solution. The mechanism was intended to prod members of the committee to reach agreement. Failing to do so would trigger the following:

- automatic, across-the-board budget cuts in many programs in 2013; and
- reductions in each year from 2014 through 2021 in the annual caps on discretionary appropriations as well as automatic cuts in selected entitlement programs.

Apparent one no one thought that the super committee would fail to reach an agreement, and so here we are, facing the automatic cuts in both defense and non-defense spending.

How will this affect the Boilermakers? According to reports, the Navy will start to cancel $604 million of major maintenance on 23 warships. It will implement hiring freezes, furloughs, and other reductions. These reductions will affect ALL of the naval shipyards that employ Boilermakers and other skilled crafts.

Congress needs to take the necessary steps that will ensure military cuts can be shifted away from critical fleet maintenance and construction projects and retain the skilled employees needed to perform this work. How we lobby on budget priorities will be determined by what Congress does or does not do leading up to the LEAP conference. We need them to pass a real budget and also to take up a real jobs bill, such as the American Jobs Act proposed by President Obama in 2011.

(If you would like more information on the budget and sequestration, please see: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at http://www.cbpp.org.)

**COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY**

We will revisit this issue at some point in 2013. Super storm Sandy and the devastation she wreaked along the East Coast last October have renewed calls for the United States to address its role in the development of clean energy and reducing its emissions linked to climate change.

In 2010, Abe Breehey, our late legislative director, summarized the energy challenges this way: “The race for clean energy is on, and the United States is already falling behind our competitors, because our political system is paralyzed. That paralysis is costing us jobs as investors and utilities wait for a road map to a clean energy future. The time is now for Congress to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation that invests in new technology, utilizes our vast energy resources, and puts a price on carbon that will spur innovation and jobs.”

Abe’s words are as true in 2013 as they were in 2010. Comprehensive energy legislation has fallen victim to the partisanship that has affected every other major policy discussion in Washington over the past four years. The president renewed his intent to address climate change during his State of the Union address. It is clear the Environmental Protection Agency will continue to emphasize renewable energy and natural gas, while making it more difficult for current and future coal-fired energy production.

We will continue to fight for coal and the “all of the above” energy policy that President Obama articulated during his first term. We have been and will continue to be active participants in any discussions or proposals related to climate change, emissions reductions, and overall energy policy.

We will continue to advocate for a rational path to energy independence in conjunction with legitimate and sensible environmental concerns.

Boilermakers understand that carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology at fossil-fired power plants and industrial facilities is not only a necessary solution to environmental challenges, it also holds perhaps the best potential for significant employment opportunities for Boilermakers, both in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

**TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)**

During the 2008 campaign, President Obama promised the American people a strong, smart, and fair trade policy. Unfortunately, in Oct. 2011, the Korea Free Trade Agreement — negotiated under President George W. Bush — was passed, along with trade agreements with Colombia and Peru. Now the administration is negotiating a “super” agreement with Pacific-rim countries that include: Australia,
Facebook spurs political outreach

Lodges capitalize on power of social media

KEEPING MEMBERS AWARE of political developments affecting their jobs and unions has become much easier since social media tools became popular, say Boilermakers from several lodges.

Local 13 (Philadelphia) and Local 28, (Newark, N.J.) use Facebook specifically as a resource for political and legislative news and opinions, both at the state and federal levels. The lodges also share such information across their Facebook pages.

“It’s a work in progress,” said Martin Williams, L-13’s Vice President, who with Ed Harkins developed a Facebook presence for the local about two years ago. Both men have been politically active for some time and have served on their state labor political action committee (PAC). Williams is L-13’s Political Action Committee chairman; Harkins is a member of the lodge’s PAC.

Harkins noted that after the 2010 mid-term elections, when union-friendly legislators lost their majority in the U.S. House, and with general elections coming up in 2012, he and Williams sought a better way to get out a pro-union message. They acted on a recommendation by Abe Breehey (the late Legislative Director with the Department of Government Affairs) to develop a Facebook presence.

“One of the best things about Facebook is that it’s free,” said Harkins. “Labor organizations don’t always have a lot of money to spend. And it’s very simple to put together.”

Williams agreed. “It’s going well. We learn things every day, such as what content resonates with our members. Every day you try to post things that you think would be of interest. We support Government Affairs and help register people to vote. It’s great to have Cecile and Bridget as our eyes and ears in Washington.”

Cecile Conroy is the Boilermakers’ Legislative Affairs Director, Bridget Martin is the union’s Political Affairs Director.

Harkins added that Facebook can also be used to mobilize members for political activities.

“When several area refineries in our area threatened to close down, we kept our members informed and mobilized them for bus trips to rallies in Harrisburg [Pennsylvania’s capital] and D.C.,” he said. “It’s also a way to engage the public; we sometimes get public posts. Social media is another communications tool along with email blasts, local websites, and in-person discussions on the job site.”

Local 28 inspector Dan Engle administers his lodge’s Facebook presence. “We share a lot of information with Martin and Ed,” he said. “New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania politics are very similar.”

