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Sloss Metal Arts Resident Artist Sam Horowitz operates the “dead” end of a bull ladle at Sloss Furnaces, now part of Boilermakers L-108.

Photo courtesy of Ambre Amari of Amari Editorial

Opioid addiction is prevalent in construction – but there’s help for Boilermakers.

Students showed off their skills; L-374 showed off the union by hosting SkillsUSA.

More than a hobby: L-146 Boilermaker j’Amey Bevan’s Rubicon Ranch Sanctuary is a personal mission.
As climate zealots and their political allies continue to push a ban on fossil fuel energy, the cold reality is that people still need that energy to survive and to thrive.

Recently, talk of an outright ban on gas stoves by some in the U.S. federal government made headlines—although the notion was quickly walked back by administration officials.

Still, the very idea that the government would contemplate such an extreme measure has raised alarms. A national ban would be disruptive to the 37% of households using gas stoves and to the 76% of restaurants that rely on them.

Gas stove manufacturers and the broader appliance and gas industries—which employ Boilermakers—would face potential upheaval. Yet, such concerns haven’t stopped the push for gas stove bans in some cities and states.

According to the New York Times, in 2019 Berkeley, California, became the first city in the nation to ban gas hookups in new homes and commercial buildings. Some 50 other California cities, among them Los Angeles and San Francisco, have since adopted similar restrictions.

New York City followed suit in 2021. Beginning in 2024, gas stoves, water heaters, furnaces and other appliances will be prohibited in new buildings. Meanwhile, state-wide restrictions are being proposed by New York Governor Kathy Hochul.

While these changes play out, global use of natural gas—for electricity production as well as for cooking, heating and other uses—is surging, and suppliers are beefing up their export facilities.

In Kitimat, British Columbia, Boilermakers from Local 359 (Vancouver) and other Canadian lodges are helping to bring in a $40 billion liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal. The massive project will enable Canada to market LNG to Asian markets, many of which are switching from coal to lower emission natural gas.

Along the U.S. Gulf Coast, 16 new LNG projects are in planning or development stages. They will help America become the world leader in LNG exports by the end of this year, according to research firm Wood Mackenzie. The firm estimates that over the next decade, about $100 billion will be spent on Gulf Coast LNG projects. Much of that new LNG capacity will help offset gas shortages in Europe resulting from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Europe’s subsequent disengagement from the Russian gas industry.

While such investments increase energy security at home and abroad, they are often met by obstructionists. Climate zealots who oppose any continuing fossil fuel use, along with sympathetic regulators, can hold up projects for years, blocking essential resources from reaching markets and people who may be struggling with energy, heating and other needs.

Canceled LNG projects such as Jordan Cove in Oregon are among the casualties. The $8 billion project would have piped natural gas to a terminal on Coos Bay, where it would have been supercooled into liquid form and loaded onto ships for export. Hundreds of construction jobs would have been created.

“A national ban would be disruptive to the 37% of households using gas stoves and to the 76% of restaurants that rely on them.”

Newton B. Jones
International President
Meanwhile other major U.S. gas and oil pipeline projects have been shuttered, among them the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline. In Canada, proposed projects to build the nation’s second and third LNG terminals (Woodfibre LNG and Cedar LNG) appear to be victims of governmental foot dragging.

The opportunity to help Asian nations convert from coal to cleaner-burning natural gas makes sense from a climate mitigation perspective. China is the world’s largest LNG importer. The country is also the largest emitter of CO2, and it continues to build the equivalent of two large coal plants per week.

Replacing China’s vast coal-fired energy fleet with natural gas systems would go a long way toward bending the curve on global CO2 emissions. Those emissions reached an all-time high in 2022, according to the International Energy Agency, despite the $1.1 trillion spent last year on renewables and related “green” projects (BloombergNEF).

Until newer energy sources like hydrogen can safely and economically be brought to market, the intelligent use of fossil fuels—with broader applications of carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) technologies—remains our best path forward.

In the meantime, North American LNG terminals must continue to play a vital role in moving gas to nations that rely on gas imports for their economic survival and security. And domestic use of natural gas must not be restricted by regulatory fiat.

For most of the world, life without gas—and gas stoves—is likely still decades away.

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Newton B. Jones

International President
Construction Sector leaders gathered for the annual CSO conference in Marco Island, Florida, Feb. 26 to March 2. Members discussed developments within Construction Sector Operations, heard about the health of the union and made connections with contractors. International President Newton B. Jones opened the conference with welcome news. “The organization is very, very healthy,” he said. “Even though we have had a deficit in man-hours from years ago, we still see some growth. And down the road, we see a lot of growth.” He said man-hours are expected to increase as work in hydrogen production, small modular reactors and CCUS ramp up.

He also touted the success of the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund and how it’s helped the union transition as coal-fired units are shut down. And as the union moves into the future, he called on CSO leaders to bring more workers into the Boilermakers, stressing that the union will need as many Boilermakers as possible with the influx of anticipated work.

“We’re going to have to really get focused on craftsperson development,” IP Jones said. “We need to take people into our locals and put people to work and build this organization. There’s a lot of good that’s developing at this stage.”

In closing, IP Jones said the union is on good footing for the future. “We’re on a good plan for transition. You put that in place with the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund. It’s dollars well allocated for our future.”

Members heard additional information about the M.O.R.E. Work program beginning with IVP-SE and ED-CSO Tim Simmons discussing the M.O.R.E. Work Job Targeting program. He pointed to the steep decline of coal-fired units and that the U.S. Beyond Coal campaign has helped shutter 66% of domestic plants.

“They found we didn’t have enough to continue powering, so they had to back off,” Simmons said, noting that Beyond Coal has a goal of all homes being carbon neutral. “We used to call those ‘mud huts,’” he quipped.

He said the M.O.R.E. Work program has not only helped the union keep what it has but has expanded the Boilermaker footprint across industries. Through the program, Boilermakers have recovered...
over $43 million in wages as employers bid work for jobs on job sites where union members haven’t worked for months or years.

“Not only are we paying money out of the M.O.R.E. Work program, but we’re also getting money back,” Simmons said. “This is not a savings account. This is an account to gain ground every day.”

And because work will continue to grow, he said members need to bring in more union members to do the work.

“It is the obligation of every union member to bring in at least two people,” Simmons said. “One to replace you and one to grow the union. And if you stop at two, shame on you.”

Simmons noted there’s an online application ready to go, so that members can sign workers up on the job site.

Lodges need a Bank of Labor checking account to participate.

“This is the first time in the history of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers that you’re able to join this organization without a pen and paper,” he said. “It is a tool that makes sure you can get people signed up immediately.”

In addition, CSO has developed an online business manager portal—a “one-stop shop” for agreements, TWIC card/MSHA reimbursements, new project listings and more.

D irector of the National Transient Division Lodge Danny Watson reviewed the M.O.R.E. Work Recovery Agreement between the NTDL and NACBE. The agreement has nationwide scope and is designed to assist the union in getting more work in U.S. facilities where Boilermakers have performed a de minimis amount of work in the previous 60 months prior to bidding on work. Since its inception, the union has gained an additional 124,947 man-hours.

