

The official publication of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers, AFL-CIO

SUMMER 2025

STEEL FOR THE

BOILERMAKERS

DEPARTMENTS

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THE REPORTER

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Look for these icons throughout the issue for links to additional online content:



“

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers is secure, it is prosperous and it is growing.

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The state of our union: Pressing forward on a better path

It is no secret that our union has been through some trying times. I don't need to go further on what has transpired in our industries, our world and even within our own union over the past few years; we all lived through these things together.

The Boilermakers union is no stranger to challenges and change. Time and again in our history, when industry innovations have threatened to make our crafts obsolete, we too have innovated and risen to greet new opportunities and evolve.

Time and again in our history, when external or internal issues have shaken us, we have rolled up our sleeves, set differences aside, rallied, regrouped and refocused on what's right and good for our union and the men and women we call brothers and sisters.

Time and again, we have come through these trials stronger; we have made difficult and necessary changes; and we have pressed forward, set forth on a better path.

That is where we find ourselves today.

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers is secure, it is prosperous and it is growing. For the first time in many years, we have had successful organizing campaigns, with multiple campaigns currently in progress throughout the country. We are hiring recruiters nationwide to build our Boilermaker workforce. We are aggressively going after work we may have lost in the past—and in new industries where our craft belongs but has not yet been.

We have restructured our organization, and as a result, we are leaner, we are meaner and we are more financially sound than we have been in five years. We are working together and implementing better programs and better processes. We are innovating the way we promote our union and more nimbly seizing improvements and new problem-solving approaches. We are data driven.

And we have changed. We are focused on the people we are obligated to serve: the members. You. The Boilermakers who work 1,000 feet up on the top of a stack. The Boilermakers who, right now, are crawling through an economizer. The Boilermakers who got up before the sun this morning to mill talc or make cement. The Boilermakers who drive forklifts third shift in manufacturing warehouses, who get greasy repairing locomotives, who contort themselves into the tightest corners of the sweltering inner-bottoms to weld the keel of a U.S. Navy vessel. The Boilermakers who keep the U.S. and Canada going.

It bears repeating: We are working together, all of us—because the better we, as a union, work together, the better our union can serve the members we represent.

That is the state of our union today.

We have come a long way and we're in good shape. I'm proud of where we are today and where we are going next. We cannot stagnate; we cannot—and we will not—stop. We must press forward.



Timothy Simmons
International President

CSO highlights increased demand for union Boilermakers

A rise in energy consumption generated by artificial intelligence data demands, a ramp-up of U.S. Navy shipbuilding, innovative building technology in small nuclear reactors and other factors offer new job opportunities well-aligned for Boilermakers to seize now and in the near future. Organizing, recruiting and training are critical to ensure union Boilermakers can quickly man the jobs.

Under the theme “Organizing Our Future,” those topics headlined the 2025 Construction Sector Operations Conference, where Boilermakers, contractors and owners met to explore industry updates, work opportunities and more, March 31 to April 3 in Miami Beach, Florida.

“With industry changing at such a rapid pace, we must utilize every opportunity to build relationships, to capitalize on work opportunities within our industry and, equally as important, to seek ways to better communicate with each other,” said International President Timothy Simmons in his opening remarks. “We are increasing our training, we are increasing our skill sets, we are increasing our education, while at the same time maintaining the integrity and craftsmanship that you have been able to rely on in the past.”

Testament to industry changes and the hunger for more energy production, Tennessee Valley Authority Vice President of New Construction Bryan Williams gave an overview of growth, new-



International President Timothy Simmons

builds, and re-issuing projects throughout TVA. He said the biggest growth comes from AI data centers.

“The point is that we’re growing and growing and growing, and so we’re building and building,” Williams said. “[There are] Thousands of megawatts under construction, right now, board approved all to be online in the next three years.”

In another big Boilermaker work opportunity, Captain Edward Bartlett, founder and CEO of Bartlett Maritime Corporation, talked about the U.S. Navy’s call for an accelerated build-up of the nation’s defense vessels—and Boilermakers’ roles



“Our great country was built on the backs of our highly skilled union workers, union skill, union pride and union craftsmanship.”

Captain Edward Bartlett
CEO and Founder, Bartlett Maritime Corporation

in filling shipyard jobs with skilled welders. He described it as an “all hands on deck” effort to man the work.

He noted that the U.S. is supposed to have 66 attack submarines, four guided missile submarines and 14 ballistic nuclear submarines, and there are currently only 48 attack subs. While there are four guided missile and 14 ballistic nuclear submarines in service, they are getting old and replacements need to be ready so they can be retired. As shipbuilders have struggled to keep up with a five-fold increase in demand, he said, there aren’t enough welders and skilled trades to get the job done.

“We need to build rugged, highly capable great ships for the crews that are going out today, because you don’t know when they’re going to be called upon,” Bartlett said.

Last year, the Boilermakers and BMC signed a national labor agreement to build a rotational workforce of skilled welders. With help from the Boilermakers, BMC is piloting and developing the rotational workforce system, which invites qualified union welders to fill gaps in labor needs at U.S. shipyards. Construction Sector Boilermakers, for example, who are between jobs anywhere in the country can essentially boom out to a shipyard for work for a set period of time. The program is currently in place with Boilermakers as part of the workforce building the U.S.S. Enterprise in Newport News, Virginia.

“We’re ironing out the kinks [in the program], but this is not a one-off, and it’s worth the effort,” Bartlett said. “Our great country was built on the backs of our highly skilled union workers, union skill, union pride and union craftsmanship. Your skill, experience, passion, pride and hard work is building a monument to your craftsmanship that will live for decades to come.”



Aecon's Jason Campbell, Director Labour Relations

If the rotational workforce program is successfully manned by Boilermakers, it will lead to steady work opportunities for Construction Sector Boilermakers throughout the U.S. for many years.

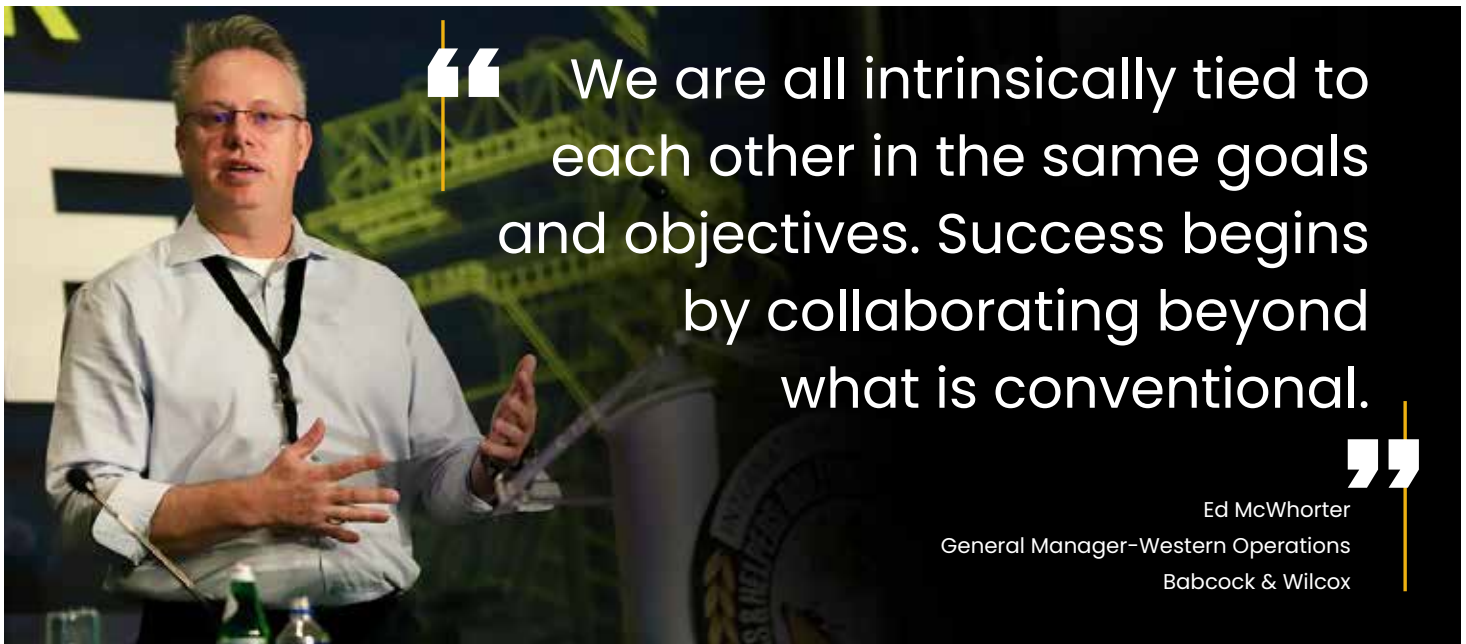
“This is a new step forward for us as an industry,” said IP Simmons. “This will increase our man-hours, help strengthen our pensions, our annuity and everything we need to grow in this organization.”

Small Modular Reactors also present new, steady work potential for Boilermakers. Aecon’s Jason Campbell, Director Labour Relations, and Mark Phillpotts-Delisser, Construction Manager, showed illustrations of new technology that makes building SMRs safer, more ergonomic for workers and more efficient as interest in SMRs grows. Campbell called for union Boilermakers to be ready to build them.

“What we want, and what we know we’re going to get, is a qualified worker from the hall,” he said. He noted the importance of on-the-job learning and mentorship in working with the new SMR building technology. “You’re going to send us a trained worker and we’re going to send you back someone who’s maintained that training and also developed some other skills so they can mentor the next person.”

One program in development to prepare Boilermakers and boost recruiting is near ready for piloting in the Western States. General Manager-Western Operations for B&W Ed McWhorter and IVP-Western States J. Tom Baca gave an update on the Western States’ Readiness To Work program and other initiatives the area is prioritizing.

The Readiness To Work program will be a web-based app and desktop portal program that centralizes the safety and training requirements for all facilities in the Western States.



“We are all intrinsically tied to each other in the same goals and objectives. Success begins by collaborating beyond what is conventional.”

”

Ed McWhorter
General Manager—Western Operations
Babcock & Wilcox

Plans are for the program to also include skill-based training and integration with existing platforms to assess who is ready to go to work and what training is needed. To encourage Boilermakers to complete the necessary training to be job ready, the program also aims to provide some financial reimbursements.

