



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

# LOCAL 5 NEWS & VIEWS



VOLUME XXXI



IBEW Local 5 Meeting Hall, Training Center, And Headquarters Building 5 Hot Metal Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355

APRIL 2008

## Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama—who will be our next President?

One thing is certain, both think enough about IBEW Local No. 5 to make it an important part of their events in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Michael R. Dunleavy was one of the few area labor leaders who attended Barack Obama's March 28th bus tour of Western PA. After boarding, Senator Obama stated to Michael "they tell me that you guys are the ones I need to talk to get elected."

During our Business Manager's bus ride, they discussed a wide range of issues important to Local No. 5 members. If elected President, Senator Obama promised to rescind President Bush's Executive Order outlawing project labor agreements on federal projects, deal with health care in a responsible way, protect and improve Davis-Bacon, and appoint a Department of Labor Secretary who believes that labor is part of the solution, not part of the problem. He also stressed that in his White House; labor will be treated as an equal partner during his administration.

The Barak Obama Campaign also conducted a community meeting at our Clearfield Training Facility.

Hillary Clinton also has consulted with Local No. 5 prior to the April 22nd primary election. On April 2nd, Senator Clinton toured our Pittsburgh Training Facility along with Business Manager Michael R. Dunleavy, President Dennis E. Eicker, Training Director Paul L. Reinert Sr., and Governor Ed Rendell. She also asked, listened to, and answered questions important to Local No. 5 members.

Following the tour, Senator Clinton conducted a Job Summit in our Conference Center with over 300 attendees. During this Summit, she noted the training conducted at Local 5's facility. She spoke of the commitment of Local No. 5, and pointed to it as an example of the successful training programs needed by industry to meet the needs of today's market place.

It's a great honor, and very significant, that two of the potential future leaders of this county think enough of Local No. 5 to consult with us. So, it's equally important that we show our support for whoever the nominee is in the November general election.

## Shaler PLA...LEGAL!

by Joshua Bloom

Project Labor Agreements ("PLAs") are a critical tool used by the Pittsburgh Regional Construction Trades Council ("Building Trades") and I.B.E.W., Local No. 5 ("Local 5") on publicly funded construction projects. In essence, PLAs require that the overwhelming majority of all construction workers must be hired from the local craft unions' referral halls. In other words, Local 5 members will get the work. In exchange, all of the local craft unions agree that they will not strike or engage in any other similar activity on or at the project. The PLAs also provide that there will be uniform starting and quitting times, safety rules, and drug testing on the project. These PLAs have been an outstanding tool to secure work for Local 5 and its members. Public entities who have entered into PLAs have been extremely pleased with the quality of the work and the timeliness in which it has been performed.

During the Spring of 2007, the Building Trades entered into a PLA for the Shaler Area High School and Middle School construction project. The PLA required that every contractor and every construction union, including I.B.E.W. Local 5, become party to the agreement before commencement of work.



IBEW Local No. 5 members working at Shaler Area High School. L to R: Damon Douff, Bill Dobransky, Gary Fox, Al Vogan, Paul Mackiewicz, Joe Pennington & Barnard Drab

Unfortunately, a disgruntled anti-union individual named Roger Sossong, filed a lawsuit asking the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas to shut down the entire project in an effort to remove the PLA from the job. It is my opinion that he was backed by the Associated Builders and Contractors ("ABC"), a group of non-union contractors who put their money together to divide and conquer construction workers to the benefit of the non-union contractors. This case was filed in an effort to take your work and give it to non-union contractors who undermine your wages and benefits.

On April 25, 2007, Judge Timothy O'Reilly denied Roger Sossong's attempts to shut down the job and ruled for the Building Trades unions. Thereafter, Sossong took his claim to a new judge. Judge Michael Della Vecchia also denied Roger Sossong. Thereafter, Roger Sossong, financially backed by the ABC, filed an appeal in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

On March 6, 2008, a unanimous panel of the Commonwealth Court ruled that the Shaler Area School District and the Building Trades had every right to enter into the PLA. It held that where time is of the essence for a construction project, the law permits public entities to enter into a PLA even though it may cause union members to obtain more work than non-union. Even better, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Roger Sossong wasn't entitled to a hearing - - discouraging more attempts to stop PLAs.

Roger Sossong has filed a request for reconsideration and re-argument in the Commonwealth Court and is expected to file an appeal with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. His appeals will be met with the unbending strength and support of the Building Trades, I.B.E.W. Local No. 5, and the other craft unions.

The case of Roger Sossong vs. Shaler Area School District and Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, No. 979 C.D. 2007, will be used by unions throughout the nation in support of obtaining and maintaining PLAs. This was a major victory for all of us. When working people work together, working people win.



# Corner by Michael Dunleavy



Because of the importance of the upcoming election, I will begin by encouraging you to vote in the April primary on the 22nd, and to vote for the candidates endorsed by your Local Union. Extensive thought is given to which candidates are recommended. It is in your own economic best interest to vote for the Local Union endorsed candidates. Speaking of endorsements, as of this time, the I.B.E.W. has not made an endorsement for the office of the President. We know that we will have to oppose John McCain. His positions on social security, immigration, right-to-work, NAFTA, and the Employee Free Choice Act, among others, dictate that we work as hard as we can for his opponent no matter who it is.

On page one of this Newsletter you read that Hillary Clinton was at our building in Pittsburgh, and that the Obama campaign used our building in Clearfield. Obama also invited me to ride his bus from Pittsburgh to Braddock. You should be proud of the fact that candidates for the office of President of the United States think enough of Local Union No. 5 to make our facilities a stop on their campaign tour and that they take the time to meet with us. Both of these candidates hold positions that will benefit all working people, and in particular, the men and women of Local 5.

