

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION 126



VOLUME 46, No. 6 "CURRENT LINES" NOVEMBER 2008

Union Contractor and Union Linemen Show A Client What We Can Do

(Editor's note: The following letter was received by Tom Leach, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, regarding a project built by Michels Power to connect separate windmill projects in a rugged, mountainous area in Somerset County, Pennsylvania)

Tom,

We are completing our project in your jurisdiction later this week. The job that we had in the Garrett area was a very challenging job with an owner that had a non-union approach to all of his work. He had awarded a non union company the entire job last November with a deadline of completion July 10th. I was called in the week prior to the 10th of July to look at the job and give an estimated time that I could finish the project.

The non union company had built approximately 3.5 miles of the line from November of 2007 to July of 2008. We were asked to come in and complete 4.5 miles by the end of August. We had a tough challenge ahead with the construction and the owner.

We contacted you and were welcomed in to your area with open arms. The manpower that was sent out of your hall was safety oriented and knowledgeable in all aspects of the job. We had a rough start in the beginning but after a week or two we got organized and production picked up. I am happy to inform you that we completed the project 1 week ahead of schedule.

The owner now has seen what a UNION Contractor supported with highly trained Union employee's can produce. I want to thank you and Bill Weigl for all your efforts. Bill went out of his way to sign people through. Bill called me when we were hiring a few more employee's and offered to come to our show up and sign the members through because he knew we had a tight schedule and didn't want to take time away from the job. It's that kind of thinking that will only strengthen the IBEW. I look forward to working with you and your members in the near future.

Eric Hoffman
Regional Superintendent

Allegheny Energy Withdraws Request to Construct TrAIL in Pennsylvania

Allegheny Energy has agreed not to push further its proposed \$1.2 billion high-voltage power line project through Washington and Greene counties in Pennsylvania.

Two state Public Utility Commission Administrative law judges recommended the entire 240 mile project be scrapped. The Greensburg based Energy Company agreed to a settlement with Greene County commissioners to drop its plans for about 36 miles of new power lines proposed for the two counties in Pennsylvania.

The project as proposed-- called the Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line or TrAIL-- would have stretched from Southwest Pennsylvania through West Virginia before ending in Loudoun County, Virginia outside Washington, and linking in Virginia with Dominion Virginia Power.

In Pennsylvania, Allegheny Energy would have built a 37 mile, 500,000 volt line and a new substation in Greene County, and two new substations in Washington County. Three smaller, 138,000 volt lines totaling 15 miles in length would have been constructed to connect with existing lines.

Most of the aforementioned is out. Allegheny Energy now plans to build 1.2 miles in Pennsylvania of the 500,000 volt line, then the remainder through West Virginia and into Virginia. The project is designed to move low-cost, coal fired power from this region, east to Washington DC and the East Coast, areas that need more power and are willing to pay for it.

The reconstituted project is still slated for completion by 2011.

Local Unions 70, 126 and 317 had met with NECA and the contractor who had been awarded the entire project. A Project Labor Agreement had been negotiated to resolve issues before construction began.

"An Informed Membership Keeps Our Union Strong"

CURRENT LINES

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Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec.....	Thomas Leach

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Bernie Kephart	

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Produced by IBEW and SEIU members

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610-326-2924 Fax
www.NEAT1968.org

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Rockville, MD 20850
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610-489-3577 Fax

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www.ibenefitcenter.com

FRANK M. VACCARO & ASSOC.
27 Roland Ave.
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
1-800-883-3682

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Chutko

Retired Journeyman Lineman
Member from 1957
until his retirement in 1991

Allen Pinto

Retired Equipment
Operator/Mechanic
Member from 1969
until his retirement in 2007

Joseph E. Welsh

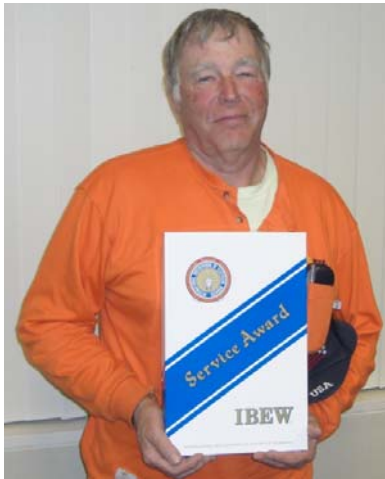
Retired Journeyman Lineman
Member from 1977
until his retirement in 2006

Members Recently Retired

John Huber

Terry Schultz

50 Year Service Award to Active Member



Richard (Dick) Conaway was presented with a 50 year IBEW Service Award honoring his 50th anniversary of membership at our October Collegeville Union meeting.