McWhorter also shared ways employers, contractors and Boilermakers are partnering for success in the Western States, including targeting work using the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund and memorandums of understanding and developing a uniform regional M.O.R.E. Work Recovery Agreement—which has resulted in over 500,000 additional man-hours—as well as executing work using a single agreement across neighboring regions.

He and IVP Baca talked about how the Western States and Southeast Area collaborated to address the challenge of creating a single agreement for the El Paso Electric jobsite that spans two states—New Mexico and Texas—in two different regions and with different benefits packages in effect.

The issue, McWhorter said was “How do we present to the owners that we are ‘one.’” While it took time and a lot of careful work between two Boilermaker areas listening to the employer, he reported that an agreement was reached and “it’s paying dividends.”

“We are all intrinsically tied to each other in the same goals and objectives,” he said. “Success begins by collaborating beyond what is conventional.”

Consultant Mike Murphy, echoed this as well in his discussion about the future of energy generation: “These unprecedented demands require immediate collaboration.”

Of course safety is always the priority of all Boilermaker work. Ron Traxler, Executive Director of the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers shared results from NACBE’s annual safety index (read “Local 374 wins top NACBE safety award,” Page 6).

NACBE has celebrated its 50th anniversary over the past year, and Traxler said collaboration has been key to the organization’s success in improving safety results.

“When we think about collaboration, it goes beyond just talking about the plan,” he said. “Together, through open dialog and shared resources, we can build resources that lead us into a brighter future. Together we can make something extraordinary.”

Also of special interest to Construction Sector Boilermakers, Pat Becker, Technical Leader at the Electric Power Research Institute, explained the difference between codes, standards and regulations in the industry—and why they are all integral to successful and safe Boilermaker

work. She stressed the importance of asking questions to understand how and why practices and regulations are set.

“If you don’t know the reason,” she said. “You should ask the question. Knowing ‘why’ you do something is very beneficial and might come into play another time later.”

Joel Amato, Executive Director, National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspectors, gave insight about NBBPI’s history. The board was established in 1919 in response to boiler explosions that were killing people. Beginning with 12 chief inspectors in Columbus, Ohio, the board was created to set uniform standards to ensure safety and to inspect boilers in operation. Today, the board maintains registration data on 72 million units, and NBBPI trains, certifies and provides accreditation for inspectors. They also operate one of two existing labs in the world licensed to conduct pressure relief valve testing and certification.

In other informational updates, AAIP and Executive Director-CSO Anthony Howell presented a Boilermakers Construction Sector status. Director of Government Affairs Cecile Conroy gave insight on the current national political arena’s impact on Boilermaker work and the labor movement. Western States consultant Erin Lehane discussed political measures relative to Boilermakers in California. Director of Jurisdiction-CSO Marty Stanton and Director-CSO-Canada Jonathan White talked about Boilermaker jurisdiction and assignments in the U.S. and Canada.

Further updates came from Mark Wertz, Boilermakers National Apprenticeship



Joel Amato, Executive Director, National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel Inspectors

National Coordinator and Shon Almond, Director of the National Transient Division.

Additionally, j’Amey Bevan, Director of National Training Canada gave an overview of Canada’s robust training initiatives. Director of Health & Safety, Mark Garrett, and Director of Health & Safety-Canada, Jason McInnis, both discussed key issues affecting Boilermakers’ physical and mental well-being.

William “Bill” Miller, Chairman and CEO of the Bank of Labor, shared about the bank’s 100-year history and its commitment to working people and the labor movement. (Read “Bank of Labor: 100 Years of Banking with Purpose,” Page 18.)

The conference also included IVP-area break-out sessions, IVP area reports and informational sessions exclusively for Boilermaker attendees. 🙌



Ron Traxler, Executive Director of the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers, shares results from NACBE’s annual safety index.



L-374 accepts NACBE's top safety award, the John F. Erickson award. L. to r. IP Timothy Simmons, IVP-GL Dan Sullivan, L-374 BM-ST Brad Sievers, NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler and IST Clint Penny.

Local 374 wins top NACBE safety award

Great Lakes Area Local 374 (Hobart, Indiana) earned the John F. Erickson NACBE Safety Award, announced March 31, during the 2025 Construction Sector Operations Conference in Miami, Florida.

Each year, the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers recognizes local lodges for their members' dedication to making and keeping workplaces safe. NACBE names one nationwide winner and one winner from each of the remaining U.S. sections. 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.

Top sectional winners were: Western States, L-549 (Pittsburg, California); Northeast, L-154 (Pittsburgh) and Southeast L-433 (Tampa, Florida).

"It is a testament to our members and contractors who worked the hours and made safety a priority," said L-374 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Brad Sievers. "We are thankful and proud of our Local 374 brothers and sisters, as well as all the brothers and sisters who traveled to help man our work."

NACBE Executive Director Ron Traxler talked about how the NACBE safety program has evolved over time.

"We learned we couldn't just talk about safety without our partners. The Boilermakers recognized it takes everyone to make a safe worksite," he said. "In 1992, the first regional safety awards were presented to the local with the best safety record. This has promoted the safety culture by cultivating healthy competition among the locals."

Traxler also presented the 2024 safety index with 27 contractors reporting on 37.63% of all Boilermaker work from NACBE contractors. Lost-time injury rates were down from .40 in 2023 to .25 for 2024. Compensable injuries were up from 3.22 in 2023 to 3.58 for 2024. The OSHA recordable injury rates were up again for the fifth year in a row from 2023's .92 to 1.40 in 2024, but OSHA recordable eye injuries were down from seven in 2023 to five in 2024. Compensable eye injuries ticked down from 31 in 2023 to 27 in 2024. 🙌



Learn more about NACBE's history:
boilermakers.org/NACBepartnership



**TRADES WOMEN
BUILD NATIONS**

**Registration is open for the
2025 Tradeswomen Build Nations
conference, a popular event
that grows each year.
With limited seats and hotel rooms,
local lodges wishing to send delegates should
immediately make plans to do so and
register to attend.**

**The 2025 TWBN Conference is set for
Sept. 19-21 in Chicago.**



Register and find more information:
**[tradesfutures.org/initiatives/
tradeswomen-build-nations](https://tradesfutures.org/initiatives/tradeswomen-build-nations)**

See the Boilermakers' recap from 2024:
boilermakers.org/2024TWBN



L-242 Boilermakers take a quick break to commemorate their work at the Sila battery materials plant in Moses Lake, Washington.



L-242 project steps Boilermakers into a new future: Batteries

Boilermaker work has evolved over more than a century from the union's roots in steam-powered locomotives to shipbuilding, refineries, nuclear power plants, the latest pollution mitigation technologies and more. And while Boilermakers themselves have also evolved with industry changes, they've remained constant as the dependable, go-to welders, riggers and fabricators that steep the union's history.

That's what makes a recent Local 242 (Spokane, Washington) project both "new" news and old news at the Sila Nanotechnologies battery materials plant. The job is a move into a new industry for the Boilermakers; but for those on the job, it's familiar work.

"I don't think the scope of work—what a Boilermaker does—is really any different. It's just the type of equipment and the process of that equipment that's unique," says International Rep Luke Lafley. "We're still welding, we're still rigging, we're still doing layout, we're still refabricating things that came in incorrectly.

"It's normal Boilermaker work. It's just the technology behind the equipment and the jurisdictional issues that come with it."

As new industry territory, when Sila, a next-generation battery materials company, announced in 2023 that it was building out its first, auto-scale manufacturing plant in Moses Lake, Washington—and that they intended to use a local workforce—the

“This really is basically like a refining facility, but it’s refining new products...It’s great for us as a whole—away from what we’re used to in the old fossil fuels. It’s stepping into the future.”

Jayme Taylor

L-242 Boilermaker site superintendent

opportunity for Boilermakers to build it could have been missed. Fortunately, L-242 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Scott Widdicombe attends local Central Washington Building Trades council meetings, where he learned about the opportunity and about long-time contractor-partner Haskell’s plan to bid on the work.

“It’s important to go to your building trades meetings,” says Widdicombe, who participates in several area building trades groups. “If I had missed one building trades meeting or two meetings, we might not have been involved in this, and it would have been playing a lot of catch up.”

In tandem with building trades involvement, he stresses the importance of the project labor agreements (PLA) as integral to scoring the work with Haskell, working well with other craft affiliates and the project’s overall success.

“Without PLAs, we’re not getting this work. It’s the simple fact of the matter,” he says.

A PLA and early pre-job assignments made for a clear and smooth understanding of jurisdiction from the get-go, which all agree have eliminated inter-craft issues that can halt work, cause friction with contractors and employers and sour future work opportunities. At the Sila project, as Boilermakers work elbow-to-elbow with Ironworkers, Pipefitters and others, it’s been overall harmonious.

“We got all the stakeholders involved, all the parties, all the different business managers from all the different locals within the building trades of Central Washington, and as the scope developed, we got it agreed to and signed, so there’s no drama, or minimal drama, in the field,” says Haskell Site Manager Luke Parham.



Journeyman and Site Superintendent Jayme Taylor (center) gives input to apprentice James Emeric (left) and journeyman Dean Flanigan.



Boilermaker Pedro Orizaga works on a component at the Sila battery materials plant.

Parham describes the new Sila facility as essentially a chemical plant where Sila will make Titan Silicon™, an innovative material that enables a more efficient battery for the auto industry, consumer electronics and other technologies. That means the company is extremely cautious about its proprietary processes and plans—which includes first-of-its-kind equipment built by Boilermakers. It also means Silas' engineers need to regularly tweak and refine original plans that they must hold tight to their chests right up until go-time. Haskell and the crafts all need to be ready to go and pivot as necessary, making the PLA and pre-job work even more critical—and challenging.

“There’s nothing to fall back on,” says L-242 Boilermaker and Site Superintendent Jayme Taylor, referring to the craft assignments and processes. “This is all brand new.”

The tone for fairness was set early in the pre-job phase. Job steward Mark Keffeler said that while Boilermakers claimed their work, they were also

vocal about ensuring other crafts' work was properly assigned.

“We’d say, ‘no, that’s ours; that’s theirs,’ and some guys were pretty new to the jurisdictional assignment process,” he explains. “[Scott Widdicombe and I] talked about it ahead of time, that if we’re fair from the start, we should be fair for the duration, and that’s really worked.”