The topic addressed at the March local union meeting was the "Deferred Compensation Plan." The trustees of this plan

are keenly aware that it is your money in the accounts, and as such, they want to make it as easy as possible for you to access it. Monies deposited in the account before January 1st, 2000 can only be accessed by ceasing contributions for six months or by retiring. Monies deposited after January 1st, 2000 can be accessed once a quarter with a minimum withdrawal of \$1,000.00. You must have sixty months of active contributions in the Plan. Also, all withdrawals are subject to a 20% withholding. If you are under 59½, a 10% penalty applies. These are IRS rules.

The investments offered in the Plan are in the top 5% of all investments in their asset class when chosen. The options are continuously monitored by a financial consultant whose reports are reviewed by the Trustees. If a fund under-performs, and it does not improve in a reasonable period of time, it is replaced. Please remember that the Deferred Compensation Plan was designed to be a component of your overall retirement benefit. The more money that remains in your account properly invested, the better off you will be at retirement.

As always, I conclude by asking you to relay this information to your brothers and sisters, and by reminding you to contribute to the Political Action Fund.

Thank you.



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LOCAL UNION NO. 5

5 HOT METAL STREET, SUITE 400, PITTSBURGH, PA 15203-2855  
PHONE: (412) 432-1400 FAX: (412) 432-1499

March, 2008

Dear Active and Retired Members:

We are pleased to inform you that we are planning a "2008 I.B.E.W. LOCAL NO. 5 FAMILY PICNIC" to be held on SATURDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at IDLEWILD PARK located in the beautiful Laurel Highlands, Ligonier, Pennsylvania from 10:00 a.m. to closing.

Idlewild has seven theme areas of family fun, nineteen major rides including two roller coasters, twenty waterslides, a large sparkling pool and Captain Kidd's Adventure Gulley. There are fourteen kiddie rides in Raccoon Lagoon along with the one and only "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make-Believe". Come and join us for a day of fun and relaxation! Idlewild is what family fun is all about!

The discounted cost per person is \$14.00, which Local 5 will pay \$11.00 towards each ticket purchased, leaving you a total cost of \$3.00 for each adult member, their spouse and children ages 3 thru 18. (Children 2 years and under are admitted to the park free). Children over 18 and grandchildren age 3 and over must pay the full rate of \$14.00. Please send a check or money order only made payable to "IBEW LOCAL UNION NO. 5" for your ticket purchases along with your attendance card. Please try to return your ticket order and money NO LATER THAN MAY 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can order the park entry tickets early but orders will also be accepted after May 1st.

Refreshment tickets totaling \$3.00 will accompany each ticket order. As in the past, there will be bingo games and raffles held throughout the day.

We hope to see you and your family on June 21<sup>st</sup> for a day of fun. You won't want to miss it!

Fraternally yours,

IBEW LOCAL UNION NO. 5

*Michael R. Dunleavy*  
Michael R. Dunleavy  
Business Manager



## WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL



Where: Market Square

When: Monday April 28, 2008

Time: 12:00 Noon

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On April 28, 2008, the Allegheny County Labor Council, AFL-CIO will once again observe Workers' Memorial Day to remember workers who have been killed or injured on the job and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections. This year in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Pittsburgh we will also reflect on the men and women who died on the job building this city.

The theme of Workers' Memorial Day 2008 is "Good Jobs. Safe Jobs. For All." Let's make it clear that the labor movement will continue to fight to make workers' issues a priority, to guarantee the freedom of workers to form a union and to keep and create good safe jobs in this country. Helping to convey this message in their keynote address will be Richard Trunks, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO and Fred Richmond International Vice President (Human Affairs) of the United Steelworkers.

Please join us on Workers' Memorial Day, April 28, to honor the victims of workplace injury and illness and to keep on fighting for the promise of safe jobs for all workers.

**GOOD JOBS. SAFE JOBS. FOR ALL.**



# Active Members 20 To 40 Year Service Pin Recipients



## 20 YEAR PINS

Standing L to R: Business Manager Michael R. Dunleavy, Paul A. Gaus, James P. Durkin, John A. McIntyre, Kurt G. Maenz, Donald Schnelbach, Gregory P. Staudt, James R. Gillespie, Arthur C. Earl, President Dennis E. Eicker. Seated L to R: Kirk M. Hoak, William J. Fogle, Robert A. Funtal, Kevin P. Canovali, Michael J. Canovali, Kenneth E. Baldauf, John M. Dobda & David L. Dobies.



## 25 YEAR PINS

Standing L to R: Manager Michael R. Dunleavy, Donald H. Stewart, Jr., David Pankowski, James M. Ruane, James M. Rosenblatt, Robert M. Ruyak, James P. Voye, John J. Pozycski, President Dennis E. Eicker. Seated L to R: Thomas P. Beall, Jr., Robert E. Cole, II, Nicholas J. Geffel, Jr., Thomas J. Durkin, Dean H. Labby, George P. Mageras, Jr., Jeffrey A. Miller & Joseph A. Nehilla



