



The Boilermakers Reporter

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Boilermakers help restore balance to Congress

Members participate in Labor 2006 to get out the vote and the message

WITH DOZENS OF governor, Senate, House, and state legislative positions in play, 2006 presented a real opportunity for working families to take back control from the anti-worker majority that held power. And that is just what workers did, tipping the scales back in favor of the Democratic Party.



Grass-root efforts like this casual porch meeting help spread the message about the importance of voting and getting to know your candidate.

All across the country, Boilermakers participated in Labor 2006 — an AFL-CIO program designed to get-out-the-vote and educate workers about political candidates. Ready to restore a much-needed balance to Capitol Hill, Boilermakers worked hard to get their fellow workers and families engaged in political action.

They not only “walked the walk,” performing door-to-door canvassing, but they “talked the talk,” too, educating their families and co-workers on where candidates stood on working people’s issues — health care, jobs, pensions, and workers’ freedom to form unions.

Labor 2006 focused on grass-roots mobilization to dramatically expand the reach of the member-to-member program to educate and activate more union members to vote. It also linked politics and organizing by asking all endorsed candidates to provide support for organizing and contract negotiations.

The Boilermakers’ government affairs department concentrated its energy in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and

See *BALANCE*, page 11

Tom Baca is new Western States IVP

Joe Stinger retires after 40 years of service

THE INTL. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL voted J. Tom Baca into the office of International vice president for the Western States effective February 1. Baca, BM-ST for Local 549 (Pittsburg, Calif.), was nominated by International President Newton B. Jones to take the position vacated by IVP Joe Stinger’s retirement.

Stinger expressed his strong endorsement of Baca, saying, “Tom will do an excellent job in representing the Western States membership and as a member of the International Executive Council. I have complete confidence in Tom’s ability.”



Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones (r.) swears in Tom Baca as the new International vice president for the Western States.

Baca joins established leadership team

J. TOM BACA HAS been business manager of Local 549 since March 2005, beginning his Boilermaker career as a field construction worker in 1969. He worked his way up the ranks, from steward to job superintendent, earning an appointment as an assistant business manager in 1994. He has served as both trustee and chairman of trustees on the Local 549 executive board.

In 2005, Baca was appointed union trustee to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust. He also served on the Law Committee for the 31st Consolidated Convention, held in July 2006.

A third-generation Boilermaker, Baca is son to John, a retired field construction Boilermaker out of Local 104 (Seattle), and grandson to Fred, a retired shipyard worker out of Local 72 (Portland).

Baca has been president of both the Contra Costa Building Trades and Central Labor Council, and a

member of the executive board for that area’s NAACP chapter.

Baca says he is honored that IP Jones, IVP Stinger, and the entire International Executive Council had the confidence to nominate and vote him into this important position.

“As the Western States International vice president, I know that my principal role will be to provide service to our members,” Baca stated. “I will never forget that, and every decision I make for this great organization will be for the good of the entire membership.”

Stinger calls end to career that began in 1967

JOSEPH A. “JOE” STINGER first retired on January 1, 2003, as administrative assistant to International President Charles W. Jones and director of the Boilermakers’ Railroad Division. He continued to serve as a

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Boilermakers attend ASA conference

DGA staff members meet with owners, key members of Congress

WHEN BOILERMAKERS DIRECTOR of Government Affairs Bridget Martin and Assistant Director Abe Breehey attended the annual conference and legislative workshop of the American Shipbuilding Association (ASA) in November, the arguments they made (and the ones they heard) were nearly identical to the ones made each year at the Boilermakers LEAP conference. That fact is surprising to many people, because the ASA is an organization that represents shipyards — that is, Boilermaker employers.

But in shipbuilding, as in some other industries, the Boilermakers' legislative agenda coincides very closely with that of the companies who employ our members. ASA members want to build ships. So do we. And members of Congress hold the key to making that possible. The ASA conference provides a vehicle for Boilermakers and shipyard owners to meet with key legislators who can help us enact our legislative agenda.

Breehey says, "It is much easier to get Congress to act on critical shipbuilding issues — especially those related to federal spending — when labor and management work together to advance shared goals."

Martin explains, "It is vitally important that we provide our perspective on the need to ensure that America maintains a strong fleet of U.S.-built ships that keep shipbuilders working and America secure and economically prosperous. The ASA conference provides a forum for union leaders, industry lead-



Congressman Gene Taylor (D-MS) discusses legislative issues with Assistant Director of Government Affairs Abe Breehey (right).

ers, and distinguished members of Congress to build relationships and discuss the critical role of budgets and policies to rebuild our shipbuilding industrial base."

This year's conference drew 10 members of the House of Representatives: Tom Allen (D-ME), Corrine Brown (D-FL), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), David Hobson (R-OH), John Mica (R-FL), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Gene Taylor (D-MS), and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). These representatives sit on numerous committees that shape legislation vital to shipbuilding, including Budget, Energy, and Commerce; Transportation and Infrastructure; Appropriations; Armed Services; Government Reform; and Homeland Security.

"The presence of the Boilermakers at the ASA conference demonstrates to those representatives who attend that investment in shipbuilding means investment in good jobs," says Breehey.

Government action shapes shipbuilding

FOR OVER 100 YEARS the actions of the federal government have had an enormous impact on the U.S. shipbuilding industry. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the buildup of the U.S. Navy expanded the nation's shipyards. Electric Boat, an ASA member and Boilermaker employer, first began building submarines for the U.S. government during this period.

Wartime shipbuilding greatly expanded the nation's shipbuilding industry during World Wars I and II, and also expanded membership in the Boilermakers union.

Although a post-war decline in shipbuilding was inevitable, a single government action in 1981 — President Reagan's suspension of the Construction Differential Subsidy Program — nearly dealt a death blow to U.S. shipbuilding. When the United States ended its subsidies, other nation's increased theirs to try to get our share of the shipbuilding market.

And they succeeded. In 1987 the United States did not have a single commercial ship on order or under construction. The U.S. market share dropped from nine percent in 1979 to zero in 1988. Since that time, the United States has managed to regain nearly one percent of the worldwide market share for commercial ships.

That tiny share is the result of another government action — the Jones Act, a federal law that requires ships carrying cargo between two U.S. points to be built in the United States. Without the Jones Act, there would be zero commercial shipbuilding in the United States. Any erosion of the Jones Act is a serious concern for both the ASA and the Boilermakers.

Since the 1980s, nearly all U.S. shipbuilding has been sustained by orders from the U.S. Navy. Although he all but destroyed commercial shipbuilding in the United States by ending construction subsidies, President Reagan kept the shipbuilding industrial base from disappearing altogether by promoting a 600-ship U.S. Navy. His successors in the White House have

See ASA, page 4

IVP James Hickenbotham retires

Former Cement Division director ends 34-year career

JAMES HICKENBOTHAM JR., 61, International vice president for the CLGAW Division since Oct. 1994, retired January 17.

He began his career as a member of the Paper Workers Union. Eight years later, he went to work for Lonestar Inc. at its Roanoke cement plant, joining Local D314 (Daleville, Va.) in 1973. He served the lodge as both a recording

secretary and local president. In January 1988, Hickenbotham was appointed International rep, just four years after the CLGAW union merged with the Boilermakers in March 1984.

Hickenbotham was an active member of the Army Reserves until retiring as a first sergeant in Sept. 1993. In Jan. 1994, he was appointed to serve as director of the CLGAW Division. He held this position until his appointment nine months later to fill the unexpired term of retiring IVP Henry Bechtholdt.

Hickenbotham was re-elected IVP of the CLGAW Division at all subsequent consolidated conventions.

While with the Boilermakers union, Hickenbotham continued his education, attending classes on labor law, arbitration, negotiations, and effective writing at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies and the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin.

Hickenbotham is a member of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy,

Mine, and General Workers' Unions (ICEM), serving on the executive board for the North American region. As a member and co-chair for the ICEM's materials sector, Hickenbotham often represented the Boilermakers union at global meetings. In 2005, he was elected to a four-year term as chair of the ICEM's materials sector at its world conference in Brussels, Belgium.

Hickenbotham is looking forward to having more time to spend with his family: his wife of 35 years, Betty; daughter, April; and nine-year-old grandson, Averie.

His position as IVP and member of the International Executive Council will not be filled, in accordance with action granted the IEC at the 31st Consolidated Convention. □



Jim Hickenbotham retires after serving 12-plus years as IVP of the CLGAW Division.



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Joe Stinger retires as IVP for the Western States Area, effective January 31.

Stinger (continued from p. 1)

consultant to the International, only to be called back to active duty four months later as International vice president for the Western States.

Now, Stinger, 61, has retired again, effective January 31, 2007. This time he says it is for good. He is long overdue for the retirement he planned four years ago. Those plans include spending more time with his wife of 29 years, Vivian; with his children, Amanda and Nicole (both members of the International staff); traveling with his fifth-wheel trailer; and enjoying his life-long passion of fishing.

Stinger is one of 14 children of Phillip and Mildred Stinger. His father, now deceased, was a coal miner and president of one of the first United Mine Worker local unions in Western Pennsylvania.

Stinger began his Boilermaker career with the Monongahela Railroad in November 1967, joining Local 747, McKees Rocks, Pa., in January 1968. Three months later, he began two years of military service, completing one tour of duty in Vietnam with the elite Airborne Rangers as a team leader and platoon sergeant.

After his honorable discharge, Stinger returned to work at the Monongahela Railroad and earned his teaching certificate from the University of Pittsburgh. He supplemented his railroad income by teaching evening college courses and substituting at the high school level during his vacations.

Stinger was elected general chairman of the Eastern Region in 1977, and was reelected in 1981. In 1983, he became an International representative, attending the Harvard University Trade Program in 1984, the same year he was elected supervisor of the Henry Clay Township and appointed director of the Boilermakers Railroad Division. In 1985, he became an assistant to the International president and was named administrative assistant to IP C. W. Jones in 1996, a position he held until his first retirement in January 2003. □

Senco Construction earns top OSHA award

Contractor is first to receive STAR award in Illinois, and first Marathon Petroleum contractor awarded nationwide

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT of Labor has approved VPP STAR status for NTL contractor Senco Construction Inc. — the highest OSHA award available.

It is the first time an Illinois contractor has received the award, and the first time nationwide that a contractor at a Marathon Petroleum Co. facility has earned this status. In fact, only two other contractors in the six-state OSHA Region V have ever received this award, making Senco one of fewer than 20 contractors nationwide to earn STAR status.

Senco is a multi-craft employer at Marathon's Illinois division in Robinson, Ill. The award drew national recognition and culminates Senco's efforts that started in October 2003 to achieve and maintain an ongoing standard of excellence in workplace safety.

Great Lakes Council #1 holds annual meeting

Group discusses finances, FMLA

REPRESENTATIVES FROM about a dozen manufacturing locals participated in the seventh annual meeting of the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1 on September 15 in Aurora, Ill.

Intl. Rep Howard Cole, who serves as the council's business representative, reports that the council is in solid shape financially and continues to provide excellent training for lodge leaders. The annual meeting included a training session on the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) presented by Kelly Hounshell, president of Local 524 (East Chicago, Ind.).

Cole says the council, which until recently had offered four training courses annually, now holds three sessions per year. It has conducted a total of 26 sessions since it was formed in 1999. The training is provided by lodge officers as well as attorneys,



Members of affiliated lodges attend the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1.

professors, and mediators. The next training session is set for April 20 at Local 374 (Hammond, Ind.). □

Metal Trades sues Coast Guard over 'kit ships'

Outsourcing work to South Korea violates Jones Act, says MTD

THE METAL TRADES Department, acting on behalf of more than 500 union workers at Aker American Shipping's Philadelphia shipyard, filed a lawsuit in January alleging the U.S. Coast Guard has violated the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (commonly known as the Jones Act) by outsourcing shipbuilding work to South Korea.

The Act states that ships engaging in coastwise trade — from one U.S. port to another, rather than engaging in international shipping — must meet several conditions. First, major structural components must be built in the United States; second, the ship must be assembled entirely in this country. The Act is intended to protect American shipbuilding capabilities, which are vital especially in times of war and other national emergencies.

However, Aker, which has an order for 10 product tankers for coastwise use, has contracted with South Korean shipyards to pre-assemble and pre-outfit numerous components. These components are then shipped to Aker for final assembly by the company's union employees.

According to MTD President Ron Ault, South Koreans are fabricating plug-and-play modules that include "machinery rooms; bow and stern assemblies; preformed hull steel; rudders; propellers; shafts; antennas; crew ladders; stairs; deck handling equipment such as fully-assembled, ready-to-operate cranes, winches, and much more." This is work that has traditionally been done by bargaining unit

employees at the Philadelphia shipyard.

Ault said this method of construction amounts to building ships from kits and that it affects not only Aker but the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego. Boilermakers work at both locations.

The MTD and its affiliate, the Philadelphia Metal Trades Council, filed the suit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. It named as defendants the U.S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Commandant, the National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC), which is charged with enforcing elements of the Jones Act, and its director.

The lawsuit asks the court for a permanent injunction to prevent pre-assembly of equipment modules in any foreign facility, and to rescind any documentation permitting coastwise trade involving ships built under the Coast Guard's and the NVDC's faulty interpretation of the Jones Act.

MTD's Ault noted, "Before the debut of 'kit ships' at Aker and NASSCO it appeared that shipbuilding might be insulated against the ravages of free trade. It is, after all, the last heavy industry left in America. Instead of protecting American workers, American jobs, and the environment, these free trade agreements open the door to unfair competition by foreign government-owned and heavily subsidized industries. NAFTA and the free trade agreements are an open invitation to our trading 'partners' to cheat us — and there are no mechanisms for dealing with cheating." □



Senco representatives display the STAR banner they earned at the Marathon Petroleum Co. in Robinson, Ill. Pictured behind the banner, beginning fourth from left, are Senco officers Don Bickers, vice president; Steve Neeley, CEO/owner; and Resa Shaner, president. In the third row, second, third, and sixth from left respectively, are NTL Boilermaker foremen Tom Farrar and Tim Midgett, and NTL Boilermaker steward Guy Tewell. Photo by Tom Compton

Democrats keep '100 hours' promise

New House majority moves swiftly on worker-friendly legislation

WITH THEIR NEWLY won majority, Democrats in the U.S. House wasted no time in pushing through bills that benefit working families. In fact, the House — with bipartisan support — passed every piece of legislation promised by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 8th) in her "100 hours" pledge. Pelosi and other House Democrats used the pledge during midterm elections to show voters how serious they are about changing the country's direction. Not only did they fulfill their pledge, they did so within the first 43 hours of the 110th Congress.

By Jan. 18, the House had passed bills that raise the minimum wage, enable Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for lower drug prices, reduce interest rates on college loans, and cut back subsidies for Big Oil. Also in the first 100 hours, the House toughened its lobbying and ethics rules, and passed bills to implement the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and to back stem cell research.

Much of the legislation coming out of the House is long overdue and has the support of the majority of the American people. For the past 12 years, however, anti-worker politicians in power blocked efforts to move these initiatives forward. For example, the minimum wage has not been increased in a decade. Under the new House legislation, it will rise by \$2.10 an hour, from \$5.15 to \$7.25. The bill's chief sponsor, Rep. George Miller (D-CA 7th), said:

"What so many of my colleagues made clear... in the debate is that after you have stalled this vote for 10 years, this goes way beyond the dollars and cents of the minimum wage. It goes to the core values of

America and economic justice and social justice and fairness and whether or not every American is going to get to participate in the American economic system and also be able to provide for their children and their families."

Whether or not the 100 hours legislation becomes law will depend on how the Senate responds — and whether Pres. Bush will try to block the bills with vetoes. Although Senate leaders have pledged to move the legislation forward, the Democratic majority is slim — 51 to 49 — and the opposition could seek to kill the bills or change them. One thing is for certain: the House majority has come out firing, and working families are finally getting the attention they deserve. □

Union contracts in 2006 improve over 2005

THE BUREAU OF NATIONAL Affairs reports that an analysis of new collective bargaining agreements through Nov. 20, 2006, shows an average wage increase of 3.4 percent in the first year of the contract, compared to 3.1 percent in the comparable period of 2005.

Major contracts reached during the period include a new three-year contract between Tyson Foods and the United Food and Commercial Workers, representing approximately 900 workers in Ohio, and new three-year contracts between St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center and United Auto Workers, covering approximately 2,650 workers.

DOE proposal would reduce employee benefits

Unions join Congress and public in demanding plan review

UNDER PRESSURE FROM organized labor, Congress, and the public, the Department of Energy last year suspended a controversial new policy that would end reimbursements to contractors for traditional, defined-benefit pension and comprehensive medical plans. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman ordered the one-year suspension just three weeks after he first announced the new policy. The department had planned on full implementation of the new policy by March 1, 2007.

Under the policy, future DOE contracts would only cover 401(k)-style retirement plans and "market-based" health plans. Because these plans are subject to market swings, they are less reliable than traditional plans. And they often carry a higher cost for employees. The new policy also would restrict active employees and retirees who are covered under existing DOE contracts from making plan improvements.

The DOE claims these changes are needed because rising health care costs and other benefit expenses are hurting its budget. Several Boilermaker contractors are among the companies performing operations and maintenance work for the DOE.

Abe Breehey, the Boilermakers' assistant director of government affairs, called the suspension "a huge victory for union members employed at DOE facilities." He said unions were angry that the Bush administration did not even consult them before attempting to implement the new policy.

Members of Congress who challenged the proposal said the DOE did not clear it through the Department of Labor, nor did the department submit the new policy to the public for notice and comment. The one-year suspension will now permit public scrutiny.

The Bush administration has come under repeated fire for its attempts to restrict the rights of federal employees. Just last year, a federal district court judge ruled that the Department of Defense's new personnel rules "eviscerated collective bargaining rights." The court prevented the DOD from implementing the new rules. □

ASA Conference

(continued from p. 2)

not supported a Navy of this size, resulting in a rapidly shrinking Navy and an equally rapidly shrinking shipbuilding industry.

Under Reagan, the Navy ordered an average of 19 ships a year. During the 1990s and continuing to today, the Navy has been ordering only six ships a year — the fewest on order since the Great Depression.

Low rates of both commercial and Navy construction have contributed to a contraction of the shipbuilding industry to dangerous levels. Only one shipyard currently builds nuclear aircraft carriers. Each of the other types of Navy ships — nuclear submarines, surface combatants, and auxiliary ships — is being built in only two shipyards. The loss of any of these six yards will lead to a single source for certain types of ships.

Many critical ship systems and components are already threatened. For example, for more than 80 percent of the Virginia Class submarine components, there is only one source. Production rates are simply not sufficient to sustain more than one company. If that company closes shop, there will be no source for these components inside the United States. With differing percentages, the same is true for nearly all ships made for the U.S. Navy.

Boilermakers see the decline in the U.S. Navy fleet as both a threat to the country's defense capability and a threat to the livelihoods of our shipbuilding members. If continued low levels of production force the closure of a few more shipyards, Congress may need to repeal the buy-American stricture and allow the U.S. Navy to purchase ships built in foreign shipyards.

The ASA and the Boilermakers union are determined to keep that from happening, and we are working together to convince Congress to take the steps necessary to keep our shipyards open and productive. □

RESUMES SOUGHT FOR APPRENTICE INSTRUCTORS

Resumes for future full-time instructor positions are being accepted at the National Apprenticeship Training Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

- ▶ Ten years of journeyman Boilermaker experience is preferred.
- ▶ Welding certification (tube, plate) and a working understanding of other welding procedures (i.e. orbital welding), rigging, and tube rolling are required.
- ▶ Drafting, blueprint, and layout experience is a definite plus.
- ▶ Previous instructional experience is not required; will train.
- ▶ Wage and benefits are comparable to the Local 83 field package.

More information is available upon written request only (phone inquiries not accepted).

Please send resumes and written requests to the attention of:
Barbara Dunham
1017 North 9th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101.



SAJAC builds training center in Texas to meet job growth

Facility honors IVP George D. Rogers, former L-132 BM-ST

"BUILD IT AND they will come." That famous movie phrase could easily apply to the new training facility built by the Southeastern Area Joint Apprenticeship Committee (SAJAC) on land donated by Local 132 in LaMarque, Texas.

Since the center was completed in June 2006, the two classrooms and 22 welding booths have been in near-constant use, says Mark Thompson, business manager and secretary-treasurer of Local 132 since July 2002.

The \$1 million training facility is being used to turn out a new generation of welders. After years of decline, the demand for unionized welders is on an upswing thanks to a boom in construction work across Texas — in particular, in the construction of power plants.

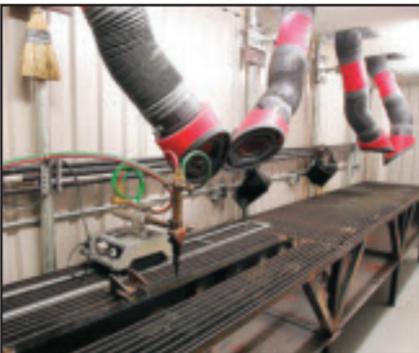


A dedication ceremony drew both retired and active Boilermaker members to view the shop area of SAJAC's new training facility.

Power, a construction firm that specializes in building power plants, will donate the material for the frame.