Engle noted that it’s not unusual to get feedback from locals around the country. “I get ‘likes’ (digital expressions of support that link to other Facebook pages) from Wisconsin all the way out to Pittsburgh, California.” He estimates that most of those interacting with the L-28 Facebook page fall into the 20 to 38 age group. “Younger guys are showing a lot more interest in labor politics, even apprentices.”

Williams, Harkins, and Engle all stress the importance of getting a buy-in from the lodge leadership before developing a Facebook page on behalf of the local. There’s also the requirement to monitor incoming posts to avoid rumors, inaccuracies, and unnecessary conflict.

“I’m careful to make sure information being posted is accurate and comes from reliable sources,” said Engle, “not someone’s personal agenda or an extremist blog. I’ll research the information if I have to. The guys want honesty out of it. I stay away from hot-button issues like guns and abortion. That’s not what this is about. You have to separate your personal views on these issues and don’t bring hate to the page.”

“We do our due diligence [to screen] what goes out,” Harkins said, “not someone’s personal views on these issues and don’t bring hate to the page.”

Other Boilermaker locals across North America maintain Facebook pages as well, often for general member interaction, news, and announcements. The International and the Department of Government Affairs also maintain pages at http://www.facebook.com/Boilermakers.Union and http://www.facebook.com/boilermakers.legislative, respectively.


IMMIGRATION REFORM

CONGRESS NEEDS TO pursue a solution to our broken immigration system that is comprehensive and that puts workers first. Without reform, workers will continue to suffer at the hands of exploitive employers.

The Boilermakers support immigration reform that will create an independent process that is informed and not arbitrary in its assignment of visa numbers for legal entry, both temporary and permanent. Reform must include a plan for the operational control of our borders. It must implement a fair and efficient worker authorization and verification system. It must create a practical and humane system to adjust the status of unauthorized immigrants. And it must reform, but not expand, existing temporary worker programs, like H-2B.

2013 LEAP ISSUES

Continued from previous page

Brunel Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

The TPP will be the largest free trade agreement in the world. Leaks from the negotiations reveal the same problems labor has generally had with all of our so-called “free trade” agreements. Especially troubling, however, is the fact that negotiations have taken place behind closed doors. Since negotiations began in 2008, none of the negotiating documents have been officially released for public review, other than those leaked by labor-friendly participants of other negotiating countries.

In addition to this gross lack of transparency, other problems include:

A potential limit on the ability of governments to regulate banks, hedge funds, and insurance companies (which could impact the ability of the United States to regulate Wall Street);

Trading good-paying careers for sweatshop labor (such as that found in Vietnam); and

Accelerating global warming in the name of profits by granting transnational corporations the power to challenge any environmental or consumer safety protections that negatively affect their profits as “regulatory takings” (aka “raid the U.S. Treasury for restitution”).

The Boilermakers will join with our other labor brothers and sisters in this battle. The International and the Canadian and Mexican unions have already started to mobilize members for action.

The Boilermakers support immigration reform that will create an independent process that is informed and not arbitrary in its assignment of visa numbers for legal entry, both temporary and permanent. Reform must include a plan for the operational control of our borders. It must implement a fair and efficient worker authorization and verification system. It must create a practical and humane system to adjust the status of unauthorized immigrants. And it must reform, but not expand, existing temporary worker programs, like H-2B.  

We still have lots to do!  http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mobile/web/2013/01/12/unions-membership-nn_535506.html

Bad News For American Unions

WASHINGTON — Driver's of UDC mop up the job site as the number of members walk the floor at the labor union staff meeting.  January 25, 2013 07:30 PM
cess. We are also a multi-generational workforce. My dad worked at Taylor Forge and was president of the local for about 17 years. Quite a few other employees have family members who have worked here."

Taylor Forge President Mike Kilkenny stresses the importance of training, research and development, and keeping all production inhouse.

“What Taylor Forge is unique at is designing and fabricating all components inhouse. Doing everything inhouse means we control all aspects of production. For instance, every weld we make is x-rayed by Boilermakers, so we don’t have to wait for an outside source to come in and do the work. There is no interruption of the production process, and productivity is greater.”

Company excels in niche market

ANOTHER KEY TO Taylor Forge’s success is doing one thing exceptionally well. The company is a premier manufacturer of “slug catchers” — pressure vessels or extruded manifolds that collect heavy hydrocarbon liquids from pipelines during natural gas and crude oil extraction.

About two dozen degreed company engineers design the slug catchers. Specifications vary from client to client and by type of facility. Liquid natural gas (LNG) facilities typically require massive slug catchers while extraction sites for shale oil and gas use smaller units arranged in combinations.

Boilermakers are involved at every stage of the production work: rolling thick sheets of steel into cylinders, welding the seams using TIG and submerged arc techniques, testing the welds, extruding transitional joints, beveling edges, sandblasting and painting the completed vessels, and assembling multi-axle trailers for transportation.

“The nicest thing about slug catchers is there are a lot of parts; they keep a lot of people busy and the whole shop moving,” Kilkenny notes.

The labor-intensive work requires extensive training, much of which is done at Taylor Forge’s inhouse training center, which doubles as a research and development facility.