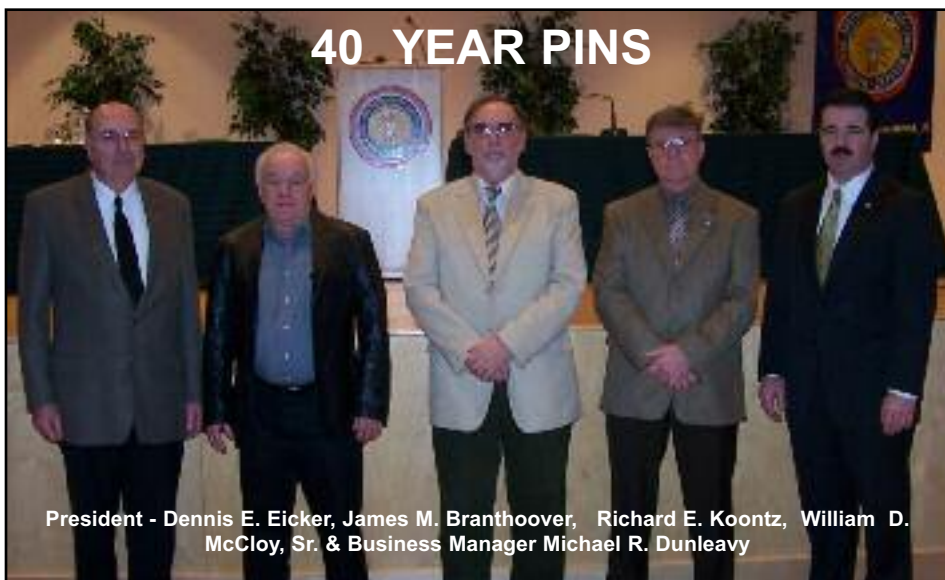
## 30 YEAR PINS

Standing L to R: Business Manager Michael R. Dunleavy, Robert J. Gieder, Kenneth M. O'Kain, John J. O'Kain, President Dennis E. Eicker. Seated L to R: Daniel J. Pfendler, Joseph D. Ciufu, Kenneth W. Lee, Jr., David T. McNeil.



## 35 YEAR PINS

Standing L to R: Business Manager Michael R. Dunleavy, Larry C. Guelich, Charles M. Brosgol, Thomas H. Weikel, Jr., President Dennis E. Eicker. Seated L to R: Andrew B. Surmacz, Richard J. Grecco, Thomas R. Clark, Patrick A. Discoll & Eugene S. Giarnelli



## 40 YEAR PINS

President - Dennis E. Eicker, James M. Branthoover, Richard E. Koontz, William D. McCloy, Sr. & Business Manager Michael R. Dunleavy

### TWENTY YEAR PINS

Michael E. Allen	David L. Dobies	Kirk M. Hoak	Peter T. Pane, II
Daniel J. Anglum	James P. Durkin	Scott L. Holdsworth	Timothy A. Pielmeier
Floyd A. Argyle	James Dvorsky	Timothy J. Holtzman	Barry Plance
Kenneth E. Baldauf	Arthur C. Earl	Robert C. Hudock	Andrew M. Psenick
Patrick J. Barnes	William J. Farabaugh	David B. Hughes	Michael J. Rectenwald
Mark R. Brown	James D. Felix	George M. Hummel	Richard A. Redding
John A. Buch	Michael H. Fichter	Thomas W. Hunter	Charles E. Reigh
Gary W. Cain	William J. Fogle	David W. Jones, Jr.	William P. Remele
David A. Canovali	Alfred L. Franklin, III	Anthony J. Kainz	Mark S. Rodgers
Kevin P. Canovali	David E. Fuchs	Richard L. Keirn, Jr.	Donald Schnelbach
Michael J. Canovali	Robert A. Funtal	Daniel J. Kenney	Richard E. Schwartz
James P. Chirieleison	James G. Fuss	Michael R. Lis	Ricky P. Shultz
Joseph J. Church	Colman R. Gaal	Lenane Mack	William A. Speth, III
Douglas P. Clingan	Paul A. Gaus	Kurt G. Maenz	Dennis D. Staines
Bruce J. Cogan	James R. Gillespie	John A. McIntyre	Gregory P. Staudt
Jeffrey Coleman	James B. Glass	Charles A. Moss, Jr.	James Szramowski
Scott R. Corbin	Thomas E. Gruber	Carl L. Mountan	Mark A. Wilk
John M. Dobda	Todd D. Gurne	John J. Niznik	Dale C. Wynn

### TWENTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Robert L. Anderson	Patrick J. Griffin	Gregg G. Maley	James M. Ruane
Kevin G. Audaine	Robert H. Hays	Joseph M. Marcheleta	Robert M. Ruyak
Thomas P. Beall, Jr.	Scott A. Henzler	Thomas M. Medofer	James M. Saeler
Gerald L. Bloxsom	Michael D. Holland	Jeffrey A. Miller	Randy M. Scott
Raymond A. Briscoe	Dean P. Ingold	Paul M. Myers	Thomas J. Smith, Jr.
Linda L. Butcher	James C. Kirch	James W. Nagy	Donald H. Stewart, Jr.
David T. Butler	Andrew M. Krall	Joseph A. Nehilla	Michael J. Sticha
Francis L. Campbell, III	Gerry J. Kristobek	Ronald G. Novorolsky	Walter S. Taylor, Jr.
Robert E. Cole, II	Louis G. Kuemmerle	David Pankowski	David M. Thomas
Ronald K. Driscoll	Neil J. Kush	David M. Perry	Donald D. Uebing
Thomas J. Durkin	Dean H. Labby	Charles R. Petronie	Chris J. Unger
Regis L. Etzel, Jr.	Daniel P. Loftis	John J. Pozycski	Dan A. Volzer
Paul J. Ferry	Gale A. Lorenzi	William T. Redding	James P. Voye
Nicholas J. Geffel, Jr.	George P. Mageras, Jr.	Chris M. Rodden	Harry J. Wilson, Jr.
		James M. Rosenblatt	John S. Zine

