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THE REPORTER

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TIMOTHY P. SIMMONS

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Westen Smith

Digital and Social Media Specialist



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The Boilermaker Reporter

12200 N. Ambassador Drive, Suite 303

Kansas City, MO 64163

(913) 371-2640; FAX (913) 281-8110

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the issue for links to additional
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“The best leaders invest in people. They make time to visit local lodges, attend meetings, hear concerns and learn what is happening at the local level.”

The right tools build better leaders

Every Boilermaker knows the importance of having the right tools for the job. The wrong tools can mean slow progress or worse, deadly mishaps. The same principle applies to leadership. If we want stronger local lodges, which means a stronger union, we must ensure our lodge leaders have the right tools to succeed.

One of the lessons I've learned while visiting local lodges across North America is our members want connection. They want leadership that listens and remains engaged long before an issue becomes a crisis. In the past, union leaders have been viewed as distant—uninterested in the day-to-day issues local lodges face. That approach doesn't build trust. Nor does it build a strong union. At the heart of every union is its rank-and-file membership.

Leadership sets the tone for this union. When leaders invest in relationships and training, those values spread throughout the Brotherhood. When leaders listen, members feel heard. When leaders engage, members engage. The example we set matters.

The best leaders invest in people. They make time to visit local lodges, attend meetings, hear concerns and learn what is happening at the local level. For too long, leadership has been a one-way conversation driven by mandates “from above.” That's unacceptable. That's not leadership. Leadership must be a dialogue built on mutual understanding.

It is critical for leadership to encourage communication and create opportunities for open dialogue. It means ensuring concerns are heard and acted upon. Shop stewards, foremen, business representatives and local lodge officers are often the first to recognize challenges facing members. Their voices matter. Listening may not seem like a traditional tool, but it's the first step in understanding what's working and what needs to change.

Another essential tool is training.

Many of us remember stepping into a local leadership role and learning the job through trial and error. We did our best, but too often we were expected to figure out procedures and policies on our own. That's not a model for sustainable growth.

A skilled Boilermaker receives training before taking on complex work in the field. Leadership should be no different. Whether serving as a local lodge officer, shop steward, or business agent, every leader deserves access to the knowledge and training needed to perform their responsibilities effectively.

Local leadership today requires more than experience on a jobsite or in a shop. It requires understanding finances, labor law, communications, administration and member engagement. For some local lodge officers, it may mean learning how to work effectively with a CPA to manage the

financial responsibilities of a local lodge. These are specialized skills that should not be left to chance.

We already have valuable resources through programs such as BNAP and MOST, but we must continue working toward a more consistent and standardized approach to leadership development across our union. Every local lodge should have the confidence that its leaders are receiving the same high-quality training and support, regardless of location. Every local lodge needs the assurance that International leadership stands with them and wants them to succeed.

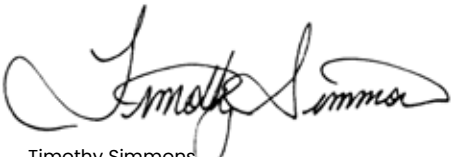
Support is another critical tool. Lodge leadership can be challenging, particularly during times of uncertainty. No lodge officer should feel isolated when facing difficult decisions or unexpected challenges. Our responsibility as an organization is to ensure local leaders know where to turn for guidance and assistance.

Finally, visibility matters, at both the local and International level. Members are beginning to see their union leadership actively engaged in the broader labor movement through events such as AFL-CIO conferences, Tradeswomen Build Nations and the NABTU Legislative Conference. When members see their leaders participating alongside labor allies and industry stakeholders, they know the Boilermakers have a voice and a seat at the

table. This union is not an island unto itself. We work with a wide scope of other labor organizations, contractors, owners and union consortiums. Relationships with those outside the union help strengthen the Boilermakers and create opportunities for future work.

This applies to the local lodge level, too. When new projects that will employ members are getting pushback from the community, it's imperative that Boilermakers are in community meetings, providing a counterbalance. It's often necessary to secure work. It's important to support the wider labor community. The new Regional Legislative Coordinators can help lodges amplify their voice in local issues.

Strong local lodges do not happen by accident. When we provide our leaders with the right tools and stay connected to the members we serve, we build a stronger organization for generations to come. The right tools build better leaders. Better leaders build stronger local lodges. And stronger local lodges build a stronger Brotherhood.



Timothy Simmons
International President





Portsmouth Consortium Data Center to employ skilled trades

SB Energy and Softbank Group recently announced a unique public-private partnership to construct the world's largest artificial intelligence data center. The PORTS Technology Campus will be constructed on leased land at the U.S. Department of Energy's Portsmouth site in Ohio. Work is now underway on one of the largest infrastructure and energy projects ever announced in the United States.

The project is being developed at the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio. Currently, the DOE is performing a \$5.87 billion environmental remediation and demolition project at the 3,777-acre site. The operation, managed by the Office of Environmental Management, must remediate 400 contaminated facilities along with extensive soil/groundwater cleanup before data center construction begins.

The future development includes a planned 10-gigawatt data center campus paired with 9.2-gigawatt natural gas-fired units. SB Energy is investing \$4.2 million in grid upgrades and new transmission lines, with a promise not to raise electricity rates.

Phase one of the data center project is projected to cost between \$33 to \$40 billion which could grow to a \$500 billion investment, potentially making it one of the most expensive construction projects in the world.

The scale of the project is expected to create significant long-term demand for skilled union labor across multiple crafts, including Boilermak-

ers. According to the DOE, early estimates project approximately 10,000 construction jobs during phase one, with 2,000 permanent operational positions.

Local 105 (Chillicothe, Ohio) BM-ST Joe Ledford said the local will need help with all the upcoming work. This isn't the only new project coming to the region, but it is the biggest. He said they'll man the job with current members, travelers and new recruits.

"The data center work, we won't get much with that. But the power generation—that's us," Ledford said. "We're going to have to recruit and bring in more members to fill this job. We have a lot of other new work starting in the area as well. I can see our membership doubling, if not more, in the next two to three years."

If the full project moves forward as proposed, long-term estimates indicate the project could ultimately support as many as 35,000 construction jobs and 2,500 operational jobs over multiple decades of development and maintenance work.

Bechtel has been selected for the data center portion of the project, and Kiewit is the contractor for construction of the power generation facilities. In addition to the initial construction buildout, data centers typically require major equipment refreshes and upgrades approximately every five years, creating the potential for ongoing maintenance, retrofit and expansion work well into the future. 🔥

Historic contract win at Ingalls improves lives of members

After 18 years of contract extensions with no base wage increase, union workers at Ingalls Shipbuilding negotiated an impressive contract offering an 18% wage increase for the first year alone. The agreement was inked in February, after nearly six months of negotiations.

The new labor agreement between the Pascagoula Metal Trades Council and Ingalls Shipbuilding covers approximately 6,000 union workers at Ingalls, including Boilermakers. Critical crafts including shipfitters, structural welders, pipefitters, pipe welders, sheet metal combination workers and some warehouse CDL drivers received an additional wage bump—up to 10%. In addition, workers will earn annual raises of 3% through 2029 and a 5% increase in 2030.

