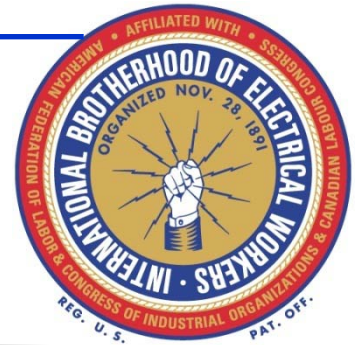


# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

## LOCAL UNION 126



## VOLUME 47 , No. 5 “CURRENT LINES” SEPTEMBER 2009

### Unions Join in Support of Universal Comprehensive Health Care

Unions throughout the country are joining together in rallying to make the population aware that comprehensive health-care measures now before Congress and backed by President Obama should be passed. Right Wing organized groups that are disrupting town hall meetings about health-care with shouts, chants, pushing and shoving, are presenting much misinformation to the public. Today, the spiraling health care cost is threatening Medicare, and our entire health-care system.

#### Health-Care Reform Will:

- **Include a quality public health insurance option.**
- **A requirement for ALL employers to pay their fair share, including our nonunion competitors and no taxation on workers existing health-care benefits**
- **Hold down rising costs that are picking our pockets. Expenses, deductibles and co-pays will have yearly or lifetime limits on the coverage you receive will be outlawed.**
- **Emphasize prevention and wellness. Require insurance companies to fully cover checkups and tests that help you prevent illness, such as mammograms or eye and foot exams for diabetics.**
- **Require all companies to finally pay their fair share at least 72.5 percent of the premium for individual coverage 65 percent of the premium for family coverage, or an amount for part-time employees. Companies that do not provide health care for workers will be required to pay to help support the public health insurance option.**
- **Close the donut hole in Medicare Part D which is costing people so much money**

**This health care reform is worth fighting for.** It works for working families and works for America.

President Obama’s vision of health care reform puts you and your doctor, instead of insurance companies, in charge of your own health care.

This legislation gets a grip on health care costs that are crushing the middle class.

The legislation will improve health care quality by curbing insurance company abuses, rewarding doctors for improving the quality of care instead of increasing the quantity of care and forcing insurers to compete with a quality public health insurance plan. This means a great deal to all of us and our families.

Think how much easier contract negotiations will be when America gets a handle on rising health care costs.

It even helps employers—especially small businesses that now pay the highest insurance premiums—by making it easier to provide and pay for health benefits.

This proposal has a strong public plan option that will keep insurance companies honest and drive waste out of the system. Even the insurance companies admit that hundreds of billions of dollars do not go for helpful care. With competition from a strong public plan, we can finally stop them from wasting all this money.

The plan means health care will be there for you, no matter what. If you lose your job, or your kid loses his. If you get sick. When you retire. That strong public health insurance option means you and your family can’t fall through the cracks. No matter what.

And finally, the health reform championed by the president helps unions by leveling the playing field. Nonunion companies will have to pay their fair share for the first time instead of dumping their health care costs on the rest of us. It will help American businesses by keeping costs down. Keeping health costs down means more production and more exports. The Obama plan also helps industries with older workforces modernize without casting off their retirees.

**“An Informed Membership Keeps Our Union Strong”**

## CURRENT LINES

Published by

**I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION  
No.126**

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www.ibenefitcenter.com

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www.NEAT1968.org

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## IN MEMORIAM

Samuel L. Albert  
Retired Equipment Operator  
Member from 1962 until his  
retirement in 1994

Paul C. Kerr  
Traffic Signal Technician  
Member since 2008

Paul C. Keys  
Tree Trimmer  
Member since 1968

Joseph Pallo  
Retired Equipment Operator  
Member from 1958 until his  
Retirement in 1986

## RECENTLY RETIRED

**Barry Shirk**



**Local Union 126  
IBEW Vice  
President Charles  
Boyer being  
interviewed by an  
IBEW NOW  
reporter at the  
Health Care  
Reform Rally  
in Washington**

# **This Labor Day Should Renew Our Focus On the Importance of the Employee Free Choice Act**

For the last quarter century, corporate America has been at war against the labor movement. After a long period in which unions were an accepted part of the economic and political landscape, most corporations adopted a much more hostile attitude toward unions. Where unions already were present, employers sought to weaken or break them. In workplaces without unions, employers were prepared to do whatever was necessary to prevent workers from organizing.