### THIRTY YEAR PINS

Ronald L. Auther	Robert J. Gieder	Kenneth W. Lee, Jr.	Kenneth M. O'Kain
Robert J. Benton, Jr.	Thomas P. Hanlon, III	James C. Linn	Daniel J. Pfendler
James H. Benton	Joseph G. Harper	David T. McNeil	David R. Schuchert, Sr.
Dennis G. Caylor	Gerald R. Henke	Arthur J. Moncini	Oliver J. Shannon, III
Joseph D. Ciufu	Herman C. Henninger, Jr.	Gregory P. Norris	Charles W. Siefert, Jr.
Frank A. Devola	Gary L. Landefeld	John J. O'Kain	Thomas W. Walker

### THIRTY FIVE YEAR PINS

Charles M. Brosgol	Eugene S. Giarnelli	Larry C. Guelich	William R. Snyder
Thomas R. Clark	Dennis J. Glasgow	Bertram B. Holmes	Andrew B. Surmacz
Patrick A. Discoll	Peter Gojkovich, Jr.	Paul J. Ionadi	Thomas H. Weikel, Jr.
Dennis G. Ferguson	Richard J. Grecco	George W. Johnson	Gregory O. Wingard
Harry J. Fisher			

### FORTY YEAR PINS

James M. Branthoover	James P. Grady	David C. Kronenwetter
William P. Doyle	James P. Kirby, Jr.	William D. McCloy, Sr.
Richard E. Dumbaugh, Jr.	Richard E. Koontz	Andrew J. Perhach



**IBEW LOCAL No. 5 Endorsed Candidates  
2008 Primary Election  
Tuesday, April 22nd.  
Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM**

**US CONGRESS**

Jason Altmire	(D)	District 4
Mark McCracken	(D)	District 5
Tony Barr	(D)	District 9
John Murtha	(D)	District 12
Mike Doyle	(D)	District 14
Tim Murphy	(R)	District 18

**STATE TREASURER**

Rob McCord (D)

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Tom Corbett (R)

**AUDITOR GENERAL**

Jack Wagner (D)

**PA SENATE**

Joe Scarnati	(R)	District 25
John Pippy	(R)	District 37
Jay Costa	(D)	District 43
Sean Logan	(D)	District 45
Sean Ramaley	(D)	District 47

**PA HOUSE**

Jaret Gibbons	(D)	District 10
Dave Wilson	(D)-write in	District 11
Robin Redding	(R)	District 12
John Olesnevich	(D)-write in	District 12
Dennis Rousseau	(D)	District 14
Rob Matzie	(D)	District 16
Jake Wheatley	(D)	District 19
Don Walko	(D)	District 20
Len Bodack	(D)	District 21
Chelsa Wagner	(D)	District 22
Dan Frankel	(D)	District 23
Joseph Preston	(D)	District 24
Joe Markosek	(D)	District 25
Dan Deasy	(D)	District 27
Tony DeLuca	(D)	District 32
Frank Dermody	(D)	District 33
Paul Costa	(D)	District 34
Marc Gergely	(D)	District 35
Harry Readshaw	(D)	District 36
Bill Kortz	(D)	District 38
Dave Levdansky	(D)	District 39
Matt Smith	(D)	District 42
Mark Mustio	(R)	District 44
Nick Kotik	(D)	District 45
Jesse White	(D)	District 46
Tim Mahoney	(D)	District 51
John Pallone	(D)	District 54
Denny Conahan	(D)	District 71
Nick Molnar	(D)	District 72
"Bud" George	(D)	District 74
Dan Surra	(D)	District 75
Scott Conklin	(D)	District 77
Rick Geist	(R)	District 79

**Do You Have Questions about  
John McCain?**

After the February 5 primaries, the Republicans now have a likely nominee. He's been advertised as a "Straight Talker" who has reasonable positions, but his policies do not match up to this reputation. If elected, would he make our country better for the working families that are struggling to make house payments, facing higher health care costs and worrying if their jobs will still be here next year?

**I heard McCain was a "maverick" who went against party leadership because of his beliefs; Is that true?**

John McCain has actually supported Bush's position 89% of the time since Bush came to office, and in 2007 that number ran as high as 95%, according to Congressional Quarterly's Voting Study. He supports making Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, supported Bush's failed plan to privatize Social Security and his efforts to contract out large numbers of government jobs. McCain also shares Bush's misguided assessment that our economy is "inherently strong"; saying in January, "I don't believe we're headed into a recession."

**Isn't McCain a reasonable guy who will work to make our economy stronger?**

At a time when the economy is the top concern for a majority of Americans, McCain has stated that economic issues are something he's "never really understood." He did not even bother to vote on the badly needed stimulus bill, despite being in Washington, D.C., at the time.

**Well, won't he at least help keep our jobs from continuing to go overseas?**

Sen. McCain has made it clear that he won't. He told voters in Michigan and South Carolina that their "jobs are not coming back" and has proudly proclaimed he "would negotiate a trade agreement with almost any country." He has cast vote after vote for every free trade agreement under the sun, including the most devastating agreement in our history, NAFTA. He's gone on to praise NAFTA and its effects, said we need to expand CAFTA, and strongly supported normalizing trade relations with China despite its horrendous worker safety and product safety record.