Members at Local 693 (Pascagoula, Mississippi) are one of the critical crafts in the agreement receiving the extra wage increase, according to Pascagoula Metal Trades Council President and L-693 President Martina Taite. But getting any wage increase wasn't easy. "Going into this contract, we were adamant we weren't doing any extensions,"

Taite said. "We were having problems getting critical crafts needed to progress the ships to the next phase. Ingalls brought in contractors because they couldn't get the skilled workers in there with pay so low. It used to be if you worked at the shipyard, you had it made. You could provide for your family."

Taite and the rest of the bargaining committee decided it needed to be that way again. With the low pay before the new contract, Boilermakers and other union workers were picking up side gigs just to pay the bills. Taite would sometimes order food delivery for her family on days she was slammed at work. One night, she was surprised that two employees of Ingalls showed up at her door to deliver the food. And it happened with different people the next week.

"Here we are doing the strenuous work, working overtime, and then getting another job just to pay the bills," she said.

Tensions were especially high in the beginning of negotiations because over the previous 18 years, the company had not met with the Pascagoula Metal Trades to ink a new contract; they just offered



extensions with a bonus, which members agreed to. Over those 18 years, Ingalls changed leadership, and the new leaders knew about the contract extensions. However, they were not as well-versed in collective bargaining and the negotiating that went into it.

“This is one of the toughest negotiations that I’ve ever had,” said ISO Executive Director Don Hamric. “We had 11 union affiliates that all had different needs, wants and desires in the contract negotiation process. To bring all that together was very, very tough. And realistically, probably one of the toughest things I’ve done in my career at this point.”

Going into talks, Taite said the company had expectations: There shouldn’t be questions and the Metal Trades Council should simply send the company’s proposed contract out to union members for a vote without bargaining with the committee.

Conflicts were numerous in the beginning. “We stood firm and we made sure to explain our position—that the language needs to change and we need a pay raise,” Taite said. “They didn’t understand that they propose language and the committee talks about it and goes back to say ‘No, we don’t

want this language.’ The leadership was used to contract extensions. Those weren’t hard for them.”

The new contract took months. Taite said the committee had meetings with management, then they caucused with their members. “We wanted to make sure we got the message out to the membership, so we did town halls for each affiliate. We gave them surveys and got very good feedback on that.”

When management saw the committee standing in unity, firm in their requests, the company vice presidents finally began to agree with the committee’s proposed language. That led to a final contract agreement.

“It’s historic. In the history of Ingalls, we’ve never had such an increase,” Taite said. “An 18% increase for everyone—we’ve never had this. I’m just so ecstatic.”

Members are, too.

L-693 BM-ST Terrence Nellum said before the contract, he could see low morale across the membership. After the contract, “morale is out of the roof,” he said. “They’re thanking me and my whole team. They now have good wages,



benefits and can take care of their family with a union job because they have protection.”

L-693 Chief Steward Caleb Hines saw the same sense of defeat on the shop floor. The upshift in morale for workers is palpable, he said.

The new Ingalls contract is a testament to the power of workers when they unify. And when they use that influence, they win.

“I hope that the membership from all affiliates understand the power of the unions,” said Hamric. “And I think that a lot of the members here finally experienced that. After never negotiating in their career here, they got the opportunity to negotiate. And what they found was that they have power.” 🙌

“They now have good wages, benefits and can take care of their family with a union job because they have protection.”

Terrence Nellum
L-693 BM-ST

The bargaining committee, made up of several different union members, celebrates their historic contract win at Ingalls Shipbuilding. From l. to r., back row: Laterrio Dawson, UA Local 436; Shanet Hamilton, UA Local 436; L-693 BM-ST Terrence Nellum and L-693 Chief Steward Dennis Willis. Middle row: L-693's Ronald Robinson; L-463 UA Business Manager Charles Jones; L-693 Chief Steward Caleb Hines and SMART L-441 Chief Steward Myia Wilcox. Front row: ED-ISO Don Hamric, L-693 President and Pascagoula Metal Trades President Martina Taite and SMART L-441 Chief Steward Johnny Cooper.



Welding etched a path to fulfill one woman's dream

Martina Taite walked into Ingalls Shipbuilding in 2008 as a 25-year-old welding apprentice, looking for a way to build a better life for her family. What she found surprised even her. She went looking for a job; instead, she found a calling. Today, Taite serves as president of the Pascagoula Metal Trades Council, representing thousands of workers at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She made history as the first woman and first African American ever elected to the position.

"It feels amazing," Taite said. "All I can think is, as a little girl, that was my dream. I wanted to grow up and be a nurse and care and nurture people. I'm still caring and nurturing people. I'm still helping people. I'm just doing it in a different trade."

Her election came at a pivotal moment. The Metal Trades Council was in the middle of negotiations for what would become a historic contract for workers at Ingalls Shipbuilding, one of the nation's largest military shipbuilders.

When the former president retired in December, Taite was elected to replace him, despite some pushback from some affiliates. Her election was the culmination of years spent proving herself in a shipyard.

"They're not going to flat out say 'no' because you're a woman," she said. "But there were certain affiliates that didn't want to see me get elected. It wasn't that I couldn't do the job. It was my ethnicity and my gender."

Taite's path to the Metal Trades presidency was anything but easy.

As a young wife and mother of three, she originally planned on a career in nursing. She worked for low wages at a call center while going to school and didn't earn enough to support her family in the way she wanted. She knew there had to be a better way.

"In Pascagoula, Ingalls Shipbuilding was the place to work," she said. "I got to thinking if I could get on out there, we could really take off. I wanted better for my family and kids."

She applied for the welding apprenticeship program, attracted in part by the immediate pay increase.

"It would give me a \$4 raise from what I was making off the bat," she said.

Her father, himself a welder, was stunned at her decision on a career change. He tried to dissuade her.

"He even told me to try electrical," Taite said. "He knew the job. He was more concerned about me getting burned."

But once Taite had made up her mind to be a welder, she wouldn't settle for anything less than success. "I was determined to learn," she said. "I went straight to work and passed my test. I was so focused, I even got extra certifications including aluminum and stainless."

She quickly established herself as a productive, skilled welder and worked her way up to welding in

“When I saw the importance of helping people with their livelihoods, I realized I could be a voice for people who are afraid to speak up for themselves.”

Martina Taite
L-693 President and
Pascagoula Metal Trades Council President

a covered shop area. She was the lone woman in that shop and understood she had to excel if she wanted to keep her spot.

“I knew if I wanted to stay, I’d have to do better than the guys,” she said. But her welds spoke for themselves. “I was putting out a lot of footage. It was good work that didn’t need to be reworked.”

That work ethic eventually caught the attention of union leaders, including former L-693 steward Erica Stewart (now on International staff) and Local 693 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Terrence Nellum.

At first Taite thought she’d work up to becoming a shop foreman. But being a union leader was not part of her plan. She was focused on her work and continually improving as a welder. But Stewart encouraged her to attend union meetings and eventually pushed her to become a steward. Once she began helping workers with grievance cases, Taite discovered a different kind of purpose.

“When I saw the importance of helping people with their livelihoods, I realized I could be a voice for people who are afraid to speak up for themselves,” she said. “It really is so rewarding.”

As L-693 steward, her reputation quickly grew. Nellum started giving her more grievance cases. Soon Taite became known for her meticulous case work and relentless dedication. After gathering facts on grievance cases, she would turn them in and head straight back to work on the tools.

Over time, her role expanded. She eventually served as assistant chief steward before becoming point of contact and chief steward for the Pascagoula Metal Trades Council in 2023—a position that traditionally led into becoming the Metal Trades president. At the same time, she continued serving as president of Local 693, a role she’s held for 12 years.