“We pride ourselves in developing our production people,” says Kilkenny. “Someone just starting out as a janitor here will eventually have the opportunity to learn the most skilled positions we have.”

“Boilermakers at Taylor Forge “are at the top of their trade.”

— IR David Lawrence
“We do a lot of tough stuff.”

Boilermakers at Taylor Forge operate a 1,500-ton above-ground press, massive underground extrusion presses, machining equipment, ovens, x-ray systems, and overhead cranes. They also run CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines for automatic forging of smaller parts. They make their own molds, too — acres of them.

All products are produced to exacting specifications and close tolerances, especially nuclear submarine parts for the U.S. Navy and propellant pressure vessels for NASA. Some work requires laying down a nickel-alloy coating to resist degradation in corrosive environments.

The company also makes steam drums for the electric power industry and pig launchers and catchers for the oil and gas industry. (Pigging is the process of cleaning pipelines or measuring pipe wall thickness using a machine that travels through the pipe and is retrieved or “caught” when the process is completed.)

“We don’t do anything that’s easy,” says Kilkenny. “We are one of only a few firms in the world that can extrude three- and four-inch-thick steel.

“We do a lot of tough stuff.”

International Rep David Lawrence, who services L-84 and recently helped negotiate the unit’s most recent contract, says Boilermakers working for Taylor Forge are among the most skilled workers he has seen.

“They are at the top of their trade. It is gratifying to see an employer who understands that workers are vital to the success of the company and is willing to invest in their training and welfare.”
L-1998 members to build world’s first LNG-powered containerships

General Dynamics NASSCO and TOTE Inc. sign deal for two ships, with option for three more

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1998 (National City, Calif.) will be involved in constructing advanced container ships powered by liquid natural gas (LNG), following a deal reached by General Dynamics NASSCO and TOTE Inc. late last year. The two companies inked a contract last December for the design and construction of two double-hulled, 3,100 TEU vessels serving the Jones Act market (trade involving shipping between U.S. ports).

NASSCO says the 764-foot-long containerships are expected to be the largest ships of any type in the world primarily powered by LNG.

“This project breaks new ground in green ship technology,” said NASSCO President Ed Harris. “Securing this contract has been a real team effort and will help sustain the jobs of the talented skilled tradesmen and women in our workforce.”

L-1998 President Robert Godinez stated that a decision by lodge members to accept a bonus last year rather than wage increases helped ensure the shipyard would be competitive as it sought to win the TOTE contract. He said the union will enter negotiations for a new five-year contract later this year.

Construction of the first container ship is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2014, with delivery to occur by the fourth quarter of 2015; the second ship will be delivered in the first quarter of 2016. The contract between NASSCO and TOTE Shipholdings, Inc., a subsidiary of TOTE, Inc., includes an option for three additional ships.

The vessels will be designed by DSEC, a subsidiary of Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME), located in Busan, South Korea. NASSCO has partnered with DSEC previously for the design and construction of five State-class product tankers which currently operate in the U.S. Jones Act market. All of the containerships will be constructed at the NASSCO shipyard in San Diego.

The vessels will operate on either fuel oil or gas derived from LNG, which will significantly decrease emissions while increasing fuel efficiency as compared to conventionally-powered ships, according to NASSCO. The LNG-powered containerships will also include a ballast water treatment system, making them the greenest ships of their size in the world, the company says.

The ships will operate between Jacksonville, Fla., and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Aker Philadelphia ASA eyes potential ship orders

L-19, PMTC could build two to four new tankers

BOILERMAKER LOCAL 19 and other unions in the Philadelphia Metal Trades Council (PMTC) employed by Aker Philadelphia Shipyard Inc. could see more product tanker work in the near future. The firm’s parent company, Aker Philadelphia Shipyard ASA, announced Feb. 18 that it had completed a non-binding term sheet with an undisclosed customer for two to four ships with delivery in 2015 and 2016.

A press release by the parent company said the term sheet is subject to definitive documents and the fulfillment of certain closing conditions, including, but not limited to, securing commitments for financing.

Local 19 was chartered as a shipbuilding and marine lodge in 1914. The lodge constructs vessels covered under the Jones Act, which requires that ships traveling between two U.S. ports be built in the United States and owned, flagged, and crewed by U.S. citizens.
PMC applauds Local 60 outage work

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 60 [Peoria, Ill.], along with other building trades working under the supervision of Power Maintenance and Constructors, LLC (PMC), successfully completed the spring outage on Unit 6 at the Havana Energy Complex [in south-central Illinois] owned and operated by Dynegy Coal Co., with regional offices in O’Fallon, Illinois.

The outage work consisted of numerous projects including air heater seal refurbishments, SCR catalyst replacement, high-energy piping inspections, and miscellaneous boiler tube inspections and repairs. This work was completed ahead of schedule, under budget and with safety at the forefront. The tripartite approach, with input and interaction among the owner, contractor, and union labor, was essential in the overall success of these projects.