**Well, isn't he at least being straight with us about his position?**

Not exactly; what Sen. McCain doesn't often explain is his role in exporting those jobs in the first place. In addition to his support for these unfair trade agreements, McCain supported Bush's attempt to outsource many federal jobs. And McCain has certainly done little to aid those who have lost their jobs, voting against the extension of federal unemployment insurance benefits and would take money out of current job training programs.

**But McCain claims to support regular working people; doesn't he at least support protecting our right to bargain for better wages and benefits?**

No, Sen. McCain supported a Republican filibuster of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would protect that right, and he supported a national Right-to-Work-for-Less law that would attempt to eliminate unions altogether. He even said that government workers are "crippled" by their union contracts.

**Health care is very much on families' minds right now. McCain said he will work to make health care more affordable. Will he?**

Sen. McCain's health care plan is merely an extension of Bush's failed plan. It does not address the issue of the 47 million uninsured in America. It will force working families out into the private market to fend for themselves against the insurance companies and will chip away at employer-based health care. It will actually make it harder for many people to get coverage. In addition, Sen. McCain voted to slash funding for Medicare and Medicaid and opposed the reauthorization of and new funding for SCHIP that helps millions of children have access to health care.

McCain has not been a "Straight Talker" when it comes to his record on working families. Make sure you check the candidates' true records when deciding whom to support.

# JATC NEWS

On March 24th, our J.A.T.C. hosted a group of professional educators from our National Training Institute. The institute is based at the University of Tennessee. Every August J.A.T.C.s from all I.B.E.W. locals send their electricians there to train them to be teachers in our classrooms. All of these educators have PhD degrees at major universities across the U.S. The groups we hosted were from Auburn, University of Georgia, Valdosta State and East Carolina. They came to see just what our institution has to work with in the classrooms, and the different sizes of J.A.T.C.s. They also visited Steubenville J.A.T.C., Warren, Ohio J.A.T.C., Akron J.A.T.C., and Cleveland J.A.T.C. We were very proud that our J.A.T.C. was selected to be part of this very important tour. Our National Training Director, Mike Callanan, picked the J.A.T.C.s based on their excellence in training. We, at Local 5, should be proud of the reputation our center and staff have with the N.J.A.T.C.

We will be putting our journeyman training booklet together in the very near future, and we encourage all journeymen to take part in the classes we have to offer. We are looking to continue our CAD and Supervision classes, and looking to add new classes to our program. Possibilities are Raykem cable classes that will give instruction in preparing cable properly for kit installation of 5KV to 69KV, and warranties for taking the class. Also, Solar Power is being looked into, which will give members the opportunity to learn how to install the framework, panels and battery configuration necessary to store power for use in our center. Please take the time to look into taking these classes on existing and new technologies at your state-of-the-art center.



Pictured L to R: Dr. Roger Hill (University of Georgia), Dr. Jim Witte (Auburn University), Robert Gieder, Tim Strickland (NJATC), Dr. Jeremy Dickerson (East Carolina University), Dr. Charles Backes (Valdosta State University), & Paul Reinert.



## Blockbuster Schedule for 2008 IBEW Local 5 Golf Club

This may be the best schedule ever since the beginning of our golf club 32 years ago. We have added something special to the schedule this year. Anyone who plays golf in the Pittsburgh and surrounding areas would love to play the courses we have picked out this season.

To start with, on May 17th we will be back at Oak Lake Golf Course in the New Kensington area. On June 28th it is north to Lake Arthur. On July 19th we go east to visit Donegal Highlands.

In August we will play a super course around the Freeport area. The Pittsburgh Business Times ranked this golf course one of the 30 most challenging golf courses in Western PA. I am talking about River Forest Country Club. We are scheduled to play there on August 16th.

Then, on September 20th and 21st, we are scheduled to play at two premier golf courses in Western PA. We will play at Nemaquin Woodlands Links Course on Saturday the 20th and the Mystic Rock Golf Course on Sunday the 21st. These courses are the best of the best. The cost of playing these two golf courses is very affordable thanks to the efforts of brothers Tim Emory, Buddy Phillips and Mike Conroy. If you always wished that you could play a PGA Golf course at a reasonable price, now is your chance.

There are a limited number of tee times for these two courses and it will be on a first come, first served basis. A deposit will be required to hold your tee time.

As I have said in the past, our golf club is open to all members of IBEW LU#5. There are no dues to pay. This is a golf club not a league.

So, if you want to be a part of this spectacular year, all you have to do is call Bob Guenther to get on the mailing list. He can be reached at 412-849-1988 or at 412-461-5702. This may be the only opportunity to play these courses at these prices, so don't miss out. We look forward to the upcoming season as being one of our best ever. Hopefully you will be a part of it.



## REPORT OF LEGAL COUNCIL - JOSHUA M. BLOOM

### Asbestos Exposure

Asbestos exposure has been shown to cause a long list of deadly diseases, including lung cancer, colon cancer, asbestosis, and the always-fatal mesothelioma. The link between asbestos and cancer became apparent as early as the 1930s. Yet, the material continued to be used in a wide range of products, including insulation, fire retardant materials, gloves, blankets, gaskets, floor tiles, packing materials, cement, shingles, and other products. As recently as the 1990s, brake pads contained asbestos. Asbestos fibers can stay in the body for decades. Often, people do not develop symptoms of an asbestos-related disease for 30 to 50 years.

Victims of asbestos-related diseases and their families have a right to claim compensation for medical care, pain and suffering, and lost wages. They may also have a right to punitive damages based upon two criteria:

1. Companies that used asbestos were aware of its dangers, yet failed to warn users and bystanders or make any safety

accommodations.