The award included a certificate and diamond lapel pin. Dick Conaway remains actively employed in line construction and serves as an instructor (including pole climbing classes) for our apprentices.

In addition he was elected this year to serve on the Local Union 126, IBEW Executive Board.

DUES PAYMENT NOTICE
When paying dues by either personal check or money order, please be sure to clearly indicate your card number directly on the check or money order. This will help to avoid errors in dues process.

Problem on the job?
CALL THE UNION



Those who oppose socialized medicine, now cheer socialized capitalism

You Could Be Losing Pension and Health & Welfare Contributions Made on Your Behalf

If you travel outside the jurisdiction of Local Union 126, IBEW, it is your responsibility to notify our office of where and when you have traveled regardless if you are on emergency response or have accepted a referral to work in another Local Union. Your informing us of your traveling outside of our area will alert us to contact the Local Union in which you are or were working to enable the Employee Reciprocity Transfer System [ERTS] to "send your money home".

If you do not inform us as soon as possible, of where and when you are traveling, you may not get the proper credit for employer contributions made on your behalf.

Local Union 126, IBEW Members Awarded Anniversary Pins Honoring Their Years Of Membership

**20
YEARS**

Ronald Allen
James T. Anderson Jr.
James F. Buck
Larry D. Burge
Robert E. Clyde
John C. Conner
Donald R. Erney
Leigh R. Finney
Todd A. Frick
William E. Friel Jr.
Ronald N. Genesi Jr.
Glen W. Goss
Robert P. Hoffman
Timothy P. Johnston
Michael A. Kennell
Timothy J. Lechner
Leo J. Miller Jr.
Ronald I. Miller
Jesse L. Nobles
Patrick V. Puzzuto
Ronald B. Radacsy
Thomas W. Reynolds
Galen L. Scott Sr.
Douglas L. Watkins
Joseph A. Young

**25
YEARS**

Neal A. Baker
James C. Bondi
Gregory M. Breidegam
Richard W. Flick
Ronald N. Green
Chad A. Hacker
Paul Hawthorne Jr.
Alain M. Laflamme
Robert T. Lewis
Anthony C. Mc Cullion
Robert S. Murdock
Dale C. Newcomer
George S. Norris
Ricky L. Shannon
Robert W. Shope
Walter F. Sutton
James P. Woodley

**30
YEARS**

Donald L. Dillinger
Donald J. Dively
Charles R. Fraelich Jr.
James L. Glanden
William C. Glanden
Joseph Hannon
George A. Janke
Kenneth L. Nelson
Fred B. Snair
Clifford E. Tedrow
John L. Weiss Jr.
Gregory M. Whitsel

**35
YEARS**

Craig M. Bartosh
Robert A. Bennick
Robert M. Blough Jr.
Edward J. Costello
Mark T. Deery
Julian N. Dixon Jr.
William G. Flowers
Charles I. Freed
Randy M. Greenwood
David A. Haas
Joseph R. Hepworth
Larry E. Jenkins
Oscar L. Johnson
Gerald R. Kern
Alan L. Lippy
Russell B. Minninger
Frederick J. Morrow
George H. Roberts
Donald B. Runkle
Eugene D. Thompson
Greg P. Wright

**40
YEARS**

Blaine R. Beppe
Richard P. Boyd
Ernest C. Buckley
Dennis P. Casey
Maurice E. Gannon
Darrell L. Kephart
Thomas J. Lardani Jr.
Robert M. McClure
Gilbert L. Mendoza
Anthony S. Moyer
John J. Prebish
William J. Ravis
Tommy E. Rose Sr.
Frank J. Seal Jr.
Ronald W. Sipe
Kenneth E. Suggs
Harold B. Talton
Alden D. Wunder

**45
YEARS**

Gilbert T. Boettner
William R. Clark
Kenneth R. Hileman
Thomas A. Leach
George A. Livingston
Harold C. Maurey
Douglas S. Rapp
Robert C. Robinson
Joseph F. Schmidt
Terry L. Schultz
Charles K. Shoaff
Gary H. Sigel
Joseph D. Washell
Marlin W. Watkins

**50
YEARS**

Henry W. Beacher
Robert M. Blough
Philip F. Campoli
John Capobianco
Richard O. Conaway
Matthew J. Deluca
James E. Fox
Thomas O. Gallagher
Charles Goodyear
Harold H. Heinbach
Clyde Holland
Fred W. Hurbanek
Thomas F. Magnavita
John L. McCauley Jr.
Robert Mauger
John A. Muscara
Joseph Pallo
Frederick W. Ruehling
John D. Ruhl
Charles E. Schultz
Ralph W. Sechrist
Robert A. Smith
Charles Tornetta
George Waters