JEREMY T. MCKINNEY, P.E.
Director of Operations
Power Maintenance And Constructors, LLC

Kiewit praises Local 29 safety performance

[Letter addressed to BM-ST Thomas Saccoach]

IT IS WITH great satisfaction that I write you this letter to congratulate you and the members of Boilermakers Local 29 [Boston] for the outstanding safety performance your members have achieved on the Brayton Point Unit 3 Dry FGD/MRS [Flue Gas Desulfurization/Mercury Reduction System] project. As you may have heard, last month we were notified by OSHA that the project was awarded the VPP (Voluntary Protection Program) STAR Safety Award. This award is the most prestigious award bestowed by OSHA upon any business entity in our industry and it is something that we are extremely proud of.

VPP participants develop and implement systems to effectively identify, evaluate, prevent and control occupational hazards to prevent employee injuries and illness. The VPP program was developed for all industries, but we are proud to be the first construction project in New England ever to receive this prestigious award in the 17 years that the VPP program has been in effect.

CHRIS TURNBILL
Project Manager
Kiewit Infrastructure Co.
Somerset, Mass.

"We are proud to be the first construction project in New England ever to receive this prestigious award."

It has been an honor to have worked alongside the many talented tradesmen who have demonstrated their dedication to this project and to the safety of each person working alongside them. This award was only possible through the commitment and leadership of Local Business Agents, Stewards, Foremen and Craftsmen who were able to work together to implement and maintain a world-class safety program on this project.

On behalf of Kiewit and Dominion, please express to your members our gratitude for the exemplary safety performance that has been achieved this year on the Brayton Point Project.

"It has been an honor to have worked alongside the many talented tradesmen who have demonstrated their dedication to this project and to the safety of each person working alongside them."
Local 83 hosts 60 engineer, construction management graduates

RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES with degrees in engineering or construction management traveled to Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) last summer to become “a Boilermaker for a day.”

The graduates are employees of Kiewit, which co-sponsored the event with L-83 for the second year in a row. Business Agent Joe Lewandowski said the program seeks to foster communication, trust, and respect between those who design and manage field construction projects and those who build and maintain them.

Third-year apprentices acted as trainers for the engineers. The event kicked off with a welcome and safety orientation. Participants then split into two groups, with half taking part in a group rigging exercise and half going into the training center welding booths for one-on-one instruction with an apprentice. After two hours, the groups switched activities. The rigging exercise emphasized communication and teamwork to accomplish a task.

All 60 of the field engineers showed their appreciation of L-83’s role in the event by signing a thank-you card that was presented to dispatcher Bud Owens.

“This has been a big hit in learning and earning trust,” said Jeff Fischer, Kiewit learning manager. “These events foster good relationships early between management and labor. Good relationships are required to successfully deliver cleaner and greener power projects. As a bonus, our future leaders really love learning to weld.”

Kiewit is a signatory Boilermaker contractor that has employed L-83 members to install air quality control systems for coal-fired power plants at LaCygne, Kan., and Sioux City, Iowa.

“Kiewit has worked with us to test and certify a large number of welders for these two projects,” Lewandowski said. “We appreciate their commitment, especially the effort of Craig Wright with Kiewit Quality Control.”

New engineers become ‘Boilermakers for a Day’

L-28 apprentice excels on pro dirt bike circuit

Jesse Groemm named Enduro Rookie of the Year

JESSE GROEMM, A second-year apprentice with Local 28 (Newark, N.J.), made quite a splash in the world of cross-country motorcycle racing last year. Not only was he named Enduro Rookie of the Year, he also had the honor of representing the United States in the International Six-Day Enduro (ISDE) championship held in Germany last September. His U.S. Junior Trophy Team (younger than 24) won third place in a field of 32 teams.

Groemm is the stepson of Local 28 member Ed “Skeeter” Allegar, an avid recreational motor bike rider.

“I’m really proud of Jesse’s achievements,” Allegar said. “He’s a great competitor and a good Boilermaker.”

Groemm began riding dirt bikes at age six. By age 12, he had begun youth racing, at 16 he was competing as an amateur, and at 19 he began racing professionally around the country. His opportunity to race in the ISDE championship came when one of the U.S. riders was injured.

“I had one week to get ready,” he recalled. “I had to bring six sets of riding clothes, because there was no place to wash your laundry.”

His racing skills have caught the attention of the AmPro Yamaha Factory Off-Road Team. The organization recently invited Groemm to represent them in 2013. Riding for Yamaha will mean all of his racing expenses are covered.

“It’s like a dream come true,” he said.

©

PARTICIPATING IN A RIGGING EXERCISE are, l. to r., Randy Funk, Kiewit construction manager at LaCygne; Arthur Williams, Kiewit; Danelle Parham, L-83; Monica Frank, Kiewit; and Gary Lynch, L-83.

ENGINEER GRADUATE ALICIA CRASS, Kiewit, receives welding instruction from L-83 apprentice Steven Ryken.

GROEMM COMPETES in a national Enduro race in Greensboro, Ga., recently.
Double-amputee ‘lends a hand’ in Hawaii Five-O episode

Nephew of L-40 retiree is inspiration to many

WHEN PRODUCERS OF the new Hawaii Five-O series needed someone with bionic hands for a remake of the 1973 episode “Hookman” last year, they turned to Jason Koger, the nephew of David Koger, a retired member of Local 40 (Elizabethtown, Ky.).