“When past AFL-CIO Metal Trades President Jimmy Hart came down to visit and saw how I operated, some of the members nudged me on. That’s when I became point of contact for the Metal Trades,” she said.

The transition came during a difficult period for the council. The previous Metal Trades president had served for more than 30 years. As the demands of the position intensified over time, the role eventually became too much for him. By the time he retired in November 2025, Taite was already



Pascagoula Metal Trades Council President Martina Taite (center) works closely with Chief Steward Caleb Hines (left) and L-693 BM-ST Terrence Nellum (right).

handling much of the day-to-day operation of the council as its chief steward.

Now, as president, she’s leading the council full time. Taite is focused on rebuilding trust among the membership. “Over the years, morale had gone down,” she said. “I wanted to strengthen this council and build the members’ confidence.”

One of her first major initiatives involved overhauling the council’s dental and vision benefits program. Taite worked to identify better coverage options and streamline service for members after years of complaints about the previous system.

“We started looking for agents and getting an idea of the benefits the members were looking for,” she said. “I mapped out everything they needed and was able to get members into a better plan.”

The improved benefits package has already helped increase participation and affiliate membership throughout the council.

After becoming the first woman and first African American elected president in the council’s history, Taite is still processing the moment.

“I’m so in awe,” she said. “After I was elected, everyone on the company side came over and shook my hand and said congratulations.”

But for Taite, the real reward remains the same as when she first stepped into the shipyard nearly two decades ago: helping her family and working people build better lives. 🙌

Construction sector lodge leaders meet for business manager training



New Construction Sector Business Managers met for comprehensive training at Boilermakers' Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, May 5-7. Boilermaker staff led the three-day training, covering a wide range of topics new lodge leaders need to know for successful lodge management. Some of the topics covered included Local Joint Referral Rules and MBDS, comprehensive teaching on the M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund and an overview of the union's structure and its policies and procedures. The Membership and Accounting departments offered a deep dive into membership, accounting and financial reporting. 🙌



Pictured are, bottom row l. to r. Nathan Pribble, L-60; Joshua Raterman, L-363; Eric Edgren, L-29; Lee Lunsford, L-454; Michael Card, L-169; Rafael Escobar, L-5; Dave French, L-359; Nick Garcia, L-92; Matthew Fink, L-13 and IR-CSO, M.O.R.E.-WCC Chuck Hancock. Top row l. to r. Robert Martin, L-85; Matthew Bales, L-107; Derin Hunt, L-433; Herman Gibbs, L-26; Preston Chase, L-108; IP Tim Simmons; AAIP, ED-CSO Anthony Howell; Joseph Ledford, L-105; D-CT, D-SMTS Gary Powers; Steven McDonald, L-4; Josh Mangold, L-11 and Matthew Fregin, L-502.



Hackney Ladish's signature green fittings are palletted and ready to load.

Boilermaker quality helps Allied revive Hackney Ladish

Business is booming and the future is bright at Hackney Ladish in Russellville, Arkansas. There's a positive vibe across the 380,000 square-foot facility where Local 1510 (Russellville, Arkansas) Boilermakers make a line of weld fittings—elbows, reducing elbows, tees, reducing tees, concentric reducers, crosses and caps in a wide range of sizes, 48-inch and down, in carbon and high yield steel. All painted a signature green that means it's a quality, domestic product—emphasis on *quality*.

The place is abuzz with activity, and the Boilermakers maintain a constant pace to keep up with customer orders and make sure inventory is on hand, ready to go out. Two shifts are chock full of work, overtime is plentiful and new hires are a regular thing as orders tick steadily up. Temp jobs typically transition to full-time union careers, and there's talk that a third shift and more jobs may be on the horizon.

But things didn't always look so good. Just a few years ago, the workforce at Hackney Ladish had shrunk from around 150 Boilermakers to 44 as the company struggled through a downturn under former management.

"We didn't know if we'd have a job the next day. We were guessing if we were going to have product coming in," recalls Terry Honeycutt, L-1510's president. "We were down to working just three or four days a week, eight-hour days. I mean it was really starting to look slim."

Not surprising, morale was down.

But then the Allied Group of Companies purchased the company and offered a glimpse of hope.

"They said, 'We're going to sell your product, we're going to get your parts up. We just need you to trust us. Keep putting the effort into making the product, and we can (sell it),' " Honeycutt recalls.

Todd Miller, National Sales Manager for Allied, says the quality of the product made by Boilermakers at Hackney Ladish is a big part of what attracted the Allied Group.

"Quality for us, being a global company, is really important in every single thing, in every single part of the Allied Group of Companies," he says. "Knowing this is a Boilermaker-made product—that there's a union behind this product—was very enticing to us because we know it's going to be a quality product and there's a group of quality laborers right behind the product."

It was a good product Allied knew they could sell. As a global supplier and the largest pipe, valve and fitting master distributor in North America, Allied saw the potential for a perfect fit. They just needed enough product to sell.

"The previous owner was from the aerospace sector, so they knew they had to keep up with the machines and take care of the quality and not skimp on raw materials. So, the product wasn't the issue," he says. "The selling of the product was—and having material readily available."

The company asked the Boilermakers to be flexible and help get things ramped up.

"So, we started doing that," Honeycutt says. "We were flexible about the jobs we were doing with 40-some people here going from job to job."

It was all hands on deck, no matter what it took, without, that is, sacrificing quality.

"Allied saw the effort we were putting into it, and then they started hiring people, bringing more people in and making changes," he says.

And as those changes began to take shape at Hackney Ladish, the future looked more and more optimistic. The company worked with new employees and took time to really get to know the existing workforce, and, Honeycutt says, people felt

like they were treated like family. Plus, he says, the company understood that workers were there so they could take care of their own families.

"So that made everyone feel more secure and proud to be here. We wanted to work and show them that we could produce," he says. As the Boilermakers continued to invest themselves in their work, Allied invested in their workforce at Hackney Ladish.

"They had confidence in us and started bringing in more equipment, new equipment and making more jobs for everyone," he adds.

That was two years ago.

"It's really turned around," he says amid the hum of activity.

The quality of the product made by L-1510 members doesn't just impact company sales, it impacts lives. The fittings they make go into pipelines across America that feed pressurized substances such as water, oil and gas underground, beneath cities, towns and homes, as well as into systems that supply city businesses, schools and hospitals. They even feed into the refineries and power plants Boilermaker construction sector brothers and sisters build and maintain.



A forklift plucks a large fitting hot off the press.

“You don’t think about it until you start walking down the street and you see these elbows or fittings that you helped produce. It goes through everything people use in this world; everything that makes the world go ‘round,” Honeycutt says. “You want the products going out there to be safe, because it affects not only my family, but your family.”