Gary Haight, the Houston area director for APCOM Power, told the *Galveston County Daily News* that "having the newly-trained work force is a blessing. Not only do the new recruits help fill a desperate need for skilled workers, but APCOM knows what type of worker they will get if that worker comes through the training program first."

The facility is owned and operated by SAJAC and will primarily be used by members of the Lone Star District Lodge. Lone Star represents members of Local Lodges 74 (Houston), 132 (Galveston), 531 (Amarillo), and 587



SAJAC's new training facility houses state-of-the-art equipment, including this track torch used for cutting (burning) carbon steel plate.

"We will need over 3,000 Boilermakers in the next two years in Texas alone," predicts Central Section International Vice President George D. Rogers. Rogers, a former Local 132 business manager and secretary-treasurer, accepted a plaque naming the building in his honor at the November 2 dedication ceremony. The plaque will be hung on the wall between the shop and classrooms at the 5,500-square-foot facility.

Thompson said 300 apprentice Boilermakers can be turned out each year at the school. Some training will take place at the new facility, the rest on the job working side-by-side with veteran Boilermakers. A rigging frame will be erected outside the facility. APCOM



IVP George Rogers (l.) accepts a plaque naming the SAJAC training facility in his honor from SAJAC chairman Mike Carroll.



SAJAC's new training facility includes 22 welding booths where trainees can use a welder's torch to weld metal according to training specs.

(Orange). The Paul Wedge Award area apprentice competition will also be held at this new facility this summer.

Thompson says SAJAC director Mike Peterson was instrumental in getting the facility built, and he credits Mike for the success they've already seen since the building opened last June.

The Boilermakers apprenticeship program was established to promote efficient and high quality field construction work by skilled craftsmen in the boilermaker trade. The four-year program provides an opportunity for a person to work through self-studies, on-the-job training, and participation in classroom instruction at the national training center in Kansas City, Kan., or at local training centers (like the new Rogers facility in LaMarque, Texas) throughout the United States and Canada. For more information on becoming a Boilermaker apprentice, please visit www.bnap.com. □



Training coordinators and staff from five Canadian local lodges attend a Master Rigger course in Washington as part of their train-the-trainer program.

Canadians attend second annual train-the-trainer program

Event features four-day Master Rigger course

CANADIAN APPRENTICE training coordinators and their staffs attended the second annual train-the-trainer conference Nov. 5-9 in Woodland, Wash. Grant Jacobs, national training coordinator, said the conference is designed to prepare and equip local union training instructors to provide "first-rate training programs for our members."

He said the conference also allows Boilermaker trainers to compare methods used in their home locals. "A lot of practical advice and ideas are exchanged at this event as the instructors discuss how they do training and what types of courses they offer — and the resources they use."

The 2006 conference featured a four-day rigging course conducted by Mike Parnell, owner of Industrial Training International (ITI) at the firm's national headquarters. All participants received a Master Rigger certificate.

The ITI course, designed for those who have completed basic rigging instruction, included both classroom instruction and practical exercises. Participants split into teams that competed, on the final day, in a "Survivor-style" marathon, said Jacobs, alluding to the popular television series. All teams were evaluated on safety, teamwork, procedures, and time. Topics included load control, center of gravity, winch systems, jacking and rolling equipment, air-assisted load movement systems, D/d ratios (a measuring standard used to avoid wire rope fatigue due to excessive bending), effects of shock loading, load weight estimation, load factors for sling angles, inspection of

rigging gear, rigging accident case studies, riggers' checklist, rigging design, multiple hitch systems, load turning and load drifting, special load handling, hazard recognition, hitches and pick points, and lift planning.

The ITI course also included instruction on classroom teaching techniques and delivery methods. "Even the most seasoned and experienced participants in this course felt the four-day training program was very valuable and they learned a lot," Jacobs said.

Jacobs noted that the Boilermakers' national training program has completed a rigging handbook and will soon complete a rigging training manual. These materials will be used in local lodge training programs, focusing on practical rigging from Level One to Master Rigger. Each Canadian local intends to conduct at least a Level One course during 2007.

Pictured above are national coordinator Grant Jacobs (seated); kneeling, l. to r., L-73 rigging instructor Eric Lindsay (Halifax, Nova Scotia); L-128 welding instructor Ron Sostomi (Toronto, Ontario); L-146 instructor j'Amey Holroyd (Edmonton, Alberta); L-146 executive board member Darwin Leitch; L-555 instructor Jim Beauchamp (Winnipeg, Manitoba); and ITI instructor Mike Parnell. Standing, l. to r., are L-128 training coordinator Ed Frerotte; L-128's Marc Guay; L-359 instructor Russell Osborne (Vancouver, British Columbia); L-73 training coordinator Eugene Leblanc; L-359 instructor Alfred Bennett; L-73 rigging instructor Samuel Basque; L-128 safety instructor Blair Allin; L-349 training coordinator Joe Kiwior; and L-146 welding examiner/instructor Jason Carroll.

Democrats lead Congress for first time in 12 years

Worker-friendly politicians ride "national wave" to victory in House and Senate

"A NATIONAL WAVE" of voter anxiety. That is how CNN political analyst Amy Walter described the environment in which Democrats might possibly take back the House and Senate as she addressed Boilermakers at last year's LEAP conference.

Walter warned Boilermakers that such a scenario was unlikely although polls were showing signs of widespread public unrest. In the months following her presentation, a wave did appear — fueled by anxiety over the war in Iraq, the economy, and jobs, and a mounting disenchantment with Pres. Bush. That

wave lifted worker-friendly politicians into majorities in both houses of Congress in midterm elections last November.

Promising a more ethical approach to politics — and less partisan rancor — the Democratic majority has begun settling in to its new leadership role. A mix of progressives and centrists, Democratic congressional leaders face the daunting tasks of fulfilling campaign promises while seeking the cooperation of moderate Republicans and overcoming the veto threat of an unpopular president.

Who are these Democrats now holding the reins of Congress? Following are profiles of the new House leaders and six new senators who played a major role in shifting power in the U.S. Senate.



Democrats take control of House of Representatives

Seven leaders make Boilermaker "watch list" for 110th Congress

DEMOCRATS NEEDED TO win 15 seats to take control of the House of Representatives in last November's midterm elections. They captured 29. Much of their success has been attributed to the strong get-out-the-vote effort of organized labor, including the Boilermakers union and our legislative program — LEAP. A high percentage of labor's vote went to pro-worker candidates — largely Democrats, but some Republicans as well. Now, as the new majority party, Democrats will set the House's legislative agenda. They will also take over the chairmanship of the House's 21 committees, which have been dominated by Republicans since 1995. The Boilermakers and labor-at-large will look to the House majority party to introduce pro-labor bills and keep anti-worker measures from being considered on the floor.

Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 8th), Speaker of the House



"Without Nancy Pelosi as Democratic leader in the House, the last four years would have been a lot worse. We heard much about the terrible policies that the Republican leadership passed, but we didn't always hear about what they could not get done because Pelosi was successful at holding Democrats together. The best

The opportunities for unions and working families to benefit from this power shift are substantial. But so are the challenges. George W. Bush still has two years remaining in his presidency, and the Democratic majority is not large enough to override his vetoes without help from Republican congressmen. (A two-thirds majority is required to defeat a veto.) Moreover, the Democratic majority includes 44 moderate and conservative Democrats ("blue dogs"), whose positions may often conflict with those of the House leadership.

According to political analysts, for Democrats to take advantage of their victory, they must have party unity and stay focused on achievable goals. The success or failure of the 2006 Democratic power shift may well rest upon the shoulders of key Democratic leaders like those profiled in this section.

example of her work was keeping Social Security privatization off the House floor."
— Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

IN JANUARY THE 110th Congress elected Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 8th) speaker of the House of Representatives. She is the first woman ever to hold this position and the first Italian American to do so. House speaker is one of the most powerful and visible political offices in the country. In her new role, Pelosi, 66, will decide which measures will be considered in the House, and she will control the floor proceedings. The position of speaker is also second in the line of succession to the U.S. presidency (after the vice president).

Pelosi's selection as speaker was all but assured after Democrats captured 29 House seats and took over majority status. Although all House members



Democrats win slim majority in Senate

Six candidates oust incumbent Republicans

FOR DEMOCRATS, REGAINING control of the U.S. Senate in the 2006 midterm elections was the longest of long shots. They had to keep Democrats in two open seats, in Minnesota and Maryland; all Democratic incumbents had to be returned to office; and six Republican incumbents had to lose to Democratic challengers.

When all three events came to pass, the Democrats held the majority by a single seat — 51-49. This

includes Independents Bernie Sanders (VT) and Joe Lieberman (CT), who say they will caucus with Democrats.

Five of the six Democratic challengers who replaced Republicans are new to the U.S. Congress. Sherrod Brown of Ohio is the exception, having served in the U.S. House. The others, Bob Casey (PA), Claire McCaskill (MO), Jon Tester (MT), Jim Webb (VA), and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), come from varied backgrounds: a state treasurer, a state auditor, a farmer, a war hero, and a U.S. attorney.

Sherrod Brown (D-OH)



"SHERROD BROWN STRONGLY opposes misguided trade agreements that cost millions of American jobs. He organized Democratic opposition in the House to CAFTA, working closely with organized labor and other allies. Nobody has done more in Congress to promote trade fairness and fight for an end to job-killing trade agreements. He will continue to be our champion on this issue as a United States senator."

— Abe Breehey, assistant director of government affairs

BOILERMAKERS BACKED Sherrod Brown with campaign donations and get-out-the-vote efforts in a U.S. Senate race seen by labor as critical to the future of U.S. trade policies. Wracked by jobs shipped

overseas and an ethics scandal involving its Republican governor, Ohio appeared ready for change. And change came. Brown unseated two-term Republican incumbent Mike DeWine, winning by a 56-44 percent margin.

Elected to the U.S. House in 1992, Brown, 54, was re-elected six times in the heavily Democratic 13th District in the Cleveland area. He was last year's co-recipient of the Boilermakers' Legislator of the Year award at the Brotherhood's LEAP conference. In 2005 he earned a 100 percent voting record on Boilermaker issues and 93 percent from the AFL-CIO. That same year, Brown led the Democratic effort to block the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in the House, lining up substantial bipartisan support. However, in unusual circumstances that included a late-night session, the Republican majority held open a roll-call vote well past the standard 15 minutes, mustering additional support. CAFTA passed by one vote, 217 to 215 (a tie would have resulted in a defeat). Brown said this stinging outcome prompted him to run for the U.S. Senate.

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House

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may vote for the speaker, the ruling party typically controls the election because it has more votes.

Endorsed by organized labor, Pelosi has consistently received high marks for voting in support of measures important to unions. In 2005, the Boilermakers rated her voting record at 75 percent; the AFL-CIO rated her even higher, at 93 percent.

Pelosi's district includes most of the city and county of San Francisco and is widely considered a bastion of progressive politics. In the 2006 midterm elections, Pelosi received 81 percent of the vote in her district, easily defeating her Republican challenger. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 1988, Pelosi has been reelected nine times, always by wide margins. She has served on the Appropriations and Intelligence Committees and in 2001 was elected the House minority whip. A year later, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt resigned his position to campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, and Democrats elected her to replace him.

According to *Washington Post* staff writer Lois Romano, "[Pelosi] has proved to be a tough-minded tactician who has led her caucus from the political center and kept the fractious House Democrats in line." Her outspokenness, support of progressive issues, and hard-nosed approach to politics earned her the ire of right-wing politicians, many of whom chose to make her a focus of negative campaigning in 2006 — a strategy some analysts say may have backfired on Republicans.

Over the past several years, Pelosi has supported most of the legislative positions taken by the Boilermakers. She voted to strengthen OSHA, to protect overtime pay, and to repeal tax breaks for companies exporting jobs. She also voted against free trade treaties with Oman and with the Dominican Republic and Central America. She is a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act, a bill that would make it easier for workers to join a union and discourage employers from interfering with organizing drives.

Steny Hoyer (D-MD 5th), majority leader



"Congressman Hoyer is a skilled legislator. He recently forced Republicans to scuttle budget legislation that included a number of cuts in programs important to labor and working families by attaching an increase in the minimum wage to the bill."

—Abe Breehey, assistant director of government affairs

BY A 149-86 VOTE, Democratic congressmen last November elected Steny Hoyer (D-MD 5th) House majority leader over Rep. John Murtha (D-PA 12th). In his new position, Hoyer is second in command to speaker Nancy Pelosi. His duties will include scheduling legislation for consideration on the House floor, helping to plan legislative agendas, and seeking to line up support on positions of the majority party.

Hoyer, widely considered a centrist, is endorsed by organized labor. In 2005, the Boilermakers rated his voting record at 75 percent, while the AFL-CIO scored him a perfect 100 percent.

Hoyer's district includes portions of Prince George and Anne Arundel counties as well as the three counties making up southern Maryland — Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's — in an area bordering Washington, D.C.

In the 2006 midterm elections, Hoyer received 83 percent of the vote in his district, easily defeating his Green Party challenger. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 1981 and reelected 12 times, Hoyer, 67, has served as a representative longer than anyone else in the history of southern Maryland. He is also the highest-ranking member of Congress in Maryland history.

From 1987 to 1989, Hoyer was the majority whip — the fourth-ranking position in the House. From 1989 to 1994, he served as the chair of the Democratic caucus — the third ranking position. In 2002, eight years after the Republican take-over of both houses of Congress, Hoyer was unanimously elected by his party as the deputy minority whip, the second-highest ranking position of his minority party. He held that position until being elected House majority leader.

He sits on the House Appropriations Committee, which allocates billions of dollars in federal funds each year. He also serves on the Transportation-Treasury Subcommittee and the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee.

Over the past several years, Hoyer has supported most of the legislative positions taken by the Boilermakers. He voted to strengthen OSHA, to protect overtime pay, and to repeal tax breaks for companies exporting jobs. He also voted against free trade treaties with Oman and with the Dominican Republic and Central America. He is a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act. In 1990, he was credited with helping to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As a centrist Democrat, Hoyer sometimes votes in line with those in his party who are more moderate or conservative. *The Prince George Gazette* said Hoyer "is in touch with the pulse of the Democratic caucus. He's a flexible moderate, perhaps because of the growing conservative nature of his district."

James Clyburn (D-SC 6th), majority whip



"We've always had a great relationship with Rep. Clyburn. He is a staunch ally of labor and a strong supporter. He will be an asset for us."

—Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

LAST NOVEMBER, REP. James Clyburn (D-SC 6th) became the second black lawmaker in history to be elected House majority whip, the highest congressional office ever to be held by an African American. Clyburn reports to the new House majority leader, Rep. Steny Hoyer. In his new position, Clyburn is responsible for keeping members of Congress informed, marshalling support for the Democratic leadership position, and helping to coordinate legislative and floor strategy. The majority whip stays in touch with House members and provides feedback to the party leadership regarding their concerns and opinions.

Clyburn is an outspoken supporter of minority issues and a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. In

2005, the Boilermakers rated his voting record at 75 percent, while the AFL-CIO scored him at 93 percent.

Clyburn's district is in central South Carolina. Heavily Democratic, the district was gerrymandered (restructured) in the 1990s to include rural counties with predominantly black populations as well as black precincts in Charleston and Columbia.

In the 2006 midterm elections, Clyburn received 64 percent of the vote in his district to defeat his Republican challenger, who received 34 percent. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992 and reelected seven times, Clyburn is 66 years old.

He was unanimously elected to chair the Congressional Black Caucus in 1998. He sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and also is a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies and the Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary District of Columbia.

Over the past several years, Clyburn has supported most of the legislative positions taken by the Boilermakers. He voted to strengthen OSHA and to protect overtime pay. He also voted against free trade treaties with Oman and with the Dominican Republic and Central America. He is a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Clyburn's hometown newspaper, *The State* (Columbia, S.C.) praised him as an "unashamed advocate of his constituents." He has been credited with successfully pushing for the integration of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Rahm Emanuel (D-IL 5th), chairman of the Democratic caucus



"Rep. Rahm Emanuel was charged with candidate recruitment and national fundraising to ensure that Democrats were well-positioned to take advantage of the voters' call for change in Washington. He is a fearless — some would say ruthless — politician who understands bare-knuckle politics."

—Abe Breehey, assistant director of government affairs

A FORMER CLINTON White House political advisor — Rahm Emanuel (D-IL 5th) received his party's nod as chairman of the Democratic caucus for the 110th Congress. Emanuel becomes the fourth-ranking Democrat in the House, an impressive achievement for a congressman with only two terms under his belt.

In his new leadership role, Emanuel will set the agenda for and preside over weekly caucus meetings as well as an annual caucus issues conference. He will also establish caucus issue task forces to develop and communicate legislative and party policy.

Like House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Emanuel is considered a centrist. In 2005, the Boilermakers rated his voting record at 75 percent, while the AFL-CIO scored him at 93 percent.

Emanuel's district includes the northwest side of Chicago and parts of suburban Cook County. According to the *Washington Post*, the district is composed mainly of "working-class Polish and Catholic precincts."

In the 2006 midterm elections, Emanuel won 79 percent of the vote in his district, compared to 21 percent for his Republican challenger. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 2002 and reelected twice, Emanuel, 47, got involved in politics by joining the advocacy group Common Cause while in college. He later assisted Paul Simon in his first successful U.S. Senate race in 1984. But it was his wildly successful fund-raising effort for Chicago Mayor Richard Daley in 1989 (in which he raised \$7 million) that vaulted Emanuel into the national spotlight. He was invited to join Bill Clinton's presidential campaign committee in 1991 and later became a trusted political advisor in the Clinton White House, serving until 1998.

As a congressman, Emanuel serves on the Ways and Means Committee. In 2005, he was picked to chair the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for the 2006 midterm elections.

Over the past several years, Emanuel has supported most of the legislative positions taken by the Boilermakers. He voted to strengthen OSHA, to protect overtime pay, and to repeal tax breaks for companies exporting jobs. He also voted against free trade treaties with Oman and with the Dominican Republic and Central America. He is a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

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House

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**George Miller III
(D-CA 7th), chairman of
the House Committee
on Education and
the Workforce**



"Rep. Miller has assured labor that among his top priorities will be passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. To have a champion like George Miller at the helm of the Workforce Committee in the House means that labor's priorities will no longer be left sitting on the back burner. George Miller is an incredible asset to organized labor, because he will address the issues that impact workers."

—Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

REGARDED AS A close friend and ally of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, George Miller III (D-CA 7th) was elected December 6 by the House Democratic caucus to head the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. As its name implies, this committee addresses legislation and issues regarding education and workers. The efforts of the full committee — and its subcommittees — are vitally important to organized labor. The Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, for example, deals with the National Labor Relations Act; pensions, health, and other employee benefits; the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA); equal employment opportunity; and civil rights in employment.

Miller is considered a progressive politician because of his support of social, environmental, and labor issues. In 2005, he received a 75 percent vote rating from the Boilermakers and a 93 percent rating from the AFL-CIO.

Miller's district in San Francisco's East Bay includes

half of Contra Costa County, Solano County, and a tiny portion of Napa County. Major cities in the district include Richmond, Pittsburg, Vallejo, Vacaville, and portions of Concord.

In the 2006 midterm elections, Miller received 84 percent of the vote in his district to easily defeat his Libertarian challenger. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 1975, Miller, 61, has been reelected each time since then.

In addition to serving as chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Miller is the ranking member of the House Committee on Resources, which considers legislation about fisheries and wildlife, public lands, Native Americans, irrigation and reclamation, mineral lands and mining, and oceanography. He served as chair of that committee from 1991 to 1994. Since 2003, he has chaired the Democratic Policy Committee, which helps Democrats define and articulate policies, such as the Democrats' "New Direction for America," a blueprint used in the 2006 midterm elections.

Miller is the original sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act. Supported by the Boilermakers, this act would allow workers to obtain union recognition by card check rather than secret ballot, helping to reduce employer intimidation during organizing drives. Miller also is leading the fight to raise the federal minimum wage, currently \$5.15 per hour, to \$7.25. This is one of the House Democratic majority's priorities going into the 110th Congress. The federal minimum wage has not been raised in nearly a decade.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Miller was one of the most outspoken critics of President Bush's decision to suspend Davis-Bacon protections in the Gulf. He helped marshal bipartisan opposition to the move, and he introduced a joint resolution to allow Congress to take fast-track action when a president unilaterally suspends a law. Pres. Bush subsequently reinstated Davis-Bacon.

As one of four congressional authors of the No Child Left Behind Act, Miller worked with bipartisan support to draft legislation aimed at improving teacher quality and holding schools accountable for educating all children. He continues to seek full funding for the act.

Miller has also been involved in legislative investigations of labor and human rights abuses in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands involving women employed in the garment and tourism industries.

**Charles Rangel
(D-NY 15th), chairman of
the Committee on
Ways and Means**



"Less than a month after the election, Rep. Rangel reached out to labor to discuss changes in the tax code that will help stop outsourcing. Corporate interests have had their every wish granted by the Republican-controlled Congress in the last 12 years. With Charlie in charge, it's going to be a whole new ball game."

—Abe Breehey, assistant director of government affairs

OUTSPOKEN AND OFTEN controversial, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY 15th) was elected December 6 by the House Democratic Caucus to head the House Committee on Ways and Means. This committee is perhaps the most powerful on Capitol Hill. It has jurisdiction over taxation, tariffs, and other means of raising revenues. Additionally, Ways and Means has jurisdiction over such programs as Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment benefits. Democratic control of this committee could spell trouble for tax breaks given to the wealthy and it could forestall further Republican efforts to privatize Social Security.