On M.O.R.E. Work program state legislative gains, National Coordinator of State Legislative Affairs Martin Williams gave a rundown on bills moving through state legislatures and what states the union is eying for the future.

“Hazardous bills have brought a lot of man-hours in California, Washington State and New Jersey,” Williams said.

And introducing and shepherding those bills, which require workers to graduate from a state-approved apprenticeship program, is a way to make job sites safer and increase man-hours for Boilermakers.

In U.S. national legislation, Director of Government Affairs
Cecile Conroy said there’s a lot of money for energy jobs in the bills that passed Congress last year. In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, funding is earmarked for CCUS, direct air capture, hydrogen and large-scale demonstration projects. “There is $6 billion in funding for advanced nuclear development and $12.1 billion for CCUS, including large-scale pilot and demonstration projects.”

She noted that the Department of Energy is “moving as fast as humanly possible to get these funds out the door.” Which is good news for Boilermakers.

Director of National Training Services Jeff Hughes gave an update on the Boot Camp program. He said there have been 215,000 hours of training provided since the program’s inception in 2018, with over 1,000 people completing boot camp. The current weld testing pass rate with signatory contractors is nearly 91%.

BNAP Coordinator Mark Wertz said the apprenticeship program is working on LMS 3.0. He also said BNAP snagged a grant for Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology Training and encouraged lodges to look for grant opportunities.

International Vice President-Canada Arnie Stadnick discussed national training in Canada, including a new pressure welding program where the Boilermakers received a $6.2 million grant over five years to train more people. He also pointed to Canadian Boilermakers’ training on mental health awareness and outreach with 800 members educated to date in Healthy Mind. There are 14 trainers across Canada teaching suicide prevention, mental health first aid and opiate awareness.

Also speaking were IVP-NE John Fultz giving an overview of the Boilermakers National
Funds, Director of Health and Safety Services Mark Garrett, Director of Communications Amy Wiser, Director of the Boilermaker History Preservation Department Dave Stewart, International Director of Climate Change Policy Solutions Cory Channon and Marketing Manager Johnny Baca.

Guest speakers at this year’s CSO included three employees of Babcock & Wilcox. Sr. VP of Clean Energy Joe Buckler, Sr. VP of Thermal Chris Riker and VP and GM Michael Hidas, shared statistics and information on their working relationship with the Boilermakers and also outlined their new generation of energy production: ClimateBright™. “We have $1.2 million in M.O.R.E. [Work program] funds for projects we might not have bid before,” Hidas said, praising the impact of the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund. “The M.O.R.E. [Work program] dollars brought in 224,000 man-hours, which we did not have in our forecast. We’ve come to rely on the M.O.R.E. [Work program] Fund, and we think there are still a lot more opportunities.”

Riker, who works in the thermal side of B&W said while thermal is flat, it is still a piece of the company’s energy portfolio with 50% of B&W revenue coming from thermal. B&W even purchased two fossil businesses recently. Riker said it’s important to meet the global need for carbon reduction with patented, renewable waste-to-energy, biomass, hydrogen production, solar and carbon capture solutions. “We need you,” he said. “It’s incredibly important that we stay in this market.”

Buckler introduced the ClimateBright Technology suite, which includes new technologies such as green steam, long duration energy storage and direct air capture. He also discussed different kinds of feedstock, such as waste, to fuel a new energy generation. He said B&W is at the forefront of developing CO2 capturing technologies and that the company has 93 patents related to carbon capture, positioning them to provide critical solutions to meet global climate goals.

Other guest speakers included NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler; Amedeo Testa, Secretary General of the Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers; President of the AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department James Hart; Robbie Hunter, President Emeritus of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California; Ed Smith, Ullico President and CEO; Walt Ingram, President and CEO, Union Sportsmen Alliance and Rick Gerasta, Sr. VP of Segal Consulting.
Local 744 takes NACBE safety award

The National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers presented Great Lakes Area Local 744 (Cleveland) with this year’s John F. Erickson NACBE Safety Award. Presented during the 2023 Construction Sector Operations Conference in Marco Island, Florida, Feb. 27 through Mar. 2, the award is based upon the achievements of the top-performing locals in the Boilermakers’ four U.S. International Vice Presidents’ geographical jurisdiction.

NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler presented the overall 2022 safety index and opened with an important message:

“Every contractor has a commitment to safety; every employee has a commitment to safety; every owner has a commitment to safety, and they will not tolerate any unsafe habits. It’s a lot different today than it was years ago,” Traxler said.

Statistics from 35 NACBE contractor organizations included good news from 2022 common arc testing experience rates, which were significantly up in all categories from previous years. Following on a positive track was a .24% decrease in injury rates for lost time over the past year. On a slight increase, OHSA recordable rates went from .49% to .78% in 2022 and compensable rates from 2.19% to 2.72%. Compensable eye injury rates remained the same from 2021 at 30, however the overall eye injury rate dramatically decreased from five in 2021 to only one in 2022. In total, there were 27 locals at a zero compensable injury rate in 2022, down only one from last year’s 28.

L-744 BM-ST Marty Mahon accepted the national safety award on the local’s behalf.

“It was a great honor to win [the] NACBE award. It is a tribute to our contractors and especially the dedication of our members to detail and craftsmanship.” Mahon said.

NACBE annually recognizes local lodges for their members’ dedication to making and keeping their workplaces safe. In recognition, one nationwide winner and one winner from each of the remaining U.S. sections are awarded. The awards are determined by the lowest injury rates followed by the highest percentage of Boilermaker man-hours worked for NACBE contractors participating in the NACBE safety index.

Sectional award winners were: Northeast—Local 28 (Newark, New Jersey); Southeast—Local 37 (St. Louis) and Western States—Local 11 (Helena, Montana). 🌟

“...It was a great honor to win [the] NACBE award. It is a tribute to our contractors and especially the dedication of our members to detail and craftsmanship.”

Marty Mahon
BM-ST Local 744
The face of a 150-horsepower water-tube boiler George Babcock and Stephen Wilcox fabricated over a century ago is on deck for display at the new International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Headquarters and Museum in Kansas City. “[It] will be an amazing artifact of history and craftsmanship that will be displayed in the future Boilermaker museum,” said Dave Stewart, Director of the Boilermaker History Preservation Department.

Members of Local 744 (Cleveland), who helped rig and mount the façade at B&W’s Akron, Ohio, offices back in 2019 did the “reverse” job dismantling it for transportation to its new planned permanent home. L-744’s Steve Ginley was excited to take on the project.

“As a Boilermaker, and with the legacy of our trade, being able to work on this historically significant boiler that has mutual history with the union and will now be displayed at Headquarters is an honor.”

The boiler was originally manufactured for the first World’s Fair, the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia, where it awed the public for its 600-ton Corliss steam engine and “established B&W as the preeminent industrial and utility boiler maker in the world,” said Babcock & Wilcox Vice-President and General Manager Mike D. Hidas.

L to r, L-744 Boilermakers Heath Vincent and Greg Parne secure posts to the facade.

L to r, L-744’s Heath Vincent and Dave Weirich II work on both sides of the boiler.

“[It] will be an amazing artifact of history and craftsmanship that will be displayed in the future Boilermaker Museum.