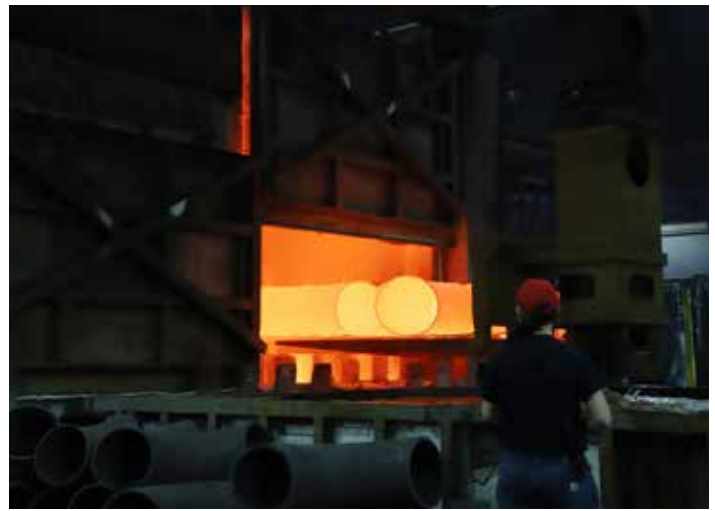
While some of the product is sold overseas, most is sold in the U.S., Canada and some in Mexico.

“Our product is American-made by union workers,” says Brian Byrum, General Manager at Hackney Ladish, who started at the company as an L-1510 Boilermaker working in production. “I’m proud to be making a union-made product here in the United States, serving our customers in the United States with a product that helps transport the critical energy we need.”

From shaping the flat metal to shrink wrapping and shipping the final product, most of the hands involved in the process are Boilermakers’ hands. International Rep Mitch Beasley says union density is well over 90%, the highest it’s been in years. That’s no small feat in a right-to-work state like Arkansas.

“It’s the faithfulness in the Boilermakers,” Beasley says. “It has grown, because people are putting faith in the union here. It’s exciting.”

There are currently 94 Boilermakers at Hackney Ladish, and the number is growing. L-1510 has shown how being part of a union makes a



Dusty Johnson pulls the largest fittings from the heat treat.

difference, and the mutually respectful relationship between the union and the company stokes a good work environment.

Honeycutt says building the relationship began when Allied first came to the table with the union to discuss their contract.

“A lot of times, you’re head-to-head, but Allied came to the table with an open mind. They wanted their employees to be happy,” he recalls. “They wanted to show that they cared about the people, and they offered great benefits for years to come.”

There’s a common theme among workers that they feel sense of belonging to something bigger than the individual job they do and that they are cared for by the company and the union.



A mandrel maintains the internal shape while a perfect bend forms on a heated fitting.

Byrum worked for the previous owner, left, and then returned after Allied purchased Hackney Ladish. While no union/employer relationship is perfect, he says good relationships, mutual respect and happy employees translate to the quality of the company's product.

"When everybody gets along and works together and are treated like family, everybody wants to come to work. They don't dread coming to work," he says. "It's not just for the paycheck, it's for your brother or your coworker or your teammate beside you that you enjoy spending time with. It's not a grind. And all that equates to better quality, better safety, better production, and that just helps us in everything we do here."

Machine specialist David Hood agrees.

"When the union and company come together, you make a better product and you want to do good for the company because you want the company to do good for you," he says. "They have been really a good partner for us and have given us more opportunities to be able to do more for our families."

Hackney Ladish has been a staple in Russellville for over 50 years, and jobs there have always been coveted. Many family connections and multiple generations are scattered throughout the production process, and when someone lands a job there, they tend to hang onto it. There isn't a lot of turnover.

Honeycutt has worked there for 30 years. His twin brother Jerry Honeycutt also works for Hackney Ladish. He's had nephews, cousins and a son work there.

"It's basically a tradition. It carries on through your family because it's such a good place to work," he says."

Hood has worked there for more than 40 years, and it took him multiple tries to get an interview for the job because there was always so much competition.

"It was hard to get a job here even back then," he says. "A lot of people like to stay. It's a good place to work, because you've got a future. They've got a lot of product to run. It makes you feel good that you've got something to look forward to."

Dusty Johnson is newer at just a year and a half at Hackney Ladish. He runs the monster heat treat machine and found the job through his father, who works there. His brother and nephew also work

there. He says he enjoys being able to see his relatives at work but also feels like he's gained brothers in the union.

"We all work together and we're all wanting the same goals accomplished," he says.

Likewise, Sarah Smith is newer on the job and has family at Hackney Ladish. She's worked in the shipping department for about a year.

"There's just not a lot to *not* like about working here. I enjoy it. I enjoy the people I work with. I enjoy the money I make," she says. "Seeing what parts we're producing and what they're for really helps build a sense of pride in your work. It helps you feel like you're doing something important."

Allied's investment in a positive environment, the company and the Boilermakers' mutual respect and the Boilermakers' loyal commitment to quality at Hackney Ladish have paid off. Today, the facility runs six to seven days a week and the warehouse is stocked. The collective attitude is decidedly a good one. A forklift operator even sings a loud, happy tune as he makes his way across the floor. That's a normal Thursday at Hackney Ladish these days.

"We're all in it together," Byrum says. "We've got one job to do. We're making a product—a critical product for the United States—and we're just in it together as a family." 🙌



The end product, painted signature green, is palletted for shipping.

L-1255 forges Klein Tools' reputation for excellence

Craftsmen don't buy junk tools. They buy the tools that work right and last; the tools that were made right. So, it only makes sense that one of the "go to" brands for craftsmen is Klein Tools. Klein Tools are not only used by craftsmen, they're made by them.

Local 1255 Boilermakers (Chicago) are the craftsmen and craftswomen who have been making Klein Tools for decades.

"You have to understand how important quality is, and you have to care about the quality of the product," says Brandon Wilke, Operations Manager for Klein Tools, explaining the company's foundation of excellence. "The Boilermakers understand what high quality is, and they understand the importance of it to our end user."

That's because the end users are often their union brothers and sisters—sometimes other Boilermakers, but also Ironworkers and frequently Electrical Workers. IBEW and Klein Tools have a longstanding partnership, and much of the company's product line goes into the hands of Electrical Workers.

"These are the best electrical tools in the United States," says L-1255 President Roberto Andrade.

At the Elk Grove, Illinois, facility where L-1255 Boilermakers work, they make Klein's tool forgings out of American-sourced, high-quality proprietary tool steel. The final tools are finished and assembled elsewhere, but for a lot of the products that have made a name and reputation for Klein, it all begins right there, with the Boilermakers.

Some of the flagship products made in Elk Grove include wire cutters, wire strippers, cable cutters, wrenches, wire-pulling grips for heavy utility industry, block and tackle and the company's bread-and-butter tool, a nine-inch sidecut plier better known as "The Klein." And that's just a fraction of the Klein catalog.

The Boilermakers' loyalty to doing their best in any role or for any part of a Klein Tool product goes beyond simple work ethic.

L-1255 member Freddy Lazar has worked for Klein Tools for nearly 48 years. He's had different roles over the years and seen many changes, but he said it's consistently been a good company to work for, management has treated employees well and



Josue Aviles perfects a wire-pulling grip that will be used in the heavy utility industry.



L-1255 Boilermakers care about the work they do, and it shows in Klein Tools' quality.



Freddy Lazar weighs parts to go out to the shop floor. He's worked for Klein Tools for nearly 48 years, in just about every area, now in materials.

the union and company have maintained a positive relationship.

"All these years have been good for us," he says. "We keep working and having good contracts. It's good pay and a lot of good people. It's been fun and it's been good for the family. And when you see our tools for sale or you meet someone and tell them you work for Klein Tools, it's just unbelievable."

Lazar is just one of many long-time employees. The parking lot is full of "25-year employee" reserved spots. Andrade, who's worked there 35 years jokes that he's "almost a new guy." He says nobody wants to quit. Everyone works hard, and Klein Tools expects a lot from employees, but, Andrade says, they also make sure needs are met, they reward employees and any problems are quickly resolved.