In fact, Keffeler drives a shuttle van every day to and from the jobsite. His passengers: all Pipefitters.

“You know, we’ve got a new product line so to speak, and if we’re going to move forward getting this done with unions, we’ve got to do it professionally and safely. And that’s what Haskell and Sila have allowed us to do,” he says. “We don’t have to fight about piddly stuff. We might have to make concession here or there, but it’s better than watching across the fence while the work is done nonunion. We’re all getting along good in the sandbox.”

Boilermakers were assigned to the process vessels, air pollution mitigation equipment, reactors, flare stack, components for an auxiliary generator

L-242 Boilermakers use familiar skills in a new setting.



and work on a pressure transfer system for the product. Among highlights of their work at Sila, they set the thermal oxidizer and are building several substantial vessels including multiple massive tanks, some of which may be visible from the road.

“[The Boilermakers] have done an excellent job—high quality work on the tanks, the thermal oxidizer setting, and just constantly working through issues we’ve all experienced, whatever the case may be, to stay on schedule the best we can and pull things back in,” says Sila Construction Manager Shannon Denmark.

Adds Haskell’s Parham: “The craftsmanship here is what I’m used to in the Pacific Northwest, and that’s people show up show up rough and ready, staunch and steady, ready to go. They take pride in what they do, with Jayme all the way down to his crew.”

At its peak, the project employed 20 Boilermakers, which has meant a lot to local members who can commute back and forth for the job rather than leaving home for weeks and months. It’s also good for the local Moses Lake economy. Plus, it’s a significant foot in the door for future Boilermaker work in battery plants and other new industries.

“This really is, basically, like a refining facility, but it’s refining new products, and hopefully it’s on the forefront,” Taylor says. “Moving forward, it’s more work for the Boilermakers and for all crafts really. It’s a new process, and hopefully it takes off.

“It’s great for us as a whole—away from what we’re used to in the old fossil fuels. It’s stepping into the future.” 🔥



L-242 apprentice Nez Ogle welds on a vessel.

Apprentices learn at battery plant project

The Sila battery materials plant project has proved to be a great setting for Local 242 apprentices to make their mark on a growing new industry, sharpen their skills and learn from seasoned journeymen.

For apprentice Nez Ogle, the experience has cemented his decision to become a career Boilermaker.

“It’s been really eye opening for me,” he says. “I’m learning everything that I’ve been wanting to learn.”

Ogle went to welding school at Lewis-Clark State College and had an instructor who was a Boilermaker and talked about the union. So, when he finished school and wasn’t sure what to do next, he thought he’d give Local 242 a try.

“This job is a lot of fun. A lot of journeymen that are here are really helpful, and any question I ask them, they’re super helpful when answering my questions—and they’re really nice to me. So, it’s been awesome. I love it, and I think I’ll do this for the rest of my life.”

Journeyman Steven Pollard is among those working with apprentices like Ogle. He says the job has attracted quite a few apprentices, which makes the jobsite both interesting and challenging.

“You have to keep them with someone who can guide them, but it’s been good,” he says. “We have some really good apprentices coming in right now.”

Boilermaker Site Superintendent Jayme Taylor agrees.

“That’s our future. Those are the guys that are going to have to take over for me when I decide to retire,” he adds. “So, train them young, train them right and make sure they know what they’re doing.”



Watch a short video of L-242 apprentice Nez Ogle at the Silas Nanotechnologies battery materials plant project: <https://tinyurl.com/L242NezOgle>

Pennsylvania gas plant to bring hundreds of jobs for Boilermakers

On April 2, Homer City Redevelopment and Kiewit Power Constructors Co. announced plans to redevelop the former Homer City Generating Station site. Once the largest coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania, the 3,200-acre property will be transformed into a natural-gas-powered data center campus.

The new facility will meet the growing demand for artificial intelligence and high-performance computing. Top technology companies are hungry for more computing power and this project aims to deliver.

Construction will generate hundreds of new jobs for the Boilermakers, according to L-154 (Pittsburgh) Business Agent and Homer City native Shawn Steffee. In addition to Boilermakers, the project will employ thousands of unionized skilled trade workers during the build.

The closure of the coal plant in 2022 was a major blow to Homer City and the local workforce.

“The shutting of coal-fired plants and refineries caused a noticeable drop in our membership and the loss of many skilled Boilermakers to other trades,” said L-154 Business Manager Michael Stanton. “However, we are encouraged by the natural gas industry and excited about signs of a coal resurgence in America.”

Steffee remembers how damaging it was for friends when Homer City closed the coal plant.

“I knew the people who worked here, and the closure was devastating,” said Steffee, who’s thrilled at the prospect of work for Boilermakers in his local. “The Homer City Energy Campus will be a series of natural-gas plants that will power a massive data center campus. What’s really interesting is that this is going to be 4.5 gigawatt, the largest in North America, when it’s done.”

The power block build itself is a \$10 billion investment. Another \$10 to \$15 billion is planned for investment in data centers.

The build can’t be done with renewables. According to Steffee, it would take 75 million solar panels across 230 sq. miles to generate the kind of output the new power block will provide. For wind, the numbers are 5,000 wind turbines across 1,875 sq. miles of land. He said the American people need to understand where reliable power comes from

“When the hiring process starts, we’ll be ready to go. We want to give them qualified men and women.”

Shawn Steffee
L-154 Business Agent.

when they switch on a light. And renewables aren’t reliable.

The Homer City project brings security to the grid and eliminates reliability issues.

“Natural gas, coal and nuclear, these are reliable power,” he said. “What’s really great for the state of Pennsylvania is using the Marcellus and Utica formation. The plant will take 530 million cubic feet of gas per day.”

The local is up for the task of recruiting and training the needed number of Boilermakers for this job. Stanton said they indentured a new apprentice class in May and are actively recruiting through job fairs, school visits and community outreach.

“To strengthen our recruitment efforts, we utilized the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund to partner with a media team to enhance our social media presence and outreach, showcasing the benefits of a Boilermaker career.”

The local will need more Boilermakers because Steffee sees even more work coming. So, he’s keen on being the best craft on the project and fully manning it.

“When the hiring process starts, we’ll be ready to go. We want to give them qualified men and women. We want to build more. We want to build our numbers back up. This project is just the beginning,” he said. “This is just the beginning for us. I couldn’t be happier for our local. We needed the good news.” 🙌



Homer City Generating Station site. Once the largest coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania, the 3,200-acre property will be transformed into a natural-gas-powered data center campus.





California State Assembly District 48 assemblymember Blanca Rubio talks about policies and their consequences.

Western States Tripartite focuses on energy future, manpower

Possible legislation and new energy technologies both threaten and offer opportunities for Boilermakers in the Western States Section. At the 2025 Western States Tripartite conference April 28-29 in Napa Valley, California, Boilermakers, owners and contractors delved together into the region's political and energy environment, new work opportunities and initiatives to address Boilermaker manpower and other challenges.

IVP-Western States J. Tom Baca described the tripartite conference, which began in the Western States in 2005, as a three-legged stool with owners, contractors and Boilermakers working together to ultimately ensure the vital success of owners.

"Make no mistake: This is for our owners," he said in opening remarks. "We expect our owners to tell us what they need from us—the contractors and the Boilermakers—whether that's additional training, legislation or manpower. Whatever we can do. If they're not successful, we're out of business."

Said International President Timothy Simmons: "As a representative of labor, I am keenly aware of the struggles that our industries face. Your struggles, owners and contractors, are *our* struggles.

"We keep this nation running. We don't just build communities, we build nations. Labor, working with contractors, working with owners, we built this nation."

California State Assembly District 48 assemblymember Blanca Rubio made a special appearance at the event, challenging Boilermakers to rally with her in the fight for common sense in California's energy policy legislation. She talked passionately and bluntly about possible environmental requirements that would have harmful consequences to working people, and she pointed to pending legislation that would drive already-high gas prices well beyond affordability. With energy companies bearing the brunt of possible environmental protection costs, they have no choice but to pass those costs along to end-user customers—or close or move out of state. She emphasized the consequences of Valero's potential shuttering due to the restrictive and cost-prohibitive measures.

"They call me 'Big Oil Blanca,'" she said. "It's not about big oil; it's about what it provides for all of us collectively. When Valero closes, people don't have jobs and gas prices go up. I can't afford \$10/gallon gas and neither can my community, especially the poor community."

She said it's hard for legislators and those who champion short-sighted "solutions" to understand the long-term impact of policies that might look good on paper. The key to effectively fighting for common sense is for working people, like Boilermakers, to collectively and individually engage with legislators.

“Tell them the effects on you—how it’s devastating you,” she said. “When we hear from people, it’s real, not just a news story. We need to understand these are real people we’re affecting. It’s people’s lives we’re affecting—your family, long term.”

Conference keynote speakers were EPRI Technical Leader Pat Becker, who discussed the role of welding codes and standards, and author Steve Goreham of the Climate Science Coalition of America, who addressed the fluctuating energy environment relative to net-zero emissions and industry.

Becker explained that EPRI (the Electric Power Research Institute) was created in 1972 after a major blackout power outage exposed the energy grid’s vulnerability. As a nonprofit, they conduct global industry and company agnostic research with a goal to help “shape a reliable, affordable and resilient energy future.” (See more information on EPRI: www.epri.com.)

“I’m not here to sell anything,” she said. “The idea is to try to support what the Boilermakers are doing to try to support what everybody else in the industry needs.”

She went on to talk about research and empirical testing EPRI conducts to inform current safety standards and codes. Codes for boilers and boilermaking, she said, date back to 1865, born of the need for safety when the Sultana steamboat exploded and sank, killing 1,864 people.

“With codes, safety is the first priority,” she said.

In his discussion, “Energy in Flux,” Goreham focused on energy’s environmental impact. He argued that today’s temperatures are not abnormally warm, and that mankind is only responsibly for 1% to 2% of greenhouse effect. He said that six common pollutants have declined 80% since 1970, there has been no increase in global cyclones since 1970 and that sea levels have been rising for 20,000 years at a rate of seven to eight inches per century.