Dave Stewart
Director, BHPD
“DON’T BE AFRAID TO GET HELP AND TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT’S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE. THERE IS HELP FOR YOU.”

—John Smith
It started with just one pill—only a bit of fun with his friends. But that pill became dozens, which took an 18-year-old down a path he didn’t expect. And after nine years of opioid abuse, John Smith’s* life spiraled out of control. Now the fourth-year, 29-year-old Boilermaker apprentice has a story to tell—one of addiction and recovery.

Smith didn’t take opioids simply for a good time; he was outrunning demons, too. His cousin had committed suicide and he’d been the one to find the body—a tragedy he’ll never forget.

Fast forward eight years. Smith, now with a wife and new baby, indentured into the Boilermakers’ apprenticeship program. He was still taking opioids. He felt he “needed” them.

“The job we do is very hard labor,” he says. “You’re on your knees all day. You’re working until your body can’t work anymore, and then you keep working. You go home and look for a way to deal with the pain. Then you’re hooked.”

Smith is not alone. A recent study published by the journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence found that “in comparison to all other professions, construction workers had the highest prevalence of misusing prescription opioids.”

The physical nature of construction work can drive misuse. CPWR, the Center for Construction Research and Training, found that the construction industry has one of the highest injury rates compared to other industries.

Compounding the problem, says Chris Trahan Cain, Executive Director of CPWR and Director of Safety and Health for North America’s Building Trades Unions, workers in the construction industry often have to go to the jobsite, even if their body is nursing an injury.

“You have pain. You go to the doctor and they prescribe opioids. People have been tricked into thinking these are the only way to manage pain,” she says. “Doctors are finally coming around.”

According to the Center for Disease Control, one in four people who use opioids become addicted. Many don’t know how or where to find help. Some won’t admit it’s a problem. Some are ashamed to speak up, fearing retribution.

Smith says he witnesses that stigma in the field. He perceives an unwritten rule in the building trades to not talk about addiction.

“You’re kinda like a wimp if you admit you have a problem. With anything,” he says. “What I hear is ‘You’re a man, just grow up.’”

Smith says that construction workers want to think they can handle addiction on their own. That they’re scared to ask for help because of the potential for ridicule.

During his first year as a Boilermaker apprentice, nine years after he took his first opioid, he found himself unable to manage his unraveling life. He was missing work and not keeping up on apprenticeship studies. Through it all Smith

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*Editor’s note: The Reporter is referring to the Boilermaker in this article as John Smith to protect his identity.

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Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund’s benefit helps apprentice find sobriety

one in four people who use opioids become addicted.

– Center for Disease Control
2019
he kept telling his wife he had his opioid use under control—even though he knew he needed help.

One morning, he didn’t have any money and had no way to get to work. And that evening, he had a quarterly apprenticeship meeting at his local, where the business manager and the apprentice instructors check in with apprentices to confirm they’re on track in the program.

“I was the last apprentice called in. They’re like ‘What’s going on? You’re not showing up on the job, you’re not doing work, and you’re not meeting your quota.’”

Smith decided he had to be honest. He knew he needed to stop using—yet he had no idea how to quit.

“I told them I had a serious drug problem and I needed help,” he says.

That’s when his business manager informed him of a substance abuse program benefit through the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund. Smith took down all the information and, two days later, worked up the courage to call the Fund’s Substance Abuse Crisis Line and was referred to a preferred facility approved by the Fund.

“I found rehab to be welcoming. A cool place,” Smith says. “To have someone I could talk to and relate to was really nice.”

During his 30-day stay he attended classes, talked to counselors and learned more about substance use disorder and how to beat it. Even equipped with new information and a will to stay clean, during his first three months out of rehab he faced challenges.

“I ran into demons that said, ‘go this way or go that way.’ But instead I went to meetings when I needed to,” Smith says. “And after six months, I didn’t even think about it anymore.”

Trahan Cain from CPWR says it takes “five days to become dependent on opiates. And science tells us they don’t work as well as Tylenol for muscular pain. Before the opioid industry tricked America, they were used for a couple of days post-surgery or for a broken bone.”

She says NABTU and CPWR are working on educating those in the construction industry and are working to destigmatize substance use disorder.

“We didn’t create this problem, and we didn’t go to school to learn how to deal with this; but it’s affecting our industry,” she says. “We’re really playing catch-up here.”

It’s been over two years since Smith entered rehabilitation, made possible by the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund’s benefit plan. He’s not quiet about his recovery or his former addiction, either. He’ll tell anyone who’ll listen about it, because he’s committed to helping his union brothers and sisters who may be fighting what he used to fight—substance abuse.

“Don’t be afraid to get help and talk to people about what’s going on in your life,” Smith says. “There is help for you. Being sober isn’t a minute, hourly or daily task. It’s an every-second task. Keep focused and stay focused.”

Substance abuse is a safety issue that affects everyone on the jobsite, not just the person who’s using. Sometimes it’s hard to tell if someone you work with has a substance use disorder.

Often, if they’re addicted to opioids, they seem off. Sluggish. They may be having a hard time doing duties they normally do. And others on the job may be covering for them. Working with someone who is impaired is not safe no matter what substance they’re using.

It’s hard to ask for help. It’s also hard to ask someone you work with if they need help. But your life and the lives of your coworkers depend on it. If you or one of your union brothers or sisters has a substance use disorder, there’s help.

Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Fund Substance Abuse Treatment Program covers:

- Paid travel expenses for patient and one support person
- 30 days of inpatient rehabilitation
- 11 months of continued care and support following inpatient rehabilitation
- Minimal out-of-pocket costs with successful completion.

To see a full description of benefits and limitations, refer to your 2023 Summary Plan Description available at www.bnf-kc.com

Call the Boilermakers Substance Abuse Crisis Line
877-244-3572
L-627 exhibits, sponsors Arizona career fair that attracts thousands

E ach year, more than 5,000 students from over 70 high schools turn out for the Arizona Construction Career Days to check out what the construction industry might offer them after graduation. The crowd is chock-full of future architects, HVAC techs, electricians, engineers and...Boilermakers.

This past December, L-627 (Phoenix) and the Western States Joint Apprenticeship Committee put Boilermakers front and center among the outdoor event’s 90-plus exhibitors by signing on as a platinum sponsor.

“Schools have traveled from all over Arizona, as far as 300 miles to attend this event and find out more about a career in construction,” said L-627 BM-ST Jacob Evenson. “It’s the largest construction event that reaches out to high school students throughout the state of Arizona.”

The fair is hosted by the Association for Construction Career Development. Joining the many exhibitors this past year were 13 career and technical education institutions that have welding programs with which L-627 Boilermakers participate, including serving on several of their welding advisory boards. It all added up to a lot of potential exposure for Boilermakers.

In addition to speaking to students about the benefits of a Boilermaker career, L-627 featured a working model crane in their booth for attendees to try. The ACCD encourages exhibitors to include hands-on elements in their displays.

“This event was a great opportunity to present a construction career to the generation that will be entering the Arizona workforce within the next four years,” said Evenson. “With all the union apprenticeship programs represented there, we proved that going into a trade is a valid career—and that quality craftsmanship of the highest standards can accelerate your career equal to any college education.”
Forty Northern Indiana high school students showed off their skills and competed for prizes as Local 374 (Hobart, Indiana) hosted its first SkillsUSA contest at its training center Feb. 4. The daylong event included 22 individual competitors and six three-person teams, representing six area schools.