"Klein Tools is doing something right to keep their workforce here this long," says Don Hamric, Executive Director of Industrial Sector Operations.

“The Boilermakers are doing something right to help this partnership go on like it is.”

They have to. The Boilermakers count on Klein Tools to remain a steady employer and industry leader, and Klein Tools counts on the Boilermakers to keep them on top. It’s a win-win.

“The product itself is better when the company cares, because you care for the product yourself,” says Manuel Busso, a Boilermaker who started with Klein Tools seven years ago. He said it’s especially exciting to witness new tools being developed and seeing how the engineers shape and improve them.

“The company’s been around a long time, and being a part of that is something to be proud of,” he says. “It’s a good company to work for and a good union.”

His father has worked at Klein for 20 years, and Busso looks forward to his own career there.

“I see people who care. I see people that want the product they’re producing to be of the utmost quality,” Wilke says. “You’ve got to have the people out there on the floor with the passion for doing it in order to satisfy your customers.”

As Boilermaker craftsmen and craftswomen do.

“We’re checking dimensions down to thousandths of an inch. On a forging, that’s pretty precise,” he adds. “We can trust them that the product they’re producing is going to be up to the company’s standards and up to the end-users’ standards as well.”

Andrade sums it up—more as a fact than an opinion: “All the quality is here, and all the people around are the best.”

“I love it,” he adds. “I love to make tools.” 🔥



A L-1255 Boilermaker expertly pulls a freshly forged piece fresh from the conveyor.

Local 454 'lives the Code' at TVA Kingston project

A combined-cycle build featuring a GE Vernova HRSG and 16 GE aeroderivative units at TVA's Kingston Gas Project site in eastern Tennessee has faced its share of delays and obstacles, including a shortage of experienced manpower. But Local 454 (Chattanooga, Tennessee) Boilermakers haven't just met the challenges they've encountered—they've excelled.

"Their work demonstrates what skilled craftsmen can achieve when they come together with determination and pride," says Caleb Sronce, a Local 363 (East St. Louis, Illinois) Boilermaker who worked on site as a construction manager for Black and Veatch. "They successfully erected the casing and installed all 15 modules two days ahead of schedule. On two separate occasions, they set two modules in a single shift—an impressive accomplishment for any crew."

Sronce notes that the TVA Kingston day and night crews often consist of 50% or more apprentices. TVA is committed to at least a 30% apprenticeship ratio to ensure more skilled craftspeople are trained as an answer to nation's manpower shortage.

"What's happening at Kingston shows that the future of our trade will be in good hands," says L-454 Business Agent/Secretary-Treasurer Lee Lunsford. "We are training the next generation, and they are stepping up to the plate to deliver when we need them. Our experienced journey workers are shouldering the load, helping perform the work while teaching the new generation what it takes. It is truly a group effort, and I am proud of our members for achieving one of many accomplishments—because these members are not done; they will continue to knock these jobs out of the park."

Jeff Campbell, International Vice President-Southeast Section, points out L-454's focus on recruiting and training as a key factor in the success.

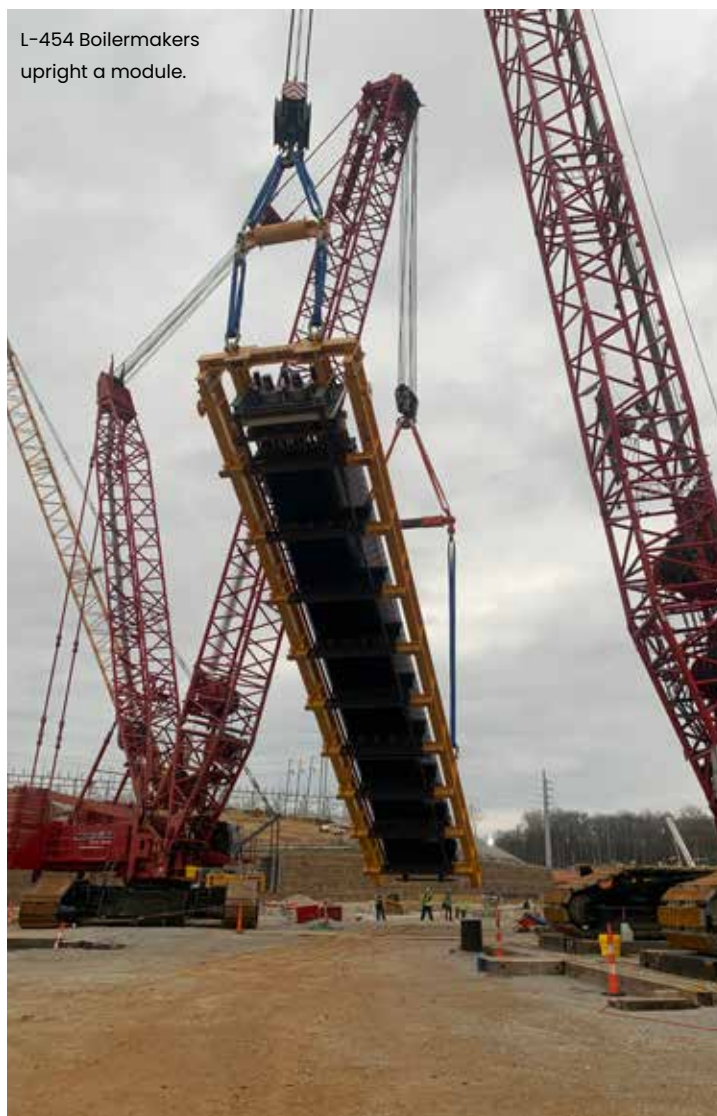
"I am proud of the Local Lodge 454 leadership for their commitment to recruiting and training," he says. "Their efforts have been proven once again."

Sronce confirms the approach has paid off: "The L-454 Boilermakers supporting the TVA Kingston Gas Project are a shining example of professionalism, resilience and commitment. They are truly living the Boilermaker Code." 🔥

“ Their work demonstrates what skilled craftsmen can achieve when they come together with determination and pride. ”

Caleb Sronce, L-363

Former site construction manager, Black and Veatch



L-454 Boilermakers
upright a module.

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 26 • STATESBORO GA	
70 YEARS	Richard A. Burke, Roy L. Gradick
60 YEARS	Walden J. Ware
55 YEARS	Walter Phil Douglas, Curtis E. Johns, Mikel R. Johns
50 YEARS	Gregory O. Bragg, James F. Crews, Elvin E. Franklin, Mike A. Merritt, Raymond Mills, Larry D. Purcell
45 YEARS	James A. Barefoot, Jimmy P. Byrd Sr., Johnny D. Finch, Ronny R. Finch, Robert T. Herrin, Donald R. Hunter, Joseph D. Pettis III, Carey D. Roberts, Joseph H. Williams, Gilbert Wommack
40 YEARS	Wayne R. Cribbs, Larry D. Williamson
35 YEARS	Joel K. Winkles Sr.
30 YEARS	Lorne James Johns, Alexis E. Robbins
25 YEARS	Johnathon Mitchell Bates, Reginald D. Bryant, Michael L. Byrd, Dennis E. Crews, Bruce Davis, Robert K. Mask, Archie C. Rish, Patrick A. Roberts, Raiford D. Scarbrough Sr., Kelvin K. Shannon, Dwight Strickland, Kevin J. Strickland, Frank P. Walls
20 YEARS	Warren Rex Anderson, Rodney Carver, Allen F. Clark Jr., Justin A. Jordan, Kevin M. Miller, Willie F. Spatcher
15 YEARS	Edwin Forest Baxley, Kelly W. Douberly, Michael H. Hamre, Steven L. Hopf, Lawrence S. Murdaugh, Aaron D. Shaw, Joshua W. Sparks

LOCAL 60 • PEORIA IL	
50 YEARS	Thomas Miskell, Joseph Wolschlag
25 YEARS	Joshua Black, Jeff Fowler
20 YEARS	John Delany Jr.