In 2005, Rangel received a 75 percent vote rating from the Boilermakers and a 93 percent rating from the AFL-CIO.

Rangel's district includes Upper Manhattan and a small portion of the Bronx as well as Rikers Island. It includes the neighborhoods of Harlem, Inwood, Spanish Harlem, and Washington Heights.

In the 2006 midterm elections, Rangel received 94 percent of the vote in his district to his Republican challenger's four percent. First elected as a U.S. congressman in 1971, Rangel, 76, has been reelected each time since then. He is a former chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and a co-founder and former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Rangel served in the U.S. Army from 1948 and saw action in the Korean War, earning a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Over the past several years, Rangel has supported most of the legislative positions taken by the Boilermakers. He voted

to strengthen OSHA, to protect overtime pay, and to repeal tax breaks for companies exporting jobs. He also voted against free trade treaties with Oman and with the Dominican Republic and Central America. He is a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Rangel has a reputation as an outspoken critic of the Bush administration. He introduced a resolution in 2003 seeking to have Donald Rumsfeld fired as secretary of defense, and he has engaged in a public feud with Vice President Dick Cheney over Cheney's lack of military service as well as his willingness to fight a war "with other people's children."

Recently, Rangel has drawn national attention by introducing a bill to reinstate the military draft. He told CNN that a draft would likely deter politicians from going to war in the future. Rangel introduced similar legislation in 2003.

**John Dingell Jr.
(D-MI 15th), chairman,
Energy and Commerce
Committee**



"Chairman Dingell understands that reliable, affordable energy production demands that our nation invest in a wide range of energy sources. He has long sought common sense solutions that bridge partisan divisions. While many Democrats may be serving as a committee chairman for the first time, Rep. Dingell has both the experience and the knowledge of what it takes to use this powerful position to achieve results. He also understands the difficult policy issues that will impact man-hours for our construction members."

—Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

JOHN DINGELL CHAIRED the Energy and Commerce Committee from 1981 until 1995, when Democrats lost control of the House. With the Democrats now back in power, Dingell will again lead this committee. Energy and Commerce is a vitally important committee for the Boilermakers. It deals with utility regulations, energy resources, environmental protection (including the Clean Air Act), and interstate and foreign trade. All of these areas involve work that Boilermakers do in construction and manufactur-

ing. Energy and Commerce also deals with national health care and Medicaid, consumer protection, and telecommunications. In addition, it has oversight and investigatory responsibility for all the areas under its jurisdiction.

In 2005, the Boilermakers rated Dingell's voting record a perfect 100 percent, as did the AFL-CIO. He is generally considered a progressive politician on labor, social, and environmental issues.

Dingell's district is located in the southeast corner of the state of Michigan. It borders Lake Erie to the east and Ohio to the south. The district includes portions of Washtenaw and Wayne counties and all of Monroe County, including Detroit's southwestern suburbs.

In the 2006 midterm elections, Dingell received 88 percent of the vote. Candidates from three other parties (U.S. Taxpayers, Green, and Libertarian) split the balance. Dingell has served as a U.S. congressman since 1956, when he was elected to fill the unexpired term of his father, John Dingell Sr., who had died in office. Now 80 years old, Dingell has served in Congress for 51 years, making him the longest-serving member in the House and earning him the title, "Dean of the House." Writing for the *National Journal*, political analyst Charlie Cook noted Dingell's longevity and his advocacy for the environment, civil rights, Medicare, and other issues. Cook placed Dingell in the company of such stalwart political leaders of the past as Sam Rayburn, who was House speaker for 17 years.

Over the past several years, Dingell has supported every key legislative position taken by the Boilermakers. He voted to strengthen OSHA, to protect overtime pay, and to repeal tax breaks for companies exporting jobs. He also voted against free trade treaties with Oman, Chile, Singapore, and with the Dominican Republic and Central America. He is a cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act. With his district located in the Detroit area, Dingell has also backed issues in support of the auto industry.

Dingell has introduced a bill for a national health care system every year that he has been in office. The bill is the same one offered by his father, who preceded him in Congress. Historically, Dingell has supported such major legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Medicare, the Clean Air Act of 1977, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The latter bills led to much of the environmental retrofit work that Boilermakers continue to perform today. □



Senate

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Soon after being elected to the U.S. House, Brown fiercely criticized the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). He went on to play a key role in efforts to defeat fast-track trade negotiating authority in Congress.

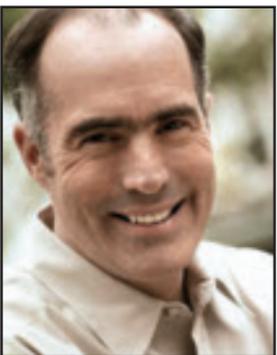
During his political career, Brown has been a strong supporter not only of fair trade, but also of job creation, affordable health care, and other issues important to working families.

While the ranking minority member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, Brown gained national attention by pushing for affordable prescription drugs. He led the effort to close legal loopholes used by brand-name drug companies to prevent price competition. He also sponsored bus trips to Canada for his Ohio constituents to get prescription drugs for up to 80 percent less than U.S. prices.

Brown was first elected to office in 1975, becoming one of the youngest state representatives in Ohio's history. In 1982, he won the general election for the office of Ohio secretary of state, serving eight years in that position.

Brown's first book, *Congress from the Inside: Observations from the Majority and the Minority*, is in its third edition. His latest book, *Myths of Free Trade*, was published in September 2004.

Robert Casey Jr. (D-PA)



"Bob Casey seems to be a centrist Democrat and is likely to go his own way on social issues. However, on the key economic challenges facing working families, he appears to support labor positions fairly well."

—Abe Breehey, assistant director of government affairs

ROBERT ("BOB") CASEY JR., defeated Republican incumbent Rick Santorum for the Pennsylvania U.S. Senate seat by a margin of 59-41 percent.

Casey falls closely in line with mainstream Democratic policies. He criticizes what he views as "draconian cuts to Medicare and Medicaid;" supports the Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, which would include companies with at least 25 employees; and opposes privatizing Social Security. He criticizes many recent tax cuts, claiming they have "not caused the 'trickle-down' economic growth" that was promised from them, and supports increasing the minimum wage.

On environmental issues, Casey supports increased federal investment in hybrid and alternative fuel technology to help wean the United States off of foreign oil. He also supports increased funding for the Brownfield cleanup (an international coastal cleanup), as well as a reinstatement of the polluter-pays principle.

The eldest son of the late Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, Bob Jr. has worked as an educator and attorney. He practiced law until 1996, when he was elected Pennsylvania state auditor general — the Commonwealth's fiscal and public safety watchdog.

Casey ran for state treasurer in 2004, setting two new records for Pennsylvania: winning in the heaviest voter turnout ever, and with more votes than ever before for a statewide office.

He then won the 2005 Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in a landslide, receiving almost 85 percent of the votes. On election night, Casey's margin of victory was the highest ever for a Democrat running for the U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania. He is also the first Pennsylvania Democrat elected to a full term in the Senate in his own right since Joseph S. Clark was re-elected in 1962.

As a U.S. senator, Casey says he will focus on creating jobs, restoring fiscal responsibility, lowering the cost of health care, improving education, safeguarding Social Security, protecting our environment, and strengthening homeland security.

On November 15, 2006, Senate Majority Leader in waiting Harry Reid appointed Casey to several committees, including the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, where Casey can put his "fiscal and public safety watchdog" experience to good use.

Claire McCaskill (D-MO)



"Claire McCaskill has proven to be a tough political fighter who is not put off by big challenges. Beating Sen. Jim Talent in Missouri was a huge achievement. We think she has the right priorities and should be an asset for labor."

—Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

CLAIRE MCCASKILL, former Missouri state auditor, defeated Republican Sen. Jim Talent for her state's U.S. Senate seat by a margin of 50-47 percent. In her campaign positions, she said she would support raising the minimum wage, cutting middle-class taxes, and cracking down on deficits and reckless spending. Regarding health care, she vowed to fight for the interests of everyday people, not HMOs, drug companies, or insurance interests. She said she would oppose Social Security privatization efforts and would seek to save pensions from corporate raiders.

Except for three years spent in private practice as an attorney (1989 to 1991), McCaskill, 53, has worked in the public sector continuously since graduating from law school. She worked in the state courts and also served in the Jackson County prosecutor's office. In 1982, she was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives, where she became the first female attorney to serve in that body in some 40 years.

McCaskill served on the Jackson County legislature (the equivalent of a county commission or county council) and later became the first woman to be elected Jackson County prosecutor. In 1998, she was elected state auditor, becoming only the second woman state auditor in Missouri history.

When McCaskill defeated Governor Bob Holden in the 2004 Democratic primary race, she became the first person to defeat an incumbent governor in that state's history. When she later lost to a Republican candidate, it marked McCaskill's first defeat in her 20-year political career.

As the new U.S. senator from Missouri, McCaskill serves on five committees, including Homeland Security and a special committee on aging.

Jon Tester (D-MT)



"Jon Tester is a freshman senator who is not widely known outside of Montana. His allegiance seems to lie with farmers, small businesses, and working people in his home state. Hopefully, he will help press for changes working families need after 12 years of neglect. He appears to be deeply committed to higher congressional ethics."

—Abe Breehey, assistant director of government affairs

JONATHAN "JON" TESTER was a virtual unknown in national politics — that is, until the midterm elections vaulted his U.S. Senate race into the national spotlight. His victory was essential to the Democratic Party if it was to regain the Senate majority. Democrats believed that Tester's opponent, three-term incumbent Republican Conrad Burns, was vulnerable because of his alleged involvement in the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal. Tester beat Burns only by the slimmest of margins — less than 3,000 votes. His narrow victory illustrates the wisdom of the old saw: "every vote counts," and why labor's get-out-the-vote efforts are so important.

Tester will be watched closely to see how he addresses working family issues. As a former Montana state senator (and president of the Senate) he has shown a populist streak, giving priority to the interests of regular people. He helped increase access to health care for children, seniors, and small business employees, and brought people together to pass the Big Sky Rx Program, a prescription drug assistance and discount program for low-income seniors. He also worked to pass tax credits to help small businesses provide health insurance, and he balanced the budget — without raising taxes.

Tester said he wants to restore fiscal responsibility to Washington and vows to lead the fight for middle-class tax relief. He supports ensuring the long-term solvency of Social Security and legislation allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.

Tester has been a strong proponent of renewable energy. That's not surprising, considering that Montana has tremendous potential for

wind power and bio-fuel technology, with its bountiful grain crops. Tester is also a farmer and believes free trade agreements have hurt Americans — including Montana farmers. In the *Billings Gazette*, he stated: "This is an issue I'll work hard on, because it's important to Montana, and it personally hits home with me."

One area where Tester has already had an impact in the U.S. Senate is ethical conduct. He told the *Gazette*: "I won't accept lunches, gifts, or travel, and Montanans will have immediate, full disclosure with everyone I meet with." Indeed, Tester's Senate Web site contains an archive of each day's schedule, including how he spends his personal time.

Tester sits on six committees, including Energy and Natural Resources.

James Henry Webb Jr. (D-VA)



"Virginia's U.S. junior senator garnered the national spotlight when he gave the Democratic response to the President's State of the Union address. Jim Webb demonstrated that he is a natural ally of working families on leading economic issues. Webb's Wall Street Journal article ["American workers have a chance to be heard," published Nov. 15, 2006] has propelled him to be a leading voice on such issues as outsourcing and inequality. A former Navy secretary, Webb will have a unique understanding of the issues facing our shipbuilding members"

—Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

JAMES "JIM" WEBB narrowly defeated incumbent Republican Sen. George Allen in the November 2006 elections in Virginia, winning 49.6 percent of votes cast to Allen's 49.3 percent. So thin was the margin of victory that election results were not formally declared until two days after the vote. Like Sen. Jon Tester's race in Montana, this outcome shows just how important each vote can be. Webb's Senate seat pushed the Democrats into the majority.

Webb, 61, is a highly-decorated combat veteran. He saw action in Vietnam commanding a Marine rifle platoon and later a company. He earned a Navy Cross, the second high-

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Senate

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est decoration in the Navy and Marine Corps, for heroism. He also earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts. In 1972, he was forced to retire because of debilitating shrapnel wounds.

After his discharge, Webb graduated from Georgetown Law School. He held several federal government positions before being appointed secretary of the Navy in 1987 under Pres. Ronald Reagan. He resigned that position the following year after refusing to reduce the size of the Navy.

Webb's career has a creative side. He is both an author and filmmaker. Among his fiction books is *Fields of Fire*, which is on the recommended reading list for Marines. He also wrote the screenplay for the 2000 movie, *Rules of Engagement*, and won an Emmy Award for his 1983 PBS coverage of the U.S. Marines in Beirut.

Webb now serves on three Senate committees: Foreign Relations, Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services.

Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)



"Since he is new to Congress, we haven't had an opportunity to work with Sen. Whitehouse before. We do know that he has a long history of public service. In some of his public statements, he appears to support issues such as health care reform and pension protections. We'll learn more about him in the coming months."

—Bridget Martin, director of government affairs

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE defeated incumbent Lincoln Chafee for the Rhode Island U.S. Senate seat. With 20 years experience in public service, Whitehouse said he ran for the Senate because senior citizens are scared, confused, and worse off under the new Medicare prescription drug plan. He labels the

American health care system as both our biggest national problem and our biggest national opportunity.

Whitehouse believes Washington has lost its way — spending is out of control, and politicians have the wrong priorities. He said, "Politicians in Washington meet in the middle of the night to pass emergency legislation to intervene in the private tragedy of the Schiavo family [a famous right-to-die case], but they can't seem to do anything about the public tragedies facing so many of our families — the runaway cost of health care, the failings in our schools, the looting of worker pensions, the deepening of our environmental problems, and America's continued dependence on foreign oil."

Whitehouse, 51, a graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School, has worked as a clerk in the U.S. Supreme Court of Appeals, special assistant attorney general, chief of a regulatory unit overseeing utilities, and assistant attorney general.

In 1991, he became executive counsel to Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun. He was later tapped to serve as director of policy, then appointed as director of business regulation, where he oversaw a drastic reform in the state's workers' compensation insurance system.

President Bill Clinton appointed him U.S. attorney for Rhode Island in 1994, a position Whitehouse held for four years. He was the first prosecutor to convict a member of organized crime under Clinton's "three strikes law" for organized crime.

Whitehouse was elected attorney general in 1998, and fought for legislation that strengthened penalties for armed criminals. He also founded the Rhode Island Quality Institute, an organization dedicated to improving health care quality, and authorized the first Rhode Island state police wire tap to investigate public corruption.

Whitehouse used Rhode Island's status as the most Democratic state in the nation as a means to ask voters to send a Democrat to the Senate over his opponent, Republican Lincoln Chafee. Despite Chafee's liberal positions on social issues and the war, Whitehouse was able to use President Bush's unpopularity against the incumbent senator.

As a U.S. senator, Whitehouse says he will work to strengthen Social Security, protect the environment, and make health care more available and affordable. □

Eliot Engel named Legislator of the Year

Congressman is proven ally of Boilermakers and labor

REP. ELIOT ENGEL (D-17th NY) will receive the Boilermakers' Legislator of the Year award at the 39th annual conference of the Legislative Education Action Program (LEAP) this March in Washington, D.C.

Government Affairs Director Bridget Martin said the award acknowledges Engel's exemplary efforts to support American workers.

Now in his 10th term in the U.S. House, Engel has proven himself an ally of the Boilermakers and labor in general since he first took office in 1988. He has consistently voted for issues that are vital to working families, championing affordable housing, health care reform, and education for all Americans.

The son of an Ironworker, Engel was born in the Bronx in 1947. He worked as a teacher and counselor and earned a law degree from New York Law School. He served in the New York State Assembly for 11 years before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2006 Engel became directly involved in a key Boilermaker issue by introducing a bill — along with Rep. Joe

Wilson (R-2nd SC) — to allow more Canadian members to work in the U.S. temporarily. The bill, H.R. 3644, would exempt Boilermakers from annual caps on H-2B visas. The exemptions are important because over the last several years surges in demand for Boilermakers performing power plant work have occurred after the visa limit for the year has been reached. Without the ability to obtain a visa, Canadian Boilermakers cannot supplement the U.S. work force in times of need. This situation could force owners to delay plant upgrades and pollution control projects and cause construction Boilermakers to lose work.

Although H.R. 3644 did not come to a vote in the House last year, Rep. Engel has vowed to reintroduce the measure in the 110th Congress.

Rep. Engel has also helped lead the charge against an effort by the National Labor Relations Board to expand the definition of supervisors, a move that would deny union membership to thousands of skilled workers because they sometimes instruct their co-workers. The NLRB stance on the issue, which is known as the "Kentucky River" cases, has prompted outrage by organized labor and its supporters. In a letter to the NLRB last year, signed by more than



Rep. Eliot Engel (D-17th NY)

100 congressmen, Engel insisted that the agency consider hearing oral arguments because of the gravity of the proposed policy change and to make sure the agency ensures "the greatest degree of procedural fairness and openness...possible."

Intl. Pres. Newton B. Jones will present Engel with the Legislator of the Year Award. He noted that "when we approached Rep. Engel regarding the possible man-

power shortages we face in the Construction Division, and our need to ensure access to our Canadian membership, he didn't hesitate to take the lead in introducing legislation to assist us." Jones added, "His record as a supporter of labor rights and the priorities of working families speaks for itself. He is a first-class congressman and a great friend of this union. We appreciate his leadership and support." □

L-455 celebrates Labor Day in Alabama, Tennessee

Members participate in parade and political rallies; raise money for LEF

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 455, Sheffield, Ala., were busy the week of Labor Day. On Monday, Sept. 4, they participated in a parade in Tusculumbia, Ala. They rode motorcycles, ATVs, and both classic and new vehicles, tossing candy to children as they cruised down Main Street. The parade ended in Spring Park, where Local 455 and other area unions and local political organizations set up tents to provide information, ideas, and support for politicians and candidates.

"It was a very inspirational occasion, hearing each of the political candidates running for local, state, and federal office express their ideas and views covering issues affecting every American, reported Local 455 BM-ST Jack Frost.

"We at Local 455 are pleased each year to be a part of this demonstration expressing our position as a force to be acknowledged for politics in Shoals, Ala., and nationwide."

Later that week, on Saturday, Sept. 9, Local 455 carried their message across the state line to Adams, Tenn., where they participated in a Democratic rally and Labor Day celebration at the Charles Hand Budweiser Farm. There they sponsored a booth and sold tickets to raise money for the Boilermakers' Legislative Education Fund. The members sold chances for a hand-made quilt donated by Theresa Frost, wife of L-455 BM-ST Jack Frost. In all they raised \$1,245 for LEF. The previous year, they sold chances for another of Mrs. Frost's quilts, raising \$1,900 that year for LEF.

"The event gives those who are seeking office an opportunity to listen to the voice of organized labor and see how

large and active the group is," explained Local 455 trustee Mitch Brown. "It also gives union members a chance to speak with lawmakers about making decisions that affect all of us."

The annual celebration is sponsored by area Democratic parties, the Tennessee State AFL-CIO, Boilermaker Local 455, and other local unions, including the IBEW, Laborers, Carpenters, Steelworkers, Iron Workers, Insulators, Sheetmetal Workers, and the UAW. Local 455 is one of the founding sponsors.

About 3,000 people attended the event. Speakers included Governor Phil Bredesen and politicians at every level of government who were seeking election or reelection, including Congressman Harold Ford Jr. (D-TN 9th). Brown said Ford "spoke about the importance of organized labor and how the union work force helped to develop this country."

Railroad safety in desperate need of reform



Transportation labor testifies at congressional hearing

CONGRESS MUST OVERCOME the railroad industry's decade-long campaign to block common sense safety legislation and make clear that profits do not trump safety, the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department (TTD) said at a hearing on Capitol Hill recently. The Boilermakers are one of 32 member unions in the department.

"It is simply disgraceful that over a decade has passed since our nation's rail safety programs have been reauthorized," said Edward Wytkind, TTD president. "We have met stiff resistance from railroads and their lobbyists who have spent a decade or more derailing every attempt to reauthorize federal rail safety programs."

As recently as January 16, a train derailed near Brooks, Ky., with a full-scale evacuation but no serious injuries. But other derailments have not proven so lucky, with deaths in Graniteville, S.C., in 2005; Macdonia, Texas, in 2004; and Minot, N.D., in 2002. According to Federal Railroad Administration statistics, there were 1,744 train derailments in 2006, and 20 hazardous material spills (reporting was from January through October 2006).

"Railroad workers want more training," Wytkind said. "They want whistleblower protections so they can identify security or safety risks without fearing retaliation from their employers. They want to address hours of service rules so an 18-hour workday and dangerous fatigue become less common. In short, workers want more government oversight, because they believe that safety and security aren't negotiable."

Testifying before the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, Wytkind presented the view and concerns of transportation workers. He said fines for safety infractions are "mere nuisances to multi-billion-dollar railroads." Fines need to be greatly increased. He pointed out that despite record profits, railroads refuse to hire and adequately train the necessary work force to handle traffic. Five-plus years after 9/11, workers still do not know how to react to potential security threats. In addition, Wytkind addressed issues such as employee harassment for reporting accidents and excessive fatigue from overworking employees (they are sometimes required to work more than 400 hours in a 30-day period).