2. The asbestos products were dangerous and defective products that caused

serious personal injuries to untold thousands of people. Also, there are strict liability causes of action which allow individuals to recover money damages against manufacturers and suppliers who sold products containing asbestos.

If you or someone you care about has been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease, please contact us immediately for a free consultation.

Joshua M. Bloom, Esquire  
Legal Counsel for I.B.E.W., Local No. 5

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## HARRISBURG REPORT - MATTHEW SMITH

### Families and students need 'Truth in Tuition'

By state Rep. Matt Smith, D-Allegheny

The only predictable part about paying for college today is that you'll be paying more next year. But how much more?

Families need help planning ahead and I believe that we must work to ensure that a college degree is affordable for parents and students. Tuition at state schools – state-owned universities, community colleges, and state-related schools – rose 47 percent on average from 1993 to 2003. But the rising costs each year were totally unpredictable. If a college degree is going to continue being the ticket to a successful career for most of our children, paying for it can't be a complete guessing game that shuts out many students.

I believe there's a simple and commonsense way to make the cost of college more predictable – the "Truth in Tuition Act." It's a plan I'm proposing in the state House that would require our State System universities, state-related schools and community colleges to give new students a set schedule of tuition and fees for all four years they'd be at the school. The dollar figures stated in that schedule wouldn't just be estimates or projections; the school wouldn't be allowed to charge a student any more than the rates in the schedule.

Frequently, tuition rates are kept artificially low by increasing various fees with ambiguous names. A student's bill riddled with expensive fees that get bigger every year ought to be clear about its charges. Under Truth-in-Tuition, rather than merely stating the name of a fee – such as "Technology Fee" – the schedule would also include a clear explanation about each fee to provide more transparency.

With Truth-in-Tuition, we can give our students and their families the ability to plan ahead beginning the day of enrollment. We can eliminate guesswork and uncertainty about how much tuition and fees might jump the next year. I firmly believe that a lot more transparency will benefit all families looking to send their sons and daughters to further their education following high school.

It's time we help students and parents by providing for predictability and transparency.

*Representative Mathew Smith represents those residing in Allegheny County's 42nd District that includes Mt. Lebanon, Green Tree, Rosslyn Farms, Thornburg and parts of Bethel Park and Scott Township.*



## International Study Confirms Value of Union Apprenticeship programs

A new study by the Construction Industry Institute® has confirmed what building trade unions and their affiliated contractors across the country have espoused for years—that investments in bona fide training programs such as provided by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers reap significant benefits for workers and contractors, including significantly reduced project costs.

According to the study, "... on a single capital construction project, each dollar invested in craft training can yield \$1.30 to \$3.00 in benefits. The benefits accrue to the project in the form of increased productivity and reductions in turnover, absenteeism and rework, as well as in other areas."

The study, "Construction Industry Craft Training in the United States and Canada," was conducted by a research team consisting of individuals who, combined, had more than 375 years of experience in the construction industry. Issued last November, the study was supported by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and the Construction Users Roundtable (CURT).

Among other findings, the study recognized the substantial investment building trade unions and their affiliated contractors place into training, while noting that funding in

the merit shop (non-union) sector has "fallen short in many geographic areas." This investment has generated significant benefits for union members and savings for union contractors.

In Western Pennsylvania, local union apprenticeship programs invest more than \$11 million annually in training, and offer well structured apprenticeship programs that are relied upon to maintain a productive pool of highly skilled and qualified workers. The success of these programs mirrors findings in the training study, which found that more than 80% of union workers complete off-the-job (apprenticeship) training as compared to only about 40% of open shop (non-union) workers.

The study also concluded that workers who complete off-the-job training programs tend to have more pride in their work than workers without training. If a worker believes that there are more opportunities to receive training, which is prevalent among union building trade workers, they also tend to believe that the projects that they work on are better managed and they experience higher productivity.

Workers who receive on and off-the-job training also tend to earn a higher wage rate. According to the study, if other independent variables are fixed, a union apprenticeship-trained worker can typically earn approximately \$3.60 more per hour than a worker without apprenticeship training. Workers with formal training also were found to be more satisfied in their careers than workers without formal training.

**In Western Pennsylvania, local union apprenticeship programs invest more than \$11 million annually in training**

Such statistics are important to consider as building trade unions and their contractors seek to recruit more men and women to accommodate the increased demand for construction

workers and to compensate for a decline in workers due to retirements. According to the Construction Labor Research Council, 185,000 new workers will need to be recruited, trained and retained each year up to 2016 to meet both the demand for work and increased retirements. Other research estimates the rate to be between 200,000 and 250,000 new craft workers needed annually.

One component of the union building trade industry that helps retain and attract workers is the avail-

ability of training. According to a survey of more than 1,000 construction workers, training allows them to enjoy their work more, remain on a project longer, have more responsibility, offer more challenging and rewarding work, and provide better pay for their work.

Studies have shown that craft training improves productivity, reduces turnover, improves quality, reduces absenteeism and improves safety. Such benefits are among the reasons union building trades and their contractors invest heavily in worker training. It is an investment that pays off for the workers in terms of higher pay and job satisfaction, and for contractors and communities through reduced project costs.

**By Jason Fincke, Executive Director Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania**





**From the North** by Bob Thomas



Patterson Hall remodel at Slippery Rock University. McCurley Electric crew is: Kevin Belles, Kevin Franchuk, Dirk Eckert and James Wolfgang.



Cranberry Woods, Building 600, fit out for Westinghouse. Clista Electric crew L to R: back row - John Lieb, Bryan Miller, Ed Thein, Barry Bell, Ben Cornibe, Feller Heider, and Josh Miller, front row - Eric Czapski, Joe Marconi, Jon Weaver, Travis Lenhart, James Ragland, and Donnie Turek.