LOCAL 83 • KANSAS CITY MO	
60 YEARS	Larry Elder, Mike Plowman
55 YEARS	James Burris, Roger Hensler, Salvatore Hernandez, Randy Johnson, David Lawson, Kenneth Stufflebean
50 YEARS	Mike Bonner, Joseph Fasone, Mike Gentry, Timothy Goldsmith, Roelof Gorham, Patrick Joyce, Claude Lackey, Rick Little, Donald McGhghy, James Owen Sr., Lambert Rolfzen, Jerry Swanson, Nathan Welch, Jon Wilson
45 YEARS	Roy Bennett
40 YEARS	Joseph Miller Jr.
35 YEARS	David Delgado, Harley Douglas Jr., John Malone, Robert Miskell
30 YEARS	Joel Bryant, Hoang Nguyen, Gerald Walters, Dwight Wilson
25 YEARS	Jesse Adamson, Jason Alterman, Frank Becerra, Matthew Berry, William Bunyard, Randle Darnell, Kevin Dunning, Joshua Edgar, Charles Hunt, Steven Kellogg, Gavin Lang Sr., Anthony McKinley, Leslie Ridenour, Steve Vaughn, Bennett West
20 YEARS	Todd Bradfield, Brandon Burgener, Dustin Burgener, Izack Clemons, John Collins, Mike Eklund, Scott Miller, Aaron Murry, Joshua Neblock, Jimmy Warren, Truman Zinn
15 YEARS	Joseph Florido, Vadim Garnik, Lisa Grider, Virgil Mayfield, John Neale Jr., Yuriy Ponkratov

LOCAL 242 • SPOKANE WA	
60 YEARS	Larry Baker, Marion Liebman, Daniel Nultermeyer, Fred Widman
45 YEARS	R.K. Connett, Dennis Grandinetti
35 YEARS	David King
30 YEARS	Jim Dahlen, Ricky Lee Johnson, Kevin Klein, Eric Wilson
25 YEARS	David Broberg, Ronnie Cheatham, Jody Harris, Pavel Kurlov, Larry Lavallo, Lester Lee, Robert Martin, Robert Patchin Jr., Richard Schmidt, Vasilii Stepanov, Calvin Sullivan Jr.
15 YEARS	Leslie Krueger, Vladimir Livyk, Dylan Trussell

LOCAL 359 • VANCOUVER BC	
60 YEARS	Brian Bowden, Marvin Pommer
55 YEARS	Robert Newell, Pat Nixon, Ray Rogers, Robert Tobin, Kenneth Williamson, Walter Blisks
50 YEARS	Terry Boyce, Daryl Desabrais, Joeseeph Finlay, Clark Gladson, William McDonald, Leroy Mellott, Dale Schultz, Steven Sisco, Reid Williston
45 YEARS	Randy Derewenko, Steve Johnson, John Kerslake, Jeremy Lyttle, Richard MacIntosh, Thomas Noonan, David Ponce, Larry Sherstobitoff, Duncan Turnbull
40 YEARS	Chris Doyle, Larry Harbord, Andrew Maddock, Shane Michaloski, Lawrence North, Robert Railton, Ted Shawi
35 YEARS	Randy Benigan, Paul Calihou, Jack Graham, Mike Rentschler, Keith Schopff, Greg Stanko
30 YEARS	Thane Dokuchie, Bruce Don, Chris Hoskins, Kerry Hughes, Terry Hunter, Keith Rohmann, Mike Yonge
25 YEARS	Chris Brown, Sat Chatta, Kevin Courchaine, Paul Dall'Acqua, David Daschuk, Jeremy Dumais, Ben Gogol, Tim Graham, Robert Hood, Dennis Merner, Delmer Mitchell, Desmond Peach, Greg Stengel, Dana Traff

LOCAL 363 • EAST ST. LOUIS IL	
65 YEARS	Hubert Johnson
60 YEARS	Barry Noblitt, Harold Sheehan, Charles Snow Sr.
55 YEARS	Billy Campbell, Bill Colwell, David Jones, Larry Jones
50 YEARS	Robert Dunham, Marcus Morris, Timothy Underhill
45 YEARS	Wyatt Anderson, James Johnson, Ronald Lynn
40 YEARS	Greg Eaves, Michael McMillin
35 YEARS	Robert Brooks, Terry Sikorski, Daniel Smith, William Wiley
30 YEARS	William Boyd, Brian Cutsinger, Joseph Melton, Mark Moore, Chad Verble, Jeff Whalin
25 YEARS	John Bergman, Phillip Chapman, Rock Edwards, Lawrence Hamby, Raymond Linzee, Jerel Loveless, Steve Mehl, Paul Underhill, Harley Williams, Douglas Wright, John Wubker
20 YEARS	Brian Houseworth, Christopher Ozment
15 YEARS	Jeff Wolff

Correction: Our apologies to Local 363 and your Q1 Service Pin honorees. Our last issue inadvertently covered up your lodge pin section. The first quarter recipients are included above with second quarter recipients.

LOCAL 502 • PUYALLUP WA

65 YEARS	Wayne Bell
60 YEARS	L.M. Demeritt, Melvin Henderson, James Sears, Larry Simpson, George Strash
55 YEARS	John Gaskell, Kenneth Ketcherside, David Lee, Timothy Schwartz
50 YEARS	Kim Leasure, Leo Triboulett III, James York
45 YEARS	Lloyd Archibald, Paul Barr, Steven Bogue, Allen Gallion, Raymond Peif
40 YEARS	Hubert Martin, Craig Stewart, Keith Stewart
30 YEARS	Joseph Gamber Jr., Larry Gingrich, Brian Macklin, Richard Owens, Jeff Purcell, Roman Roulst, Jason Welch
25 YEARS	Chris Barr, Raymond Blurton, Paul Box, John Brady, Jay Brassfield, Kevin Brendel, John Bryan, McKenzie Cameron, George Cantrell, Daryl Casson, John Erickson, Gideon Ewers, Matthew Farrell, Michael Glover, Mitch Hart, Don Herring, Scott Holloway, John Hoogkamer, Richard Jones, Ben Klein, Brian Knox, Jacob Moran, Daniel Nordstrom, Ken Rosenblad, Louis Swanson, Allan Thompson, Shannon Thompson, Jeffrey Warner, Jeff Weiss, Seth Whipple, Kris Wolden
20 YEARS	Jason Clark, Curt Feely Jr.
15 YEARS	Luke Bohannon, Bruce Delgado, Daniel Kobussen
10 YEARS	Sean Brendel, Benjamin Echols, Reynaldo Gomez, Matthew Kratzer, James Perkins, Teren Ridings