“This competition—and having it hosted at the Boilermakers’ facility—helps the students put themselves in a real-world situation,” said Rachel Moore, an instructor at Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning, which brought three teams and two individual competitors.

Lowell Senior High School instructor Raymond Goss agreed.

“This puts them under pressure and throws them into the fire—literally,” he said. “They’ve got to problem solve under pressure and use machines they may not have used before.”

It also exposed them to the Boilermakers and served as a recruiting opportunity for L-374. Not only did the students experience working hands-on in the Boilermakers’ training center, but they also got to meet some of the Boilermaker members—who served as hosts and judges.

“That can have a major impact on the students,” Moore said. “They get to meet the Boilermakers and see where they train. It gives them a good idea of what’s ahead for them in the trades.”

Moore noted that several of her students have interned with Local 374, and she proudly pointed out a former student—now Boilermaker apprentice—on the local’s apprentice wall of fame.

“These students will be able to apply for apprenticeships.
This competition—and having it hosted at the Boilermakers’ facility—helps the students put themselves in a real-world situation.  “

Rachel Moore, Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning Instructor

Jo Vercruysse preps a table leg end while Lowell Senior High School Team II teammate Lindsey McIntosh steadies the piece.

L374 BM-ST Dan Sullivan, left, and Nick Tokarz lay out the competition’s agenda for students, instructors and parents.
soon,” added Goss. “This gives them a chance to see what a union is like.”

For L-374 Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer Dan Sullivan, agreeing to host the event was a no-brainer. He serves on Lowell Senior High School’s tech advisory board, and when he learned that SkillsUSA was looking for a new contest host, he jumped on the opportunity.

SkillsUSA gave L-374 a little guidance and handled the student registrations, but they left the competition curriculum up to the local. Sullivan said they structured the day based on the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program Apprentice of the Year competition, composed of tests on welding skills, fabrication and a written exam. For SkillsUSA, they adapted BNAP and the Great Lakes Boilermaker Apprenticeship Program materials.

For the team competition, each team completed a group written exam and received materials and instructions for fabricating a welding table. Judges checked in with the teams at different points to provide feedback, guidance and approval to move forward with their work.

“It’s been a little bit of a learning curve, but we got a lot of great feedback from the instructors, parents and students,” Sullivan said. “Everyone was really pleased with how they day went.

“Anyone who wants to host a SkillsUSA competition needs to have a game plan and just work that game plan. I think anyone can do it, especially when we already have the facility set up for this kind of thing.”

Sullivan tapped local members Nick Tokarz, Brad Seivers and Jason Struzik to lead the event efforts, and he said it took about 20 Boilermaker volunteers to make things run smoothly. Some acted as hosts, exam proctors, judges and gave general guidance to the students. The local also provided breakfast, snacks and lunch for the competitors.

“Doing little things like that makes them feel welcome,” Sullivan said. “They get to see we’re a brotherhood—we’re family.”

Team winners were: Lowell Senior High School, first and third (Lowell sent multiple teams to the competition); Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning, second place; Kankakee Valley High School, fourth place.

Top individual winners were: Bill Thorner, first place; Thad Pletcher, second place; Allen Evans, third place; William Quesenberg, fourth place; and Wesley Tiemes, fifth place.

Top team and individual winners advanced to the state SkillsUSA competition.

And in the end, Local 374 won, too: prospective new apprentice applicants, team-building among the Boilermaker volunteers, positive community relations and six new welding tables.

“I hope this will be an annual thing. We’re empowering students and introducing them to the Boilermakers. This is the kind of opportunity that gives them a leg up in getting into a union apprenticeship, and we look forward to taking applicants that come from these competitions,” Sullivan said.
Six teams compete against each other—and the clock—to fabricate welding tables.

Angela Gallegos, a senior at the Hammond Area Career Center, works through her written exam.
Back in the day of its full-time operation, Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, Alabama, was one of the largest iron producers in the South. Built in the late 1800s, it became a major player in the flourishing iron and steel industry. Today, Sloss Furnaces is a historical landmark, giving visitors a look into the living history of iron and steel. And the five employees of its artistic team at Sloss Metal Arts, a part of Sloss Furnaces, have joined the Boilermakers.

While it may be puzzling to have artists in the Boilermakers, it makes sense because of their craft.

“A lot of what they do is forging and blacksmithing,” said Great Lakes Organizing Coordinator Jody Mauller. “Their workplace is a national historic landmark. They take so much pride in what they do. It’s cool they chose us.”

Like many plants in its day, Sloss had a dubious history concerning segregation and anti-labor sentiment, which is one of the reasons Sloss Metal Arts Foundry Manager Odette Blaisdell wanted to join a union. As a resident artist at Sloss, they teach workshops on casting and welding, and they fabricate sculpture commissions.

“For me, this union symbolizes the final turn away from Sloss’s historic predatory and brutal treatment of workers and a new chance to treat workers fairly,” they said.

In addition, Blaisdell felt that there were specific aspects missing which could make them feel more secure and supported as an employee.

“It felt like our work environment was constantly shifting,” they said. “This prompted us to seek a union. Once we had voiced our intention, the symbolism of bringing in a union was both beneficial and metaphorical.”

Artist Sam Horowitz designs and fabricates unique cast iron artworks and awards from start to finish including wax sculpting, mold filling, and pouring.
Historically, these workers would have benefited greatly from the Boilermakers union, and I am proud to have a hand on that torch.

Odette Blaisdell
Sloss Metal Arts Foundry Manager
By teaching our skills to a wider audience, we can keep this craft alive and relevant for the next generation.

Sam Horowitz
Sloss Metal Arts Resident Artist
making, pouring iron and metal finishing. The team at Sloss Metal Arts also hosts public iron casting events, workshops and a summer youth apprenticeship program. Horowitz said the work is important so the metal arts don’t fade into obscurity.

“By teaching our skills to a wider audience, we can keep this craft alive and relevant for the next generation,” he said. “The skills students learn while working beside us are endlessly transferable. Too many young people are losing touch of working with their hands.”

Horowitz concurred with Blaisdell’s sentiments about unionizing as a way to gain security at work.

“We felt it was important to unionize because management was changing the terms of our employment and taking away our stated benefits without reason or sufficient notice,” he said.

Unionizing at Sloss in 2023 wasn’t something past workers would have believed possible because Sloss Furnaces’ working conditions were frequently harsh. Long working hours, low pay and hazardous working conditions were imposed on workers, many of whom were immigrants and African Americans. They were often injured and ill from their work in the furnaces and blast furnaces, which were hot, noisy and frequently dangerous.

In the past, to improve their wages and working conditions, employees at Sloss began organizing. The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers orchestrated a lengthy strike at Sloss Furnaces in 1907. Yet the workers returned to their jobs with few conces-

sions after the strike was finally ended by force. Eventually, Sloss Furnaces closed in 1970. And now they’ve turned that dark history around by voluntarily acknowledging the union.