According to the TTD, the nation's largest railroads reported 2006 net incomes of \$1.89 billion for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., \$1.61 billion for Union Pacific, \$1.5 billion for Norfolk Southern Corp., and \$1.31 billion for CSX Corp.

"The railroad industry is making money hand over fist," Wytkind said. "It's time for them to do their part to protect their workers and the American public." □

"In short, workers want more government oversight, because they believe that safety and security aren't negotiable."

Balance

(continued from p. 1)

Virginia, where strong labor candidates were opposing incumbents who have stood against Boilermaker issues.

"The three Senate races the Boilermakers focused on were Brown (OH), Casey (PA), and Webb (VA). In all of these races Boilermaker locals were engaged in the AFL-CIO Labor 2006 program," said Shannon Brett, assistant to the director of the government affairs department.

Boilermakers knocked on labor's doors for both candidate persuasion and get-out-the-vote efforts. They also phoned members as part of their campaign strategy. In addition, locals were encouraged to send political flyers and a letter from their business manager or president to their membership.

"On top of the local mail that went out, the government affairs department also targeted drop-off voters in each of these states," Brett continued. "Members who voted in the 2004 presidential election but not in the 2002 elections were sent a separate piece of mail, highlighting the issues and candidates in their states."

And all of their efforts paid off in a big way, with Democrats regaining control of both houses of Congress. □

Wal-Mart cheats employees out of \$33 million in OT pay

Labor Department says retailer must reimburse workers, but no fines issued

WAL-MART IS ONCE again in the news for labor law violations — this time for cheating nearly 87,000 current and former employees nationwide out of overtime pay over a five-year period. In a settlement with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced January 25, the world's largest retailer will ante up more than \$33 million in restitution.

According to the *Associated Press*, Wal-Mart approached the DOL's Fair Labor Standards Division in 2005 requesting a review of its overtime calculations. Those calculations were found to be wrong. The highest overtime reimbursement to an individual Wal-Mart employee under the settlement is nearly \$39,000. However, the DOL failed to issue any fines or penalties in the case.

David Nassar, president of Wal-Mart Watch, a public interest group, issued a statement calling the overtime case

Happy hour will not be banned



Appeals court overturns NLRB ruling

IN A VICTORY for workers — and happy hour lovers everywhere — the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled February 2 that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) erred when it supported a policy by Guardsmark LLC that would have banned off-duty "fraternizing" by co-workers.

The case first drew national attention in the summer of 2005, when Guardsmark won an NLRB decision for a new policy that stated: "While on duty you must NOT . . . fraternize on duty or off-duty, date, or become overly friendly with the client's employees or with co-employees."

Critics of the NLRB decision were astounded and wondered if common social activities like happy hour and coffee breaks would become a thing of the past if the ruling stood and set a precedent.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 24/7, which represents Guardsmark security employees in San Francisco, appealed the decision, charging that the policy unlawfully restricts employees from exercising their rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act.

Section 7 allows workers "the right to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection..."

Guardsmark had argued that the policy was not intended to restrict employees from engaging in protected union

activities but rather to prevent personal entanglements on the job. The company said that its employees would understand the intent. However, the Court disagreed, supporting the union's contention that the policy's use of the term "fraternize" could reasonably be construed as referring to fraternal organizations such as unions, and thus barring employees from discussing terms and conditions of employment on or off the job. Because the company's policy infringed on the employees' right to discuss terms and conditions of employment as guaranteed by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, the Court ruled that the company's policy was unlawfully overbroad.

The NLRB's support of Guardsmark in this case has sparked widespread condemnation from many unions, educators, journalists, lawyers, and workers. When the story first broke, the *Washington Post* ran a story with the headline, "Big Brother On and Off the Job." The story stated: "On June 7 [2005] the three Republican appointees on the five-member board that regulates employer-employee relations in the United States handed down a remarkable ruling that expands the rights of employers to muck around in their workers' lives when they're off the job."

Around the same time an activist group called American Rights at Work ran the headline, "Big Brother nixes happy hour." Following the recent appeals court decision overturning the NLRB ruling, Americans at Work stated: "While we should all meet up after work to celebrate this decision, it's a sad day when a higher court has to save workers' rights from destruction from the agency created to protect them."



"just the latest in a disturbing pattern of Wal-Mart's disregard for the law." He said the company "only came forward because they were facing greater legal exposure on this matter on several other related lawsuits. The fact that the current administrator of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division, Paul Decamp, has done extensive legal work for Wal-Mart is a stark reminder of why so many organizations opposed DeCamp's nomination last year."

The DOL came under intense fire for making a sweetheart deal with Wal-Mart in 2005. In a case involving child labor law violations, DOL fined the multi-billion-dollar company just \$135,540 for allowing young teenagers to operate dangerous machinery. In addition to the paltry fine, the DOL agreed to grant Wal-Mart a 15-day written notice before it conducted any investigation or audit in the future — essentially granting the company an opportunity to cover up any violations before investigators arrive.

Wal-Mart is one of the most scrutinized companies in history. It has been

repeatedly investigated by federal and state agencies — and sued by its own employees — for workplace infractions. Just last year, a Pennsylvania jury awarded \$78.5 million to employees who were forced to work off the clock and through lunch breaks. In 2005, California's Fair Employment and Housing Commission ordered the company to pay \$172 million to more than 100,000 workers for failing to provide rest breaks. In 2003, following an investigation of 61 Wal-Mart stores, the company paid \$11 million in fines for hiring illegal immigrants to work off-the-clock. The company has also violated family leave laws and gender discrimination laws. It currently faces more than 50 class action lawsuits.

Headquartered in Bentonville, Ark., Wal-Mart operates about 3,400 discount stores in the United States. □

Three from Local 28 hold political office

“All three members of Local 28 were very impressive candidates. All overcame odds that most people would not even have attempted. That says a lot about the Boilermakers...”

— Charles Wowkanech, president, New Jersey State AFL-CIO

Members beat the odds, win in tough campaigns

BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 28 (Newark, N.J.) has the distinction of having all three members of its legislative committee in public office. John Devlin, Woody Dooley, and Jay Brophy all mounted effective campaigns to win council seats in their New Jersey communities — and they did so despite stiff opposition.

Devlin, L-28's legislative director, ran as a Democrat in the heavily-Republican Wall Township in 2005. He won, becoming the first Democrat ever to be elected to a second term on the council township committee. When he first won his seat, in 2000, he was only the second Democrat to be elected in 70 years.

Dooley also ran as a Democrat in 2005 and won a seat on the Westville council. Like Wall Township, Westville typically elects Republicans, even though the area has a largely blue collar population. In fact, Dooley was the first Democrat to win a council seat in Westville in the last 30 years, and he captured 80 percent of the vote.

Brophy faced off in Gloucester City, not against Republicans, but against other Democrats whom he described as entrenched “rubber stampers.” Brophy and his faction — running as Independents in the general election — captured two council seats and the mayor's office last year. Their success was remarkable considering the opposition were incumbents, had a much larger campaign fund, and had the backing of Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA), who traveled to Gloucester City and campaigned for them.

Winning an election is hard work — Devlin, Dooley, and Brophy agree — and it requires a strong base of support. Their support includes a politically-active local union. Local 28 BM-ST Ray Cushing said that over the years his lodge has built important contacts with other unions, politicians, and community organizations. In fact, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO picked Local 28's union hall as a staging area for grassroots campaigning. Volunteers from area unions gather there and take buses to neighborhoods for Project Labor Walk, during which they visit union households, hand out voter information, and talk with voters face-to-face.

Cushing said another critical support element is the Brotherhood's legislative program, which provides political education. Local 28 participates in the annual LEAP conference every March in Washington, D.C.

Bridget Martin, director of the government affairs department, said Local 28 is one of the more politically active Boilermaker lodges. Her department is often in contact with the local and has helped out with campaign funding. “It's critical for us to put labor candi-



IP Newton Jones, second from left, meets with Local 28 BM-ST Ray Cushing, left, and Local 28 LEAP committee members John Devlin, second from right, and Woody Dooley.

dates in local and state offices,” she said. “After the next census, in 2010, state lawmakers will decide on how to draw up districts — and the party in power controls the process. The more pro-worker state legislators we have, the more we can shape the political landscape for years to come.”

Devlin, Dooley, and Brophy also benefited by attending the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Labor Candidates Program. This intensive, three-day training course teaches the basics, from campaign planning to fund raising to media relations. Candidates practice public speaking and develop the messages they will use during their actual campaigns. Graduates may receive financial support as well. According to the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, candidates who complete the course go on to win their races 75 percent of the time.

New Jersey State AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech said Devlin, Dooley, and Brophy did an excellent job not only in the labor candidates program but also in their races. “All three members of Local 28 were very impressive candidates. All overcame odds that most people would not even have attempted. That says a lot about the Boilermakers — their willingness to take on a tough challenge and see it through.”

The three Local 28 office-holders say that getting out and meeting people is crucial to success. “The residents came

out in big numbers for me,” said Devlin, “because they knew me from PTA, soccer [he coached his daughters' soccer team], and from campaigning for other candidates.”

Dooley, who said he was “a Democrat in the womb,” took advantage of Project Labor Walk for his own campaign. “We knocked on doors at union households. About 80 apprentices from all the building trades participated.”

Brophy also wore out some shoe leather. “I knocked on every single door in my ward — 1,200 doors,” he recalled. He said to get elected, “people have to know you, know that you care. For 15 years I've been a head coach of football and baseball teams, working with over 200 kids. You've got to get the youth involved. They have so much energy.”

Nationally, about 3,000 members of labor hold some kind of elected public office, according to the most recent AFL-CIO data. Only two state AFL-CIO federations — New Jersey and Washington — conduct regular, annual labor candidate training programs, although other state federations, along with the national AFL-CIO, do conduct training on an ad hoc basis.

Boilermakers who wish to learn more about running for political office are encouraged to call the government affairs department at 703-560-1493 or the Local 28 legislative committee at 201-339-2315. □



“I knocked on every single door in my ward — 1,200 doors. People have to know you, know that you care.”

— Jay Brophy, Local 28



HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW BECOME A BOILERMAKER

NOW IS A GREAT time to become a construction Boilermaker apprentice. Economic projections suggest that this year is the beginning of a long boom in construction and maintenance work in electric power plants, refineries, and other industries served by Boilermakers. Interested parties can learn how to apply for the apprentice program by visiting www.bnap.com or contacting the recruiter in their area:

James Cooksey
Western States Recruiter
Office: 801-254-9644
Cell Phone: 913-217-5893
E-mail:
jcooksey@mostprograms.com

Travis May
Southeast Area Recruiter
Office: 423-942-0126
Cell Phone: 913-217-5895
E-mail:
tmay@mostprograms.com

C. Anthony Smarra
Northeast Area Recruiter
Office: 412-364-2864
Cell Phone: 913-217-5896
E-mail:
casmarra@mostprograms.com

Brian Loftus
Great Lakes Area Recruiter
Office: 440-333-0300
Cell Phone: 913-217-5894
E-mail:
bloftus@mostprograms.com

Roman Alaniz, Jr.
Central States Recruiter
Office: 281-341-1421
Cell Phone: 913-217-5897
E-mail:
ralaniz@mostprograms.com



David Herndon, son of L-199 member Stephen Herndon, signs with Los Angeles Angels.

Son of Local 199 member signs with Angels

KENNETH D. "DAVID" HERNDON, son of 30-year member Stephen Herndon, Local 199, Jacksonville, Fla., signed with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Calif., at his home in Southport, Fla., on June 9, 2006. The Angels took Herndon in the fifth round of the Major League Baseball Draft on June 6. It was the third time Herndon had been selected in the draft — the first when he graduated high school, and again in 2005 while still attending college.

This paper first reported on Herndon's baseball success in 2004, when he accepted a baseball scholarship to attend the Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla. Last season, while playing in the minor leagues for the AZL Angels in Tempe, Ariz. (a farm club of the Anaheim Angels), Herndon was third in the league in pitching, with a 2.40 earned run average. □

Local 158 participates in telethon

Members raise \$3,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

ON AUGUST 5, 2006, Local 158 Sec.-Treas. Kevin Reatherford didn't mind answering the phone. In fact, the more calls he got, the happier he was — and the more money he raised for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Reatherford had the honor of working the annual telethon to raise money for the pediatric treatment and research facility founded by entertainer Danny Thomas in 1962. Not only did Reatherford raise money by answering the phone that day, but members of his local in Peoria, Ill., had a telethon of their own, raising an additional \$3,000 for the study and treatment of catastrophic diseases in children. □

Local 60 awards 17 \$500 scholarships

Members participate in fund-raisers throughout year to finance education program

LOCAL LODGE 60 (Peoria, Ill.) announced the winners of its second annual scholarship award on October 21, 2006. A total of \$8,500 was awarded to 17 scholarship recipients. The one-year, \$500 grants were awarded to every 2006 applicant — all Local 60 Boilermakers or their dependents. Only Local 60 members — or the spouse, child, or grandchild of a Local 60 member — are eligible for this scholarship award.

For the second year in a row, Local 60 members participated in fund-raisers to help raise money for the scholarships. They sponsored a golf outing, conducted 50/50 drawings, and collected donations from various groups. They raised enough money last year that every Local 60 scholarship applicant was awarded a \$500 grant.

Recipients of Local 60's second annual scholarship award include

Rikki Lynn Alsvig, granddaughter of Oatley Burress; Alyssa Dynae Bauer, daughter of Gary Bauer; William David Burress, son of Bill Burress; Corey Robert Crawford, son of Loren Crawford; Jacob John Grilc, son of Mark Grilc; Darcy Jo Hamilton, granddaughter of Harold Toureene; Zachary Elliott Harrison, son of Dwain Harrison; Mallory L. Hunt, daughter of Gary Hunt; Nora Nicole Miskell, daughter of Tom

Miskell; Rhianna Taylor Neubaum, granddaughter of Calvin Neubaum; Jenny Jacqueline Sorrell, daughter of Jimmy Jo Sorrell; Kara B. Spooner, granddaughter of Harold Toureene; Stacy Stear, daughter of Jamie Stear; Lydia Christina Vincent and Lyndsey Rose Vincent, daughters of Jeff Vincent; Sara L. Wilson, daughter of Scott Wilson; and Katie Elizabeth Witzman, daughter of Charlie Witzman. □



L-60 BM-ST Ed Hebert (l.) presents scholarship awards to nine of the local's 17 winners: Corey Crawford, William Burress, Rikki Alsvig, Jacob Grilc, Lyndsey Vincent, Lydia Vincent, Mallory Hunt, Jenny Sorrell, and Rhianna Neubaum.

L-374's Beebe devotes life to Boy Scouts

Retiree makes oath "To help others at all times" his life-long goal

BE PREPARED. That's the motto of the Boy Scouts. "Be prepared for what?" someone once asked Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting. "Why, for any old thing," he answered. And that's how John A. Beebe Sr. has lived — being prepared for any old thing and helping others become prepared.

Beebe, 62, a retired field construction worker out of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., has devoted his life to teaching kids how to become good adults through the Boy Scouts of America



Local 374 retiree John Beebe has devoted his life to helping youth through the Boy Scouts Association.

(BSA) program. His love for scouting began 55 years ago, when he first became a member of the BSA. As a youth, he worked hard earning merit badges and eventually became an Eagle Scout — the highest BSA rank attainable. As an adult, he worked as a scout leader (his son, John Jr., was a member), earning the BSA's Silver Beaver award for outstanding service to youth. Today, Beebe is a member of the BSA's local council as well as the central region board (which covers 13 states and 82 different councils), and the national committee.

Fellow retiree A. T. Jones says Beebe deserves an award for all his

good work. "He will always be a good union person."

But Beebe just wants to help out. If he is not working with the scouts, he is helping out the United Way as a member of its allocations committee, or working with the council of community events in his hometown of Highland, Ind. He has also served on the executive board for the Calumet Council Girl Scouts (his daughter, Annette Neyhart, was a member), and he is a lifetime member of the Hessville Historical Society.

Beebe said he built his life on the belief system he first learned as a young scout. "The Boy Scout oath or promise is the best way to live your life," he said. "The oath's teachings are the ultimate guidelines by which one should live his life." □

"The Boy Scout oath or promise is the best way to live your life"

Fourth-generation Kirkland is new L-587 vice president

Kevin Kirkland, second from right, is sworn in as vice president of Local 587 (Orange, Texas) by his uncle and retiring president, Terry Kirkland (far left).

Pictured second from left is Kevin's father, Local 587 BM-ST James Kirkland. The photo was taken by Kevin's twin brother, Keith Kirkland.

Both young men are fourth-generation Boilermakers. Their grandfather, James H. Kirkland Jr., was a trustee and asst. business manager for Local 587. Their great-grandfather, James H. Kirkland Sr., was also a Local 587 member.

Pictured to Kevin's left and right are Dennis Verrett, trustee, and George Dronett, president. Seated is trustee J.R. Wilson.



Union Tools closes Frankfort, N.Y., plant

Seventy-five Local 1916 members lose jobs

A 100-YEAR-OLD lawn and garden tool-making operation in Frankfort, N.Y., shut its doors permanently December 1, throwing 75 Boilermakers from Local 1916 out of work. Union Tools had produced shovels, hoes, and forks, under brand names like Razor-Back and UnionPro. In April 2006, Ames True Temper purchased Union Tools. It subsequently shut down the Frankfort plant and folded the operation into its more modern U.S. manufacturing facilities.

The tool-making plant had long been a key employer in Frankfort, a community of about 7,500 located in central upstate New York. Just six years ago, its union work force numbered more than 300. But competition — both domestic and global — took a toll on Union Tools' finances, and jobs dwindled.

Plant had older work force

LOCAL 1916 PRESIDENT Richard Bernier, 55, said Union Tools had an older work force. "Most of the people have worked there since the 1970s. I started when I was 19. This is going to be tough for me, because I've had one job my whole life."



Local 1916 leaders pose at the Union Tools plant. L. to r. are Richard Bernier, president; Don Miles, recording secretary; and Larry Russell, treasurer.

IR Rocco DeRollo, who helped Bernier and a local lodge committee negotiate an exit agreement, said, "Many of these workers were second and third generation. The plant closing was devastating."

According to Bernier, workers at Union Tools averaged about \$29 an hour in wages and benefits. Members worked in three production areas: handle milling, forging, and assembly and shipping. "At one time, we made the only hand-rolled forks in the United States," Bernier noted. "We hand-rolled each tine on the fork." He said an Austrian firm began using laser machines to cut forks more rapidly and efficiently, putting competitive pressure on Union Tools. Meanwhile, the union work force received pressure from another source — cheap labor. Bernier said the company began contracting out tool production to China. "How do

you compete with 85 cents an hour?" Bernier asked.

Workers saw closure coming

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES HAD plagued the Frankfort operations for some time, Bernier said. By early 2006, workers were anticipating trouble. Union Tools advised the local that it intended to outsource some shovel blade production to China and move sawmill operations to its Kentucky facility. "We'd been negotiating since January on and off. We knew all along they were stalling until they could sell [the plant to True Temper]."

When True Temper completed its purchase of Union Tools, it soon became clear that the Frankfort plant would be shut down. "They told us they didn't need us because they had so many tool-making facilities," Bernier recalled.

"The operation was redundant for True Temper," said DeRollo. "We did bargain over the decision to close the plant. The committee made an offer to accept a 20 percent wage reduction and a reduction in vacations, which amounted to more than half-a-million dollars a year. However, True Temper said they would need to come up with another \$3 million or so. There was virtually no dispute that the company could save what it claimed — and no way to counter it. Our members essentially would have had to work for free."

Once it became clear that no amount of concessions could save the plant, DeRollo and the committee entered into bargaining over a severance package. Under the agreement, workers with the most time in service will receive \$4,000 each. Those with less time will receive lesser amounts — down to \$100 for one year of service. All workers will receive 16 weeks of paid health insurance, two years of paid life insurance, and prorated vacation.

"I think they got what they could get," said DeRollo. "It's a respectable package. Unfortunately, when you're bargaining over a severance package, you don't have much leverage."

Workers will also receive help under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which offers extended unemployment insurance payments and training benefits. In some situations, TAA also provides income subsidies for those who get new jobs in similar occupations making less money.

Local 1916 was chartered as a manufacturing lodge in July 1957. It was disbanded effective January 31, 2007. □



Apprentice Justin McGilton, r., builds a locomotive snow plow under the watchful eye of journeyman Jeff Matzek.

Local 34 adds first apprentices in 20 years

Two enter three-year program at railroad lodge

AFTER 20 YEARS, Local 34, a Topeka, Kan., lodge that repairs heavy locomotives for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF), again has an apprentice program. Local 34 Pres. Anthony DaPrato said railroad mergers and consolidations, along with a large pool of available skilled workers, apparently convinced management to end the apprenticeship program two decades ago.

"Alan Scheer [Railroad Division Services director], and Danny Hamilton [IR], have been trying for years to convince the railroad that the apprenticeship is the way to get good quality craftsmen to carry them into the future," DaPrato said.

"The entry wage rate at which the railroad wanted to bring personnel in was less than attractive, even for an apprentice," said Scheer. "You cannot attract quality people for that kind of pay." Scheer and a Local 34 committee negotiated with BNSF to develop the new apprentice agreement, which includes a substantially higher pay rate. BNSF also agreed to pick up the cost of technical training.