LOCAL 647 • MINNEAPOLIS

70 YEARS	Ellsworth Gjølhaug
60 YEARS	David Jouppi
55 YEARS	Bruce Alms, Edward Berning, Richard Hartung, Ray Lavamaki, Peter Marx, Steven Novak, Brent Sheldon
50 YEARS	Paul Bengston, Virgil Hanwell, Pat Monroe, Clavin Peterson, Jeffrey Reinholt, Jeff Walbridge
45 YEARS	Wayne Dale
40 YEARS	Jacob Beckius, John Bell, Richard Pilarski
30 YEARS	Russell Renneker
25 YEARS	David Alfstad, Rustin Bentz, Jeffrey Jones, Leland Keepers, Jason Landeis, Todd Lucas, Francis Riley, Philip Wittenberg
20 YEARS	Anthony Bass, Tavo Bowman, Timothy Cooper, David Gustafson, Joseph Kiley, Nathan Rasmussen, Charles Winn
15 YEARS	Max Bowers, Brian Brinkman, Adam Clarys, Travis Craig, Joseph Haff, Jayden Hansen, Scott Lampman, Benjamin Rohrich, Jacob Sabel, Randy Smith, Ryan Traut, Jayme Weidenbach, Brian Yonkovich

LOCAL 1086 • CLEVELAND OH

35 YEARS	William Mauser, Edvins Veits
25 YEARS	Greg Aponte, William Layman, Robert McEachern, Clifford Poff, Fred Reed, Sam Seneff, Robert Sheppard
20 YEARS	Karen Brown, Ronnell Patrick, Joshua Pawlus
15 YEARS	Aaron Dunlap

LOCAL 1626 • CHAMPAIGN IL

30 YEARS	Scott E. Deaville, Allen D. Lacy, James W. Pruitt
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LOCAL D480 • CHARLEVOIX MI

15 YEARS	Jeff Burns, Matthew Deschermeier
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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 Faddis Jr., William A.	13 Smith, Leslie A.
NTL Harrsch, Wayne	13 Stroka, Joseph F.
NTL Henning Jr., Arthur P.	13 Weigle, William J.
NTL Jackson, Lawrence N.	26 Cox, Terry L.
NTL Mitchell, Harold	26 Lewis, Edward H.
NTL Riley, Barry L.	26 MacDonald, Gerald P.
NTL Roettger, Richard	26 Walker, William J.
NTL Sackett, David W.	26 White, William L.
NTL Schlecht, David W.	27 Farnam, Robert J.
NTL Smitherman, John J.	28 Danlasky, Kevin M.
NTL Swain, James E.	28 Francisco, Jerry
NTL Towery, Vernon L.	28 Gardner, Thomas W.
NTL Turnage, James M.	28 Richardson, Robert
1 Coletti, Lawrence J.	29 Dube, Robert J.
1 Grudis, Kenneth E.	29 Grafton, Russell C.
1 Harris Jr., William	29 Hart, Steve A.
1 Howard, Mark A.	29 Lacy, Joseph R.
1 Lyles, Charles E.	29 Mchugh, Thomas P.
1 Matusky, Gregory S.	29 Tate, Thomas L.
1 Maus, Robert L.	30 Wooten, Roy L.
1 Spencer, Mary L.	37 Carroll, Jesse D.
1 Stewart, Warren H.	37 Gilbert, Frank W.
4 Dotson, Ronald	37 Kraemer, C. J.
4 Fowler Jr., Jesse R.	37 Miller, Dennis J.
5 Bottcher, Frederick J.	40 Barker, Denzil D.
5 Rogers, Louis	40 Bellucci, Stephen P.
6 Espenoza, Ruben	40 Clevenger, Buster
6 Garcia, Jose M.	40 Dorris, Gary B.
6 Hildebrand, James D.	40 Embry, Michael R.
6 Seigler, Garry D.	40 Roberts, Edward J.
6 Vanlindt, L. R.	45 Cox, Alfred R.
7 Collins, Gordon J.	45 Maybush, Clinton L.
7 Kuster, Gerald A.	45 Mongold, Ronnie W.
7 Rose, T. M.	60 Groel, Bryce
13 Benjamin, James A.	60 Witzman, Charles W.
13 Bryan, David D.	72 Allinger, Victor L.
13 Clark Jr., John E.	72 Epperson, Roy B.
13 Della-Penna, Joseph R.	72 Hamilton, Merle W.
13 Endt, Jack G.	72 Smith, Edward A.
13 Hayes, Michael J.	72 Wait, Kenneth D.
13 Miller Jr., William C.	73 Boudreau, Maurice