Sloss is a truly unique historical national landmark—both in its location and its operations, according to Horowitz.

“We are granted paid time to work in our own studios, and this time supercharges me for the rest of the week,” he said. “From stoking our own fires, helping kindle young minds and losing ourselves in the occasional deep dive of a complicated commission, every day is different and interesting.”

As for Blaisdell, they enjoy any day they can pour iron.

“Not only is it so exhilarating to feed the furnace, to open up the tap hole and to catch a ladle of molten iron—but iron pours are also when our team is most in sync with each other,” they said. “We all love pouring iron, so we are in our element, having fun, working together as one unit.”

As these new Boilermakers join Local 108 (Birmingham, Alabama), it’s Blaisdell’s hope that a new chapter has opened at Sloss. “With unionization, we hope to move away from the history of exploitation and instead carry on the site’s legacy of ironmaking in a more just and fair workplace.”

Photos on cover and pages 19-21 are courtesy of Ambre Amari of Amari Editorial.

For more information about Sloss Furnaces visit www.slossfurnaces.com
Members at Local 13 (Philadelphia) hosted a forum for candidates running for positions in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 4, with a prestigious guest, Gov. Josh Shapiro, joining them. Along with giving local Democrats a platform, the event provided an opportunity for members to keep the conversation going with newly elected governor on energy concerns. In addition to the governor, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and three state senators attended the event along with the public.

“We also wanted to have more conversations with the governor,” he said. “The biggest push we have is CCUS.” He said it’s important to keep Shapiro and his team apprised of some of the projects that are coming to Pennsylvania.

Bland pointed out that Shapiro, on the campaign trail, said the right things about concerns facing Boilermakers and other trade unions. The previous governor, Tom Wolf, supported RGGI—the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative—and even implemented an executive order to enact it. The initiative has cost jobs and does little to mitigate greenhouse gasses in the 11 other Northeast states where it’s been enacted. In Pennsylvania, it’s tied up in the courts, but it’s still a looming threat hanging over the state.

“I’d met Josh a couple times on the campaign trail, and he said he couldn’t support RGGI as it stands,” Bland said.

Bland is hopeful that the new governor is going to support the trades and bring back industry to the state. So far, Shapiro has expressed balanced views on fossil fuels. “He understands that we must have a fossil industry, too.”

Governor Josh Shapiro visits Local 13

members at Local 13 (Philadelphia) hosted a forum for candidates running for positions in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 4, with a prestigious guest, Gov. Josh Shapiro, joining them. Along with giving local Democrats a platform, the event provided an opportunity for members to keep the conversation going with newly elected governor on energy concerns. In addition to the governor, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and three state senators attended the event along with the public.

“The Democratic Party asked if we could host an event,” said L-13 BM-ST John Bland. Bland noted that any time the local can get facetime with the governor, it’s a good day and another reason to host public-facing election events.

Boilermakers named to governor’s transition team

Newly elected Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro appointed two Boilermakers to his Energy Transition Advisory Committee. The two appointees, Local 154 BM-ST Mike Stanton and Local 13 BM-ST John Bland have met with the committee to help determine what’s good for both the energy industry and for the Commonwealth. Bland said the meetings have been positive and solution focused.

He said that Shapiro understands the need for balance when approaching solutions to climate change and that the new governor understands the need for a smart approach to fossil fuels.

“You’re never going to get rid of fossil fuels,” Bland said. “From the computers in your office to the clothes you wear, they all need fossil fuels.”

PHOTO: While at L-13, Gov. Josh Shapiro and Lt. Gov. Austin Davis heard for the first time about Helmets to Hardhats and the excellent work opportunity the program offers former service members. From l. to r. Shapiro, L-13 Apprenticeship Coordinator Matt Fink, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and L-13 BM-ST John Bland
For an excellent example of how Boiler-makers and politics mix to serve working men and women, look no further than Jason Small, Montana’s Republican state senator from Local 11 (Helena, Montana). Small, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Nation, serves the 21st district which includes Busby, Montana. He also served as the president for L-11 at the time of his election to office in 2017.

Serving constituents for the last six years has been a balancing act of trying to serve the people and fund his own life. His pay working in the legislature is $13 an hour as opposed to working the tools in the field making much more.

“It’s probably cost me $350,000 in lost wages,” Small says. “Everybody here is retired or they have a business that’s successful enough to step away from. Some have jobs online so they can work during the day.”

But that’s not how Boilermakers roll. The legislature in Montana is a part-time “citizen’s legislature,” which aims to ensure that the voices of ordinary people are heard and that their needs and interests are reflected in the laws and policies enacted. That doesn’t always pan out, though, since often only those who can afford lost income are the people who run for office.

That’s not the story for Small. In his short time in the state Senate he’s had a big impact that will be felt for years to come. And it all started because of the state of energy, particularly fossil fuels, during the Obama Administration.

“The Democrats were getting ready to take over everybody’s life that wasn’t living in a city,” he says. “They were over every area of your life, including your water.”

Small had done some contract work helping the United Mine Workers and, of course, was worried about Colstrip Power Plant, which was slated to be closed, ending work for him and others in his local and his tribe. Through work in the legislature, Colstrip remains open, although only two of its four units are still in operation.

“About the same time I was running [for Senate], there were eight to 10 people sitting in the house and everybody was out of work,” he says. “You either worked at a coal plant or a mine. Half of my extended family were out of work at that time.”

As Small works his last stint as senator due to term limits, he has reason to be proud of what he’s accomplished while he’s been in office.

“I carried Medicaid expansion. It’s a $2 billion boost to the economy. If you like your teeth, you can thank Jason,” he says with a chuckle.

His work helped to fund Indian Health Services policy and through that, kept small town health clinics and rural clinics open.

In 2019, Small worked on the biggest labor bill in the state in several decades, securing prevailing wage remediation for coal-fired facilities. He helped to wipe out harmful right-to-work legislation as chair of the state business and labor standing committee.

“I could have run for a different role but wanted business and labor,” he says. Small’s advocacy is evident in more than politics. He also has helped his local and his tribe through his work in the Boilermakers.

“At one point, we were building a training center,” he says. “We were training on the reservation to get people into the apprenticeship 10 to 12 years ago when almost no one wanted to do trades because of the push for college.”

After his term ends, what’s next for Small? He’ll get back to travelling as a Boilermaker. And as far as advocacy and possibly politics, he says: “I’ll stay involved in one form or another.”
Nearly 500 Boilermakers and guests celebrate Local 146’s 75th Anniversary.

**L-146 marks milestone 75th anniversary**

Nearly 500 people attended a banquet at the Enoch River Cree Resort in Enoch, Alberta, Jan. 21 to celebrate Local 146’s 75th anniversary.

“It makes you feel pretty special to be part of an organization that’s been around for that long. Seventy-five years is a good milestone,” said L-146 Business Rep Jason Speer, who led planning for the event. “Most things that have been around for that long have strong roots.”

L-146, which has training centers in Edmonton and Calgary, hosts an annual banquet to honor members’ years-of-service milestones and recognize top apprentices. That event was cancelled for the past two years due to COVID, making the 75th Anniversary banquet even more special.