On Jan. 2, Justin Smith and Justin McGilton became the first two members to begin apprentice instruction in the new program. "They will see a major percentage of their training in-

house," said DaPrato, "because a lot of what is needed for a railroad Boilermaker is not taught just anywhere."

Kent Dunn, the interim Local 34 shop steward, said the apprentices will also spend time in a vocational facility and perhaps receive some computer-based training. "We will get them trained correctly," he asserted. "Training will last three years. The apprentices will be trained on shears, brakes, and a variety of steel-cutting machines. Frame straightening, handrails, parts fabrication, and wreck repair will also be taught."

In an interesting twist, the last Local 34 Boilermaker to be trained under the old apprentice program was part of the negotiating team that created the new one. Kenny Nelson, the lodge's chairman, recently shipped out to Iraq with his National Guard unit (see Oct.-Dec. issue, page 9).

"Kenny Nelson believes that Boilermakers who go through an apprenticeship program are less likely to have accidents and are potentially more apt to retain knowledge," said DaPrato. "Kenny and Kent Dunn worked closely with Alan Scheer, his team and the company management team to get the program restarted. We expect Kenny back in another year. It would be fitting if he could help train these two guys whom he has never met but shares a common bond with — becoming an apprentice Boilermaker." □



Apprentice Justin Smith, l., straightens a locomotive truck frame as journeyman Lonnie Roark checks tolerances.



Local 154 trainer Jim Basilone, standing, watches lodge members who attended the new leadership training course.

MOST tests new leadership training program

Locals 154 and 83 host pilot sessions

THE NEW LEADERSHIP training program created for foremen by the tripartite alliance received high marks following two pilot sessions held in late 2006 and early 2007. Local 154 (Pittsburgh) and Local 83 (Kansas City, Mo.) hosted the training.

Unlike the previous foreman training course, which focused on technical

instruction, the new program stresses people skills, administrative responsibilities, and the business aspects of construction. During past tripartite conferences, these areas were identified as being critical to effective first-line supervision. A contractor-union committee — in conjunction with industry consultant FMI Corp. — then developed the new course, and train-the-trainer sessions were held last summer to familiarize potential instructors with the concepts. The program is being administered by MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training). The previous foreman training program had been administered by BNAP.

Each pilot session ran two days and included three instructors who worked from newly-developed course materials, organized into modules. At the first pilot session, held Dec. 12 and 13, Local 154 instructors Gerry Klimo, Don Fiorilli, and Jim Basilone presented the course to 29 Local 154 members and B&W safety superintendent Raymond Winklestine. Larry Wargo, consultant for contractor services with FirstEnergy Corp., attended as an observer.

Local 83 held its pilot program Jan. 11 and 12. Instructors included Dave Leimer, Local 83 welding instructor; John Standish, BNAP instructor; and Mike Ballard, a B&W construction manager. Twenty-two Local 83 members attended the course.

Marty Spencer, rigging instructor for the Northeast Area, who serves on the leadership training committee, monitored both the Pittsburgh and Kansas City training sessions. He said the two owner representatives who attended the event — Nelson Jordon of Mid America Energy and Jim Prothe of Kansas City Power & Light — expressed enthusiasm about what they saw and heard. "They really liked the content and the fact that we are work-

ing to meet their needs," said Spencer. "They were very positive and appreciative of our efforts."

Spencer said he will submit a report to the tripartite leadership training committee detailing his findings and recommendations. A full roll-out of the program is planned for sometime this year.

Participating in the Pittsburgh pilot session were Local 154 members Patrick Aymar, Faieclice Bey, Firdausi Bey, Michael Bonnar, Thomas Contrael, John Daley, Christopher Darnell, Harold "Red" Darnell, Bernard Duffy, Kevin Eisaman, Anthony Fiorino, Stephen Fiorino, David Gardner, John Gorchock Jr., Kenneth Hammer, Sye Kelly, Randy Krug, Peter McGinnis III, Charles McGrogan, Michael McPherson Jr., Ryan Milligan, Joseph Mittereder, Marc Monz, Antonio Mucci,



Local 154 trainer Gerry Klimo, standing, oversees an exercise. From left are Local 154 members Chris Darnell, Rex Pears, and Red Darnell.

Joseph Olmstead, Rex Pears, Michael Petraglia, John Stewart III, and Mark Williamson. B&W's Raymond Winklestine also attended.

Participating in the Kansas City pilot session were Local 83 members James Brooks Jr., Thomas Burgess Jr., Clinton Burnside, James Crowl, Rodney Cruse, Raymond Gorham, Kristian Harmon, Glenn Haygood, Casey Jensen, Paul Lawrence, Joseph Lewandowski, Randall Mendenhall, Joseph Miller Jr., Joshua Nelson, Edward Owens, Steve Pachmayr, Chris Pruitt, Ronnie Smith, Arlin Thody, and J. Bradley White. □

Author urges radical shift in union organizing

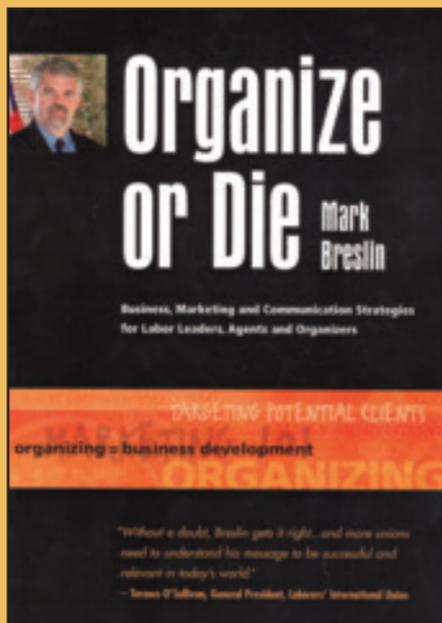
Mark Breslin says "clock is ticking," labor must change to survive

WITHOUT RADICAL changes in the way unions operate, organized labor will at best become irrelevant and at worst sink into oblivion. Such gloomy forecasts are prevalent today, with unions representing only about 12 percent of the U.S. workforce, not to mention recent divisions within the AFL-CIO.

But there is hope, according to Mark Breslin, a speaker, author, and trainer. In his book, *Organize or Die* (published in 2003), Breslin outlines the steps unions must take to rebuild membership and thus regain their former strength.

Breslin is a fourth-generation contractor who has worked closely with construction unions on the West Coast. A popular speaker at labor conferences in North America, he addressed the Boilermakers Winter Construction Conference on Marco Island, Fla., Feb. 14, 2006 as well as the NACBE conference there.

Breslin doesn't pull any punches in his book or in his live presentations. He admonishes unions to adopt a more business-like approach to organizing and to avoid blustering and threats. His central argument is for top-down organizing. To be successful, Breslin says, unions must do a much better job of marketing and selling what they have to offer. They must identify the advantages of union crews and articulate those advantages to nonunion contractors and clients. And unions must adopt modern, strategic methods of getting their message out. Moreover, says Breslin, union members themselves must embrace winning attitudes and



behaviors; on-the-job excellence by itself is no longer enough in today's highly competitive construction industry.

Breslin calls for union sales messages that resonate in the marketplace. He rejects such slogans as "union yes," calling them "feel good" messages that convey nothing of substance to contractors whom unions may wish to organize.

Organize or Die is both a warning and a message of hope. In Breslin's view, unions can regain market share if they act aggressively and with total commitment. But he estimates that labor has perhaps a five-year window to reformulate itself before it's too late. "The clock is ticking," he says.

Learn more about the book online at www.breslin.biz; by phone at 866-351-6275; or by writing to Mark Breslin, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd., #4-230, San Ramon, CA 94583.



Twenty-nine Local 154 members and a B&W management representative participate in a pilot session of the new leadership training course.

Training information is available online

MEMBERS LOOKING FOR A SAFETY CLASS to attend can go to the MOST Web site www.mostprograms.com and click on the training tab. There you will find a list of upcoming classes. MOST (Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training) is a joint labor-management trust that seeks to promote the interests of the

tripartite partners (the Boilermakers union, NACBE contractors, and construction industry owners). The trust also oversees such programs as drug screening and a manpower reserve center. All MOST programs are aimed at maintaining a highly skilled, dependable Boilermaker work force.

Annual summary reports of national funds

BOILERMAKERS NATIONAL PENSION TRUST * HEALTH & WELFARE FUND * ANNUITY TRUST

Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust

THIS IS A SUMMARY of the annual report for the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust, Employer Identification Number 48-6168020, for Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2005.

The annual report has been filed with the Department of Labor, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic financial statement

BENEFITS UNDER THE plan are provided by the trust fund directly to participants or their beneficiaries. Plan expenses were \$502,162,517. These expenses included \$32,880,974 in administrative expenses and \$469,281,543 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

A total of 71,925 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, although not all of these persons had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$6,843,750,870 as of Dec. 31, 2005, compared to \$6,639,856,798 as of Jan. 1, 2005. During the plan year, the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$203,894,072.

This increase includes unrealized depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year.

The plan had total income of \$706,056,589. This includes employer contributions of \$191,571,567, losses of \$11,863,806 from the sale of assets, net earnings from investments of \$522,322,210, transfer of assets from a merger of \$3,796,447, and other income of \$230,171.

Minimum funding standards

AN ACTUARY'S STATEMENT shows that enough money was contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Fund

THIS IS A SUMMARY of the annual report of the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund, Employer Identification Number 36-6090694, for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2005. The annual report has been filed with the Department of Labor, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund has committed itself to pay certain medical, dental, vision, and prescription drug claims incurred under the terms of the plan.

Insurance information

THE PLAN HAS contracts with the Standard Insurance Company and Metropolitan Life and Accident Insurance Company to pay all life and accidental death and dismemberment claims. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending Dec. 31, 2005 were \$3,925,991.

Because the contract with the Standard Insurance Company is a so-called "experience-rated" contract, the premium costs are affected by, among other things, the number and size of claims. Of the total insurance premiums paid for the plan year ending Dec. 31, 2005, the premiums paid under this experience-rated contract were \$2,318,565 and the total of all benefit claims paid under this experience-rated contract during the plan year was \$1,336,653.

Basic financial statement

THE VALUE OF plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$148,843,341 as of Dec. 31, 2005, compared to \$100,812,850 as of Jan. 1, 2005. During the plan year, the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$48,030,491. This

increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$254,609,121 (including employer contributions of \$221,567,307, employee and retiree contributions of \$27,123,454, realized loss from the sale of assets of \$1,282,648, earnings from investments of \$5,158,044, and other income of \$2,042,964).

Plan expenses were \$206,578,630. These expenses included \$8,491,340 in administrative expenses and \$198,087,290 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

Boilermakers National Annuity Trust

THIS IS A SUMMARY of the annual report for the Boilermakers National Annuity Trust, Employer Identification Number 48-1029345, for Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2005. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Basic financial statement

BENEFITS UNDER THE plan are provided from trust assets. Plan expenses were \$65,417,970. These expenses include \$3,921,672 in administrative expenses, \$60,927,825 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries, and other expenses of \$568,473. A total of 61,378 persons were participants in the plan at the end of the plan year.

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$856,723,454 as of Dec. 31, 2005, compared to \$808,690,418 as of Jan. 1, 2005. During the plan year, the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$48,033,036. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the

beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year.

The plan had total income of \$113,451,006 (including employer contributions of \$79,950,786, realized losses of \$581,890 from the sale of assets, earnings from investments of \$33,970,910, and other income of \$111,200).

Funding standards

ENOUGH MONEY WAS contributed to the plan to keep it funded in accordance with the minimum funding standards of ERISA.

You may request a copy

YOU HAVE THE right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, for each of these funds on request. The items listed below are included in each report:

1. An accountant's report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment;
4. Transactions in excess of five percent of plan assets.

In addition, the *Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust* summary annual report will also include:

5. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers;
6. Information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts; master trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates; and
7. Actuarial information regarding the funding of the plan.

The *Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Fund* summary report will also include the following:

5. Insurance information, including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

The *Boilermakers National Annuity Trust* summary report will also include:

5. Information regarding any common or collective trusts, pooled separate accounts; master

trusts, or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, of each of these reports write or call the office of the plan executive administrator at 754 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101-2766, phone — 1-866-342-6555 (913-342-6555 in the Kansas City area).

The charge to cover copying costs of the *Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust* Summary Annual Report will be \$195.50 for the full annual report, or 25 cents per page for any part thereof.

The charge to cover copying costs of the *Boilermakers National Health & Welfare Fund* Summary Annual Report will be \$21.75 for the full annual report, or 25 cents per page for any part thereof.

The charge to cover copying costs of the *Boilermakers National Annuity Trust* Summary Annual Report will be \$48 for the full annual report, or 25 cents per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan executive administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of each plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of each plan and accompanying notes, or both.

If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan executive administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual reports at the main office of the plan, 754 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101-2766, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department of Labor should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, N1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. □

Per capita tax increases by 30 cents, dues by 60 cents

Increase is less than previous 4 years

THE BUREAU OF LABOR Statistics (BLS) has announced a 1.3 percent average increase in hourly earnings for the manufacturing industry from July 2005 to July 2006. As a result, the International raised its per capita tax in 2007 by 1.3 percent (30 cents) and monthly union dues by twice that amount (60 cents), effective Jan. 1.

These increases are in accordance with the Boilermakers' Constitution. Article 12.2.2 states the monthly per capita tax will be adjusted annually by the BLS average percent increase in earnings for manufacturing, rounded to the nearest nickel.

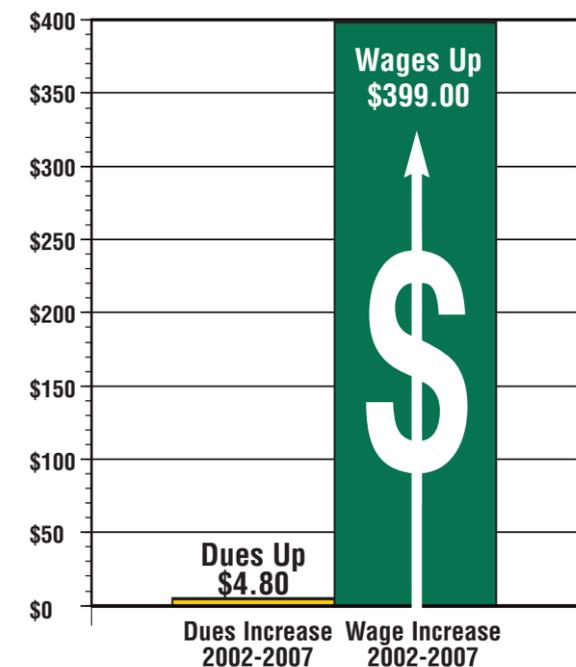
Article 31.2.2 states that monthly union dues will increase by twice the annual adjusted per capita tax increase. Applying the 2005-2006 BLS 1.3 percent increase to the 2006 per capita tax rate of \$20.65 equals 28 cents (30 cents when rounded to the nearest nickel), making the 2007 per capita tax rate \$20.95 effective Jan. 1.

Monthly union dues vary by division, but the average rate increased by twice the annual adjusted per capita tax increase (two x 30 cents = 60 cents).

The automatic dues increase was created by convention action in 1973, and has been in effect since 1975 so that revenue will keep up with inflation. Prior to that time, conventions had to vote for all dues increases. When they met only every four years, that meant they had to try to predict wage growth and expense growth over the next four years (now it's five). By making the increase automatic and pegging it to rising wages, they ensured rises in revenue kept pace with inflation and did not create a hardship on members since the increases were linked to wages.

Compared to wage increases, union dues increases are minimal

SINCE 2002, THE AVERAGE monthly wage for unionized workers has increased from \$3,090 to \$3,489 — a monthly increase of \$399. During the same five-year period, Boilermaker union dues have increased by an average of only \$4.80 per month.



New contract summaries

A brief listing of recent agreements signed and ratified by Boilermaker local lodges

Local 1 — Chicago

Effective Nov. 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009, for members of Local 1, Chicago, who work in the plate shop at Hudson Boiler & Tank, and effective Nov. 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009, for Local 1 members working in the shop of mechanical contractor, **Servcote Inc.**

Local M7 — Grand Rapids, Mich.

Effective Nov. 7, 2006 to Nov. 6, 2009, for 85 members of Local M7, Grand Rapids, Mich., who make Brunswick boat parts at the **Attwood Corp.**

Local 5 — New York

Effective Sept. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2009, for members of Local 5, New York, who work at **Fresh Meadows Mechanical**, and effective June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007, for four Local 5 members who work with small heating boilers at **ROJO Mechanical LLC.**

Local D69 — Waco, Texas

Effective April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2011, for 42 members of Local D69, Waco, Texas, who produce white Portland and masonry cement at **Lehigh Cement**. White cement is a specialized product, manufactured to exacting standards, often used for architectural projects in which pure white concrete is specified, or as a base cement when vibrant color is desired. Because of its reflective surface, white cement is also used in highway infrastructure for traffic safety and in warm climates to reduce air conditioning costs.

Local D114 — Ada, Okla.

Effective Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2011, for 87 members of Local D114, Ada, Okla., who make cement at **Holcim Inc.**

Local M100 — Albany, Ga.

Effective Aug. 1, 2006 to July 31, 2009, for 22 members of Local M100, Albany, Ga., who manufacture golf clubs at **MacGregor Golf**.

Local 128 — Toronto, Ontario

Effective Oct. 10, 2006 to Oct. 9, 2009, for 55 members of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, who work in the field for **Catalyst Services** in the Petro-Can industry; effective Sept. 10, 2006 to Sept. 9, 2008, for 15 Local 128 members who build and repair conveyor systems for **R.J. Cyr**; and effective Sept. 2, 2006 to Aug. 2, 2008, for 38 Local 128 members who clean and repair railroad tanker cars at the **Procor Ltd.** Oakville shop.

Local 132 — Galveston, Texas

Effective Sept. 1, 2006 to Aug. 31, 2009, for 42 members of Local 132, Galveston, Texas, who fabricate and repair heat exchangers at **Dunn Heat Exchangers**.

Local 146 — Edmonton, Alberta

Effective Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2009, for members of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta, who work in the production and manufacturing of vessels at **Edmonton Exchanger Manufacturing Ltd.**

Local 151 — Erie, Pa.

Effective September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2009, for members of Local 151, Erie, Pa., who work at **Riley Power Inc.**, a steam generator and fuel firing equipment manufacturing facility that is part of the services business unit of Babcock Power Inc.

Local 158 — Peoria, Ill.

Effective Sept. 1, 2006 to Sept. 1, 2009, for 318 members of Local 158, Peoria, Ill., who work in the production and manufacturing of mining trucks at **Komatsu Mining Systems**.

Local 196 — Sayre, Pa.

Effective Oct. 19, 2006 to Oct. 18, 2011, for members of Local 196, Sayre, Pa., who work at **GE Railcar Repair Services**.

Local D239 — Three Forks, Mont.

Effective August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2010, for 45 members of Local D239, Three Forks, Mont., who work in production and maintenance at **Luzenac America**, a talc producer.

Local 242 — Spokane, Wash.

Effective Nov. 16, 2006 to Nov. 15, 2010, for members of Local 242, Spokane, Wash., who work at **EZ Loader Boat Trailers Inc.**, a manufacturer of aluminum and galvanized steel roller and bunk trailers.

Local D263 — Clark, Nev.

Effective August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2009, for 35 members of Local D263, Clark, Nev., who work for **EaglePilcher Filtration and Minerals** in Reno, Nev. Members make diatomaceous earth (DE) products, including filter aids and fillers for paints, catalyst supports, and polyethylene film under the trademark of Celatom®, and soil amendments and conditioners for landscaping, golf courses, and ball park infields under the trademarks of AXIS® and PLAY BALL!®.

Local D374 — Grantsville, Utah

Effective October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2010, for 18 members of Local D374, Grantsville, Utah, who work in production and maintenance at the **Chemical Lime Co.'s** Utah plant.

Local D381 — Las Vegas

Effective Nov. 20, 2006 to Nov. 30, 2010, for nine members of Local D381, Las Vegas, who work in production and maintenance at the **Chemical Lime Co.**, a producer of Calcium Hydroxide slurry (lime slurry). Slurry is often used in products and services for industrial and municipal waste treatment, sludge and soil stabilization, and waste remediation.

Local D400 — Vancouver, British Columbia

Effective September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2010, for 18 members of Local D400, Vancouver, British Columbia, who work in production and maintenance of custom agricultural and industrial equipment at **Artex Fabricators**.

Local 482 — Wood River, Ill.

Effective Nov. 1, 2006 to Oct. 31, 2011, for 35 members of Local 482, Wood River, Ill., who repair small diesel engines at **Mike's Inc.**

Local D486 — New Westminster, British Columbia

Effective October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2010, for 27 members of Local D486, New Westminster, British Columbia, who work in production and maintenance at the **Chemical Lime Co.'s** Langley plant, where they produce limestone products, hydrated lime, and lime slurry.

Local 500 — Salem, Ore.

Effective Sept. 18, 2006 to Sept. 18, 2011, for six members of Local 500, Salem, Ore., who rebuild electric motors at the **Reliance Electric Service Center**.

