



the **BOILERMAKER** **Activist**

For leaders within the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers Vol. 1 No. 1 March 2004

This publication will help you stay active

The Activist is written with local lodge leaders in mind

By International President Newton B. Jones

LOCAL LODGE leaders are the lifeblood of this organization — of all unions. No one appreciates that better than I do.

Our International includes many fine leaders, and we have been innovative and tireless in pursuing our goal of improving the lives of our members and their families. But without a union full of inspired and dedicated local lodge leaders, we would accomplish nothing.

All of the programs we have developed have been born from ideas proposed by local lodge leaders. You work directly with the members every day. You see the problems that your members face — not as pages of statistics or secondhand stories in a written report, but in the flesh.

When negotiations begin to bog down, you are the ones who must convince your members to stick with the plan and stay strong while they worry about losing their jobs or taking cuts.

When the company tries to pull a fast one, you are the ones who put your neck on the line to protect your members' jobs.

Your job isn't easy, I know. But because you are so close to your members, you are capable of accomplishing great things.

Our job at the International is to help you do the best job possible. All our programs are designed for that purpose.

The Boilermaker Activist is a new service, a publication written especially for local lodge leaders to keep you informed about issues within the Brotherhood as well as those that affect all workers everywhere.

Because we recognize how difficult it is to stay informed on all of the political issues that affect workers, unions, and our Brotherhood, every issue of *the Activist* will include several articles from our Department of Government Affairs on upcoming legislation and elections.

But we won't stop there.

The Activist will also include articles to help you perform all of the functions of your job better — how to communicate with your members, how to improve your local lodge's recordkeeping, how to motivate members to

become more active in their local, and who to call when you need specialized help.

Use this tool to your greatest advantage. Learn from what is here. If you find an article in this publication that you believe will help your members, cut it out and paste it into your local lodge newsletter, post it on your bulletin board, or distribute it to your members as a handout. This publication can be a valuable tool if you will learn to use it.

In fact, the sky is the limit. The International has many resources that are not available to individual lodges. We can provide advice and assistance in every area of union leadership.

But to do so, we need your help in identifying what areas we should focus on.

The most active communication is always two-way communication. We will provide you with materials to do a better job, with information that you can use to motivate and inspire your members and get them to take action.

In turn, we need for you to help us identify areas that need attention.

Send your suggestions and comments to *the Boilermaker Activist*, 753 State Avenue, Suite 570, Kansas City, KS 66101.

Quote of the Month

"Four more years of Bush will mean a huge number of union jobs lost to new free-trade agreements and the outsourcing of the federal work force."

— Grover Norquist,
quoted in the *New York Times*, Jan. 11

GROVER NORQUIST SHOULD KNOW. He is a top Republican strategist who has been called the "Field Marshall" for the Bush tax plan. In the 1990s, he helped write Newt Gingrich's *Contract with America*. He advises Republican candidates, the Republican Party, and President George W. Bush. You may not believe Democrats who say reelecting Bush threatens your job, but you should believe his own advisers.

Get Active Online

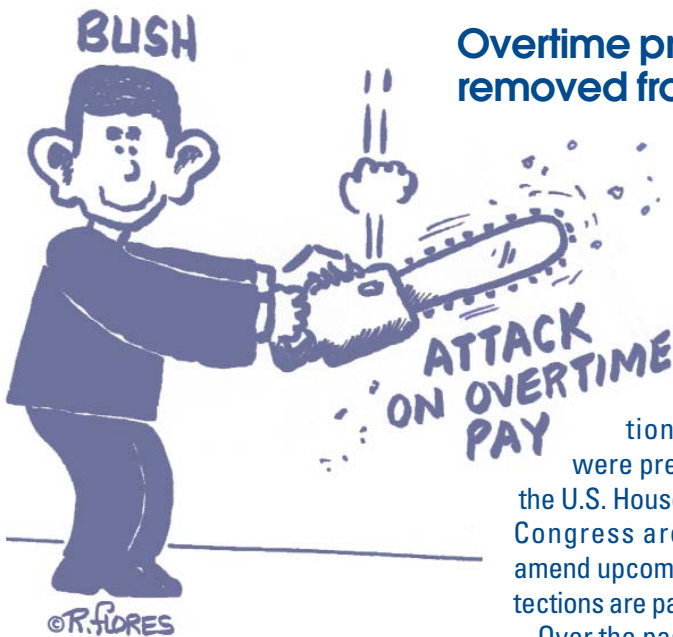
MORE AND MORE WORKERS ARE GETTING politically active by going online. You can, too. The Department of Government Affairs maintains a Web site that keeps members informed on the issues, the candidates, and what actions they can take to help support workers.