In addition to honoring service years and apprentices, the event featured remarks from the International, Boilermaker Contractors’ Association Executive Director Sara Scott and other dignitaries. The local also reached out to contractors and service providers for donations and sold raffle tickets for a variety of prizes. Through
Boilermakers win 11 ILCA Awards

The International Labor Communications Association has announced that creative work produced by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has won 11 awards of excellence in its annual ILCA Labor Media Awards for work created and published in 2021. The Boilermakers Communications Department competes each year in the National/International category against other ILCA union communication affiliates.

**First Place**
- General Excellence, Print Publication – Fall 2021 Boilermaker Reporter
- Visual Communication, Best Front Page/Cover – Fall 2021 Boilermaker Reporter
- Writing, Best News Story – “Power plant’s zero recordable rate a boon for Boilermakers, Enerfab” (Fall 2021 Boilermaker Reporter)
- Writing, Best Series – A Look Back (the Boilermaker Reporter history page)

**Second Place**
- Electronic Media, Best Promotional Video – “Because We’re Boilermakers”
- General Excellence, Single Issue Publication/Collateral – Recruiting Brochure
- Writing, Best Profile – “Courage leads to life-changing apprenticeship” (Spring 2021 Boilermaker Reporter)

**Third Place**
- Best Multimedia Campaign – California’s CCUS advocacy campaign
- General Excellence, Website – www.boilermakers.org

**Honorable Mention**
- Visual Communications, Best Front Page – Winter 2021 Boilermaker Reporter

For a complete list of all winners, visit laborcommunicators.org
Looking at j’Amey Bevan’s resume, it’s clear she has had a rewarding career. Bevan has dedicated herself to the Boilermakers and is now a 24-year journeyworker at Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta). After starting her career in shop and field construction work, she held a position for 14-years in the local’s Apprenticeship and Education Department, where her roles included instructor, apprentice coordinator and director. She also held a six-year term on the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, during which she had the important job of advising the Minister of Advanced Education on all trades in Alberta. Today, she is the Canadian Director of National Training for the Boilermakers National Training Trust Fund.

But how Bevan’s career began may surprise you: She was originally working toward a career in the equine industry, training and caring for horses.

As a teenager, Bevan’s grandfather sent her to summer horse camps and she immediately fell in love with the large animals. Over four summers she learned how to ride and care for horses. After high school, she entered Lakeland College’s two-year horsemanship diploma program in Vermillion, Alberta. Her initial plan was to acquire troubled horses and help get them back on their feet, but she quickly realized that entering the industry was expensive. She couldn’t afford the ranch she had been dreaming of for so long: she needed a way to finance her hobby—and take care of herself.

“I bought my first horses while I was in college. I had horses and no home,” Bevan says. “I guess that really is putting the cart before the horse.”

Bevan’s introduction to the Boilermaker trade came through a neighbor who knew that Boilermaker work could

j’Amey Bevan bonds with a rescue horse.
Thanks to the Boilermakers, I have years of problem solving experience and the confidence of knowing that there isn’t much I can’t do. It’s been a phenomenal career that has given me the tools and the finances to enable me to have horses in my life.

“...”

j’Amey Bevan
Local 146

help her realize her dream. Her first job was on a shutdown, and she found herself excited about the possibilities that becoming a Boilermaker offered. She began her career with the Boilermakers in 1998, and as a third-year apprentice she was able to buy a 25-acre ranch.

Today, Bevan’s ranch has grown. She and her husband live on 65-acres of land, complete with a barn and an indoor arena. Her herd size has increased as well. The pandemic offered more time at home and an opportunity to foster some horses in need. The Bevans were “foster-fails,” though, because they ended up adopting all the horses they fostered from the rescue.

“In 2020 we broke ground on the sanctuary because of the pandemic. We decided to foster some horses from a local horse rescue,” Bevan says. “We have now become a horse sanctuary. Animals that come here stay here. We have 19 equine residents including 14 horses, one mini pony, one mammoth jack donkey, and..."
four miniature donkeys. As the sanctuary grows, we hope to also increase the variety of residents and to include goats, pigs and many other animals in need of a safe, friendly place to live out their days.”

All her adopted animals will live out the rest of their days at Rubicon Ranch Sanctuary.

“We want to ensure our horses have a life free of stress and live as horses are meant to,” Bevan says. “They have a herd, shelters and lots and lots of food. They graze and just behave like horses.”

Many of the horses came to Bevan from stressful and traumatizing situations, abused, neglected and destined for slaughter in the horse meat industry. Canada is currently one of the top exporters of horse meat in the world. While many are calling for a ban on horse slaughter and live horse exports to foreign countries, thousands of horses are still slaughtered every year.

“We took in a mare and a two-week-old foal. They came from Horse Heroes Rescue, who was able to stop them from going for meat,” says Bevan. “A few months later, we took in two more mares who were in rough shape and also headed for meat, one of whom was
pregnant. Unknown to us at the
time, the first mare who came
with the foal was also foal was
also pregnant.” Ten months
after the mare moved in, Henry
was born.
“Henry has been such a gift:
he’s so laid back and kind, very
smart, and has added so much
life to the herd.”
Caring for such a large
herd can be a lot of work,
but thanks to Bevan’s
horsemanship education
and her experience and
training as a Boilermaker, she
can handle everything but the
toughest veterinary work at
the ranch.
“I know I can tackle anything
when situations happen on
the ranch. I have skills and the
knowledge. There isn’t much
I can’t figure out,” Bevan says.
“Horses can get themselves into
trouble sometimes and you
have to solve those problems
fast. Thanks to the Boilermak-
ers, I have years of problem
solving experience and the
confidence of knowing that
there isn’t much I can’t do. It’s
been a phenomenal career that
has given me the tools and the
finances to enable me to have
horses in my life.”
Bevan has given these horses
a second chance at life, and
one day, in the not-too-distant
future, her sanctuary will
provide a place for people to
meet the residents and learn
about horses and other
rescue animals.
“We have the opportunity to
share the gifts of these animals,”
she says, “and with their con-
sent they will be part of equine
education and equine facili-
tated learning events, work-
shops and retreats.”

Interested in learning more about Rubicon Ranch?
Check out the sanctuary’s website: www.rubiconranch.ca

NABTU names Bevan Tradeswoman Hero

Local 146 (Edmonton,
Alberta) Boilermaker and
Canadian Director of National
Training for the Boilermak-
ers National Training Trust
Fund j’Amey Bevan is the lat-
est woman to be honored as a
Tradeswoman Hero by North
America’s Building Trades
Union. Each month, the pro-
gram selects four journeymen
or apprentices who go above
and beyond in their trades.
Bevan began with the Boil-
ermakers in 1998 after a Boil-
ermaker neighbor introduced
her to the trade. Over the years,
she’s held a variety of positions
within the union after work-
ing on the tools. Now, she leads
Canada’s training program
and enjoys advancing the trade
for others.
“Making sure that we have
really good apprentices and
intake processes and making
sure apprentices are prepared
for work is certainly something
I have always been passionate
about,” said Bevan.
The Tradeswomen Heroes
program was created in a
joint effort between NABTU’s
Tradeswomen’s Committee
and Apprenticeship and Train-
ing Committee to spotlight the
dedicated tradeswomen within
NABTU’s affiliate unions.