Local D503 — Kamloops, British Columbia

Effective August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2010, for 27 members of Local D503, Kamloops, British Columbia,

Union leaders negotiate contracts

UNION LEADERS, like these pictured here, work long hours to negotiate the best benefits they can for Boilermaker members.



Negotiating a three-year agreement for Local 151 at Riley Power Inc. are, l. to r.: front, Marc Posterli, Jim Owens Jr., Scott Miller, and IR Bob Heine; back, Gerry Graves, Jeff Frum, and Chuck Goodman.



Negotiating a five-year agreement for Local D561 members at the Kerford Limestone Co. are, l. to r.: standing, Kit Cooper, Rex Schreiner, and Mike Hansen; sitting, Jim Rheden and Art Baldwin. Not pictured is Mike Kerr.



Negotiating a six-year agreement at the Ladish Co. for members of Local 1509, Cudahy, Wis., are, l. to r.: Scott Hofer, Dan Seng, Jim Mallio, John Stewart, Duane Larson, Randy Talatzko, and Roger Reading.



Negotiating a three-year agreement for L-1600 members at General American Door Co., are, l. to r., Gumercindo Cuevas, Anselmo Allellano, and Jose Purido.

who work at **Graymont's** Pavilion plant, producing a range of lime and limestone products, including high calcium quicklime and screened limestone.

Local D561 — Weeping Water, Neb.

Effective June 25, 2006 to July 31, 2011, for 35 members of Local D561, Weeping Water, Neb., who work at **Kerford Limestone Company** producing over two million tons of crushed limestone each year for use in asphalt and concrete.

Local D583 — Richmond, Calif.

Effective Nov. 1, 2006 to Nov. 1, 2009, for 50 members of Local D583, Richmond, Calif., who produce wallboard at the **National Gypsum Co.**

Continued on next page

Payday finally arrives for Local 483

After a four-year delay, NLRB sends case to resolution process

IN 2002, LOCAL 483 (Alton, Ill.) filed unfair labor practice charges against Joy Technologies Inc., d/b/a Joy Mining Machinery, when the company refused to bargain in good faith, imposed a mandatory overtime policy without notifying or bargaining to impasse with the union, and would not let employees return to work following a ULP strike as mandated by law. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) David L. Evans ruled in the union's favor, but the company refused to make payment and appealed the case to the National Labor Relations Board. The case has been there ever since. That is until late 2006, when the NLRB referred the case to its Pilot Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

The case was assigned to ALJ William Cates. Cates met with counsel and bargaining committees of both company and union until an agreement could be reached. Eligible members ratified an agreement with the company in August. On Sept. 14, 2006, the NLRB approved a settlement in the amount of \$1.02 million — a lot of money, but a far cry from the original estimate of nearly \$4 million.

"Although the settlement was not the full amount of liability, there were many factors the members had to consider," reports Research Director Jim Pressley. "The company has since combined two locations, built a new plant in Kentucky, and closed the plant in Illinois. We also had to consider the make-up of the NLRB itself [whether or not the current board has a fair member representation for both management and union] and the fact the board had many options — only one of which was better than the settlement approved. This case had been before the board about four years. There was no end in sight, and it was almost certain the company would appeal any NLRB decision to the courts."

Local 483 President Bill Staggs said the company informed him in 2005 that the plant would be closed

in January 2006. Most of the members have since found other work, some in other shops, others as field construction Boilermakers. But there are still too many who are out of work.

Staggs says the fate of this plant was pretty well sealed in 2001, when workers refused to work under a mandatory overtime policy the company instituted without consulting with or negotiating with the union.

"Local 483 members are to be commended for their patience throughout this extremely long and unfair procedure."

— Bill Staggs, L-483 President

"I think it comes down to this: the company did not like the union; they did not like being told what to do; and they found out they could do business cheaper in Kentucky," Staggs said.

Staggs continued: "Now you can quote me on this. When the company vice president told me they were closing the plant, he flat out stated: 'If you lose a thumb in Illinois, we have to pay you; in Kentucky, you go back to work.' This really puts into perspective how this company feels about its employees."

The decision to ratify the 2006 settlement agreement did bring some closure for the members of Local 483. The agreement was timely, due to the plant shut-down, and Pressley says there is absolutely no

question that the monetary amount was more than the company ever intended to pay the employees.

"Local 483 members are to be commended for their patience throughout this extremely long and unfair procedure," Staggs said. "They exercised a lot of solidarity through the extended negotiations for a labor agreement, board charges, plant closure, and now this settlement procedure. There was definitely solidarity and discipline throughout the entire process."

The settlement will be divided among 140 eligible employees and apportioned individually in two or three payments as follows: 1. One hundred percent of the employee's medical and insurance expenses up to the total of the employee allocation; 2. Gross back wages equal to the ratio of the remaining employee allocation; and 3. Interest in the amount of what remains of the employee allocation after subtracting the amounts calculated in steps 1 and 2.

In addition to the monetary agreement, the company agreed to offer full reinstatement to employees who participated in the 2001 ULP strike, to bargain in good faith any future collective bargaining agreements, to not institute another mandatory overtime policy without union agreement, and to remove any disciplinary records from members who had refused to work the overtime. These additional "concessions" will obviously have no benefit for the former employees, however, since the company moved the plant operations to another state.

Joy Technologies manufactures deep mining equipment, machines that bore into coal seams or slice coal from the wall of a seam. Local 483 members at the company's Mount Vernon plant repaired these machines, which weighed up to 100 tons and cost millions of dollars.

The Mount Vernon facility also included Joy's "Brake and Clutch Center of Excellence," where brakes and clutches for these machines were repaired. The Boilermakers had represented workers there since 1978.

New Contract Summaries

Continued from previous page

Local 584 — Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Effective Nov. 1, 2006 to Oct. 31, 2009, for seven members of Local 584, Tuscaloosa, Ala., who fabricate and service vacuum trucks for **Guzzler Manufacturing Inc.**

Local 903 — West Point, Miss.

Effective Aug. 1, 2006 to July 31, 2009, for 465 members of Local 903, West Point, Miss., who manufacture boilers and parts for the **Babcock & Wilcox Co.** From a patented water tube steam boiler in 1867 to the innovations of today, Boilermakers working for the Babcock & Wilcox Co. provide parts for boiler manufacturing and environmental technology, new equipment and aftermarket products, and services to a variety of markets, including electric power, industrial, pulp and paper, renewable energy (biomass and waste-to-energy), nuclear power, environmental, and construction.

Local 1240 — Wabash, Ind.

Effective March 1, 2006 to August 1, 2008, for members of Local 1240, Wabash, Ind., who work at **Wabash Alloys LLC.** Founded in 1958, Wabash Alloys now owns eight plants and produces over five million pounds of aluminum alloy each day, for a total of 1.6 billion pounds per year. They are the world's largest producer of recycled aluminum casting alloys.

Local 1247 — Chicago

Effective Oct. 8, 2006 to Oct. 8, 2010, for 50 members of Local 1247, Chicago, who produce open die and ring rolled forgings at **Charles E. Larson & Sons Inc.**

Local 1509 — Cudahy, Wis.

Effective October 2, 2006 to October 1, 2012, for 170 members of Local 1509, Cudahy, Wis., who produce large forgings at **Ladish Co. Inc.** Founded in 1905, Ladish is a family of advanced metal-working companies that supply highly engineered products and services for aerospace and industrial manufacturers around the world.

Local 1600 — St. Charles, Ill.

Effective May 6, 2006 to May 6, 2009, for 90 members of Local 1600, St. Charles, Ill., who make overhead

garage doors for the **General American Door Co.**, and effective November 21, 2005 to November 29, 2008, for 67 members who produce explosive powder and paint pigment at **Toyol Inc.**

Local 1702 — Canton, Ohio

Effective Nov. 5, 2006 to Oct. 31, 2009, for members of Local 1702, Canton, Ohio, who work at the **Shanafelt Manufacturing Co.**, where members manufacture corrugated steel material handling boxes, pallets, assembly bins, and bulk containers. They also fabricate custom foundry flasks, pins, and bushings. □

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Locals award service pins

National Transient Lodge

WIL HINOJOSA, BM-ST for the National Transient Lodge, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

35 YEARS – Eugene Byrd; and

25 YEARS – Patrick Clark, Ronnie Marple.

Local 1, Chicago

JOHN SKERMONT, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

35 YEARS – Edward Anderson, Timothy Barry, Raymond Frailey, Mark Gustafson, Ronald Kowalski Sr., Jack Ray; and

30 YEARS – James Carpenter, William Feeney, Eugene Forkin III, William Frankenbach, Raymond Garcia, Michael A. Gonzalez, Paul Gurgone, William Harris, Raymond Lewis, Patrick Nolan, Michael Ryan, Eddie Sanks, Abdul-Aleem Sharif, and Robert Stewart.

Local 13, Philadelphia

JAMES BANFORD JR., BM-ST of Local 13, Philadelphia, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

60 YEARS – Al Dziedzina.

Local 60, Peoria, Ill.

ED HEBERT, BM-ST of Local 60, Peoria, Ill., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

65 YEARS – George W. Green;

60 YEARS – Vernon F. Hackman;

50 YEARS – Lydell Karrick, Earl D. Main, Elbert Moreland, Victor Wood;

45 YEARS – John Moss;

40 YEARS – James Chavez, Robert J. Cunningham, Lathanial Fleming, Randel C. Garrels, Francis L. Kirby, Harold E. Magnuson, James Poshard, Richard J. Smith, Paul D. Thatcher Sr., John A. Yusko;

35 YEARS – Gary Bauer, Larry Bridges, Bruce Brown, James Downing, John W. Ganson, Glynn L. Goodin, William C. Grayson, Michael S. Gualandi, William R. Jones, Rodney L. Lochbaum, Kenneth R. Lusk, Tom L. Naughton, Michael A. Noel, Alan E. Rodda, Eugene Shepherd, John C. Williams, Victor W. Wood;

30 YEARS – Philip W. Hasty, Mark Huddleston, Wayne Inman, William Laicoff Jr., Thomas Miskell, Carl Peter Jr., David Rein, Michael Wood;

25 YEARS – Bradley D. Jarvis, Daniel R. Jarvis, Randall D. Jarvis; and

15 YEARS – William Burress.

Local 374, Hammond, Ind.

PAUL MADAY, Local 374 BM-ST, Hammond, Ind., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

55 YEARS – James Rossi, Mike Yurkovich;

50 YEARS – John J. Bowman, Frank G. Dudek, John Jurkash;

45 YEARS – Edward A. Jacobs;

40 YEARS – Michael J. Austin, Jerry L. Epley, Jack M. Lamont, Earl D. Schwartz, Murl D. Schwartz, William Shelton, Walter Talandis Jr.;

35 YEARS – Roger W. Flamion, Joseph W. Hagedorn, Terry V. Jones;

30 YEARS – Ralph E. Alvey Jr., Mark A. Foster, Rany Lang, Robert M. Peelman, Randell J. Romig, Ralph D. Socci, Allen M. Wood;

25 YEARS – Terry A. Boswell, Gerald D. Bradley, Robert A. Flamion, William C. Grambo, James E. Grunhard, Tommy Lane, William J. Lopez, Daniel M. Lynn, Terry L. Marchand, John L. Nolen, Guillermo Romo, Nick Vojvodich, Jason D. Vuletich, Terry Weaver, Dennis R. Whitman; and

15 YEARS – Joseph M. Halajcsik, David P. Royer, Carlos J. Tite.

Local 647, Minneapolis

PAUL PENDERGAST, BM-ST of Local 647, Minneapolis, reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

65 YEARS – Arnold I. Lindholm;

50 YEARS – Clarence Beck, Ellsworth L. Gjehaug, Irving S. Hoiland, Gordon D. Shilts, Phillip R. Viskoe;

45 YEARS – Edward Backer, Gary Foley;

40 YEARS – Dwain A. Diercks, Thomas M. Hahn, William L. Hedegaard, Frank F. Hellman, Alfred E. Janisch, David W. Jouppe, Robert R. Lee, Richard W. Poukka, David A. Risland, Carl J. Schneider, George P. Trotter, John C. Turbitt, Dennis A. Whitmore;

35 YEARS – Bruce L. Alms, Theodore R. Arndt, William S. Baker, Edward R. Berning, Wallace J. Bignell, John N. Brantner, Fred A. Carlson, Gene M. Cernohous, Charles F. Conroy, Terry N. Curl, Terry J. Darling, Leonard L. Erickson, Dennis R. Forsell, Darrell M. Gulseth, Carl D. Hanenberger, David L. Harden, Richard N. Hartung, Robert J. Hemmeke, Steven L. Jahnke, Bruce A. Jensen, Ronald J. Juliot, Gaylen P. Langer, Ray D. Lavamaki, William R. Marazzo, Peter I. Marx, Kelley T. Myers, Dennis W. Nelson, Steven J. Novak, William F. Raway, Gary D. Seifert, Brent R. Sheldon, David R. Shoemaker, Stanley P. Swenson Jr., George M. Teska;

30 YEARS – Paul W. Bengston Jr., Alphonse N. Bialke, Thomas A. Brand, Howard J. Granholm, Virgil W. Hanwell Jr., Lloyd Huber Jr., Mark R. McPheeters, Pat W. Monroe, Calvin D. Peterson, Jeffery J. Reinholt, Andrew J. Retterath, John R. Rousseau, Jeffrey R. Rymer, Keith D. Sailer, Rick A. Schick, Jeff J. Walbridge;

25 YEARS – Grant N. Bakke, Terry A. Cosand, Sylvester Dahler, Wayne H. Dale, Ricky L. Dockter, Peter P. Howard, Clyde A. Knell, Alfred V. Lafontaine, Robert R. Larkin, Trenton L. Moore, Anton Paul, Larry M. Sabrowsky, Mark Slivnik, Francis R. Trotter; and

20 YEARS – Jacob J. Beckius, John T. Bell, Deborah R. Bistodeau, Randall G. Brantner, Michael J. Jagielski, Douglas Laborde, Peter S. Mehr, Dale J. Munsterteiger, John D. Newman, Richard Pilarski, Jude M. Reilly, Reggy Scheving, James L. Schneider, Rickey L. Schumacher, John A. Silvis Jr., Chris M. Unger, Kirby L. Westlund, and Carnell R. Yusella.

Local 667, Charleston, Va.

GEORGE PINKERMAN, BM-ST of Local 667, Charleston, W. Va., reports the following pin presentations:

65 YEARS – Russell Q. Adams;

60 YEARS – William Proffitt;

55 YEARS – Darrell Deem, Haskill Fraley, Clark Townsend, Wendall Williams, Gilmer Mosteller;

50 YEARS – Vernon Dalton;

40 YEARS – Millard Bonnette Jr., Michael P. Cottrell, Paul H. Craig, Charles F. Eddy, James A. Hoffman, Bobby E.



TOP LEFT: NTL member Ronnie Marple receives his 25-year service pin. ABOVE: NTL members Eugene Byrd (l.) and Patrick Clark receive their 35- and 25-year service pins (respectively). BELOW: Al Dziedzina, center, receives his 60-year membership pin from L-13 Pres. Gary Everly (l.) and L-13 BM-ST Jim Banford Jr.



Hyatt, Garrell L. Johnson Jr., Arthur M. Johnson, Patrick E. McDavid, Mark A. Padilla, Danny E. Rickard, Theodore Wright, William H. Young;

35 YEARS – Raymond Adkins, James Bargo, Frank C. Barill, Carl Benson, Elgan Blevins, David Bomboy, Charles Bowman, Ronald Bush, Bill Coiner, Jerry Cunningham, Kevin Cutright, James Deitz, William Dew, Charles Durfee, Darrell Fitzpatrick, James Gibson, Albert Harlow, Billy Harper, George Hashman, Charles Hayes, Roger Henley, Doug Jacobs, Larry Jones, William R. King, Ronald Koontz, Ralph Lee, Carl Lemley, Ersel Dean Loftis, Sherman Long, Daniel Malik, Orden Maynard May, Tom McCormick, Stephen McGraw, James F. Poling, William E. Poling, Larry Priddy, James Rollins, William G. Russell, Franklin D. Sheppard, Joe Shilot, Shelva Smith, Walter V. Smith, Gary Swisher, Herman Taylor, Jack Thomas, Delmus Tustin, Tom Vance, Marlin Vandall, Arch Wilkins, Charles Withers, Kermit Wolfe, Earl Yost, Russell Young;

30 YEARS – Charles Aliff, James M. Bell, Charles E. Bradley, Bruce D. Bush, Gregory B. Bush, Steve Carpenter, Kenneth C. Chevront, Dana Clay, Earl Cunningham, Steve Deem, Gerald Drenner, James Gerlach, Paul Hedrick, Roger Hunt, Leonard Hurlow, Charles M. Johnson, Vernald D. Johnson Jr., Larry A. Johnson, Dwight W. Sayre, Gary O. Smith, Robert W. Smith, Roger K. Stewart, Daniel T. Stout, William R. Tatterson, John Tice, Ronald Tucker, Donald Young;

25 YEARS – Frank J. Barron, Ardath E. Casto Jr., James B. Deems, Fred Detwyler III, David Harman, Larry Harman, Martin Hennen, Rodney Hopkins, Patrick Keller, Charles Lee, George Miller, Richard Painter, Gregory Parrish, Tim Shannon, Dale

Taylor, Charles W. Walters, Ricky Whited, Michael Wise;

20 YEARS – David Casto, James W. Eggers, Gregory S. Johnson; and

15 YEARS – Roger Atkins, Curtis Ball, James Matt Bradley, David Burgess Jr., Daniel Chevront, Ronald P. Carr, Garry Chevront, Virgil M. Childers, Robert Cook Jr., Edwin Dulaney, James Estes, Stephen Goddard, Michael Troy Griffith, Donald Hudson, Joe Huggins, Mark Hurlow, Steve Joy, Rickey Kesterson, James Kitzmiller, Michael Moore, Bill Murphy, Alan Perdue, Gary Perdue, Richard Robinson, David Steele, Glenn Taylor, Lee Thompson, Todd Tippins, and William Tomlinson.

Local 687, Charleston Heights, S.C.

DAVID W. IMPSON, dispatcher for Local Lodge 687, Charleston Heights, S.C., reports presentation of membership pins to the following:

35 YEARS – Deryl L. Singleton;

30 YEARS – David R. Benton, Jessie J. Carter, Harry H. Fardon, Thomas P. Feagin, Raymond K. McKenzie Jr., Carl A. Merriett, Stephen N. Merriett Jr., Glen M. Oerman, David W. Russell, Robert V. Smedley IV, Alan H. Smith, Steven R. Spangler, Charles E. Timmons, Gregory A. Zaremba;

25 YEARS – Daniel J. Flynn Jr., Fred R. Gaston, John R. Gentry III, Fred R. Green, Thomas S. Hayden, Harry W. Horne, Bobby Jones, Alfred A. Jordan, Charles R. Ray, Delbert M. Ray, Milton E. Schenk, Michael L. Zollner;

20 YEARS – James A. Feagin, Johnny F. Hall, Leroy N. Keitt Jr., A. Sean Lister, James A. Moore; and

15 YEARS – Bert E. Bailey, Paul H. Cook, James M. Dukes, Raleigh M. Feagin, Dan M. Gay, David E. Hampton, and James B. Helton Jr. □

Boilermakers rehab boiler at A.S. King Plant

B&W crews work 140,000 man-hours without injury

WORKING AT EXCEL Energy's A.S. King Plant in Bayport, Minn., 265 Boilermakers are completing a Babcock & Wilcox boiler rehab project — and they are compiling an impressive safety record in the process. B&W field supervisor Mike James reported that more than 140,000 man-hours have been worked "without so much as a scratch." The job requires 10 cyclone change-outs. "These men truly deserve praise for their hard work and attention to detail," James stated.

Local 647 BM-ST Paul Pendergast (Minneapolis, Minn.) said the project is winding down and should be completed by late February.

Boilermakers are among the night shift rigging crew pictured at right. First

row, l. to r.: Javier Gonzalez, Local 74 (standing); Phillip Farris, Local 132; Kevin Wheatley, Local 132; Gregg Goss, Local 587; Parker Rogers, Local 500; Al Simmons, Local 132; Roy Burns, Local 132; John Silversmith, Local 627; Dave Hynes, Local 627; and Shawn Morgan, Local 74. Second row, l. to r.: Dee Simper, B&W supervision; David Parkison, B&W supervision; Charles Hall, Local 627; Alex Secody, Local 4; Kelly Hendon, Local 108; Brennan Miles, Local 455; Richy Carter, Local 627; and Jim Lough, Local 112. Back row, l. to r.: Al Perrin, Local 647; John Murray, Local 647 (partially hidden); Mike James, B&W supervision; Richard Hill, Local 455; Keith Reed (Operating Engineers); and Jerry Lee (Operating Engineers). □



Workers on this night shift rigging crew are among 265 Boilermakers employed by B&W at the A.S. King Plant in Bayport, Minn.

L-13 members put rigging, welding skills to test

It's another job well done with no defects, accidents, or complaints

LOCAL 13 (PHILADELPHIA) members have successfully completed a new wet gas scrubbing unit at the Valero Refinery in Delaware City, Del.

Working for Riggs Distler Inc., nearly 60 Boilermakers built a new pre-scrubber and absorber to replace a multi-clone precipitator that CBI (another Boilermaker union contractor) removed a few years prior. Located at Valero's fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), the new scrubber will remove 81 percent of the particulates and 98 percent of the sulfur dioxide from the FCCU's flue gas emission.