You can also sign up for e-mail updates and alerts. When you register your e-mail address, you will begin receiving occasional legislative updates by e-mail. When there's a need for immediate action, you will get an e-mail alert explaining the issue and telling you who to contact and what to say.

You can even download a voter-registration form!

Just go to the Boilermakers Web site and click on LEAP (near the top of the page under the word BOILERMAKERS).

www.boilermakers.org



Overtime protection is removed from spending bill

ON JAN. 22, President Bush flexed his political muscle and convinced members of the United States Senate to pass a major government spending bill that did NOT include the protec-

tions for overtime pay that were previously approved by both the U.S. House and Senate. Members of Congress are vowing to continue to amend upcoming bills until overtime protections are passed.

Over the past year, the Bush administration has been attacking workers' right to receive overtime pay. When they were unsuccessful in getting the House and Senate to strip overtime pay from nearly eight million workers, they got the Department of Labor (DOL) to rewrite the overtime regulation. The DOL's intention is to put the regulation into effect as early as March 31.

With a failing economy, millions of people out of work, and staggering health care costs, losing overtime pay is a burden that America's workers should not have to bear. Working families have sent more than 1.5 million e-mails, letters, and faxes to the White House and the Department of Labor, and the fight has moved to Capitol Hill. Call your senators and representatives and tell them to stand up for America's working families by supporting our right to overtime pay.

Stopping CAFTA is the next battle for workers' rights

WORKERS AND THEIR ALLIES are mobilizing for the next battle in the struggle for fair trade: to stop the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), signed Dec. 17 by the United States and four Central American countries. Costa Rica, the richest Central American country, opted out of the treaty over concerns about U.S. demands that the nation open up its service industries. The Bush

administration plans to present the deal to Congress as early as this March.

CAFTA does not include protections for workers' right to form a union or to safe work conditions. It is another job-destroying free trade agreement that will undermine workers' rights here and around the world. This administration has no interest in creating new rules for the global economy, which work for working people, both in the United States and in other countries.

If approved, CAFTA will eliminate tariffs from the United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. It would extend to Central America the disastrous job loss and environmental damage caused by 10 years of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). U.S. workers lost 879,280 jobs, and real wages in Mexico have fallen as a result of NAFTA in the past 10 years, according to the nonprofit Economic Policy Institute.

Recent reports by Human Rights Watch and the National Labor Committee have highlighted how workers in Central America are often denied such basic rights as the right to organize and bargain collectively. Yet the Bush administration has refused to include workers' rights in CAFTA.

Support the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)

PROPOSED LEGISLATION, S. 1925 and H.R. 3619, will allow employees to freely become union members by signing cards in a majority verification process, provide mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes, and establish stronger

The Union Movement's 10-Point Program

- 1** RECRUIT A KEY CONTACT at each local and work site.
- 2** DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS at all union work sites.
- 3** MAXIMIZE CONTACT through union publications by including Labor 2004 information in each issue and publishing special flyers and reports on working-family issues.
- 4** MAXIMIZE COMMUNICATION from local presidents and business agents through regular mailings that include leaflets and information on issues.
- 5** MAXIMIZE IMPACT of union phone calls by including an issue message in all calls and making multiple calls starting in the fall.
- 6** UPDATE local's membership and voter registration lists.
- 7** INCREASE UNION VOTER registration by 10 percent.
- 8** CONDUCT MASSIVE get-out-the-vote efforts.
- 9** BUILD RAPID RESPONSE networks in workplaces.
- 10** LINK POLITICS to organizing.

the BOILERMAKER Activist

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Published by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers to assist local lodge leaders.
 Submit articles and ideas to
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penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.

Activists have sent more than 80,000 faxes to their elected representatives asking that they co-sponsor the landmark legislation, leading more than 139 members of the House and Senate to support EFCA. To join the e-campaign, visit www.aflcio.org/voiceatwork.

Multi-employer pension plans need temporary relief

THE BOILERMAKERS and the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department are supporting an emergency proposal to give multi-employer plans (like the Boilermaker-Blacksmith pension) an opportunity to defer their investment losses over a two-year period, saving them from funding shortages and severe tax penalties.

This proposal was included in the Senate version of the pension bill, but not in the version passed by the House. We must ensure that the fix for multi-employer plans is included in the final product. Call your members of Congress and tell them how vital this temporary fix is to the Boilermakers. Encourage them to help include it in the conference report on the pension legislation.