**55
YEARS**

Harold Bell
Max P. Bingaman
Walter M. Binkley
Charles W. Brothers
Henry Craig
Ernest Hentschel
Norman L. Hurrell
Robert H. Ivy
Richard G. Kemmler
Melvin P. Kurtz
Lowell Y. Lister
Gilbert Martinez
Oscar G. Rath Jr.
Richard I. Rhoads
Randall Younkin

**60
YEARS**

Elmer L. Brown
Charles B. Durand
Millard C. Johnson
Harry D. Lee
Edward J. McCauley
Wallace A. Mcgaffick
Harold L. Orris
Theodore Reczek
James W. Shields
Robert W. Smith
Malcolm D. Symmonds
Donald E. Weaver
Dean E. Zerby

LOCAL 126 MEMBERS

**Henkels & McCoy
PECO**



Left to Right: Chuck Haines, Mike Kolvek, Frank Morrisette, Erik Collins

**Matrix
Marietta, PA**



Left to Right: Brent Benner, Rob Mariner

Harlan, Co-Gen



Left to Right: Kevin Hart, Corey Rowles, Dave Grochowski, Tom Wakefield

Asplundh, Delmarva



Left to Right: Bill Lewis Sr. and Jose Perez

Richardson- Wayland, Met-Ed



Left to Right: John Granger, Jeff Kephart, Harold Weaver, Jim Winters, Mark Lashowski, Phil Braun

Demeter Electric, Met-Ed



Left to Right: Rick Tadley, Paul Atherton, Joe Tempelton, Rich East, Rich Jones, Jeremy Cherone, Rich Demeter

AROUND THE JURISDICTION

**Sargent Electric
Duquesne**



Left to Right: Jack Masters, Doug Gault, Phil Pischke, Scott Tubbs, Ron Radacsy, Tim Regan

**Riggs Distler
PECO**



Left to Right: Jason Acree, Francis Escoto, Robert Humphries Sean Sweeney, Larry Yaw

**Nitro Electric
Allegheny Power**



Left to Right: Adam Zettl, Perry Painter, Jim Hunt, Orville Wright

**Sargent Electric
Highland Substation**



Left to Right: Mike Kennell, Bob Baden, Ron Kennell, Jeff Moore, Dean Winters, Barry Ressler

Biter Electric, Wind Farm



Left to Right: Trey Wallace, Jeff Dishong

**Sargent Electric
Duquesne**



Left to Right: Josh Ensminger, Steve Vernik, Tom Brown, Gene Wigfield, Nathan Hart

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Tuesday, Local Union 7:00 PM
 L.U. #380, I.B.E.W., 3900 Ridge Pike, Collegeville, PA
 2nd Tuesday, 126-3 (C&U) 7:00 PM
 Holiday Inn, 2750 Mosside Blvd. Monroeville, PA
 Monday before 2nd Tuesday 126-2 (C&U) 7:00 PM
 Harbor Inn, Philipsburg, PA
 Wednesday after 2nd Tuesday 126-4 (C&U) 7:00 PM
 Municipal Bldg. 300 High Street, Ebensburg, PA
 3rd Thursday, 126-1 (C&U) 7:00 PM
 Sheraton Berkshire, Paper Mill Road, Reading, PA
 3rd Tuesday, 126-13 (C&U) 7:00 PM
 Holiday Inn Express, Rt. 13, Harrington, DE.

**QUARTERLY MEETINGS
 (January, April, July, October)**

1st Thursday, 126-5 6:00 PM
 LU 313, I.B.E.W., 814 W. Basin Rd. (Rt. 141), New Castle, DE,
 (Connectiv TT)
 3rd Thursday, 126-6 (LC) 7:00 PM
 L.U. #1307, I.B.E.W., 1 Mile South, Delmar, MD, Old Route #13
 (Connectiv TT)

(March, June, September, December)

1st Monday, 126-7 (M) 4:00 PM
 2501 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa
 4th Monday, 126-8 (U-Maint.) 1:00 & 4:30 PM
 Delta Fire Hall, Delta, PA
 4th Monday, 126-9 (LC) 7:00 PM
 American Legion, Rising Sun, MD (Conowingo & PECO TT)
 3rd Monday, 126-10 (LC) 7:00 PM
 L.U. # 380, I.B.E.W., 3900 Ridge Pike, Collegeville, PA (PECO T.T.)

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS
 (May & October)**

Thursday before 2nd Friday, 126-12, 6:00 PM
 Local Union 229, 300 Hudson, York PA (Tele)
 2nd Friday, 126-11, 2:00 PM
 VFW Post, Rt. 522, Mt. Union, PA (Tele)

**Notice of Change to International
 Portion of Union Dues**

At the 37th International Convention, the delegates approved several changes to the IBEW Constitution. Of immediate concern to IBEW members who are considering retirement is a change to the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund [PBF] pension payment rate.