Read more about sister Bevan: nabtu.org/wp-content/
uploads/2023/02/jAmey-Bevan.pdf

j’Amey Bevan is the Director of National
Training and an L-146 member.
Dave Gototweski is no stranger to the mountains. As an avid hiker and traveler, he’s spent many years climbing mountains across the United States. After losing his wife of 33 years last April, he hiked nonstop. And then knew he was ready for a new challenge. Motivated to take his mountaineering to the next level, he and his son flew 17 hours to Tanzania, Africa, to ascend Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mount Kilimanjaro, a large dormant stratovolcano, sits in Kilimanjaro National Park and is the world’s highest free-standing mountain in Africa and the Eastern Hemisphere. Gototweski’s goal was to make it to the highest point, Uhuru peak: a snowcapped peak with a 19,340-foot summit. The average climbs he had completed were around 14,000 feet, so training for Kilimanjaro was important.

“I did more StairMaster to prepare,” Gototweski says. “It’s as much mental as it is physical. Mindfulness is so important.

I’ve been a Boilermaker since I was 18. It supplied me with a good living, ability to take care of my family and I’m proud to be one—especially at Local 13.

Dave Gototweski
Local 13
You feel crappy if you don’t get your mind right and take it one day at a time. The climb is pretty hard.”

Being a Boilermaker also aided Gototweski.

“As a Boilermaker there is a lot of lack of sleep. Our whole lifetime is between days and nights, and then, boom, you’re off driving another way and living on fumes.”

Getting to Kilimanjaro also required obtaining an “outfitter” from the area to plan the climb. An outfitter leads hikers to the top of the mountain. Once Gototweski and his son secured their guide, up next was getting the right gear for the trek.

“You must have a sleeping bag with a really good liner, because it gets cold,” Gototweski says. “You need good hiking boots and pants, hiking poles to help with balance, cold weather gear, gloves, a good knapsack, sunglasses and sunscreen.”

When it came to the actual climb, Gototweski and his son stayed well and ahead of schedule. Their guide reassessed and they were able to complete their climb in five days, instead of the calculated seven.

“The last day and 3,000 feet were the most difficult. It was 25 below Celsius and my son got altitude sickness,” Gototweski says. “Your stomach is constantly upset about 14,000 feet, and helicopters were going up to pick people up off the mountain.”

Reaching the top was worth the struggle. The view over the mountain was remarkable, with clouds that resembled cotton. And even at the top of one of the highest mountains in the world, Gototweski had his union in mind. Posing with the congratulatory completion sign on Uhuru Peak, he took out his Boilermakers Local 13 (Philadelphia) flag.

“I’ve been a Boilermaker since I was 18,” he says. “It supplied me with a good living, ability to take care of my family and I’m proud to be one—especially at L-13.”

Gototweski and his son remained at the top for an hour before making their descent.

But before they left Tanzania, they had one more adventure to enjoy: a safari.

“We did a local park. We saw a lot of zebras and giraffes, water buffalo, baboons and monkeys and different species of deer,” Gototweski says. “I would like to go back for more safaris.”

Gototweski already looks forward to his next adventure: a trip to Norway in May. He’s also considering another mountainous challenge after his retirement in November, when he hopes to climb the highest mountain in North America, Alaska’s Denali.

Dave Gototweski stands at the top of Uhuru Peak.
The following pins have been presented in recognition of continuous years of service in the Boilermakers union as reported by local lodge leadership.

Local 1 • Chicago

60 YEARS
Sylvester Lopaczynski Jr.

30 YEARS
Daniel Cerullo, Gerald Daniel, David Kent, Ron, Kowalski, Ron Lopacinski, William Maas

25 YEARS
Brian Brewer, Larry Payton

Local 40 • Elizabethtown KY (cont.)

30 YEARS
Chris Church, Steven A. Collins, Floyd C. Evans, Harold David Gallion, Jeffrey D. Hester, Jamie D. Holbrook, Benny Hopkins, Gerald R. McDavid, Calvin R. Minton, Lance Mercer, Howard D. Settle

25 YEARS
Rodney K. Adams, Alex S. Ball, James T. Burton II, Mike Cochran, Michael L. Coy, Billy G. Denson, J. Brian Garrett, Larry E. Gollhine, Scott W. James, Cortney W. Sweet, Samuel C. Vincent, Marcus G. Wethington

20 YEARS

15 YEARS

Local 40 • Elizabethtown KY

70 YEARS
Connis H. Mercer

65 YEARS
Jerry C. Daugherty, Melvin L. Jeffords

60 YEARS
James R. Lyons, Samuel A. Wilcox

55 YEARS
David H. Arnold, Vincent A. Bell, Thomas W. Colvin, Roy S. Gossett, Joe W. Hopper, Garmon Dennis Kulmer, James Mannahan, Bobby H. Miller

50 YEARS

45 YEARS

40 YEARS

35 YEARS
Brett D. Denson, Louis V. Etherton, Jimmy D. Harris, Harry C. Hobday Jr.

Local 108 • Birmingham AL

50 YEARS
Allen C. “AC” Champion, Robert Henson IV

20 YEARS
David Dingler

15 YEARS
Ava Simmons

MOVING?

Change your address online at www.boilermakers.org or call us at (913) 371-2640
Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.
Local 363 • East St. Louis IL

70 YEARS
Jack E. Haskell

60 YEARS
Robert D. Campbell, Raymond M. Labelle, Edward McMasters, C. L. Verble, Jim D. Williams

55 YEARS
Howard J. Davis, Louis A. Kaufman, Benny F. Mason, Roger C. Moore, William J. Palmisano, Michael Turner

50 YEARS

45 YEARS

35 YEARS
James H. Byrnes, Lacey G. Hartman, Terry E. Holler, Mark G. Kohlenberger, William M. Mulconnery, Richard D. Parker

30 YEARS

25 YEARS

20 YEARS

15 YEARS

Local 455 • Sheffield AL

40 YEARS
Michael L. Finch

25 YEARS
William C. Patterson

Do your nonunion friends a favor.
Tell them to form a union.
Today.

www.FormAUnion.com

BOILERMAKERS
IN MEMORIAM

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

- Baker, William H.
- Broom, Donald G.
- Curry, William M.
- Dewitt Jr., Duane R.
- Dukes, Jimmy D.
- Fish, Eddie R.
- Freeman, Talton N.
- Gentz, Cleo L.
- Green, David W.
- Holtzapple, Richard J.
- Jordan, Donald E.
- Jones, Jim G.
- Jouett, Gerold G.
- Jordan, Donald E.
- Jones, Jim G.
- Holtzapple, Richard J.
- Green, David W.
- Gentz, Cleo L.
- Freeman, Talton N.
- Fish, Eddie R.
- Dukes, Jimmy D.
- Dewitt Jr., Duane R.
- Jordan, Donald E.
- Jones, Jim G.
- Jouett, Gerold G.
- Jordan, Donald E.
- Jones, Jim G.
- Holtzapple, Richard J.