Goreham pointed out that in the push for net-zero emissions and increased “green” energy production, wind and solar energy both require a great deal of land, are expensive and provide only intermittent availability. He said that with the rise in artificial intelligence, the energy demand will jump from the current 4% power demand from today’s data servers to 20% needed for upgraded AI serv-



EPRI Technical Leader Pat Becker



Author Steve Goreham of the Climate Science Coalition of America

ers in the next ten years. That’s 6 to 10 times more energy production required.

“Certainly, it’s not going to come from wind and solar. There’s just not enough there,” he said, noting that with coal production shuttering and the demand for energy increasing, costs will rise. He believes this will lead to less pressure to cut carbon dioxide emissions and a renewed focus on coal, nuclear and natural gas, but also cuts in carbon capture and hydrogen funding.

“The big winner is going to be natural gas in terms of extending or restarting,” he said.

Others providing updates and new initiatives during the conference included Mike Hulst, P.E., President of Harbor Project Management (and Western States Joint Apprenticeship Committee Trustee) and Ed McWhorter, B&W General Manager, Western Operations (and Western States

Contractor Chairman), providing an overview of the Readiness To Work program preparing to launch to ensure Boilermakers are trained and ready to man jobs. Johnny Baca, Director, M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund Initiatives talked about Boilermaker recruiting and about manning work through a nationwide dispatch system. (See “CSO highlights increased demand for union Boilermakers,” Page 2.) Collin Keisling, WSJAP Coordinator, and Mark Wertz, Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Program National Coordinator, gave an update on the Western States and national apprenticeship programs. Keisling presented the latest Western States stats: 435 active apprentices, with 168 indentured in 2024. He said 64% are of a minority race and 17% are female and that 124 apprentices are certified in at least one welding process.

Steve Giffin, Maintenance, Turnaround & Construction Manager at PBF Martinez Refinery (and Western States Owner Chairman) discussed the importance of health and safety, and MOST Programs Administrator Mark Garrett gave an update on Boilermaker safety and MOST.

“Our business involves people. It depends on people, and it can affect people,” Giffin said. “That’s where safety starts—with care and attention to people to make sure they have their craft skills, understand hazards inherent in our facilities and make sure they know procedures. And that we create an environment where people follow procedures. We can rebuild the equipment, but we can’t put our workers back together.”

Additionally, Chris Hannan, President of the State Building Construction trades Council of California discussed the latest building trades ini-



Mike Hulst, P.E., President of Harbor Project Management and Western States Joint Apprenticeship Committee Trustee.

tiatives, Western States political consultant Erin Lehane shared her thoughts on the 2025 California legislative outlook and Director of Political and Legislative Affairs, Cecile Conroy gave her 2025 federal legislative outlook.

Owners, contractors and Boilermakers also met in separate caucus sessions to discuss their biggest concerns, challenges and ideas. Each reported back to the larger group so that progress may be made toward identifying improvements together.

Said Giffin in his report representing owners: “The conversation starts here. Let’s keep it going.” 🔥

“The conversation starts here. Let’s keep it going.”

Steve Giffin
Maintenance, Turnaround & Construction Manager
PBF Martinez Refinery



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Bank of Labor: 100 Years of Banking with Purpose

Bank of Labor, which is celebrating its 100th year of service, is a unique financial institution in the American banking landscape—founded on principles of solidarity, fairness and service to working people. Established in 1924 as Brotherhood State Bank, it was initially chartered by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers to provide union members and labor organizations with reliable, trusted banking services versus the mainstream financial institutions that often excluded or exploited working-class people. Bank of Labor represented a business model of economic independence, self-determination and shared values.

“In those days, banks didn’t want to do business with American workers,” said Chairman and CEO of Bank of Labor Bill Miller. “Their needs and financial resources weren’t considered substantial enough to meet banks’ profitability threshold. Bank of Labor’s message, working hard for hardworking people, reinforces banking solutions to help workers.”

Today, Bank of Labor is headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, and remains deeply rooted in its mission. It offers a full range of financial services to individuals, labor unions, pension funds and related institutions across the country.

“We couldn’t exist without labor,” Miller said. “And we’re here to make labor stronger.”

Unlike profit-driven banks that may invest in companies or causes that are contrary to workers’

interests, Bank of Labor emphasizes transparency, ethical practices and a strong social conscience.

“We don’t invest in things that undermine labor rights,” Miller said. “We partner with businesses and organizations that demonstrate a commitment to labor and our community.”

In 2012, the bank built a platform that would expand their mission of serving the labor movement across the nation, rebranding itself from Brotherhood Bank and Trust to Bank of Labor. This transition marked a significant step in its evolution from a regional bank into an institution with a national footprint, poised to amplify labor’s voice in the financial world.

“For the last 100 years, we’ve found a way not only to remain relevant but to compete with any bank in the United States,” Miller said. “Last year we achieved a billion-dollar threshold in assets. We believe that important milestone is now in our rearview mirror.”

The bank also plays a crucial role in labor-focused financial services, offering specific programs for union treasurers, such as electronic dues collection and tools to help manage pension and benefit funds. It has earned the trust of major labor organizations such as the AFL-CIO, IAM, UFCW, LIUNA and IBEW, to name a few.

Yet perhaps what sets Bank of Labor most apart is its people-first culture and value-driven approach.



In 1950, the main bank was located in Kansas City, Kansas. Today, Bank of Labor’s headquarters is in Overland Park, Kansas.



Bank of Labor’s vault view at the grand reopening of the Main Bank following the 1950 remodel.

“We really work hard to bring a personal approach to everything we do,” Bank of Labor President Bob McCall said. “When someone calls, our employees take a personal interest in fulfilling the reason for the phone call. We’re not saying you can operate without tech—but you can’t provide a high level of consistent good service without interested and capable people. We tend to take things personally, but in a good way.”

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers’ International President Tim Simmons said, “Banking and partnering with the bank we formed 100 years ago to support labor is more than a financial decision, it’s a show of solidarity and financial acuity. While the first 100 years have been successful, I’m more excited about Bank of Labor’s readiness to support and strengthen labor for the next 100 years.”

Bank of Labor exists because of the Boilermakers, and it remains majority-owned by the union today.

“Labor unions are focused on helping their membership,” Miller said. “We’re here to be a financial partner by providing financial tools that keeps labor’s capital working for labor.”

After a century of service, Bank of Labor continues to prosper as a labor-owned, union-loyal institution, driven not by Wall Street profits, but by the economic well-being of the people who build America. Bank of Labor further reinforced their union support by partnering with the United Mine Workers of America to organize their employees, so they’d enjoy the benefits of union representation.

In a banking industry dominated by corporate giants, Bank of Labor remains a powerful example of what solidarity and vision can achieve.

“In a world where people ask, ‘Who is standing with labor?’—we are!” Miller said. 🏆

“In a world where people ask,
‘Who is standing with Labor?’—we are.”

Bill Miller

Chairman and CEO of Bank of Labor



Bank of Labor



Grand opening of the bank’s Center City Branch in Kansas City, Kansas, which opened in December 1979 and is currently under remodel.



Personal service is still a priority at Bank of Labor just as it was in 1981.



Boilermakers win Sherwin-Williams, Quality Carriers organizing campaigns

The Boilermakers union celebrated two more organizing wins on the heels of a successful BWXT campaign in Virginia just a month earlier. Workers at Sherwin-Williams manufacturing and distribution operations in Birmingham, Alabama, and Quality Carrier workers in Pittsburgh voted in April in favor of unionizing.

At Sherwin-Williams, among 84 total workers, 72 voted, with more than 50% in favor of unionizing.

“Their biggest issues were pay, their benefits and safety on the job,” said Southeast Area organizer Carlos Brooks, who headed up the campaign. “It was really exciting to help them and to be a part of impacting change and empowering the workers.”

Tonya Everett, who has worked as a warehouse technician at Sherwin-Williams for five years, voted in favor of the union because she wants a voice to improve safety.

“I’m a firm believer that the only way change comes is if people unite,” she said. “Hopefully, getting us all organized and united, we can make these changes for better safety and better livelihoods.”

This was the first organizing effort led by Brooks—one of three campaigns he was leading at the time. International Rep Mitch Beasley and ISO-Executive Director Don Hamric assisted.

Sherwin-Williams workers voted “yes” to unionize. Next steps: electing their bargaining committee and getting started to negotiate their first contract.



“Carlos Brooks deserves the credit for this win,” said Hamric. “He hit the ground running and stayed ahead of what workers needed to make sure they understood what was at stake.”

“The utilization of digital means by Brother Brooks was instrumental in winning the campaign,” added IVP-Southeast Area Jeff Campbell. “I believe this is just the beginning of organizing success in the Southeast Section.”

Brooks said the key was educating workers on the benefit of having a voice at their workplace through a union and being able to sit down to negotiate a contract.

“The entire process was a great experience from start to finish,” he said. “I’m just really excited about the future of where organizing is going. I’m excited about where our organization is going, the future of Boilermakers’ organizing and finding different ways to reach more employees and impact new members.”

At Quality Carriers in Pittsburgh, nine workers voted to unionize. It’s a smaller unit, but the win is not just a boon for workers there. It also opens the door to organizing Quality Carriers and similar operations throughout the United States.

Quality Carriers has more than 100 terminals throughout the U.S. where workers, like those in Pittsburgh, maintain the tanker truck fleets: dry- and liquid-holding vessels on wheels.

“Boilermakers work in pressure vessels all the time,” said Northeast Area Organizer John Bland. “The opportunity to work with more locations and other carrier companies is huge.”

He said Quality Carrier workers wanted to unionize so they could have a voice and a seat at the table to address conditions on the job and safety.

Bland and Northeast Area Organizer Mike Hancock led organizing efforts, assisted by Director of Cement Lodge Services Steve Adair and supported through the M.O.R.E. Work Invest-



ment Fund. They capitalized on inside help from Nick Herrle, a Quality Carrier worker and certified welder who was a Boilermaker with Local 154 (Pittsburgh).

“I know what union brings. I lived it,” Herrle said. “Local 154 never turned their back on me, and I remember there was a sign at the hall that said: ‘We’re not a club, we’re a brotherhood’, and I believe that.”