Using their rigging skills, Local 13 members lift an 87-foot-tall, 85,000-pound scrubber section.

According to Mike Murray, the Local 13 erection foreman on the project, the crew had thousands of feet of circumferential welds with countless penetrations that resulted in zero defects. And to top it off, they had no lost-time injuries and no OSHA recordable injuries.

The pre-scrubber they built was 30 feet in diameter and 140 feet in height. Members erected it in five sections,

ranging in weight from 50,000 pounds to 120,000 pounds.

The absorber was 32 feet in diameter and 194 feet in height. The first 120 feet of the absorber was made up of 15 ring sections. The ring sections were sub-assembled on site and then stacked two-to-four rings in height, based on weight or optimal construction breaks.

It took Local 13 members five lifts to raise the main column, with a typical weight of 90,000 pounds each lift. The top two-ring section, transition cone, and stack were sub-assembled as a single 87-foot-tall unit, weighing 85,000 pounds. Its lift is pictured here.

The absorber column has two collector trays and three packing beds. It took 14 shifts alone for Local 13 members to pack all 9,308 pieces of packing into the beds — an amazing 28 shifts ahead of schedule. In all, from the job's startup in late June to mechanical completion in Dec. 2006, Local 13 members worked around 167,000 man-hours in 21 weeks. □



The Local 13 crew included those pictured above, l. to r., Bob Enott, John Phillips, Jim Loftis, Bob Lutts, area foreman Rich Kelley, Mike Hawke, foreman Mike Murray, general foreman George Hunsicker, Joe Haney, foreman Joe Long, Joe Phillips, Jorge Parla, Gary Wadsen, Joe Wright, Andy Lukanish, and Charlie Albright.

KUDOS

FirstEnergy applauds Local 154 on outage work

IT GIVES ME great pleasure to once again thank you [BM Ray Ventrone] and the Boilermakers of Local 154 [Pittsburgh]. Your membership continually demonstrates a commitment for excellence. As an observer, I personally see that commitment and I also see the pride on the faces of your membership. You don't see much of that these days.

Your membership again gave above and beyond effort to return our units 6 and 7 from a forced outage in safe and record time. I commend you and each member of Local 154.

I would also like to mention at this time that the Boilermakers working our massive AQC [air quality control] project also demonstrate this commitment for excellence. Please let your membership know of my appreciation. If there is anything you need from me, please give me a call at your convenience.

*Frank A. Lubich,
FirstEnergy
W.H. Sammis Plant,
Scranton, Ohio*

The Venture expresses appreciation to L-60

ON BEHALF OF the Venture Management Team at the Byron Nuclear Station we would like to express our appreciation to the staff and members of Boilermakers Local 60 (Peoria, Ill.) for their support in helping us successfully accomplish our goals for B1R14.

The support of your staff in recruiting Boilermakers to support our outage work was excellent, and the support shown by the members of Local 60 to execute our outage commitments was exemplary. We especially appreciate the compliance to our safety program, which helped us achieve an outage without an OSHA recordable incident.

Again, our thanks go to you [Ed Hebert, L-60 BM-ST], your staff, and your members who supported us.

*Bob Vivian, project manager
Jacci Schlosser,
work control support
Fred Talsma, project support*

BOILERMAKERS LOSE THREE RETIRED INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Tom Kemme

RETIRED IVP-AT-Large Thomas B. Kemme died Jan. 14. He was 71. Kemme was president of the Stove, Furnace, & Allied Appliance Workers International Union at the time it merged with the Boilermakers in 1994.

Kemme joined SFAW Local S105 (Effingham, Ill.) in 1954 and became the local's president in 1970. He became a vice president of the SFAW in 1974 and its president in 1981, serving as the top officer for 13 years.

As part of the merger agreement, Kemme became an International vice president-at-large in the Boilermakers, with responsibilities for the SFEAW Division. He was reelected to that position at the 1996 consolidated convention and retired Dec. 31, 1998.



Tom Kemme

Clay Parton

RETIRED NORTHWEST Section IVP Raymond C. "Clay" Parton passed away Jan. 23 at the age of 79. Parton retired Dec. 31, 1995, after 45 years as a Boilermaker member and 30 years as an officer and staff member.

He joined Local 656 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) in 1951 and later served as lodge president. In 1965 he became an International rep, and in 1970 was appointed special assistant to the International president.

In 1979 Parton directed the Boilermaker's Houston organizing office. He was appointed administrative assistant to the International president in 1984, and the following year was selected to complete Clifford L. Stave's term as IVP of the Northwest Section. He was reelected to that position at the 1986 and 1991 consolidated conventions.



Clay Parton

Jack Sloan

RETIRED WESTERN States IVP John "Jack" P. Sloan Jr. passed away Jan. 19. He was 67. Sloan retired Dec. 31, 1999, for health reasons. He served Boilermaker union members for nearly 40 years. A member of Local 104 (Seattle) since 1960, Sloan served as business manager prior to his 1978 appointment as assistant to the International president. As an AIP, his primary duties were in the Metal Trades Industry Section. He graduated from the Harvard Trade Union Program in 1979.

In 1980 Sloan became International vice president of the Southern Pacific Section, which was later merged with the Northwest Section to become the Western States Section. He was reelected at each succeeding consolidated convention, serving 20 years as an International vice president.



Jack Sloan

WITH DEEP SORROW the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer's office, and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|------------------------|
| NTL Arthur, Louie | 27 | Emily, Ted | 92 | Klinkert, Ernest | 154 | Weiss, John |
| NTL Baker, Leonard | 27 | Hill, Donald | 92 | Leftwich, James | 154 | Wending, Kenneth |
| NTL Campbell, Byron | 27 | Pippin, Matthew | 92 | Roberts, Bud | 158 | Bartos, Merval |
| NTL Gaspers, Larry | 27 | Schaefer, Willard | 96 | McKaskle, Andrew | 158 | King, Ralph |
| NTL Johnson, Millard | 27 | Vincent, William | 101 | Martinez, Fred | 169 | Cartwright, Marvin |
| NTL Kamon, Charles | 28 | Gill, Justin | 104 | Banguis, Paul | 169 | Corbin, Anthony |
| NTL Lightfoot, C. R. | 29 | Metallic, Wesley | 104 | Bartron, Theodore | 169 | Simmons, Donald |
| NTL Patrick, Charles | 29 | Mitchell, Francis | 104 | Brown, Dennis | 174 | Reed, Elmer |
| NTL Sharp, Clayton | 29 | Patriarca, Guido | 104 | Cundiff, Billy | 175 | Syrell, Harry |
| NTL Waddell, Herschel | 29 | Seneca, Joseph | 104 | Dimick, Arthur | 177 | Seiler, Elmer |
| NTL Yost, Charles | 40 | Beasley, Wade | 104 | Downs, J.A. | 177 | Vincent, Willard |
| 1 Burns, John | 40 | Brewer, Avis | 104 | Ehlers, Jay | 180 | Camble, Thurman |
| 1 McDonough, Robert | 40 | Fields, James | 104 | Elduen, Roy | 182 | Aiello, Mike |
| 1 Sagorsky, William | 40 | Mussdorf, Gunther | 104 | Jensen, Lloyd | 182 | Livengood, Charles |
| 1 Spencer, Charles | 40 | Underwood, Samuel | 104 | Larson, Carl | D190 | Grummert, Harlan |
| 1 Wellman, Edward | 40 | Withers Jr., James | 104 | Noll, Philip | 195 | Osborne, William |
| 3 Boetcher, Alfred | 45 | Dietrich, Henry | 104 | Poeppel, Phillip | 197 | Stuart, John |
| 3 Conn, Jerry | 45 | Judy, Randall | 104 | Rogers, Leroy | 203 | Dunphy, Brian |
| 6 Beeby, Charles | 45 | Sanderford, Billy | 104 | Thomson, John | 203 | Lewis, Lawrence |
| 6 Bentzen, John | 45 | Wooldridge, James | 104 | Valdrighi, Richard | 237 | Truken, Paul |
| 6 Busse, Richard | S50 | Novia, Albert | 105 | Drain, Harold | 271 | Fullum, Guy |
| 6 Cameron, John | S50 | Price, Myron | 105 | Maupin, Arthur | 305 | Broussard Jr., Charles |
| 6 Fechtner, Walter | 60 | Green, George W. | 105 | Metze, Edward | D308 | Hise, Conrad |
| 6 Foreman, Charles | 60 | Stoetzel, William | 106 | Means, Alex | 338 | Martinez, William |
| 6 Hall, Erroll | 72 | Barnes, Junior | 109 | Odom, Earl | D338 | Pion, Roland |
| 6 Lopez, Louis | 72 | Buzard, Paul | 111 | Tecca, Ernest | 343 | Brown, Ellis |
| 6 Morgan, James | 72 | DeLashmutt, Ray | 112 | Carpenter, Ralph | 347 | Bradigan, Clarence |
| 6 Sabin, William | 72 | Hilts, William | 112 | Creel, Billie | 358 | Presutto, Eugene |
| 6 Saulacich, Louis | 72 | Johnson, Dave | 112 | Eads, Loyle | 359 | Holota, Ivan |
| 6 Souza, Adam | 72 | Kunnas, Wayne | 112 | Martinez, Leonard | 359 | Pagliardi, Giovanni |
| 6 Tait, Donald | 72 | Kurth, Roger | 113 | Durham, Ermal | 359 | Reckwardt, Joseph |
| 6 Tamasa, Peter | 72 | McGuire, Melvin | 113 | Means, Mildred | 359 | Stimson, William |
| 6 Willard, Robert | 72 | Salta, Joseph | 113 | Young, Winford | 363 | Daniels, Richard |
| 7 Brown, Charles | 72 | Shilo, Arthur | 124 | Willett, James | 363 | Dillingham, Kenneth |
| 7 Cory, Anthony | 73 | Davis, Gordon | 126 | Martin, John B. | 363 | Jouett, John |
| 7 Grasso, Salvatore | 74 | Conn, John | 128 | Arsenault, Donat | 363 | Queen, Frank |
| 7 Hyder, Gerald J. | 74 | Kindel, William | M128 | Brinlee, Audrey | 363 | Smith, David |
| 7 Tolkacz, Edward | 83 | Aspedon, Jesse | 130 | Nicholls, Harry | 368 | Holland, Frederick |
| 9 Cercone, Mike | 83 | Davidson, Fred | 132 | Duran, Jesse | 374 | Chorak, Nick |
| 10 Cardana, Michael | 83 | Douglas Jr., Ernest | 132 | Knesek, Willie | 374 | Correll, Forest |
| 10 Lacy, Orland | 83 | Goslin, Thomas J. | 132 | Rawson, Gordon | 374 | Flowers, Gerald |
| 13 Drake, Bethel | 83 | Linnell, Otto | 134 | Brotherton, Leo | 374 | Marsh, Dudley |
| 13 Lanzidelle, John | 83 | Ussery, Roy | 134 | Fellows, John | 374 | Tyler, Bidwell |
| 13 Naus, Kenneth | 84 | Robbins, William | 146 | Kapeluch, Raymond | 378 | Nelson, Jack |
| 14 Koontz, Walter | 85 | Lively, Doug | 146 | Malysh, Michael | 433 | Dobbins, MacArthur |
| 19 Sheenan, Jeffrey | 85 | Merce, Fred | 146 | Noda, Heber | 433 | Exum, Timothy |
| 20 Higginbotham, John | 88 | Houston Sr., George | 154 | Cwon, Anthony | 433 | Johnson, Robert |
| 26 Clemons, William | 92 | Alvarado, Miguel | 154 | Hancock, Leonard | 433 | Lee, Tezze |
| 26 Deal, Wilman | 92 | Dinga, Edward | 154 | Harris, Fred | 433 | Vaughn, Kevin |
| 26 Hennessee, Luther | 92 | Doty, Arvel | 154 | Malik, John | 433 | Weston, Donald |
| 27 Antinora, Rose | 92 | Eldridge, Ross D. | 154 | Marcinko, John | 433 | Wilkes, James |
| 27 Conley, Jeffery | 92 | Grillo, John | 154 | Phillips, John | D435 | Churchill, James |
| 27 Crnkovich, Joseph | 92 | Holland, Earl | 154 | Shaw, Donald | 449 | Greisen, Arnold |
| | | | | | 449 | LaCrosse, James |



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Accident Insurance
Call: 1-800-393-0864

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Save on prescription medicines, hearing, dental, and vision care.
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AWD #B723700
Budget: 1-800-455-2848
BCD#V816100

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Cingular Wireless Discounts
Call: 1-800-452-9425

Union Plus Moving Services
Call: 1-800-593-2526

For information on these programs and other member-only benefits, go to www.unionplus.org

*Retired members are eligible. Some programs are not available to members outside the continental United States, and not all programs are available in all states.

Phone 1-800-452-9425 for clarification of eligibility.

See next page

1ST-REPORTED DEATHS

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| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 453 Harvey, William | 500 Estes, Shelton | 583 Burns, Thomas | 667 Sickles Jr., Warren | 802 Rhoades, Edwin |
| 453 Taylor, George | 500 Harville, Mearl | 587 Hebert, Preston | 667 Thomas, Danny | 802 Sauter, John |
| 454 Clark, Claude | 531 Albin, Hollis | 587 Kube, Eric | 679 Higgins, Don H. | 802 Turek, August |
| 454 Graves, Clarence | 531 Connelly, Stephen | D595 Bryson, Paul | 679 Meeks, Paul | 807 Johnson, Jasper |
| 454 Willingham, William | 531 Marlett, Earl | 599 Henneberry, Lorren | 684 Cuffee, William | 807 Quevedo, Christobal |
| 455 Blankenship, Hayden | 531 Williams, Eddie | 627 Brassfield, Robert | 684 Griffin, Ervin | 897 Dungey, Robert |
| 455 Bryan, Edwin | 549 Bradshaw, Caroline | 627 Chalmers, George | 684 Humphrey, Ronnie | 898 Crabtree, Earl |
| 455 Chandler, Henry | 549 Gonzaga, Tony | 627 Hansen, Henry | 687 Ramsay, Raymond | 906 Nizinski, Mike |
| 455 Phillips, Carl | 549 Horan, George | 636 Dennis, Robert | 696 Adams, Jerry | 1147 Brown, David H. |
| 455 Williams, Homer | 549 Quintal, Manuel | 647 Eliason, Ernest | 696 Bizjak, Todd | 1181 Goff, Philip |
| 480 Brannan, Ray | 549 Sherfy, John | 647 Engen, Elmer | 744 Benyo, Frank | 1212 DeLaCruz, Peter |
| 483 Frame, John | 568 Dual, Raymond | 647 Rabbers, Robert | 744 Flack, Gregory | 1234 Maldonado, Mario |
| 483 Koshinski, Eugene | 568 Prukop, John | 651 Cosmo, Siolinda | 744 Mullin, Richard | 1240 Bolden, Donald |
| 487 Andre, Willard | 574 Hamryga, Walter | 651 Durkan, Richard | 744 Shipta, John | 1240 Osborne, Thomas |
| 500 Brumbaugh, Clifford | 582 Bates, A. J. | 656 Cross, Burl | 748 Moody, Harrell | 1248 Alvarado, Pedro |
| 500 Dever, Jimmy | 582 Dousay, George | 656 Daniel, Malcolm | 749 McFetridge, Peter | 1509 Hecker, Richard |
| | 582 Reagan, Robert | 656 Laymon, Everett | 799 Hasara, Raymond | 1509 Pozorski, Florian |
| | 582 Wallace, Mitchell | 667 Rhodes, Alford | 799 Hentosh, Joseph | 1592 Moyer Sr., Ralph |
| | | | 801 Gallen, Charles | 1600 Torres, Maria |
| | | | 801 Peine, Richard | 1670 Ventresca, Mary |
| | | | 802 Gilkey, William | |

DEATH BENEFITS

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

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101, at the earliest possible date. NOTE: These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

| LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Intl. Antonich, Mary F. | \$6,000.00 | 6 Souza, Adam | 6,000.00 | 45 Dietrich, Henry | 3,000.00 | 92 Eldridge, Ross DeMar | 6,000.00 |
| Intl. Modrcin, Leah L. | 6,000.00 | 6 Tait, Donald W. | 6,000.00 | 45 Guthrie, Joseph W. | 196.00 | 92 Leftwich, James | 6,000.00 |
| Intl. Moore, James W. | 6,000.00 | 6 Tamaso, Peter T. | 6,000.00 | 45 Judy, Randall K. | 6,000.00 | 92 Monroy, Gabriel* | 3,000.00 |
| NTL Atchison, James R. | 6,000.00 | 7 Bellinghieri, Saverio | 6,000.00 | 45 Sanderford, Billy E. | 6,000.00 | 92 Roberts, Bud | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Ayres, Harold J. | 6,000.00 | 7 Brown, Charles S. | 6,000.00 | 45 Wimberley Jr., Obed | 6,000.00 | 92 Venia, Francis H. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Campbell, Byron E. | 6,000.00 | 7 Cory, Anthony J. | 6,000.00 | 45 Wooldridge, James L. | 5,948.94 | 96 McKaskle, Andrew J. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Dichard, Robert | 6,000.00 | 7 Grasso, Salvatore | 6,000.00 | 60 Magnuson, Harold | 6,000.00 | 101 Slagle, Michael G. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Gale, Ollie C. | 6,000.00 | 7 Stone, William V. | 6,000.00 | 60 Stoetzel, William | 6,000.00 | 104 Banguis, Paul D. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Gaspers, Larry G. | 6,000.00 | 13 Davis, Lewis W. | 6,000.00 | 72 Buzard, Paul T. | 6,000.00 | 104 Bartron, Theodore A. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Green, Edward D. | 6,000.00 | 13 Lanzidelle, John O. | 6,000.00 | 72 Hieb, John E. | 6,000.00 | 104 Boe, Bruce A. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Harville, Mearl P. | 6,000.00 | 13 Winkelblech, Orvis | 6,000.00 | 72 Hite, Ernest J. | 6,000.00 | 104 Cundiff, Billy R. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Johnson, Walter C. | 6,000.00 | 19 Sheenan, Jeffrey J. | 1,430.26 | 72 Hughes, Leigh A. | 6,000.00 | 104 Downs, J. A. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Kamon, Charles E. | 6,000.00 | 26 Clemons, William E. | 6,000.00 | 72 Kurth, Roger F. | 6,000.00 | 104 Ehlers, Jay C. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Lightfoot, C.R. | 6,000.00 | 26 Deal, Wilman | 6,000.00 | 72 Vanderhoof, George | 6,000.00 | 104 Feyder, Robert L. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Loggins, Dwight Reid | 6,000.00 | 26 Johnson, Walter R. | 6,000.00 | 74 Conn, John H. | 6,000.00 | 104 Holmes, Sherman | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Patrick, Charles Albert | 6,000.00 | 27 Bosomworth, Orval | 6,000.00 | 74 Jernigan, Kenneth S. | 6,000.00 | 104 Holt, Louis A. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Trickle, Verlon L. | 6,000.00 | 27 Bryeans, Heath D. | 372.00 | 74 Kindel, William C. | 6,000.00 | 104 Larson, Carl D. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Waddell, Herschel M. | 6,000.00 | 27 Conley, Jeffery R. | 178.50 | 74 Moore, Arthur Doyle | 6,000.00 | 104 Murchison, Herbert E. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Walton, William W. | 6,000.00 | 27 Emily, Ted L. | 1,250.50 | 74 Prosser, Laurence O. | 6,000.00 | 104 Noll, Philip G. | 6,000.00 |
| NTL Worlow, Calvin J. | 6,000.00 | 27 Pethtel, Dickie D. | 6,000.00 | 74 Withers, Frank W. | 6,000.00 | 104 Poeppel, Phillip G. | 6,000.00 |
| 1 Burns, John J. | 6,000.00 | 27 Pippin, Matthew K. | 6,000.00 | 79 Coker, Leon | 6,000.00 | 104 Vandersloot, Peter T. | 6,000.00 |
| 1 King, James W. | 6,000.00 | 27 Stafford, John L. | 6,000.00 | 79 Pearce Jr., John L. | 6,000.00 | 104 Whitlock, Daisy H. | 6,000.00 |
| 1 McCarthy, John T. | 6,000.00 | 27 Vincent Sr., William | 6,000.00 | 83 Aspedon, Jesse D. | 6,000.00 | 105 Carter, Johnny | 6,000.00 |
| 1 McDonough, Robert J. | 6,000.00 | 27 Wideman, Raymond | 1,022.00 | 83 Goslin, Fred W. | 6,000.00 | 105 Ihrig, Joseph V. | 1,500.00 |
| 3 Conn, Jerry L. | 6,000.00 | 28 Gill, Justin W. | 1,718.32 | 83 Davidson, Thomas J. | 6,000.00 | 105 Kinner, Charles E. | 6,000.00 |
| 4 Begaye, Secsfonzeski | 2,836.55 | 29 Hancock, Richard A.* | 1,500.00 | 83 Koehler, Henry D. | 6,000.00 | 105 Metzke, Edward | 6,000.00 |
| 6 Beeby, Charles A. | 6,000.00 | 29 Iacobucci, Gerald V. | 6,000.00 | 83 Linnell, Otto F. | 6,000.00 | 105 Wesley, Arnold D. | 15,000.00 |
| 6 Curry, Teddy J. | 6,000.00 | 29 Metallic, Wesley | 1,812.34 | 83 Ussery, Roy | 6,000.00 | 106 Means, Alex G. | 6,000.00 |
| 6 Faria, Manuel | 6,000.00 | 29 Mitchell, Francis D. | 272.96 | 85 Kain, Parnell W. | 6,000.00 | 107 Ketchum, Roland M. | 6,000.00 |
| 6 Hall, Erroll T. | 196.00 | 29 Reagan III, William A. | 840.00 | 85 Lively, Doug A. | 6,963.94 | 107 McDonnell, Frank J. | 612.85 |
| 6 Huie, James E. | 6,000.00 | 29 Seneca, Joseph A. | 6,000.00 | 85 Martin, Howard S. | 6,000.00 | 108 Sartain, Johnnie B. | 6,000.00 |
| 6 LaBella, Verdi P. | 6,000.00 | 30 Young, Odell W. | 6,000.00 | 85 Merce, Fred J. | 6,000.00 | 109 Howard, Albert | 6,000.00 |
| 6 Lopez, Louis L. | 6,000.00 | 37 Floyd, Eguene M. | 6,000.00 | 88 Houston Sr., George | 6,000.00 | 109 Odom, Earl | 2,000.00 |
| 6 Morgan, James H. | 1,500.00 | 37 Oncale, Warren R.* | 3,000.00 | 92 Alvarado, Miguel M. | 6,000.00 | 112 Carpenter, Ralph S. | 6,000.00 |
| 6 Papp, Sandor | 6,000.00 | 40 Bartley, Bernard Dean | 6,000.00 | 92 Bacon, Lyall W. | 6,000.00 | 112 Creel, Billie | 6,000.00 |
| 6 Sabin, William R. | 6,000.00 | 40 Fields, James P. | 6,000.00 | 92 Barrios, David | 6,000.00 | 112 Eads, Loyle D. | 6,000.00 |
| | | 40 Styers, Bobby G. | 6,000.00 | 92 Cagney, Jack N. | 6,000.00 | 112 Martinez, Leonard H. | 6,000.00 |
| | | 40 Underwood, Samuel | 6,000.00 | 92 Doty, Arvel R. | 6,000.00 | 113 Corbitt, Charles C. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 113 Durham, Ermal | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 113 Holcomb, Bobby E. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 113 Means, Mildred K. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 113 Young, Winford H. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 124 Willett, James L. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 128 Bellusci, Pasquale | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 132 Hatcher, George L. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 132 Knesek, Willie F. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 132 Sellers, Travis D. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 151 Zidek, Albert F. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 154 Alvania, Steve | 3,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 154 Cwon, Anthony | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 154 Gruseck, James F. | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | 154 Harris, Fred | 6,000.00 |

Moving? Tell us where...