Jason, 33, lost both arms below the elbow following a 2008 four-wheeler accident involving a downed electrical wire. The near-fatal accident left him with a pair of mechanical hooks as well as a set of advanced bionic hands that allow finger movement.

Five-O producers had in mind something specific — not just double bionic hands but someone who could use them well enough to aim a rifle or pick up a coffee cup.

Jason, could do both. A former union pipefitter who hails from an extended family of union tradesmen, Jason is an avid outdoorsman. He continues to hunt deer and turkey, and has learned to use his teeth to hold the bow string when archery hunting.

Following preliminary interviews and tests, Jason traveled to Hawaii to film the “Hookman” episode late last year.

“They filmed my arms and hands doing different things, but not my face,” he said (although he does appear as an extra exiting the post office as Five-O enters). Jason is alerted by the hospital and drives two hours to the facility to visit with the patient as a volunteer. He shows the amputee what he can do with his artificial limbs and explains how he has carried on with his life. He also gives voluntary talks to amputee groups and does inspirational public speaking.

Jason’s experience with the Hawaii Five-O series has brought him new friends with the cast and crew, who stay in touch with him, he said. He added that the maker of his bionic hands, Touch Bionics, was so excited about their product appearing in the Five-O episode that they are giving him a free pair of their fifth generation “i-limb ultra” prosthetic hands. Jason lives with his wife, Jenny, and their three children in Owensboro, Ky. He maintains a website (www.jasonkoger.com) and says he is happy to talk with others about amputation and prosthetic limbs.

L-374’s Scott is chaplain

SINCE HIS RETIREMENT in 2004 from Local 374, Hammond, Ind., Bruce (Randy) Scott has been keeping busy volunteering his time for community services in northwest Indiana. An assistant pastor of the Pentecostals of Southlake in Merrillville, Ind., Scott also is the chaplain for the community’s police department. He says his greatest honor was to open a session of the U.S. House of Representatives with a prayer in July 2010 as a guest chaplain sponsored by Rep. Pete Visclosky and his staff.

Pictured at left, Scott receives a certificate commemorating his prayer from Rep. Visclosky, left, and Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, right.
**Heine-Parisi makes 10,000th parachute jump**

**Local 154 member is professional skydiver**

JOHN HEINE-PARISI says he has never fallen down during his 36 years working as a field construction Boilermaker. But when it comes to his second job, as a professional skydiver, it's a different story. In fact, the L-154 member left his feet for the 10,000th time on Aug. 2, 2011, sailing earthward at 120 miles an hour before touching down to a controlled landing.

Heine-Parisi’s astounding jump count has been earned over 40 years, beginning as an Army paratrooper. He has jumped with some of the most elite skydivers in the world, including the U.S. Army Golden Knights and Special Forces HALO (high altitude, low opening) teams.

He has been a participant in numerous world, regional, and state records, he says. On many of his jumps, he carries 10 pounds of camera gear to document group jumps during freefall.

“I’ve been published in many magazines over the years, including cover photos and centerfolds,” he notes.

Heine-Parisi holds instructor certifications for both static and freefall divers and, in demonstration skydiving, his jumps during freefall.

**L-154’S JOHN HEINE-PARISI** shows some of the medals he has won over his 40-year skydiving career.

**Local 237’s Diaz pays tribute to U.S. military**

THE SACRIFICES MADE by U.S. soldiers are not lost on Rudy Diaz, a retired member from Local 237 (Hartford, Conn.) now living in Cape Coral, Fla. A few years back, Diaz was inspired to honor those serving in the armed forces by designing and building a bronze statue.

Diaz’s concept would include an Iraq war-era American soldier and an Iraqi boy standing and saluting the American flag.

While the 10,000-jump count is indeed impressive, Heine-Parisi doesn’t plan to stop anytime soon. He says he will continue to skydive “for as long as I can pack my rig and climb into the plane.”

**TOP PHOTO:** HEINE-PARISI with the U.S. Army’s Golden Knights, flying tail slot (behind rest of group)

TO HELP FAMILIES and local lodges in the United States cope with a catastrophic event resulting in death or major injuries, the Brotherhood has established a relationship with the law firm of Becker, Schroader & Chapman.

This firm maintains a special emergency response team (SERT) to investigate such events, preserve evidence, and advise families and lodges on legal matters. There is no charge to families or lodges for these services.

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.

However, should a catastrophic event occur, local lodges are encouraged to notify their International rep and contact SERT at 888-717-SERT (888-717-7378) as soon as possible — before evidence can be removed or becomes degraded.

**Additional information about SERT is available through Mark Garrett, Director of Health & Safety Services, (225) 276-6796.**

**SERT offers U.S. lodges, families help after catastrophic event**

**Boilermaker retiree and friend build soldier’s statue**

L-237 RETIREE RUDY DIAZ, right, and partner Danny Pardo stand before the statue they created for display in Cape Coral, Fla.

L-154 member left his feet for the 10,000th time on Aug. 2, 2011, sailing earthward at 120 miles an hour before touching down to a controlled landing.