“With these wins for the workers at Sherwin-Williams and Quality Carrier, plus our win at BWXT in Virginia, our work at Siemens in California and additional campaigns throughout the country, we are affirming our commitment to growing our union,” said International President Tim Simmons. “These campaigns demonstrate the new direction our union has taken. I could not be more proud of our organizing team.” 🔥



L. to r. NEO Mike Hancock, Director of Cement Lodge Services Steve Adair and NEO John Bland enjoy the win at Quality Carriers in Pittsburgh.

Know a company that needs to organize a union? Visit www.formaunion.com

Kentucky welding competition advances recruitment

The Kentucky Welding Institute 2025 National Senior Welding Competition in Flemingsburg, Kentucky, on April 16th offered students real-world training and scholarships—and opened the doors to future Boilermaker recruits. Chris Elmore, Southeast Recruiter for the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, was happy to speak with over 100 seniors in the competition, as well as 100 more KWI students, plus most of the competitors’ parents who were observing the event.

“Most of these kids in my area know what a Pipefitter is or what an Ironworker does, but not who the Boilermakers are. These events allow recruiters to close that knowledge gap. These events are where our most qualified candidates come from,” Elmore said.

He said he’s already received multiple calls from high school seniors eager to graduate and join the apprenticeship program.

Elmore knows the value of utilizing different recruiting techniques, from hanging posters and

business cards in the school’s welding shops to social media posts. However, his favorite way of connecting is meeting with recruits in person.

“I plan on attending as many of the KWI events as possible,” he said. 🔥



Chris Elmore and Mike Autry are ready to greet future boilermakers.



L-549 hosts Boilermakers organizing training day

Twenty-five Local 549 (Pittsburg, California) Boilermakers turned out to learn the nuts and bolts of organizing during the local's first Organizing Training Day, May 31, at the hall.

Led by Western States Organizer Pablo Barrera and funded through the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund, the day covered labor history, "Unionism 101" and practical organizing tools, including how to have a one-on-one conversation about unionizing. The goal was to keep the training focused on the basics and simple, to empower all members—from apprentices to seasoned journey workers—with solid skills for organizing to grow the union.

"Organizing and community activism are incumbent upon us as union members," said L-549 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Randy Thomas. "That is a heavy obligation without direction and education."

Barrera said they focused on teaching everyone from "square one" to make sure everything was clear, including why workplaces organize and how to talk to workers to help them understand the union difference. To illustrate what organizing is like from the workers' perspective and create engagement, Barrera divided everyone randomly into four groups representing typical industrial workers: assemblers, welders, truck drivers and warehouse workers. He asked everyone to consider everything from their category's perspective. Each group had discussions about different points throughout the training and reported out on their main takeaways.

"I told them to play along and imagine they work at Siemens, they work paycheck-to-paycheck at their job, their spouse works at the Wal-Mart around the corner," he said. "Imagine that's you."

Then he played an actual clip from a captive-audience meeting held at Siemens during the

recent organizing efforts there. The company spokesperson makes promises and speculates on what harm a union might cause to work stability.

"A lot of people knew that workers are scared to organize, but they didn't know why. Because they're already union, they couldn't understand why anyone wouldn't want a union—what were they waiting for," Barrera said. "This gave us a chance to help them understand what workers believe is at stake."

Then he handed out sample union ballots, which he had everyone complete at the end of the training in secret, just as during an actual unionization vote.

"People said it really opened their eyes. They felt something about it and connected with it," Barrera said. "They got the perspective of 'Are you going to organize against your boss?' because that's what we're asking workers to do. To move forward and unionize is tough, and that was my point to them."

The training went well, everyone participated, and plans are already in the works for another class that goes more in depth on organizing. Barrera said a lot of the attendees expressed that they want to get more involved and do whatever it takes to organize more workplaces.

"We now have 25-some Boilermakers who understand what to do and how to start that conversation with a worker about organizing and the union difference," he said. "What I always tell local unions is that the organizers and organizing is only going to be as strong as the membership makes it. Your membership is your best tool to organize."

Thomas said he was pleased with the training and the turnout: "It was great to see members attend who do not always attend union meetings or show up for calls to action. Organizing goes beyond your skills on a jobsite; it has to do with your pride of being a union member." 🙌

USA's first Central Illinois Sporting Clays Shoot a success

The inaugural Central Illinois Sporting Clays Shoot hosted on May 3 at the Oak Ridge Sportsman's Club in Mackinaw, Illinois, exceeded expectations for the Union Sportsman's Alliance. The USA hopes for at least 50 participants for new shoots, but the Central Illinois shoot had 70.

"With a turnout like this, there is a lot of potential for this shoot moving forward. This will become an annual event," said Chris Piltz, USA Events Manager. "This is at a great number starting off. In the next couple of years, we can get this to 100 participants, which is the average successful shoot number."

Members of Local 60, Local 158 (both in Peoria, Illinois) and Boilermaker staff competed in the shoot with fellow union brothers and sisters from the central Illinois area. The Boilermakers won the B class, with Boilermakers International Team-B achieving 2nd place and the Boilermakers Local 60 winning 1st place.

"We all love supporting such a great organization that hosts events to raise money for projects and gets volunteers to help with the work. They also work to get the younger generations involved in conservation and outdoor activities. It's just a great organization," said L-60 President Rex McMorris III.

Making the new event's success even better, Local 60 member Rich Rentsch, a Boilermaker for over 25 years, operates the Oak Ridge Sportsman's Club. The Club's land has been used for trap shooting for

30 years. When Rentsch and his partners bought it in 2024, they overhauled the sportsman's club with much-needed upgrades. After many landscaping changes and replacing manually operated target throwers with automated ones, Oak Ridge opened in October of 2024.

"We want to continue to improve it every year," said Rentsch. His vision for the next five years of Oak Ridge includes expanding the shoot courses, adding projects and skill-testing games, teaching youth hunters' safety and hosting the USA Sporting Clays Shoot annually. 🙌



A L-158 member blasts away a clay target.



Boilermakers compete at the USA's first Central Illinois Sporting Clays Shoot.

For L-374 retiree, giving back is a way of life

Community service isn't something John Beebe does. It's much more than that. It's who he is. The Local 374 (Hobart, Indiana) retiree has spent a lifetime giving back, volunteering, helping others, selflessly going the extra mile and stepping up. It's not a brag. He doesn't need a pat on the back. It's just who John Beebe is.

Beebe is well known as a go-to volunteer and overall champion for the Lake Area United Way; Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana; the town of Highland and Lake County, Indiana, where he lives; the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation-AFL-CIO, which he served as Boilermaker liaison for 61 years; his Methodist church disaster relief team; and Scouting America. Especially Scouting.

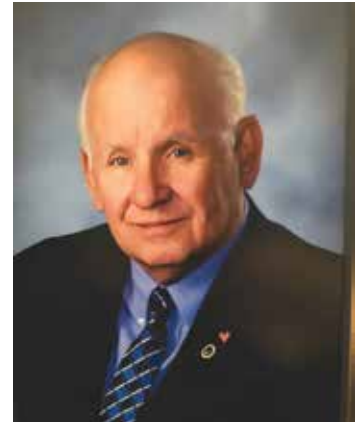
Serving others may have taken root when he joined the Boy Scouts as a kid—and with 73 years of Scouting under his belt, those are some deep roots.

"What intrigued me was the outdoors," he says of his venture into Cub Scouts in 1952. He also admits, "I didn't want to stay at home, because my mother would have me washing dishes."

If avoiding work was part of his motivation, the irony is that Scouts propelled him many years on a path that would hone his dedication to discipline, hard work and service to others. He eventually earned his Eagle Scout, went into the Scout's Exploring program and was working as a life-guard when a fellow Scouting enthusiast and Boilermaker recruited him to work a ship-building job. He wasn't sure what he wanted to do for a career, and he thought it could be a start. Turns out he had a knack for welding. After working a bit, then a short layoff and callback, he was told he'd be sworn in as a L-374 Boilermaker.

Then came a war. Beebe was drafted and served in Vietnam. When he returned home, he took just a few weeks off before getting back to work. From then on, one job led to another, with his well-earned reputation as a good, hard worker and Eagle Scout serving him through the ranks.

In one instance, he was called by a contractor to interview for a superintendent job he hadn't applied to at Bethlehem Steele. They



Local 374 retiree John Beebe



A RECORD-BREAKING SEVEN Eagle Scouts from one Explorer Post were honored recently on Eagle Recognition Day in Hammond. Each boy was sponsored by a research supervisor for American Oil Company. The group is pictured as it began a 3-hour tour of American's refining and research facilities in Whiting. The boys, all from Explorer Post 219 in north Hammond, are: John Thon, Kenneth Lukowski, Dale Buyer, Conrad Grigson, Larry Steffel, John Beebe, and Dan Mankowski. Their sponsors are: A. B. Grah, 1841-171st St., Hammond; R. H. Leet, 6927 White Oak Ave., Hammond; W. A. Wilson, 338 N. Lafayette St., Griffith; J. O. Howe, 3737 Henry Ave., Hammond; T. O. Wagner, 424 Driftwood Drive, Hobart; T. G. Stack, 408 N. Woodlawn Ave., Griffith; and Philip H. St., 2241 N. Schultz Drive, Lansing, Illinois. Eagle Recognition Day is an annual event of Pease Pipe District, Boy Scouts of America. It both salutes the boys who have attained the highest rank in Scouting during the preceding year, and enables each of them to discuss his future career with a leader in his chosen field of endeavor.

Read It In Times.Grafic

Center: John Beebe, far right, poses with five other Eagle Scouts the night of their Eagle presentations. Sixty-plus years later, the six men still meet once a month.

Bottom: A 1964 news clipping honors the Eagle Scouts' achievement.

had his resume and wanted to talk to him, so he drove out and met with several gentlemen, one who sat against a wall and didn't speak. At the end of it all, he was told to go get a cup of coffee. The silent man joined him and said, "Congratulations, you're going to get hired. Those three guys work for me, and you're getting hired because you're an Eagle Scout. Eagle Scouts have leadership skills, and I know, because I'm an Eagle Scout."

Beebe has kept the cycle of goodwill going, volunteering his time with local Scouting throughout his life. Upon his return from Vietnam, he says the local program told him: "Boy we are glad to see you! You're the new Scout advisor!"

He's remained close with the five men who earned their Eagle Scouts with him—they still get together once a month. His wife, who passed away in 1995, was an Explorer Advisor for the Scouts, and his kids were all into Scouting. He's served the local Scouting Council and on the regional board.