Name _____
 New Address _____
 City _____
 State or Province _____ Zip _____
 Local Lodge No. _____ Register No. _____
 E-Mail Address _____

(Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.)

Mail form to:

International Brotherhood of
 Boilermakers Union
 753 State Avenue, Suite 565
 Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)

See next page

ADDITIONAL OBITIS

Robert J. McDonough

ROBERT J. MCDONOUGH, 82, retired business manager of Local 1, Chicago, passed away June 16, 2006. Born April 2, 1924, he is survived by his wife of 41 years, Marie. McDonough joined the union in 1940, and served as a Local 1 business manager from April 1965 through his retirement in Dec. 1989. He was a trustee for the national health & welfare fund from 1966 to 1999, and served on that fund's administrative committee for 21 years. "He was always proud to say he was still paying full dues, even after his retirement," L-1 BM-ST John Skeremont reported. "Bob would say that he was 'retired from the job, not the organization.'"

James W. Moore

J.W. MOORE, 80, passed away Oct. 17, 2006. He joined Local 693 (Pascagoula, Miss.) in 1952, and held a series of positions before becoming lodge president. In 1976, he was appointed Intl. rep. He retired in 1997 as an assistant to the Intl. pres. and served as convention chairman of the Boilermakers' consolidated conventions in 1996 and 2001. Moore received a Distinguished Service Award on July 25, 2001 — the highest award an International president can give to someone for service to the members of an International union. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Janet; daughter, Cathy; sons, Michael and James; 7 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

Continued from p. 22

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| 154 | McIlvain, John N. | 6,000.00 |
| 154 | Muller, William H. | 6,000.00 |
| 154 | Riddle, Kenneth E. | 94.60 |
| 154 | Schipani, Samuel A. | 6,000.00 |
| 154 | Shaw Jr., Donald L. | 6,000.00 |
| 154 | Smarra, Clem A. | 6,000.00 |
| 154 | Statler, Larry L. | 6,000.00 |
| 154 | Wendling, Kenneth K. | 6,000.00 |
| 169 | Bliss, John M. | 2,619.08 |
| 169 | Cartwright, Marvin L. | 6,000.00 |
| 169 | Corbin, Anthony L. | 4,471.38 |
| 169 | Ruba, Roland R. | 6,000.00 |
| 169 | Simmons, Donald H. | 6,000.00 |
| 174 | Reed, Elmer M. | 6,000.00 |
| 175 | Syrell, Harry V. | 6,000.00 |
| 177 | Vincent, Willard M. | 6,000.00 |
| 182 | Warnock, Doyle W. | 6,000.00 |
| 182 | Wiens, Martin | 6,000.00 |
| 193 | Young, Ernest D. | 6,000.00 |
| 197 | Stuart, John A. | 6,000.00 |
| 199 | McCoy, Stanley | 15,000.00 |
| 202 | McCullar, Clyde L. | 6,000.00 |
| 204 | Kong, Robert Y.S. | 6,000.00 |
| 237 | Summerfield, Ronald | 6,000.00 |
| 237 | Truken, Paul | 6,000.00 |
| 242 | Nixon, Gerald S. | 6,000.00 |
| 300 | Bryant, Edward B. | 3,000.00 |
| 305 | Broussard Jr., Charles | 6,000.00 |
| 316 | Henry, Beresford | 6,000.00 |
| 343 | Brown, Ellis C. | 6,000.00 |
| 347 | Bradigan, Clarence L. | 6,000.00 |
| 358 | Goodman, Kenneth | 6,000.00 |
| 358 | Presutto, Eugene | 6,000.00 |
| 363 | Linn, Nolan | 6,000.00 |
| 363 | Smith, David K. | 6,000.00 |
| 363 | Williams, Samuel V. | 6,000.00 |
| 374 | Baird, Donald W. | 6,000.00 |
| 374 | Campbell, Kristopher | 15,000.00 |
| 374 | Dempster, William | 6,000.00 |
| 374 | Flowers, Gerald R. | 15,000.00 |
| 374 | Kleeman, Ambrose J. | 6,000.00 |
| 374 | Tyler, Bidwell C. | 6,000.00 |
| 397 | Fish Jr., Jay H. | 6,000.00 |
| 433 | Dobbins, MacArthur | 6,000.00 |
| 433 | Exum, Timothy L. | 6,000.00 |
| 433 | Hooper, Harry J. | 1,500.00 |
| 433 | Johnson, Robert D. | 6,000.00 |
| 433 | Rowell, Robert C. | 6,000.00 |
| 433 | Vaughn, Kevin M. | 2,420.00 |
| 433 | Weston, Donald | 6,000.00 |
| 449 | Greisen, Arnold A. | 6,000.00 |
| 449 | Sallinen, Emil | 6,000.00 |
| 453 | Harvey, William G. | 6,000.00 |
| 453 | Housley, Cecil R. | 6,000.00 |
| 454 | Graves, Clarence G. | 6,000.00 |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------|----------|
| 454 | Swinford, Elva A. | 6,000.00 |
| 454 | Willingham, William | 6,000.00 |
| 455 | Blankenship, Hayden | 6,000.00 |
| 455 | Majors, Samuel | 6,000.00 |
| 455 | Smith, James R. | 6,000.00 |
| 455 | Williams, Homer R. | 6,000.00 |
| 483 | Koshinski, Eugene R. | 6,000.00 |
| 487 | Dahlke, Marvin W. | 6,000.00 |
| 500 | Dever, Jimmy R. | 6,000.00 |
| 500 | Ford, Robert N. | 6,000.00 |
| 500 | Howington, Bob M. | 6,000.00 |
| 531 | Albin, Hollis Hines | 6,000.00 |
| 531 | Marlett, Earl Weston | 6,000.00 |
| 531 | Williams, Eddie Mack | 6,000.00 |
| 549 | Curtis, Robert L. | 6,000.00 |
| 549 | Gonzaga, Tony L. | 6,000.00 |
| 549 | Quintal, Manuel | 6,000.00 |
| 549 | Sherfhy, John H. | 6,000.00 |
| 568 | Dual, Raymond T. | 6,000.00 |
| 568 | Nelson, Leo E. | 6,000.00 |
| 574 | Romano, Carmen | 6,000.00 |
| 582 | Bates, A.J. | 6,000.00 |
| 582 | Dousay, George C. | 6,000.00 |
| 582 | Redden, Robert H. | 6,000.00 |
| 582 | Wallace, Mitchell L. | 6,000.00 |
| 583 | Burns, Thomas L. | 6,000.00 |
| 583 | Evans, Marcy | 6,000.00 |
| 583 | Hooper, Willie J. | 6,000.00 |
| 587 | Cooper, Garney L. | 6,000.00 |
| 587 | Ellis, Frank O. | 6,000.00 |
| 587 | Hebert, Preston L. | 6,000.00 |
| 587 | Johnson, Gary | 6,000.00 |
| 587 | Strozier, John M. | 3,000.00 |
| 599 | Henneberry, Lorren | 6,000.00 |
| 599 | Kelly, Francis J. | 6,000.00 |
| 627 | Brassfield, Robert L. | 6,000.00 |
| 627 | Chalmers, George E. | 6,000.00 |
| 627 | McDonald, Robert | 6,000.00 |
| 636 | Dennis, Robert L. | 6,000.00 |
| 636 | Kightlinger, Claude | 6,000.00 |
| 638 | Marrow, Willie M. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Bistodeau, Richard J. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Brinkman, Gordon J. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Eliason, Ernest A. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Engen, Elmer R. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Lewis, Olather E. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Paakkonen, Eino C. | 6,000.00 |
| 647 | Rabbers, Robert W. | 413.10 |
| 647 | Vadner, Douglas B. | 6,000.00 |
| 651 | Travers, Frank | 6,000.00 |
| 667 | Blevins, Elgan W. | 6,000.00 |
| 667 | Cody, Carl J. | 6,000.00 |
| 667 | Lloyd Jr., Richard H. | 6,000.00 |
| 667 | Sickles, Warren H. | 6,000.00 |
| 667 | Stewart, Maxwell T. | 6,000.00 |
| 667 | Summers, Howard A. | 6,000.00 |
| 679 | Carmichael, Edward | 6,000.00 |
| 684 | Cuffee, William | 795.64 |

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| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------|------|-----------------------|----------|
| 684 | Griffin, Ervin R. | 6,000.00 | 898 | Crabtree, Earl | 6,000.00 |
| 684 | Humphrey, Ronnie J. | 2,514.72 | 906 | Nizinski, Mike | 6,000.00 |
| 687 | Ramsay Jr., Raymond | 6,000.00 | 1086 | Gawloski, Stanley | 6,000.00 |
| 696 | Adams, Jerry J. | 6,000.00 | 1181 | Goff, Philip L. | 8,060.70 |
| 696 | DeDamos, Albert | 6,000.00 | 1212 | DeLaCruz, Peter M. | 6,000.00 |
| 696 | Mejer, Samuel W. | 1,693.70 | 1234 | Maldonado, Mario | 6,000.00 |
| 696 | Schwittay, Leo | 6,000.00 | 1234 | Santiago, Moise | 6,000.00 |
| 744 | Benyo, Frank | 6,000.00 | 1240 | Bolden, Donald | 6,000.00 |
| 744 | Flack, Gregory P. | 6,000.00 | 1240 | Osborne, Thomas L. | 6,000.00 |
| 744 | Mullin, Richard J. | 6,000.00 | 1248 | Alvarado, Pedro J. | 6,000.00 |
| 748 | Moody, Harrell W. | 6,000.00 | 1509 | Hancock, Leonard W. | 6,000.00 |
| 749 | McFetridge, Peter | 10,369.71 | 1509 | Hecker, Richard | 6,000.00 |
| 799 | Hasara, Raymond R. | 6,000.00 | 1509 | Miklaszewski, John S. | 6,000.00 |
| 799 | Hentosh, Joseph | 9,000.00 | 1509 | Mlinar, Alexander | 6,000.00 |
| 801 | Gallen, Charles E. | 6,000.00 | 1509 | Pozorski, Florian J. | 6,000.00 |
| 802 | Gilkey, William W. | 6,000.00 | 1509 | Wawrzonkowski, E. | 6,000.00 |
| 802 | Owens, William C. | 6,000.00 | 1592 | Knadler, Robert G. | 6,000.00 |
| 802 | Rhoades, Edwin J. | 6,000.00 | 1603 | Sells, George E. | 6,000.00 |
| 802 | Sauter, John D. | 6,000.00 | 1668 | Rosevear, Charles F. | 6,000.00 |
| 802 | Simeo, Dominick A. | 6,000.00 | 1670 | Ventresca, Mary F. | 6,000.00 |
| 802 | Turek, August M. | 6,000.00 | 1702 | Zerbe, Franklin P. | 6,000.00 |
| 807 | Quevedo, Christobal | 6,000.00 | | | |

* Additional Death Benefits Paid

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Bush health care plan doesn't address problem

Tax breaks don't ensure access for all or control costs

IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION speech, President Bush outlined a health care plan that he claimed would put basic health care insurance within the reach of those who now do not have it. But the plan he outlined does not address the main problems facing our health care system: universal access and rapidly growing costs.

In fact, it is not really a health care plan at all. It is an adjustment to the tax code that benefits the insurance industry at a significant cost to workers. It does not guarantee health care access for all. It does not address the problem of rapidly rising health care costs. A small group of workers who cannot afford health care insurance at present may be able to purchase it under this plan, but their Social Security benefits will be reduced. And workers who receive health care from their employers (as most Boilermaker members do) will see their taxes go up as a result of the plan — if not when the plan starts in 2009, within a few years.

Bush Administration just doesn't get it

THE PROBLEM WITH this plan is that it treats health care as just another service, like dry cleaning and lawn care, to be regulated by market forces. Want more? Lower taxes on it. Want less? Raise taxes. The income deduction is a form of tax subsidy.

But health care is not like other services. Most Americans have now joined the citizens of every other nation in recognizing that health care is a vital service — like roads, sewers, water, Social Security, and police and fire protection — that should be provided by government and paid for by taxes. As recently as September 2006 a nationwide poll showed that a majority of Americans (56 percent) would prefer national health care, run by the government and funded by taxes, to our present, insurance-driven system.

President Bush acknowledged that the government has an obligation to provide health care for the elderly, the disabled, and poor children. These populations get health care through Medicare and Medicaid. The Bush Administration needs to listen to the majority of Americans who want to add a program similar to Medicare that provides necessary health care for everyone, from birth to death, like the plans already in place in every other industrialized nation.

Adopting a single-payer plan would not only ensure universal access, it would provide a mechanism for controlling the rapid rise in health care costs. Insurance-provided health care is more expensive to deliver than a nationalized, single-payer plan, and far less efficient. One reason is administrative costs. While it has been fashionable to fault the government for inefficiency, Medicare spends only about one percent of its revenue on administrative costs. Private insurance companies spend far more. For example, Aetna spends 23 percent of its revenue on administrative costs.

Administration costs are also driven up by duplication of services — hundreds of insurance companies, health care providers, physicians, hospitals, clinics, and labs — each with their own paperwork. As a result, private health care administrative costs are 24 times as high now as in 1970.

In the for-profit health care sector, administrative costs also cover the profit that goes to shareholders and executive salaries, which often seem excessive. Aetna's CEO, John Rowe earned \$19.7 million in pay and \$446.6 million in stock options in 2005. Imagine how taxpayers would react if the head of Medicare asked for that salary.

Fifty-six percent of Americans said they would prefer national health care, run by the government and funded by taxes.

Health care costs hurt U.S. businesses

WHEN PRIVATE PROVIDERS argue against a national health care plan, they often ignore the significant impact on our economy caused by our high health care prices. Because we cannot abandon the insurance driven model, the United States spends more of its gross domestic product on health care than any other industrialized nation. The excessive costs U.S. companies pay for medical care gets added to the sticker price of the goods and services they produce. For example, health care costs added \$1,500 to the price of every GM car manufactured in the United States in 2005; health care costs add only \$449 to the cost of a new BMW.

A growing number of corporate executives are beginning to recognize that reforming the U.S. health care delivery system would add to their profits. In recent years, the CEOs of auto-making giants Ford and General Motors have called for universal health care. Recently, top executives from Walmart, Intel, AT&T, and Kelly Services publicly called for "[high-]quality, affordable" health care for all Americans by 2012.

This new-found corporate support for health care reform may focus more attention on the problems with our current system, but we cannot leave health care reform to Big Business. Remember that in 1993 corporate interests spent millions to defeat President Clinton's plan to provide universal access and manage costs. Unionized workers must be involved in any discussion regarding a national health care plan.

We must debunk the myths about single-payer plans

TYPICAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST a single-payer plan are that patients will not be able to choose their own doctors, they will not be able to get the care they need when they need it, and the quality of health care will decline.

Those claims are myths, as a comparison of the United States to Canada quickly demonstrates. Canada's system may not be perfect — or even the

best health care delivery system — but I use it here for comparison because of its similarity to the United States and because comparative facts are readily available.

First, there is the myth of loss of choice. Worldwide, most single-payer plans allow patients to see the doctor they choose, as Canada does. We do not have to follow the British model, which limits choice, just as HMOs do.

Second, there is the myth of poor delivery of services. Judging by customer satisfaction, Canada's delivery of needed care is as good as — or maybe better than — the United States. In a recent poll, only 21 percent of Canadian patients reported having trouble getting the care they needed, but 28 percent of Americans had that complaint.

Another survey showed that nearly 90 percent of Americans who have insurance said the current system is "meeting their needs," the same percentage as in Canada. But only 60 percent of uninsured Americans responded that way; in Canada, everyone is insured at all times.

Third, many Americans believe our health care system is the best in the world and will deteriorate if we try to nationalize delivery. But much evidence suggests Americans have an inflated sense of how good our system is at present. Life expectancy in the United States is far below that in most countries with universal access to health care. While U.S. citizens live an average of 77.5 years, Canadians live an average of 79.9. Infant mortality, another standard measure of the quality of care, is also lower in Canada and in other countries with single-payer systems than in the United States.

New technology is more readily available in the United States, but the impact on quality of care is ambiguous. More Americans pay for unnecessary tests and procedures (driving up costs) than in Canada, according to experts. Most important, Canadian patients are more likely to report getting "excellent" or "very good" care than U.S. patients.

If Canadian health care were truly inferior to U.S. care, we would expect Canadians to be flocking across the border for surgery and other treatments. But an extensive examination of hospital records in both countries suggests the opposite. An increasing number of Americans are going to Canada for such procedures as Lasik eye surgery, and to purchase prescription drugs, both of which are lower-priced in Canada.

Many problems yet to solve

WITH THE UPCOMING presidential election, the United States has an opportunity to take a giant step toward a health care delivery system that will provide necessary medical care to all Americans. But to bring that about, we need to hold candidates accountable. They will not develop positions unless we let them know they are important to voters.

Somehow the United States has fallen behind every other industrialized nation on this issue. There is no reason that the richest nation in the history of the world, whose economy has dominated the world economy since



Newton B. Jones
International President

the 1940s or earlier, cannot find a way to ensure that all our residents have access to necessary medical care every day of their lives.

The models are there. We do not have to copy any single nation, but we can learn from the experience of all nations to find a system that works. If we do not, then rising health care costs will force millions of Americans to go without the care they need and make our employers less competitive on the world market.

We cannot afford those alternatives. We need real health care reform now. □

How the Bush Plan ~~Works~~ Doesn't Work

THE PROPOSED PLAN allows taxpayers to deduct money from their taxable income — \$7,500 for single coverage and \$15,000 for family coverage — if they purchase health insurance, but it makes the cost of employer-provided insurance taxable income. At present, this benefit is not taxed.

In his speech, President Bush said that deducting \$15,000 from taxable income provides a tax cut of about \$4,500 for the average family. But the average family health care insurance plan cost \$11,480 in 2006, according to Kaiser Family Foundation. It will undoubtedly be much higher when the plan goes into effect in 2009. Taxpayers would make up the difference — nearly \$7,000 a year, using Bush's estimated tax savings, which tax experts say are high.

For workers with employer-paid health care insurance (most Boilermaker members), the plan actually raises taxes — if not immediately, then within a few years. The reason is that their employer-paid plan will rise in cost and will be taxable, but the tax deduction will remain at \$15,000 or \$7,500.

And for most workers, the income deduction will reduce their Social Security retirement and survivor benefits. The reason is that the \$15,000 deduction reduces their contributions to Social Security. Social Security benefits are based on total contributions, which are a percentage of earned income. A reduction of \$15,000 in income each year will reduce Social Security payments significantly over a lifetime, with a proportional reduction in benefits.