Heine-Parisi’s astounding jump count has been earned over 40 years, beginning as an Army paratrooper. He has jumped with some of the most elite skydivers in the world, including the U.S. Army Golden Knights and Special Forces HALO (high altitude, low opening) teams.

He has been a participant in numerous world, regional, and state records, he says. On many of his jumps, he carries 10 pounds of camera gear to document group jumps during freefall.

“I’ve been published in many magazines over the years, including cover photos and centerfolds,” he notes.

Heine-Parisi holds instructor certifications for both static and freefall jumps, and his demonstration sky
L-359 members raise $2,575 for Christmas hamper

Boilermakers collect donations at Mica Dam project

WHILE WORKING THE Mica Dam upgrade project last year along the Columbia River, Local 359 (Burnaby, British Columbia) members decided to give something back to the community over the Christmas holidays. They chose the city of Revelstoke, British Columbia, about a two-hour drive from the dam.

Jonn Giese and four other Boilermakers began a collection at the project site. Fellow Boilermakers and several other trades gave generously, and the fundraiser totaled $2,575. Giese and crew used the money to purchase $25 gift cards at a local grocery store and presented the cards to Patti Larson, representing the Revelstoke Christmas hamper. Larsen said it was the single biggest donation the hamper had ever received.

This isn’t the first time L-359 members have assisted a community during a job. In 2011, while working at a pulp mill in Mackenzie, B.C., Giese and other volunteers raised $850 to help senior citizens. “It’s always nice to give something back to the community where we earn our living,” Giese said. He noted that L-359 is a close-knit lodge that is always ready to help members in need.

“I just like seeing smiles on people’s faces,” he said, “especially when they feel like they have been forgotten.”

Other L-359 members raising money for the hamper included Dave Bishop, Adam Saunders, Steve Savoie, Jim Wymer and Rick Shields.

L-359 MEMBERS present gift cards to Patti Larson, representing the Christmas hamper in Revelstoke, British Columbia. Left to right, Jonn Giese, Rick McIssac, Larson, Adam Saunders, and Jim Wymer.
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 Clark, Bill F. 60
NTL Ellwein, Nester 60
NTL Hammore, Charles E. 60
NTL Kifer, Anthony M. 60
NTL Lovett, Travis R. 60
NTL Noecker, Samuel J. 60
NTL Rancourt, Roger 60
NTL Saucier, Warren B. 60
NTL Stapler, Eunice C. 60
NTL Clark, Bill F. 73
NTL Dengler, Emerly 73
NTL King, Stephen L. 73
NTL Napier, Thomas A. 73
NTL Ricks, Donald F. 73
NTL Spears Sr., June A. 73
NTL Sullivan, James A. 73
NTL Thomason, Joseph A. 73
1 Bolton, Charles 83
1 Stroud, Rusty L. 83
5 Barbaccia, Peter A. 83
5 Carroll, Lewis J. 83
5 Lambert, Roger B. 83
5 Marin, Nevio 83
5 McNitt, Ryan L. 83
5 Nevins, Richard J. 83
5 Stipisch, George N. 83
6 Armijo, Fred 92
6 Ballou II, Frank M. 92
6 Dias, Fidel 92
6 Keys, William C. 92
6 Lakewell, F. Pan 92
6 Ruby, Albert 92
6 Williams, Fred A. 92
7 Papai, John 92
7 Persico, Michael V. 92
10 Chapman, Preston E. 92
10 Schreiber, Robert F. 92
12 Czyz, Timothy J. 92
13 Bradley, William J. 92
13 Gambone, Justo V. 92
13 Harrell, Jemarl D. 92
13 Scarlett, George W. 92
13 Tomchak, Alfred G. 92
13 Bell Jr., Nathan H. 92
18 Hughes, Donald C. 92
18 Miller Jr., Robert L. 92
18 Desantis, Michael 92
20 Celata, Joseph W. 92
20 Keane, John J. 92
20 McGuinness, Timothy J. 92
20 Warell, F. Pan 92
20 Pennington, James O. 92
27 Brown, John J. 92
27 Cutrer, Randy C. 92
27 Davis Jr., David D. 92
27 Welsh, James L. 92
27 Brown, Glen D. 92
27 Carter, William R. 92
27 Noffsinger, Brad B. 92
27 Roy, Beall D. 92
27 Snooks, Junard D. 92
45 Amis Jr., Joseph W. 92
Hardin, Charles A. 110
Moreland, Elbert D. 110
Moreland, Jerre W. 110
Caraway, Doyce V. 110
Andersen, Dennis E. 110
Iazeolla, Frank D. 110
Macleod, Raymond J. 110
Morrison, Jesse J. 110
Otis Jr., Joseph 110
Ditron, Alcliffe 110
Dunn, Allen M. 110
Fraser, Carl R. 110
Guignard, Fred 110
McKiel, John H. 110
Parise, Camille 110
Seiden, Harlen F. 110
Darnell, Howard E. 110
Knight, Kenneth E. 110
Stanton, Raymond A. 110
Teusink, Gerald D. 110
Bowman Jr., Charles H. 110
Donbrosky, Kenneth E. 110
Estrada, Elpidio R. 110
Kerekes, Elmer A. 110
Banks, Dale E. 110
Bastian, Dwight M. 110
Erjavek, Edward L. 110
Leyhe, Robert J. 110
Lightle, Chester A. 110
May, Stephen M. 110
Whitney, George E. 110
Proctor, Peter E. 110
Rickard, Harvey J. 110
Gifford Jr., William W. 110
Whitefield Jr., William P. 110
Brown, Reeve R. 110
Germ, Charles D. 110
Binkley, Randy J. 110
Burkmier, Bradley P. 110
Collison, Donald E. 110
Espinoza, Joe 110
Johnson, George E. 110
Meeley, Charles E. 110
Zwilcher, John J. 110
Wood, Richard J. 110
Gardner, William E. 110
Jefferson, Neil R. 110
Kee, Willie J. 110
Lamont, Dean M. 110
Gaskell, David E. 110
Mason, Deane 110
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Dowdy, S. A. 110
Spencer, Robert E. 110
Tecklenburg, Kenneth E. 110
Lamontagne, William G. 110
Sackett, Robert E. 110
Templin, Gene L. 110
Timbrook, Robert R. 110
Weight, Wayne 110
Allen Jr., Glenn D. 110
Cyrus, Luckey D. 110
Porter, Rex L. 110
Mierke, Al L. 110
Myers, Johnny P. 110
Avery, Dale 110
Dorn, Michael P. 110
Sears, Elmer H. 110
Smith, Willie R. 110
Templin, Gene L. 110
Holister, C. W. 110
Keller, Huey C. 110
Arrington, Carl W. 110
Perry, Roy L. 110
Robbins, Fred E. 110
Smitherman, David R. 110
Swann, Carl F. 110
Chandler, Floyd M. 110
Coope, Winfred L. 110
Dyess, Bennie C. 110
McConnell, James B. 110
Bishop, Billy W. 110
Buccola, Selena G. 110
Harrion Jr., Malcolm R. 110
Mizell, Quitman W. 110
Watson, Hazel I. 110
White, Forrest D. 110
Wittmann, Henry L. 110
Halladay, Joseph R. 110
Hawkins, William D. 110
Sutton, John M. 110
Petes, Ronald 110