Multi-employer pension plans are plans that are negotiated between unrelated employers and unions to help pool

the costs of defined benefit pension plans. Multi-employer plans have a long history of sound, conservative funding, but the unprecedented drop in the stock market over the last three years has caused some of these plans to face funding problems, particularly plans that rely heavily on investment returns.

In addition, a robust economy in the 1990s caused many plans to be subject to additional taxes. To avoid paying more in taxes, plans increased benefits or cut back required contributions. Now some plans face funding deficiencies in the near future.

Should fast-food restaurants be called manufacturers?

AMID REPORTS THAT most of the new jobs being created are in the lower-paying service industries, particularly fast-food restaurants, a key Bush adviser asked whether those jobs could be considered manufacturing jobs.

In the president's annual economic report to Congress, Bush's chief economic adviser N. Gregory Mankiw called the definition of manufacturing "somewhat blurry" and asked this question: "When a fast-food restaurant sells a hamburger, for example, is it providing a 'service' or is it combining inputs to 'manufacture' a product?"

Redefining manufacturing jobs might help the Bush administration explain away the 2.6 million manufacturing jobs that have vanished since January 2001, but it doesn't sit well with laid-off workers who must settle for lower-paying jobs.

And it is further off-base than even critics realize. When asked whether flipping burgers should be considered manufacturing, Edson Pardo, manager of the McDonald's around the corner from the White House said, "We don't flip hamburgers. We just heat them up."

Mankiw is the same adviser who said sending jobs overseas is "a good thing."

Why Should Working Families Mobilize to Elect a New President?

Since taking office, George W. Bush has

- Pushed a national economic policy in which more than 2.9 million private-sector jobs have been lost.
- Taken away the collective bargaining rights of hundreds of thousands of federal workers.
- Pushed hard for new federal rules to deny overtime pay protections for as many as eight million workers.
- Strong-armed Congress to pass Medicare prescription drug legislation that will force 32.5 million seniors to pay more for Medicare and prohibits Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices, even though the Veterans Administration and other agencies have that ability.

Need more reasons? Visit BushWatch at www.aflcio.org/bushwatch

Don't know who to call? Keep these numbers handy

WHEN YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM — even a small one — it isn't always easy to figure out the best person to call.

Keeping this list handy may help. The departments, people, and numbers listed below are frequently requested.

If you call headquarters, the receptionist can't always figure out who you need to talk to. Knowing the name of the person to ask for can save you a lot of time and ensure you get your question answered.

Questions about legislative issues, candidates for office, and getting your LEAP program rolling should be directed to Bridget Martin, director of government affairs.

Problems involving your monthly membership reports should be directed to Cindy Cosner. If a quarterly audit report, an LM report, or an IRS 990 form has you tied up, call Summer Fields in internal auditing.

Worried about upcoming negotiations? Research and Collective Bargaining Services

Director Len Beauchamp can help. Ryan Creeden, information technology director, can handle your questions about computers and software.

Questions about local lodge bonding, the officers and employees pension, or field dues go to accounting supervisor Susie Skinner.

This list is just a start. As we discuss the various types of assistance different offices provide to local lodges, we will give their contact information.

Newton B. Jones, International President

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8101

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Bryan A. King

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Construction Division

Dale Branscum, Director

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8105

Government Affairs

Bridget Martin, Director

Phone: (703) 560-1493 FAX: (703) 560-2584

Information Technology

Ryan Creeden, Director

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8104

Internal Auditing

Bryan A. King, Director

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8101

Summer Fields, Interim Internal Auditor

Government Reporting Forms, Quarterly Audits

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8111

Organizing

Bill Creeden, Director

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8104

Research & Collective Bargaining Services

Len Beauchamp, Director

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8105

Accounting Department

Susie Skinner, Accounting Supervisor

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8102

Membership Department

Cindy Cosner, Supervisor

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8197

Mail and Supplies

Sharon Sneed

Phone: (913) 371-2640 FAX: (913) 281-8102

National Funds Office

Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension

Boilermakers Health & Welfare

Phone: (913) 342-6555 FAX: (913) 342-6575

Toll free: (866) 342-6555

Brotherhood Bank and Trust

Phone: (913) 321-4242 FAX: (913) 321-5247

BNAP Apprenticeship Office

Pat Smith, National Coordinator

Phone: (913) 342-2100 FAX: (913) 342-2158

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers

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