"It's a good way to keep your kids off the street and out of trouble," he says. "You never hear of an Eagle Scout getting into trouble."

With his background, it's no surprise that organizations like United Way, area labor federation and other organizations have eagerly recruited Beebe over the years to fundraise, lend his leadership skills or literally lend a hand.

When areas of Munster, Indiana, flooded in 2007 and destroyed over 3,000 properties, Beebe was among multi-craft union members working side-by-side to clean up neighborhoods. He was also instrumental in assessing and reporting critical needs and where help was most needed. Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana gave him an award for that.

His contributions over decades with the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation-AFL-CIO earned him the prestigious George Meany Award.

United Way presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He's met an astronaut, former First Lady Laura Bush and former Vice President Mike Pence. He's even been recognized as a "Distinguished Hoosier" by the then-Indiana State Governor Mitch Daniels.

But that's not why he's done it all.

"I give back as much as I can," he says. "This is your home. This is where you live. We all need to take care of our community. Everything I do, I

seem to have a lot of fun. I don't want to be parked in front of a TV in a chair, so I stay busy."

He has a reputation for staying busy helping others.

"Brother Beebe is an example of what brotherhood means. He is someone Local 374, the labor movement and his community can count on—not out of obligation, but because he really cares about helping others," says IVP-Great Lakes Dan Sullivan.

“I give back as much as I can. This is your home. This is where you live. We all need to take care of our community.”

John Beebe
L-374 retiree

And he cares about instilling community service ideals in the next generations. When Beebe addresses families during Eagle Scout presentations, he encourages the Scouts' parents to read the definition of the Citizenship Merit Badges and what it takes to earn them. Those badges focus on a person's responsibility to their nation, the community and society.

"Read them tonight or tomorrow, then go back and read them again in a few days to understand what your child went through," he says is his advice. "They don't teach that in school anymore." 🙌



Read a 2010 Reporter article about Beebe's flood cleanup work:

boilermakers.org/resources/news/l-374_beebe_recognized_for_flood_work

Read a 2007 Reporter article about Beebe's work with Boy Scouts of America: boilermakers.org/news/locals/l-374s-beebe-devotes-life-to-boy-scouts

Union solidarity runs solid in Asher family

Joe Asher from Local 106 (Cincinnati, Ohio) is sandwiched between two generations of family with union pride: his United Mine Workers Association father and his daughter, Chasity Asher, the newest union member in the family. For Asher and his daughter, being staunchly union is all in the family.

Joe Asher's father worked union during his son's formative years, and it made a lifelong impact. Joe Asher has been working union his whole life and has spent the last 26 years in the fabrication shop at Enerfab and at Brighton Tru-Edge represented by the Boilermakers. He has been offered a promotion into management more than once, but he's turned the offer down every time because he "wanted to work union."

So, when his daughter, who was in nursing school during the COVID pandemic, decided nursing wasn't the route she wanted to go, and after subsequent jobs at FedEx and as a tow truck driver didn't quite meet expectations, he suggested applying at his workplace. Brighton Tru-Edge fabricates cold head end caps for pressure vessels.

"My dad never wanted me to work in a man's shop; in a man's line of work," Chasity Asher said. "I think he realized that after I couldn't find a decent job with insurance and benefits and pay, he finally came around and suggested I come and work where he's at and see how it goes."

It's going well. Really well. It's going so well that other young women have applied and gotten jobs at Brighton Tru-Edge. And they're excelling, according to Joe Asher.

"When I first got hired, I was a material handler," Chasity Asher said. "Driving the forklift, making sure people had materials they needed."

But after a month, a position in X-ray came up and she put her name in for it and landed a position in NDT radiographic testing.

Joe Asher, the lead over the entire weld department and NDT at Brighton Tru-Edge, has three women on his team working in cutting, welding and non-destructive testing. Two other women work in the shop forming, but he doesn't oversee them. He's impressed with the work ethic and skillsets of the women.



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Chasity Asher was one of the women honored during Women in Construction Week at her employer, Brighton Tru-Edge.

"We now have women in place everywhere, so we could make a head 100% by women," he said. "I think more women getting into Brighton Tru-Edge has brought it to the forefront. There's no difference between men and women working here. It takes a different breed of man, just as it takes a different breed of woman to do this."

Brighton Tru-Edge recently honored the women working for them during Women in Construction Week. For Chasity Asher, she's excited to go to work for the company every morning she rolls out of bed.

"I used to want to call off work a lot," she said. "There was no motivation in past jobs. Now, I wake up every day and enjoy what I do. The company I work for goes above and beyond to make sure we're taken care of."

She also enjoys working in non-destructive testing. She first assesses all the heads that need to be tested for the day, making sure no marks will come up on an X-ray. Then she loads the heads into a machine and uses kilovoltage and milliamperage radiation to take the image of the head and ensure there are no weld defects.

"I have to be that person who says we're putting out the door what we say we are," she said. She takes that job seriously, and like her dad, she is resolutely union.

"I know for a fact, after being in a union, I would never want to leave the union or go to another job," she said. "I hope I can retire from here in 45 years. I feel women being in a man's field have broken the generational curse that women can't do a man's job. Women deserve the job just as much as a man."

International Vice President of the Great Lakes Dan Sullivan completely agrees. "Throughout my career as a Boilermaker, it's become clear to me that women are more than capable of succeeding in this male-dominated industry—and those who choose this path often stand out and shine." 🙌

“I know for a fact, after being in a union, I would never want to leave the union or go to another job.”

Chasity Asher
Local Lodge 106

Chasity's biggest professional accomplishment in 2024 was passing several significant tests, including IRRSP (radiation safety), NDT RT Level 1, and becoming a union boilermaker.

Well done, Chasity! 🙌 We are so lucky to have you on the team.

**#WICWeek #WICWeek25
#WomenInConstructionWeek2025**



MOVING?

You can update your address with us online at
www.boilermakers.org/contact-us



Area apprentices advance to national competition

Congratulations to all the U.S. apprentices who competed for a chance to represent their regional area in the 2025 Boilermakers National Apprenticeship Competition. These apprentices are slated to compete for top national honors in August in Statesboro, Georgia:



GREAT LAKES AREA

WINNER

Cody Rasmussen
L-107 Milwaukee

RUNNER-UP

Michael Baer
L-374 Hobart, IN



NORTHEAST AREA

WINNER

Jacob Pappada
L-154 Pittsburgh

RUNNER-UP

Harrison Johnson
L-237 Hartford, CT



WESTERN STATES AREA

WINNER

Kyle Brickey
L-242 Spokane, WA

RUNNER-UP

Andrew Bronson
L-101 Denver, CO



SOUTHEAST AREA

WINNER

Nathaniel Loyd
L-108 Bessemer, AL

RUNNER-UP

Jeffrey Rawson
L-667 Winfield, WV

L-83 member earns May Tradeswomen Hero award

Jess Mendenhall is the most recent Boilermaker sister to be recognized as a Tradeswoman Hero by North America's Building Trades Union. Mendenhall, who was honored in May, is a journey worker at Local 83 (Kansas City, Missouri).

Mendenhall recently became only the second woman in 20 years to complete the Boilermaker MOST Project Management course—which speaks volumes about her ambition and perseverance. MOST instructor Gerry Klimo noted her strong presence and potential: “She’s outgoing and knowledgeable. I’ve taught 30 or more of these classes, and sometimes there are people who really stand out.”



Her career has spanned coast to coast, including leading teams as a foreman in California and taking on complex emergency projects, such as a high-stakes, on-the-fly refinery rebuild in Toledo, Ohio. She’s also held roles as a project coordinator and instructor, giving back to the trade by sharing her knowledge and supporting others.

The Tradeswomen Heroes program was created in a joint effort between NABTU’s Tradeswomen’s Committee and Apprenticeship and Training Committee to spotlight the dedicated tradeswomen within NABTU’s affiliate unions. Read Mendenhall’s nomination and see how to nominate a tradeswoman for the honor at www.nabtu.org/twbn.

SERVICE PINS

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

30 YEARS	Ralph Flores
25 YEARS	Mark Howard

LOCAL 5 • FLORAL PARK NY

30 YEARS	Lester E. Blauvelt, Nicolas J. Carusone, Todd Lawton
25 YEARS	Joseph R. Gerwitz, Paul A. Gorman Jr., Daryl J. Hess, Christopher J. Sereno
20 YEARS	Michael Bauer
15 YEARS	Michael Charles, Nicholas M. DePolo, Gabriel L. Gladney, Peter M. Houck

LOCAL 13 • PHILADELPHIA

45 YEARS	Francis M. Andes, Richard Babcock Sr., David W. Bailey, David D. Bryan, John A. Carlisle, Kieran R. Carlisle, Dom Catrambone III, Dorsey J. Cluck, William Coleman, John M. Cool, Robert W. Cooper Jr., Mark A. DiPaolo, John J. Enright, Gary D. Evans, Terry L. Freeman, Christian Geosits, Richard W. Gresko, Anthony W. Gurnari, Michael Impagliazzo, Jeffrey Kacmar, David J. Kondraski, William R. Krause, Ronald G. Macort, Mark E. Mangan, James E. Pearson, Robert J. Phillips, Bart J. Rowley III, Roberto G. Sanchez, Dale R. Schaffner Sr., Dennis M. Smolar, Louis Tarnalicki, William C. Tatem, Guy M. Thibault, Randy A. Wagner, George J. Wills Sr., Thomas H. Wright Jr.
40 YEARS	John E. Clark Jr., Joseph R. Demeter
35 YEARS	Jeffrey S. Berkey, Robert Condon, Earl Gordon III, Edward R. Storz, Michael A. Wiernusz, Michael J. Wozniak
30 YEARS	John G. Becker, Craig S. Chervanik, Frederick Denecke Jr., John C. Deputy, Andrew A. Euster, Richard Kelley, Richard M. Mallon Jr., Brian F. McCormack, James J. Monahan, Philip Sacchetti Jr., Lisa Stickley, Mark A. Timberg, Art Welcher
25 YEARS	Michael Angstadt, Richard Babcock Jr., Kristoffer Bailey, Michael P. Bray, Raymond J. Camp, Dominic Capitolo, Joseph Colavita, Kris Coole, Ansel H. Coombs, Michael L. Crawford, Andrew Detwiler, Stephen F. Dymeck, Gene W. Faulls, Raymond J. Frantz, Mike Golphin, James R. Green, David T. Gushue, Dean Hines, David M. Huffman, Stan M. Jankowski, James F. Jennings, John W. Kitchenman, Michael Kostecky Jr., Corey D. Laber, Daniel A. Long, Charles Long Jr., Joseph Mackiewicz, Gerald E. Miller, William Monahan, Daniel Morris, Thomas Neumane III, Joseph C. Newell, John A. Norton, Shawn J. O'Malley, Brian M. Orio, Brian Pennington, Davis L. Perry, Mark W. Pilger, Charles A. Premich, Joel M. Ricahrdson, Todd M. Robinson, Francis J. Shickora, Robert J. Shipe, Paul Shiptoski, Kenneth G. Timmons, Martin Williams Jr.
20 YEARS	Burton Blanch Jr., James Flanagan IV, Colin P. Geraci, Leonard G. Geraci, Wesley A. Jackson, Ryan Mahoney, Michael D. Patton, Brian Yanick
15 YEARS	Jo Bassininsky Sr., Patrick Bocchicchio, Kevin Boyle, Michael R. Cloeren, Michael Coyle, Frank T. Doerr Jr., Dominic J. Ferraiolo, James Gemignani, Nathan Guisewite, John P. Jones, Benjamin Kershner, Ernie G. Olavage, John R. Olear, William Rutherford, Gregory Shoback