**CORRECTION**

BROTHER WILLIAM LOUDEN, Local Lodge 374, was erroneously listed as deceased in the Oct-Dec 2012 issue of the **Boilermaker Reporter**. We deeply regret any confusion or discomfort that may have resulted from this inaccurate information.
### DEATH BENEFITS

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

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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.
### In Memoriam

Continued from page 16

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### Death Benefits

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The most Boilermaker Delivery System: Managing Manpower on a National Level

The MOST Boilermaker Delivery System (MBDS) is the IBB’s new web-based portal that links members, locals and contractors with real-time information about member availability, project opportunities and manpower demands. The MBDS went live in January 2013 as part of the IBB’s continued efforts to deliver a workforce that follows the nationwide referral rules.

“Because the Delivery System is bigger than any one local or person, it elevates the integrity of working with the Boilermakers. This means that as a whole, everyone wins,” explained Newton B. Jones, International President, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

The MBDS works by combining a national database of Boilermakers with an enhanced referral rule system designed to promote transparency, consistency and accountability. The system will help ensure workforce availability throughout a contractor’s project.

Today, the MBDS updates both the MOST outage hotline, so that locals can now post positions, and manpower tracking, so that jobs and qualified employees can be matched up instantly.

The MBDS also proves beneficial to the individual Boilermakers and contractors. Gone are the days of traveling from local to local to add a Boilermaker’s availability to the Travelers Pool. Members can now log in from anywhere using a computer or web-enabled mobile device to check their status, choose a preferred local and validate their information.

This virtual updating reduces walk-up traffic interruptions at locals, allowing business managers to better oversee available resources. Additionally, contractors can create and view work orders, verify contact information and request Boilermakers with specific skill sets to customize their workforce.

The MBDS is the next evolution in managing manpower and is poised to become the industry-leading website for matching skilled workers with construction projects.

“The MBDS is yet another way to connect Boilermakers with our contractors,” said Roger Erickson, MOST Administrator. “It provides contractors with a qualified workforce that they can depend upon, and Boilermakers with the best jobs for their needs and abilities.”

The design and implementation of the MBDS has benefited from close interaction with and input from construction lodges across the country. Refinements to the system will continue as needed, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the experience of everyone who relies on the system, including individual Boilermakers, dispatchers and lodge leaders, and contractors.

“Our technology continues to evolve, and I am truly honored to be involved with this particular program as aclever idea unity as a whole,” said Curt Smith, Director, Information Technology Services for the IBB.

To access the MOST Boilermaker Delivery System, visit the MOST Programs website at MOSTprograms.com.
Capitol Hill brinkmanship imperils U.S. Navy

Sequestration will hit shipbuilders, country hard

AS THIS COLUMN is being written, it appears that Congress will fail to halt the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration. These cuts will strip away about $500 billion from the U.S. military and an equal amount from discretionary federal spending on a host of necessary programs. Virtually every federal program except for Medicare and Social Security will be forced to make painful reductions. Sequestration could not have come at a worse time for the U.S. Navy or the shipbuilding and maintenance industry that supports it.