IN MEMORIAM (continued from previous page)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 73 Breau, Roger | 132 Mata, Jose P. | 374 Bowen, Macarthur | 647 Bartell, Randy D. |
| 73 Marchand, Leon J. | 146 Abraham, Samuel | 374 Carlino, Sam | 647 Beck, Matthew R. |
| 74 Burns, Sidney E. | 146 Czajkowski, John | 374 Cassell, William C. | 647 Beckman, Robert E. |
| 83 Cason, Shelby R. | 146 Elphick, David R. | 374 Goffinet, Harold D. | 647 Bunnell, Kenneth M. |
| 83 Davis, Earl L. | 146 Espinosa, Manuel B. | 374 Grambo, L. L. | 647 Peterson, Robert G. |
| 83 Emery, James F. | 146 Gittens, William P. | 374 Johnson, Ronnie A. | 647 Postl, Keith M. |
| 83 Schuster, Ronald H. | 146 Hoggan, Neil G. | 374 Lentz Jr., James P. | 647 Wittsack, Robert H. |
| 83 Shelton, Howard D. | 146 Kearney, Stirling | 374 Randall, William T. | 656 Millican, Cecil E. |
| 83 Steward, Kenneth J. | 146 Markel, John | 374 Riddle, Gavin E. | 656 Tipton, James O. |
| 83 Wahwassuck, Jon | 146 McCallum, Donald I. | 374 Roberts, Rick D. | 667 Gatto, Richard S. |
| 84 Ulrey, Donald L. | 146 Moore, Jack W. | 374 Stepp, Thomas D. | 667 Keller, Ross L. |
| 85 Beutler, William J. | 146 Morrissey, Gerard | 433 Mathis, Charles M. | 667 Leek, John M. |
| 85 Cox, David C. | 146 Quade, Frank A. | 449 Diefenbach, Orland W. | 667 Paugh, Ricky C. |
| 85 Diaz, Luiz | 154 Dicks, Jon A. | 454 Bryant Jr., George N. | 667 Prince, John S. |
| 85 Escareno, Jesse A. | 154 Duffy, Albert P. | 454 Underwood, Charles D. | 667 Pugh, Ralph L. |
| 85 Hanny, Wayne L. | 154 Gray, Jack H. | 455 Holt, Jackie L. | 667 Vance, Thomas S. |
| 92 Paredes, Enrique G. | 154 Myers, Glenn A. | 455 Page, Franklin J. | 667 Williams, Kenneth E. |
| 92 Saenz, Fernando F. | 154 O'Rourke, John E. | 455 Reaves, Charles F. | 677 Charnoski, Charles |
| 101 Jordan, Jim | 154 Reynolds, James L. | 487 Dahlke, Allan J. | 679 McCallie, Fenell L. |
| 101 Kent, Charles K. | 169 Concannon, Matthew J. | 487 Everard, Lloyd F. | 684 Willis Jr., Alan C. |
| 101 Lopez, Leonard G. | 169 Dickey, Charles J. | 487 Stuebs, Richard M. | 688 Saucier, Benson L. |
| 101 Robbins, Gary L. | 169 Elowsky, Paul S. | 502 Bowen, Donald A. | 696 Cairns, Donald F. |
| 101 Spahn, Allen L. | 175 Crouse, Charles | 502 Hernandez, Carlos | 696 Clairmont, Randy S. |
| 104 Apigo, Efen C. | 175 Fulletti, Irvin J. | 502 Titus, Roy E. | 697 Breu, Gene R. |
| 104 Courtney, Stephen R. | 175 Litts, James R. | 549 Allen, Donald E. | 729 Green, Jimmie L. |
| 104 Deskins Sr., Donald L. | 175 Trumble, Lloyd M. | 549 Jones II, Robert H. | 744 Boyd, Robert S. |
| 104 Killmer, Gary K. | 177 Sampo, Elmer R. | 549 Mullins, Robert | 802 Kittrell, Donald |
| 104 Leason, Ronald G. | 182 Armstrong, Artell | 549 Shair-Ali, Imro G. | 802 Mullaney, Joseph F. |
| 104 Mahn, S. A. | 193 Liptak, Frank S. | 549 Turley, Jerry | 900 Patterson, Patrick M. |
| 104 Pomerinke, Russell L. | 193 Lynch, James D. | 568 Kase, Robert A. | 900 Skinner, Timothy L. |
| 104 Robbins, Eric S. | 193 Storey, John | 568 Mahoney, L. M. | 1086 Winters, Bernard |
| 104 Singletary, Charles D. | 197 Clement, A. F. | 582 Joseph Sr., Alvin P. | 1162 Lilley, Gary W. |
| 104 Thompson, David L. | 199 Bullard, William D. | 583 Freeman, Jerry E. | 1234 Clay Jr., Ivano |
| 105 Harmon, Harold E. | 199 Wiley, Edward O. | 583 Porter, Donald T. | 1234 Perez, Theresa |
| 105 Kendall, Paul E. | 202 Hampton, Phillip W. | 584 Watkins, Charles E. | 1240 Hernandez, Juan |
| 105 Painter, William R. | 202 Singleton, Elton | 587 Adams, James K. | 1509 Belk, Jeffrey |
| 105 Rucker, Willard | 237 Corey, Kenneth R. | 587 Harrison, Jackie D. | 1592 Sterner, Jay A. |
| 105 Taylor, Gilbert R. | 237 Hammill Jr., Thomas B. | 587 Lewis, Marion S. | 1600 Burgner, Leo F. |
| 108 Dixon, Charles R. | 237 Pinard, Mark S. | 587 McFarland, Glen P. | 1603 Hamon, Michael H. |
| 108 Swann, Gregory J. | 242 Dubuque, John A. | 587 Smith, Benjamin F. | 1622 Chamberlain, William W. |
| 110 Hill, J. B. | 242 Peterson, Larry D. | 590 Sides, Peggy M. | 1622 Wade, Gary R. |
| 112 Shiver, Willie W. | 263 Arnold, Roe | 592 Hale, Joe K. | D400 Knott, Andrew |
| 112 Simmons Jr., Edgar T. | 271 Branchaud, Eric | 627 Dettlaff, Richard | D500 Koss, Melvin J. |
| 112 White, Ronald D. | 271 Therrien, Claude | 627 Leslie, Michael | D500 Kuznicki, Eugene A. |
| 113 Andrews, John E. | 290 King, Larry D. | 627 Tucay-Beaman, Anela | S251 Chappell, James |
| 113 Davis, Virginia S. | 343 Burson, Willis J. | | |
| 128 Chambon, John | 359 Bishop, David L. | | |
| 128 Donlon, Peter S. | 359 Edgar, Larry K. | | |
| 128 Harrison, Edward | 359 Gadzinowski, George | | |
| 128 Lewis, J. L. | 359 Harris, Gerald H. | | |
| 128 Millard, Charles W. | 359 Martin, Micheal W. | | |
| 128 Murphy, Patrick T. | 363 Bennyhoff, Rocky L. | | |
| 128 Nichol, Tom | 363 Hampton, Ronnie L. | | |
| 128 Russell, Kevin D. | 363 Moore, Roger C. | | |
| 128 Williams, F. A. | 363 Robert, David P. | | |
| 132 Kovacevich, Mitchel | 374 Below, Rex B. | | |

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The 17th Consolidated Convention fights unjust 'labor draft'

The second world war hung over the Boilermaker delegation during the 17th Consolidated Convention, held in Kansas City Jan. 31 to Feb. 12, 1944. Sometime before the Convention, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had proposed Congressional legislation to institute a wartime "Labor Draft Law." He likened the bill to a military draft. The bill would affect workers' ability to decide what jobs to do and how much they'd be paid, usurping worker autonomy and union power.

Roosevelt wanted to place all male workers over the age of 17 under the control of the government's United States Employment Service. Under his plan, workers would be compelled to take jobs in industries and areas designated by the USES. Those who refused would be "deprived of unemployment compensation benefits" and wouldn't be able to get a job without a certificate from the USES. Workers who wanted to improve their conditions with a new job would face multiple restrictions. One part of the bill threatened jail time to workers who refused USES assignments.

The bill's language prevented workers from improving their wages and working conditions during a wartime period when labor was in high demand. During WWII, millions of workers were needed in factories, shipbuilding and the military, creating labor shortages, which forced employers to pay higher wages to hire and retain talent. The bill before Congress would end that.

Delegates at the 17th Consolidated Convention weren't having it. They saw this proposal for what it was, a blatant attempt to enrich corporations at the expense of workers. The policy Roosevelt wanted to put in place would impose wage controls and freeze workers' salaries, even if profits rose. Delegates put their displeasure into a resolution and put it to a vote.

The long, passionate resolution addressing the Labor Draft bill articulated several points, including:

"Whereas, the proposal to draft labor for private profit in private

industry is not only repugnant to our ideals of Americanism, but there's no relation to the principle of drafting men to fight in the armed services and defense of our country, which is without profit to private individuals and is traditional throughout history.

Whereas, we the delegates representing approximately 500,000 working men employed in shipyards, railroad jobs, manufacturing plants and field construction, all of whom are very vital and very necessary to the war effort, have established a record of production and faithfulness to the nation unsurpassed in world history, and

Whereas, this Brotherhood has not sanctioned a single strike since Dec. 7, 1941, and in a few scattered instances where our members reported to work stoppages, as we have in every case, properly and vigorously urged their immediate return to work."

The membership unanimously voted in favor of the following resolution:

"Resolved that we unequivocally declare that the workers of this nation, from our personal knowledge of the fact, are ready and willing to make any sacrifice which may be necessary to ensure the winning of this war, and to quote from that sacred document—we quote, 'Our lives, our property and our sacred honor, but we insist upon and demand the right to do these things as a free man and as equals, not as slaves or discredited and unclean persons,' and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States to all members of both houses of Congress into the labor press into the public press into every local union of this International Brotherhood."

Because of the strong outpouring of contempt

for the bill, from not only the labor movement but from the general population, it failed in Congress. But that didn't stop Roosevelt. In July 1944, over a year before WWII ended, he used an executive order to achieve the labor controls Congress would not enact.

Even though the resolution didn't change the outcome, it did show that nearly a century ago, the Boilermakers' focus was on the welfare of the membership, the unorganized and on securing fair wages for skilled labor, just as it is today. 🍷



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF BOILERMAKERS
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