LOCAL 60 • PEORIA IL

60 YEARS	Harold Toureene
50 YEARS	Bruce Wheatley

LOCAL 83 • KANSAS CITY MO

65 YEARS	Leonard M. Grimm
60 YEARS	Clinton A. Bevitt
55 YEARS	Leon M. Boydston, Lyle S. Clark, Cliff M. Rickard
50 YEARS	Johnny Armstrong, Richard Hendrickson, Harrell D. Lay, Richard R. Smith, Joseph S. Thoos
45 YEARS	Joseph F. Bowen, Earl L. Raney, Terry L. Schillig, Michael Branstetter
40 YEARS	Shelby R. Cason, Mary J. Faulk, C. Keith Jordan, Kenneth A. Marshall, Nicki G. Reeves
35 YEARS	Thomas D. Brant III, Tin T. Nguyen, Can Van Tran
30 YEARS	Wade F. Anschutz, Yen Nguyen, Terry Norris
25 YEARS	Brian V. Crider, Gregory P. Devereux, Martin R. Finley, Jason Hagler, Charles L. Hartquist, Jeffery R. Johnston, Randy J. Kalleck, Eugene T. Kinser, Carl Luttrull, Jim Martin, Ryan Oliveira, Tim Penry, Travis A. Shawn, Edward C. Teel, Richard Wentworth Jr.
20 YEARS	Stephen R. Admire, Bill R. Brant, Earl Christine, Ronald E. Cole, Jeff Gehle, Aaron Haberer, William R. Harding, William L. Kling, Jesse D. Sandstrom, Randy J. Seely, Trung N. Tran
15 YEARS	Elton L. Bell, Tony B. Bradbury, Nicholas D. Cash, Eric Devney, Daniel C. Ewigman, Luke Lindsay, Angel Perez-Gonzalez, Khiet H. Phan, Vladimir Shimko, Michael S. Storable

LOCAL 108 • BESSEMER AL

35 YEARS	Richard A. Perry
30 YEARS	Vernon Hadley, Wilmer D. Morris
25 YEARS	Jason W. Edmonds, Richard E. Edmonds Jr., Benny A. Eubanks, James B. Johnson Jr., Weston A. Nelson, Jonathan D. Payton, Dennis W. Pierce, John Ed Strenth III
20 YEARS	Clayton W. Butler, Sam J. Everette Jr., Brian S. Garrison, Lincoln M. Graham Sr., Shane L. Stinson
15 YEARS	Charles B. Potter

LOCAL 614 • NEW LONDON CT

30 YEARS	Jeffrey Jordan
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LOCAL 647 • MINNEAPOLIS

70 YEARS	Robert G. Peterson
65 YEARS	Jack Tueck
60 YEARS	Curtis Kragero
55 YEARS	Howe Berlyn, Duane Carlson, Jack Eilefson, James Hedeon, Douglas Sargent, Roger Thomas
50 YEARS	David Bearinger, Hilla Bernard, Neil Cedergren, Randy Duke, Robert Folk, Gene O. Johnson, Leslie Klemetson, Rick Leinus, Terry Lind, Gene Miller, Allan Pietsch, James Peitz, Daniel Schultz, Paul Severson, Randy Tate, Randall Vosberg, Steve Waletko
45 YEARS	Curtis Bendickson, Lawrence Bill Jr., Robert Bistodeau, Elmer Bohn, Charles Drenth, George Fluey Jr., Mark Grewatz, Kenneth Gross, Kevin Knettel, Peter Leither, Thomas Niernhausen, Gerald Rabideaux, Darcy Sailer, Dwayne Tate
40 YEARS	Lloyd Ballman, Daniel Condon, Mark Dahlstrom, Bryan Fritz, Roger Olofson, Joseph Powers, James Rickard Sr.
35 YEARS	Gary Bartz, Gary Bee, David Fluey, Scott Hanson, Kory Olson, Jackson Stahlberg, John Steckler, Gary Szczur, Ferris Wiens
30 YEARS	Chris Chouinard, Jason Cook, Scott Grew, Scott Martin, Joseph Mittelsteadt
25 YEARS	Brent Abrahamson, Scott Baker, Matthew Bignell, Chad Blonigen, Travis Dockter, Nick Duffing, Gary J. Holter, Arlyn Olander
20 YEARS	Tony Donahue, Steven Forsberg, Timothy Gordon, Craig Heath, Richard Langer, Nathan Rinerson, David Strauss, Joseph Wiederich, Richard Zeman
15 YEARS	Daniel Amborn, Trey Bodensteiner, William Hietalati, Josh Loebs, Warren Ortenblad, Roy Rasch, Corey Roper, Randy Roundy, Mitch Tooke, Michael Weberg

Local Lodge leaders can now submit service pins for fulfillment and inclusion in The Reporter online at boilermakers.org/leaders/resources/pins



Do your nonunion friends a favor.

Tell them to form a union.

Today.

www.FormAUnion.com

BOILERMAKERS



THE BOILERMAKERS VACATION TRUST

Take control of your vacation payouts

Following are important updates from the Boilermakers Vacation Trust:

THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Effective June 1, 2024, the Boilermakers Vacation Trust transitioned to a new third-party administrator, Health Services and Benefits Administrators (HS&BA). All future correspondence and mailings should be directed to HS&BA at the following address:

4160 Dublin Blvd, Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568

Please note new suite number ↑

NEW MEMBER PORTAL

HS&BA is excited to introduce an enhanced, user-friendly member portal, designed to provide you with easy access to your Vacation Trust information. The portal allows you to conveniently view your vacation balance, payout history, and work history, with additional features coming soon. This service is faster, more efficient, and available at your convenience. Be sure to register today at **bvtportal.hsba.com**.

If you have any questions, contact the administrative office at **1-800-833-2682** or via email at **Bvtinfo@hsba.com**.

ACH SIGNUP FOR FASTER PAYOUTS

To expedite your 2025 payout and all future payouts, users should complete and return the ACH form to HS&BA or email it to **bvtinfo@hsba.com**. By submitting the ACH form, you can opt for direct deposit, ensuring your 2025 payout and all future payouts are remitted directly to your designated account—eliminating the need for a paper check. **Please note: Your ACH form must be received no later than Sept. 30, 2025, in order to receive your 2025 payout electronically.**

For a copy of the ACH form, as well as additional resources, visit **boilermakers.org/members/resources/vacation-trust** or contact HS&BA using the contact information provided above.



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.

NTL	Adams, Arnold H.	29	Hayes, Patrick M.	85	Castor, Aaron D.
NTL	Bieschke, Eugene F.	29	Jones Jr., John W.	85	Robinson, Thomas B.
NTL	Clements, Clyde D.	29	Linehan, B. F.	85	Smith, John C.
NTL	Fox, Anthony D.	29	Powers, Michael J.	92	Ashkenazi, Nick
NTL	Garrison, Ernest F.	29	Spencer, Raymond D.	92	Chevrier, Arthur
NTL	Holland, Bradley W.	29	Thomas, Baird M.	92	Nagy, Stephen
NTL	Holton, Bruce A.	29	Williams, Gerald L.	92	Navarro Jr., Henry
NTL	Mcdavid, Byron D.	30	Howard, Thomas W.	92	Ochoa, Juan M.
NTL	Morgan, William E.	30	Shepanski, Francis E.	101	Shamy, Andrew P.
NTL	Ropp, Herbert L.	37	Gurtner, Peter J.	101	Tyler, Thomas B.
NTL	Vaughn, Robert L.	37	McGhee, Danny W.	104	Aaron, James L.
NTL	Wall, Gerald E.	37	Odenwald, Melvin	104	Bergman, Donald R.
5	Finnegan, Brian F.	37	Ordoyne, Riley	104	Burd, Robert E.
5	Pendergast, William J.	37	Ramos Jr., Philip	104	Cox, Herman C.
6	Anderson, Andrew J.	37	Walker, Benjamin	104	Ginn, Larry
6	Dahm, Lowell E.	40	Barnes, Edward L.	104	Golder, Michael
6	Farrales, Anthony D.	40	Funk, Ronald L.	104	Hamilton, Steven G.
6	Fontes Jr., Alfred S.	40	Mcdavid, Harry J.	104	Hammontree, David E.
6	Greenwood, Jerry R.	45	Bolyard, Philip W.	104	Kowis, Stanley J.
6	Kint, Etienne J.	45	Estep, Ballard	104	Miin, Martti S.
6	Pinell, Bayardo	45	Hazelwood Jr., John W.	104	Olson, Jeffrey L.
6	Simonsen, Richard J.	45	Keatts, James E.	104	Renwick, Colin A.
6	Viduya, Norman J.	45	Rexroad, Millard	104	Rice, Paul J.
6	Viveros, Miguel C.	45	Swoope Jr., Edward	104	Wardrip, Morris P.
6	Winterstein, Alec	45	Williams, Hubbard A.	104	Yun, Mi Y.
13	Atkinson Jr., Wesley B.	60	Bradley, Steven J.	104	Zimmerman, Melvin C.
13	Castro, Modesto P.	60	Bryant, John M.	105	Bareswilt, Lee E.
13	Dambrowski, John	60	Downing, James E.	105	Gilliam, Raymond R.
13	Johnson, James C.	60	Lewis, Jack A.	105	Mitchell, Pat E.
13	Kling III, Arthur C.	60	Robb, John A.	105	Oney, Arnold
13	Laskoskie, Gregory G.	60	Sack, Dean S.	105	Shannon, Charles W.
13	O'Brien, John J.	69	Patterson, Wendell L.	106	Harp, Ronnie K.
13	O'Neill, Edward D.	72	Hiebert, David G.	106	Hawes, Bobby L.
13	Phillips, John	73	Hardy, Wade M.	108	Boswell, Marvys S.
13	Thompson Jr., William B.	73	Larade, Steven	108	Forister, Cary L.
26	Finch, Julian R.	73	Lydiard, Daniel P.	110	Etheridge, Joe P.
26	Harkleroad, Irie S.	73	Muise, Joseph B.	110	Pierce, Charles E.
26	Hulett, Gerald F.	73	Wilson, Harry W.	110	Pope, Chester R.
26	Smith, Kenneth J.	74	Godbey, James E.	110	Westbrook, Jimmie C.
26	Wood Jr., Max	74	Kelley, Tommy C.	112	Creel, William
27	Enloe, Eugene E.	83	Axtell, Robert S.	128	Clemance, Jayne E.
27	Miller, Ronald L.	83	Boardman Sr., Otis A.	128	Fraser, Jack E.
27	Radford, Rudy L.	83	Ham, Robert S.	128	Gabriel, Brian T.
27	Wille, Ronald J.	83	Nevils, Gary L.	128	Geddes, Steven E.
28	Bott, Roger H.	84	Doherty, Robert E.	128	Hoffarth, Daniel M.
28	Sheridan, Raymond M.	85	Brinkman, Nathan A.	128	Lee, Pascal C.