Effective January 1, 2009, the rate used to calculate pension payments has been established at \$4.50 per month for each full year of continuous "A" membership. This change eliminates the \$3.50 rate, which has been used on all time prior to 1998.

Accordingly, the following rates will apply to the I.O. portion of all monthly dues payments covering January 2009 and thereafter:

	"A"Members	"BA"Members
Members		
Per Capita:	\$12.00	\$12.00
Pension Fund:	\$13.00	Not Applicable
Total:	\$25.00	\$12.00

In accordance with the IBEW Constitution, \$12 per month shall go into the General Fund, and the additional amount paid by our "A" members of \$13 per month shall go into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.

The Local Union portion of your Union Dues will remain unchanged.

Members who remit their dues by check shall include the amounts listed for the January, February and March **2009 quarter.**

**L.U.126 ACTIVITIES
 COMING UP IN 2008!**

POLITICAL ACTIVITY DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2008
CONTACT STEVE SARNO @ 484-432-1907

Lineman's Activity Fund Rodeo Team



Chad Glahn, Jeremy Cherone, Jack Skilton, Steve Sarno, Rich Muttik and Alan Mann

The Local Union 126 Lineman's Activity Fund again sent a team to the International Linemen's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Our gratitude goes to the team for their hard work and representation of our Local Union at this year's International Linemen's Rodeo.

**DUES INCREASE NOTICE
 LOCAL UNION 126, IBEW**

As a result of an increase in per capita payments to the International Office, **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009**, all basic dues payments shall be increased by \$1.00 per month to the following amounts:

	Per Month	Per Quarter
Journeyman, Welders, Cable Splicers.....	\$27.80	\$83.40
Equipment Operators,		
4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Period Apprentices,		
Tel/CATV Lineman, Installers, Splicers.....	\$26.80	\$80.40
All other "A" classifications.....	\$26.30	\$78.90
All "BA" classifications.....	\$13.30	\$39.90

Lineman's Activity Fund Golf Outing 2008



Local Union 126, IBEW Members Respond to Hurricanes



Over 400 Local Union 126, IBEW Line Construction and Line Clearance members employed by eleven of our signatory contractors responded to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in Louisiana and Texas.

As is usually the case, the work was hot, difficult and trying. Thankfully, all of our members returned home safely.

Checkout The IBEW Hour Power

The IBEWHourPower.com has changed the way organized labor communicates, not only with its own members, but with the rest of the world as well. In fact, IBEWHourPower.com received the "Outstanding Web Site Award" in the 2007 Web Marketing Association Competition.

There is always something new on IBEWHourPower.com

ANOTHER TAX BREAK FOR THE RICH.

HAVE THEY NO SHAME?

The McCain plan to cut capital gains taxes is conservative business as usual. McCain proposes cutting the capital gains tax rate from 15 to 7.5 percent for 2009 and 2010. Bush and conservatives in Congress already reduced the capital-gains tax rate from 20 to 15 percent in 2003. In recent weeks, both the far-right Republican Study Committee and most Republicans in the U.S. House have called for cutting the capital gains tax in response to the financial crisis. So this proposal is the opposite of what a "maverick" would do.

Cutting the capital gains tax again would provide a huge payoff to the rich. Households earning over \$200,000 a year would receive 93 percent of the benefits from the McCain capital gains tax cut. In fact, two-thirds of the tax cut would go to individuals earning over \$1 million a year. Put another way, the average American household would receive \$4 as a result of the proposed cut, while households earning over \$1 million would receive \$72,255.

One result: billionaires and hedge fund CEOs pay lower tax rates than their secretaries do. The 400 U.S. taxpayers with the very highest incomes pay income taxes worth only 18 percent of their income on average, compared to 25 percent for the typical American. Because of reduced capital gains taxes, the top 400 taxpayers cumulatively saved \$10 billion between 1995 and 2005. Billionaire Warren Buffet famously criticized our tax system for taxing him at a substantially lower rate than his secretary.

The capital gains tax is already ridiculously low. The current capital gains tax rate of 15 percent is the lowest it's been in years. The 1986 Tax Reform Act set the top rate at 28 percent and later legislation lowered it to 20 percent in 1997 and to 15 percent in 2003. Today, the top federal income-tax rate for ordinary income is 35 percent, meaning that earned income is taxed at a rate 2 1/3 higher than income from capital gains. That's simply unfair. There is no good reason for wealth to be taxed at a lower rate than work.

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