- Pharis, George L.
- Roberson, Charles M.
- Rowe, Allan E.
- Silva, Edmundo C.
- Simmons, H. N.
- Stinson, James W.
- Thompson, Charles E.
- Welch, Ray D.
- Williams, Dudley C.
- Collins, Gary L.
- Lang, Larry
- McCabe, Boyd
- Slim, Roger Y.
- Sonny, MacDonald
- Alfonso, Oswald
- Bracy, Keith J.
- Holland, John E.
- Murphy, Richard J.
- Duck, Edgar U.
- Gallegos Jr., F.
- Gonzales, Joe P.
- Gross, Kenneth J.
- Harrison, Robert C.
- Orchid, Daniel
- Reynolds, James V.
- Shores, Ronald D.
- Thatcher, Spencer M.
- Vargas, Luis E.
- Wolfe, Harry M.
- Kuczkowski, Peter K.
- Devine, Kenneth J.
- Saylor, Clifford B.
- White, Robert E.
- Benscoter, George S.
- Carlisle, John
- Cram, George E.
- Dougherty, John C.

- Fink Jr., Alson
- Morris, Daniel J.
- Salverio, Rodney D.
- Turek, Paul W.
- D’Orazio, Michael
- Blades, Sean B.
- Drake, Kenneth R.
- McDonald, James A.
- Spaulding, Wallace F.
- Surrency Jr., Robert L.
- Woods, Larry J.
- Bradley, Walter D.
- Gilbert, Lonnie
- Ottomeyer, Glenn E.
- Rustemeyer, Paul H.
- Sharp, Leroy
- Steinkuehler, Robert F.
- Bilotta Sr., Ronald C.
- Centuolo, Peter M.
- Jones, David W.
- Murphy II, John W.
- Fernandes, Stephen W.
- Foxx, William A.
- Gorham, Edward F.
- Hancock, L. M.
- Holland, John
- Laliberte, Normand G.
- Maglione Jr., George
- McNichol, Donald W.
- Roberts, Ronald G.
- Wilson, Glenn L.
- Yates, William F.
- Brown, Matthew L.
- Martin, Garren D.
- Ragland Sr., Clyde D.
- Scanlan Jr., John F.
- Billings, Douglas A.
- Chumbley, Dennis W.
- Gilles, Joseph A.
- Goff, William E.
- Hilburn, Henry A.
- Patrick, Lawrenc E.
- Smith, Dannie E.
- Woodcock, Reathel W.
- Branch, Edward D.
- Goodin, Scott A.
- Nelsen, Mark E.
- Burks, Jerry D.
- Welborn, Alan C.
- Bacus, David L.
- Duran, Fred
- Hall, Wayne L.

- Hartung, Stephen J.
- Roseberry, Robert B.
- Williams Jr., Elmer
- Brown, Ronald J.
- Crosby, William R.
- Grant, James C.
- Lanteigne, Eloi
- Piercey, Cyril A.
- Batiste, Dwight
- Bearden, Russell W.
- Brown, Bob L.
- Newman, C. W.
- Ramirez, Ricardo
- Bailey, Paul G.
- Benfield, Leonard K.
- Brooks, Brenda A.
- Brunner, Garry E.
- Galbraith, Charles J.
- Gough, Bernard L.
- Macklin, Raleigh
- Mazur, Emil A.
- Miley, Gordon
- Miller, Ronald H.
- Morse, Charles E.
- Perry, Charles C.
- Reyna, John P.
- Russell, Donald P.
- Vickers, Danny A.
- Cole, James K.
- Aring, Milton L.
- Braden, Bill
- Canales, Ben
- Couthier, Olin W.
- Cox, James L.
- Siebert, Fred W.
- Marks, Albert F.
- Pittenger, Leonard C.
- Andrews, James
- Arias, Pedro
- Becker, Conrad W.
- Carswell, George H.
- Distler, Donald E.
- Garcia, Antonio
- Immken, William
- Kimbro, Hayward L.
- Sly, Bob G.
- Williams, Glenn B.
- Erdozia, Joe M.
- Garcia, J. J.
- Hackenberg, Rick L.
- Rumler, Jason C.
- Stobaugh, Charles L.
If you have a freezer full of wild fish and game or just a passion for cooking, the Union Sportsmen's Alliance's new 8-video YouTube series featuring savory recipes for whitetail, elk, walleye, duck, salmon, and gator is a must-watch!

WATCH ANYTIME AT YOUTUBE.COM/UNIONSPORTSMEN

COMING IN MAY

TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR OUTDOOR PHOTOS & VIDEOS!

Whether you want to film a hunt, get better hero shots, capture the night sky, choose the best camera, or simply take more impressive photos with your cell phone, this 8-video SMART Tips & Tricks video series will provide techniques and examples to help you on your way.

Subscribe to the Union Sportsmen's Alliance YouTube channel to receive notifications when new videos are posted.
Greedy owners killed union members in the 1922 Shopman’s Strike

After Attorney General Harry Daugherty ordered U.S. Marshals to “keep public order” in the 1922 Shopman’s Strike, Boilermakers were cemented into seeing the strike through and not giving in to the rail owners.

Although marshals had sworn under oath to protect and defend the Constitution, they were considered more thugs than men who upheld the law. Along with private police employed by the railroad companies, they strong-armed striking union workers, who were attempting to use the strike to get the railroad bosses to treat them fairly. The railroad bosses had persuaded the Railroad Board to cut their wages—twice.

Despite the violence, which included outright murder multiple times by private police, union Boilermakers and other unions were gaining ground. Locomotive maintenance, a Boilermaker specialty, was one of the first areas to show the positive effects of the strike when the Interstate Commerce Commission reported that 60% of locomotives were “more or less” in serious condition. A full 25% of locomotives needed prompt attention.

But the railroads denied the report and said all locomotives were safe, despite what the government agency found. Even so, it was clear the strike was disrupting train service and the U.S. mail. Compounding things, food and coal supplies were dwindling with colder weather coming, and the 1922 congressional elections looming.

Just when union members could taste victory, the courts emerged to support the strikebreakers. They gave the rail bosses indiscriminate, sweeping injunctions forbidding nearly all forms of organized strike activity. Following the court decision, President Harding gave permission to seek a restraining order against the strikers.

With all the cards stacked against them, striking workers decided it was time to reach negotiated peace with the railroads. Boilermakers and other unions felt the heat—from the violence heaped upon them and from the cost of the strike.

While the strike was considered unsuccessful, it did produce long term change. The Railroad Labor Board was discredited by its actions during the strike; and in siding with rail bosses to cut pay to poverty levels, the board was dissolved and replaced by the Railway Labor Act of 1926. The Justice Department was tainted by its actions, including the violence wrought upon strikers, and with Daugherty discredited, he retired from public life.

Justice and fair play were absent during the Shopmen’s Strike. And throughout history, this has often been the case when owners are pitted against the workers who made them wealthy. But the following words, published in the February 1923 edition of The Journal, illustrate the kind of idealism that helped Boilermakers weather the strike.

“The strikers are maintaining a fair and peaceful strike. They are law-abiding citizens and the American spirit of justice and fair play will protect them in their rights.”

Unfortunately, owners don’t always play fair, as Boilermakers discovered in 1922 and 1923, and in 2022.

Strike headquarters in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1922. Approximately 140 members of Local 468 joined the strike against the Pennsylvania line.
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