The U.S. fleet numbers just 288 ships today, the lowest figure since before the outbreak of World War II. Yet the Defense Department must deal with emerging military expansion from China, Russia, and Iran, the war in Afghanistan, unrest in the Middle East, piracy at sea, and terrorist threats across North Africa, Yemen, and other areas of the globe.

The Boilermakers and the AFL-CIO Metal Trades have warned Washington for years of the seriousness of underfunding shipbuilding and maintenance in the face of such threats. The Brotherhood has made shipbuilding one of the key issues at our annual LEAP conferences. With a few exceptions from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, little has been done to ensure a rational and sustainable funding plan. Overall, Congress and White House administrations have adopted few measures for long-term stability and readiness.

Now, with major new funding cuts likely, many people are deeply worried.

How dire is the situation?

FROM THE MILITARY’S standpoint, sequestration is dangerous to national defense not only because of the sheer size of the cuts, but also because the cuts get applied across the board, without regard to essential and high-priority programs.

For shipbuilding and other industries that support national defense, sequestration will cause major layoffs and threaten the survivability of companies dedicated to national defense. Skill sets and technology capabilities don’t come cheaply and cannot be readily replaced.

For the nation, taxpayers will see higher development costs in the future due to interruptions of multi-year shipbuilding programs; the middle class will further erode; and America’s standing as a world superpower will be diminished. A vacuum in leadership will only invite aggressive behavior by those who have less to fear from U.S. military capabilities.

For the Boilermakers and other trades, we will see many of our members lose their good-paying jobs and be thrust into unemployment during a weak economy.

And for our military, soldiers and sailors will see diminished capability, heightening the risks they take in defending our nation.

The spending cuts faced by the military are massive. In addition to the $500 billion stripped away (over 10 years) through sequestration, the Department of Defense is already absorbing another $487 billion 10-year cut that was implemented under the 2011 Budget Control Act. The double hit means national defense spending will be cut by about $1 trillion over the next decade, and an equal amount will be cut from non-military discretionary spending.

On the discretionary spending side, our country will see across-the-board cutbacks in almost every service provided by the government, from the FBI to the National Park Service, to Border Patrol.

Top military leaders worry, speak bluntly

MILITARY LEADERS at the highest levels have reacted strongly and bluntly about sequestration. More than a year ago, Leon Panetta, the outgoing Secretary of Defense, predicted full sequestration would be “devastating” to the DoD and industries supporting the military.

At a congressional hearing Feb. 14, 2013, he told Congress, “Stop this constant uncertainty, this month-to-month situation where we don’t know what the hell we’re going to get. I cannot imagine that people would stand by and deliberately hurt this country in terms of our national defense by letting this take place.”

During a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Martin Dempsey said sequestration could so hamper military readiness that it would be “immoral” to use American armed forces in a military confrontation. “This would be the steepest, biggest reduction…for the Defense Department in history, at a time when I will personally attest that [the world is] more dangerous than it’s ever been,” Dempsey said.

Republicans ignore Obama’s offer to extend deadline

SEQUESTRATION MIGHT BE avoided or at least postponed to allow a more sensible plan to be developed under an extension proposal put forth by President Obama in the weeks leading up to the March 1, 2013 implementation deadline.

Unfortunately, Republican leaders have refused to consider the offer. Some in the GOP appeared to welcome sequestration as a way to enforce cuts to government programs, even if it means weakening our military.

The GOP’s intransience on the issue was apparent when House Democrats sought to continue debate on Capitol Hill during the week of the Presidents’ Day holiday in hopes of finding a solution to sequestration.

If we don’t do our job, we get written up for it. Who is writing Congress up for not doing their damn job?

– L-684 President Mike Patterson

The Republican majority voted to adjourn and go home for the week instead. This type of brinkmanship is entirely unacceptable when national security is on the line and our economy is so fragile.

The GOP has blamed Obama for coming up with the sequestration idea. It is true that his administration did offer the proposal. However, the concept was intended to force the two parties to come together and find a sensible approach to cut spending.

Most people agreed that sequestration would be such a horrible outcome that Congress surely would do everything in its power to avoid it. But the special bipartisan committee created for this purpose failed to fashion an agreement. Such is the extreme dysfunction of Congress today.

President Obama decried the “parisan recklessness and ideological rigidity” that has prevented Congress from solving the current crisis.

Federal shipyard workers along with naval contractors are likewise angry and frustrated over congressional behavior. One of those speaking out during a CBS Evening News report on sequestration was Local 684 President Mike Patterson. While on the job for BAE at the Norfolk, Va., shipyard, Patterson told CBS, “If we don’t do our job, we get written up for it. Who is writing Congress up for not doing their damn job?”

All of us can appreciate Mike’s frustration with Congress. They are not doing their job, and the entire nation will suffer for it. The congressional members who folded their arms and turned their backs when final appeals were made to deal with the issue are especially culpable.

Americans should “write up” any congressman who refused to extend the deadline for implementing sequestration by voting them out of office during the mid-term elections next year.

If anybody should lose their jobs, it should be them.