IN MEMORIAM (continued from previous page)

128	Mitchell, Ralph J.	359	Mustafa, Ahmet	656	Brown, Jimmy R.
128	Saleem, Abdullah Y.	363	Pyatt, William J.	656	Little, Billy R.
132	Pruitt, David R.	363	Wheeler, David S.	656	Mathews Jr., Clyde R.
146	Aransevia, Kenrick K.	374	Burden, Gary W.	667	Heugel, Harold L.
146	Bracken, Dennis F.	374	France, Mark W.	667	Hopkins, Mark F.
146	Chester, Corey	374	Jones, Terry V.	667	Lemaster, Harold D.
146	Fistric, Ivan	374	Melton, Darrel W.	667	Rawson, George A.
146	Germshaid, Robert	374	Naegele, Robert R.	667	Watts, Lucian
146	Helmerts, Dylan	374	Senteno, Albert J.	667	Whited, Ricky G.
146	Murphy, Larry	374	Sullivan, John M.	673	Tosh, Robert D.
146	Robertson, Peter D.	433	Clemmons, Jerry W.	677	Motyka, Raymond J.
146	Walker, Osbourne	433	Craig, John F.	679	Tinsley, James A.
146	Wolfe, Delmer E.	433	Kidd, James R.	684	Sawyer, Darrell L.
154	Freeman, Joseph W.	449	Cornette, Leland J.	687	Dempsey, Robert L.
154	Gates, Harry	449	Hoeft, Thomas A.	696	Berg, Eric R.
154	Halbedl, Donald F.	453	Arthur, Ronald L.	696	Buchman, Charles P.
154	McGregor, James W.	453	Dunham, Joseph S.	696	Hallfrisch, James W.
154	Minerd, William J.	453	Simmons, Margie A.	696	King, James A.
154	Sines, Marvin B.	454	Benefield, Billy J.	696	Nowack, Harold R.
154	Zelinsky, Jerome D.	454	Rogers, Macklin H.	696	Schomer, Robert G.
169	Akers, John K.	455	Brewer, Edward	697	Wenzel, Verlyn
169	Grumbley, Marc S.	455	Ford, James H.	744	Edwards, Reese F.
169	Jenerou, Aldred	455	Hill, Jackie R.	744	Hilton, Herman L.
169	Neumann, Marcellas W.	455	McDowell, Gary D.	744	Penrod, Eugene A.
169	Williams, Edgar A.	456	Cook, Robert	802	Deno, William E.
175	Reynolds, Richard D.	487	McFarlin, Robert A.	802	McCreary, Richard J.
182	Johnson, Kelly E.	502	Miller, Stanley R.	802	Ohrt, Peter
182	Kessler, Marvin A.	502	Smith, Frank H.	807	Gipson, Billy J.
182	Martinez, Moses R.	531	Gothard Sr., Winston B.	1086	Hawks, James E.
193	Pilley, David A.	531	Torbit, John P.	1234	Calderone, Frances
199	Daniels, Robert G.	532	Nistor, Byron W.	1240	French, Joshua A.
199	Messer, Gevonla E.	549	Anthony, Bruce T.	1247	Zarow, Edward
199	Sapp Sr., Wilton L.	549	McQueen, George D.	1509	Merlin, Robert F.
204	Lagapa, Bonifacio	549	Perysian Jr., Lawrenc E.	1509	Paluso, Daniel J.
242	Loiselle, Billy C.	555	Fitzpatrick, Aleah P.	1509	Paulick, Clifford
242	Reymers, Gary M.	568	Hurley, Edward P.	1600	Medina, Jaime
242	Robinson, Anthony W.	568	Rude, Michael M.	1603	Nile, James N.
263	Covington, Elmer R.	582	Dupuy, Jerome M.	1603	Peshek, Frank L.
263	Drake, Patrici A.	582	Lefaux, William T.	1999	Debraux, Therman E.
271	Chabot, Daniel	582	Newcomb Jr., Wilburn D.	2000	Miller, George R.
271	Francoeur, Lindsay	583	Jackson, John L.	D208	Crothers Jr., Gordon M.
271	Jean, Serge	586	Carr, Hoyt L.	D397	Vaughn, Mark A.
271	Lebel, Richard	592	Treat, Ricky L.	D500	Smolinski, Paul D.
271	Quirion, Carl	627	Franklin, Tom	D500	Winfield, Kenneth W.
271	St. Croix, Pierre	627	Yazzie, Kyle	M100	Chu, Toan P.
290	Barbosa, Juan R.	647	Carlson, Curtis M.	S50	Carson, Linda J.
359	Cameron, Walter J.	647	Keefe, Joseph H.	S251	Ross, Della R.
359	Cox, Charles R.	647	Kubiak, Jeffrey E.	S1978	Boyer, Kenneth N.
359	Dietrich, Walter V.	647	Nesseim, Robert L.	S1978	Enloe, John A.
359	McCroy, Magnus J. D.	647	Poukka, Richard W.	S1978	McLaren, Neil

Changing attitudes end auxiliary lodge system

In the 1940s, the Boilermakers' union, along with other unions, faced pressure to end their auxiliary lodge systems which segregated Black members into separate locals. It's important to note that while not all unions were segregated in the 1940s, the majority were, mirroring wider society.

While union leaders like International Vice President Charles J. MacGowan and Local 72 Business Agent Thomas Ray denied any discrimination, both the Fair Employment Practices Committee and the California Supreme Court came to the opposite conclusion, ultimately demanding that the system be dismantled.

A pivotal case in the fight against the auxiliary system involved Joseph James, an African American Boilermaker working at Marinship in San Francisco. He sued both the International union and his employer, arguing that the auxiliary system was inherently discriminatory. His legal team was headed by Thurgood Marshall, who was then an attorney for the NAACP and would later become the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. In a landmark decision, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of James, declaring the auxiliary system to be discriminatory and unconstitutional. The court ordered the union to abolish the system.

Meanwhile, the FEPC, which had been established to ensure fair employment practices in war-time industries, also ordered Local 72 to end the auxiliary system. These double rulings highlighted the growing legal and political pressure on the Boilermakers' leadership to address the issue of racial equality within the union.

At the 1944 convention, MacGowan, who was preparing to succeed Joseph Franklin as the International President, used a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to sway the delegates to vote to end the system. In the letter, Roosevelt praised the Boilermakers for their contributions to the war effort and appealed to their sense of patriotism, urging them to support racial equality so that "every worker capable of serving his country... [could] serve regardless of creed, race, or national origin." The letter had an impact, leading to changes in the auxiliary system.

In response, the 1944 convention passed a resolution that allowed auxiliary locals to elect their own delegates to union conventions and affiliate with local Metal Trades Councils. Previously, they had been dependent on their supervising white locals for representation. While auxiliary locals gained some autonomy, their meetings still had to be attended by the business agent of the supervising local. The precise nature of the relationship between supervising and auxiliary locals remained unclear, leaving much discretion to the International Executive Council.

MacGowan pushed for a voluntary approach to integration, predicting that the issue would resolve itself over time. In 1945, the IEC agreed to stop forming new auxiliary locals, to open all job classifications to Black workers and to equalize insurance benefits between Black and white members. Black members were also allowed to transfer between auxiliary locals.

Despite these reforms, voluntary integration did not lead to immediate change. By 1948, a few locals had integrated, but the majority remained segregated. The Boilermakers' transformation from a segregated organization to an integrated one was slow, reflecting the broader social and political struggles of the United States during this period.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s finally brought about a decisive shift. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed segregation and discrimination, effectively ending the auxiliary system for good. In the years that followed, the union made concerted efforts to integrate and encourage Black workers to participate fully in the union. Subsequently, they were elected to positions at every level, from local lodge officers to the International Executive Council.

The Boilermakers' journey from a segregated union to an integrated one mirrored the nation's slow and often painful path toward racial equality. What began throughout the labor movement as a reluctant and gradual process eventually led to workers of all races participating fully and equally, reflecting the changing values of the union and of American society. 🙌

What began throughout the labor movement as a reluctant and gradual process eventually led to workers of all races participating fully and equally, reflecting the changing values of the union and of American society.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF BOILERMAKERS
12200 N. AMBASSADOR DRIVE, SUITE 303
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