**From the Near - North** by Rich Dunkel



Gearhart -Mckee @ Reliant Seward Power Station



W.R. Casteel at Latrobe Stee., Jim Morran and Chuck Dempsey

**From the North** by Bob Kutz



The crew at Altoona Junior High School for G.M. McCrossin Electric, Lee Truby Foreman, Bill Edelbute Sub Foreman, Denny Rio, Mike Wood, Monte Michalangelo, Mark Carr, Gerry Shaner, John Kutz, Jeff Bender, Chris Quinn, Greg Blakely, Kirk Straw, Steve Bettwy and Dave Fuchs. Also in the picture are men from Bettwy Systems, Bill Churella, Scott Bell and David Pruchnik, Ken Louder and Merle Wachter Foreman for Bettwy

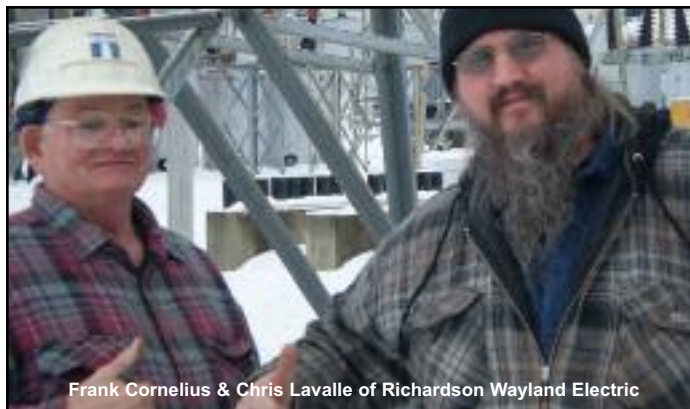


The crew at Bellwood Myers Elementary School, Biter Electric, Les Sheesley Foreman, Jeff Wills, Ron Mayancsik, Steve Smolko & Chris Plummer

**From the Far North - East** by Jeff Miller



Pure Tech Inc.'s ARG Refineries, Bradford, PA. L to R: Ron Paulson, Frank Cornelius, Tim Hutchins, Scott Sheridan, Joe Cornelius, Chad Johnson, Steve Cornelius, Rick Pfaff, Cory Shelander, Jim Johnson, Shawn Huber & Robie Knapp



Frank Cornelius & Chris Lavalle of Richardson Wayland Electric

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**W.P.E.E. HEALTHCARE INFORMATION**

**PRE-AUTHORIZATION FOR "SURGICAL" PROCEDURES**

Normally, the Insurance Trust Fund does not require a pre-authorization prior to a participant or family member receiving procedures but due to some "surgical" procedures not being recognized by the FDA, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU OR THE PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE CALL THE FUND BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH "SURGICAL" PROCEDURES in order to be assured if the procedure is covered under your benefit plan, otherwise, you will be held responsible for payment of non-covered procedures.

**CHIROPRACTORS**

- \* Prescriptions written by a chiropractor for durable medical equipment (DME), medical supplies, MRI's, or CT Scans ARE NOT COVERED.
- \* Physical therapy administered by a chiropractor IS NOT COVERED.
- \* X-rays performed in the chiropractor's office ARE COVERED paid at usual and customary rates up to a maximum of \$500.00 per family member per calendar year.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY**



Lighthouse Electric. Grant Street Transportation Center Front L to R: Tom Garvin, Joe Paesano, Jarod Oyler, Brendan Depto, Rodney Heard, John Lehman, Chip Westhoven, Dennis Hogan, Chris Strnisa, Back L to R: Wayne McCuen, Dave Richey, Mike Lutz, Shawn Guzzi, Mark Shick, Maurice Branch, Marlon Walker, Larry Neidig, Tim Crouse



Lighthouse Electric PNC Plaza III. L to R: Brian Shick, Troy Stanton, Jack Brooks, Joe Cheberenchick, Rich Rollison, Jeff Eifler & Dave Soukup

**VOTE**

**APRIL 22nd.**

**Polls are open from 7AM to 8PM**

**VOTE**





## BEST WISHES TO PENSIONERS

The officers, and members of Local 5 congratulate these newly retired members and wish them a long and healthy retirement:



### January 2008

William J. Biggs  
William R. Bitters

Robert F. Miller

Joseph P. Terreri  
George J. Gehringer

### February 2008

Frederick C. Bryan

Dewitt C. Wiley

### March 2008

John R. Bardonner

Richard J. Heeter  
Jeffrey A. Krieger

David A. Rager

## BLOOD BANK DONORS FIRST QUARTER 2008

Local 5 thanks our quarterly blood donors for their "gift of life" to others:

Artinger, Laura L.	Ergler, Robert B.	Jones, Patrick I.	Perkins, Fred E.
Beley, Joseph E.	Falkosky, Joseph C.	Keith, Adam M.	Pillion, Thomas J.
Bergamasco, Dominic J.	Fleeger, Florence C.	Kenney, David R.	Poole, Craig A.
Bianco, Michael D.	Furguele, Anthony C.	Kimmick, David M.	Pozycski, Deborah B.
Bianco, Patricia	Gieder, Matthew J.	Kirby, Ryan S.	Quinten, Larry M.
Branchen, Daniel L.	Gigler, James R.	Konieczka, Jerome	Quinten, Sherry L.
Cerciello, Aaron J.	Goetz, Kevin J.	Kopta, Robert P.	Rectenwald, Richard S.
Cimino, Timothy S.	Goncus, Justin M.	Kovach, Jennifer R.	Rhoads, Daniel E.
Cinamon, Joshua D.	Gonzales, John S.	Kovalcik, Joseph A.	Robertson, Gary J.
Coleman, Brandon W.	Grabb, Derrick A.	Kramer, Anthony J.	Romanak, James P.
Colinear, Thomas M.	Grady, Susanne F.	Lachman, Russell G.	Schulte, Walter H.
Comer, Jason G.	Griffith, Daniel C.	Lucas, John A.	Shimko, Robert M.
Conroy, Douglas J.	Gruber, Thomas E.	Lydon, Robert E.	Smith, Jason E.
Conroy, Michael C.	Guzzi, Shawn M.	Lyons, Andrew J.	Stanley, Chad
Creamer, Steven M.	Hackett, Patrick F.	Mc Cormick, David G.	Stanton, Troy D.
Demeio, Chad R.	Hogan, Dennis M.	Miskovish, Susan R.	Terreri, Kathy D.
Donovan, Patrick S.	Holko, David T.	Mitchell, James M.	Turner, Todd M.
Dulski, Richard E.	Holland, Joshua M.	Morris, Donna J.	Weaver, Jonathan J.
Eiben, Thomas L.	Holtzman, Lawrence G.	Nickel, Joshua A.	Whitesell, Steven L.
Eicker, Dennis E.	Hoover, Michael E.	Notto, Joseph R.	Wightkin, Joseph M.
Eifler, Jeffrey M.	Immekus, Daniel J.	Orchard, James .H	

## BENEFIT INFORMATION

### IBEW LOCAL 5 OFFICE: 412-432-1400 or Toll Free 1-800-225-IBEW

Judy Elkanich: Pension applications, deceased member notification / information, beneficiary changes, scheduling of appointments with the Business Manager, "Honorary and Participating" withdraw information, and "Military Card" requests.

Leona Vozar: Highmark, Security Blue, Freedom Blue, UPMC, Pensioners \$10 Dental and Optical Premium and Maintenance assessments.

Patty Lusnak: Dues payments and inquiries, change of address notifications, and BA Member information.

### National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA): 412-432-1155

Chris Cottrill: Scholarship information.

Mia Mogielski: Pension benefit calculation inquires and W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund Life Insurance benefit beneficiary updates.

### JATC Apprenticeship Office: 412-432-1145

Lisa McManus: Apprenticeship information.

### Central Data Services: 412-432-1125 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1410

Kathi Giovetsis: Beneficiary changes and ERTS.

Kathy Smith: Deferred Compensation, Supplemental unemployment Benefit (SUB) withdrawal, and Sick and Disability benefit inquiries. (412) 432-1144

### W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund: 412-432-1130 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428

Medical/Surgical, Major Medical, Dental, and Vision claim Inquires

### Pensioners Dental & Optical Claims

Judy Trimbur: (412) 432-1130 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428

### Secretary of Funds: 412-432-1125 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428

Susan Lovely: Contractor contribution information, benefit hour information, vacation check inquiries.

### IBEW Local 5 Federal Credit Union: 412-432-1152

Evening hours: Monday and Thursday 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

### Social Security Information: 1-800-772-1213

Any other questions or concerns can be directed through the switchboard operator: Carol Sunday 412-432-1400

## IN FRATERNAL MEMORY

### Deceased Retired Members

Frank E. Gallagher, Jr. Oct. 5, 1938 - Jan. 17, 2008

Raymond Imhof Feb. 18, 1922 - Mar. 30, 2008

Lawrence A. Weiblinger Oct. 14, 1920 - Feb. 7, 2008

### Deceased Active Members

Donald L. Kyper Sept. 17, 1939 - Jan. 10, 2008

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

It is very important that you notify the Local union promptly of any mailing address or phone number change!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# (INCLUDE AREA CODE): \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL TO:

IBEW LOCAL #5 5 HOT METAL STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15203-2355

### Business Agents Home Numbers

Richard Dunkel . . . . . 724-334-4295

Dennis Eicker . . . . . 412-432-1400

Thomas Higgins . . . . . 724-941-6551

Robert Kutz . . . . . 814-941-2776

Jeffrey Miller . . . . . 814-674-5625

Robert Thomas . . . . . 724-287-2104

Thomas McIntyre . . . . . 412-854-1148

### Organizer Home Number

William Garner . . . . . 412-793-4649

### Manpower Coordinator's Office

Michael Varholla . . . . . 412-432-1400

### Prevailing Wage Investigator's Office

Greg Vogt . . . . . 412-432-1400

### Meeting Hall Rental Information

Lee Deiseroth . . . . . 412-432-1420

## IBEW LOCAL 5 NEWSLETTER

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5 Hot Metal Street - Suite-400  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355

Phone: 412-432-1400 www.ibew5.org FAX: 412-432-1499

Business Manager - Financial Secretary . . . . .	Michael R. Dunleavy
President . . . . .	Dennis E. Eicker
Vice President . . . . .	Thomas R. McIntyre, Jr
Recording Secretary . . . . .	Thomas H. Higgins
Treasurer . . . . .	Robert A. Thomas

### Executive Board

Dennis E. Eicker, Chairman  
Thomas H. Higgins, Secretary

Walter J. Bentley, II  
Robert E. Cole, II  
Thomas R. McIntyre Jr.

James R. Gillespie  
Leo P. Truby

### Examining Board

Joseph Mitchell

William D. McCloy, Sr.

Leticia M. Fedora

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Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355

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