This anti-union drive has largely enjoyed the support of the government. For example, it is now a standard practice for employers to fire workers engaged in an organizing drive. One in five organizers will be fired during an average organizing drive. Such firings are illegal, but enforcement is sufficiently slow, and the penalties sufficiently small, that most employees eagerly embrace this effective anti-union tactic. Government policies have also supported anti-union practices in other ways. A main purpose of trade agreements like NAFTA was to make it as easy as possible to relocate factories overseas.

As a result of these policies, much manufacturing has, in fact, been moved overseas in the last quarter century, giving the country a high trade deficit. And the jobs lost in manufacturing have been disproportionately union jobs. While the unionization rate in manufacturing was more than 40 percent in the sixties, in 2006 it was just 11.6 percent, less than the 12 percent average for all workers, although still somewhat higher than the 7.4 percent average for the private sector as a whole.

The weakening of the labor movement is not just bad news for the workers who lose union jobs. According to polling data, there are tens of millions of workers who would like to be represented by a union at their workplace, but don't currently have the option. The best way to get a guide as to how many workers would be in unions if they could opt to do so, in the absence of employer threats and harassment, is to look at the unionization rate in the public sector.

While public sector managers are not generally friendly to unions, they can't fire union organizers or use the other harsh anti-union tactics that are now standard practice in the private sector. As a result, more than 36 percent of public sector employees are members of unions. Given the freedom to choose, it is likely a comparable share of private sector workers would also be in unions. This would imply an additional 30 million workers in unions.

In addition to directly benefiting the workers they represent, unions also benefit the larger workforce and society as a whole. In an industry with a strong union presence, non-union firms know they must maintain comparable wages and benefits if they are want to keep their workers from joining a union. The decline of unions has undoubtedly been an important factor in the growth of inequality in the last quarter century.

Unions have also been essential to a wide range of political initiatives over the post-war period. Programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Head Start would not have been possible without the strong support of the labor movement. The same is true of the key civil rights legislation of the sixties. More recently, the labor movement was at the center of the effort to prevent President Bush from privatizing Social Security. It will be difficult to make much progress on a wide range of social and economic issues without the support of a strong labor movement.

Congress is currently debating a bill that would take an important step toward re-establishing the right of workers to join a union. The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) would require a company to recognize a union once a majority of workers have signed a card indicating they want to be represented by a union. This gets around the election process, which gives employers a chance to intimidate workers and fire the leaders of an organizing effort. (Under the EFCA, workers can still request an election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board.)

The EFCA would restore some meaning to the right to organize. The right to organize is not the concern of just a small special interest group; it is a basic right that should concern us all. In the same vein, all progressives have an interest in seeing a strong labor movement. For this reason, the EFCA and other measures that level the playing field between labor and management should be top items on the progressive agenda.

# LOCAL 126 MEMBERS

Northeastern Live Line – Met Ed

MATRIX – PECO



Left to Right: Steve Kuncelman, Tee Bohn, Gary Watkins, John Rhone, Charlie Muth, and Dave Grove



Left to Right: Matt Daly, Ray Morrisette, and Troy Humphries

Henkels & McCoy – PECO

Carr and Duff – Traffic Signals



Left to Right: Bob Clyde, Al Butterbaugh, Dave Clyde, Lance Ravis, Bob Gephart, Mark Deery III, Bill Ravis, and Jason Yoder



Left to Right: Don Erney, Herb Madara, and Bruce Gallagher

I. B. ABEL – Met Ed

PAR Electric – Mt. Morris



Left to Right: Andy Cassel, Brian Derr, and Shawn Smitle



Left to Right: Rich East, Rob Cook, Ken Hilliard, Pat Ferguson, Steve Mullins, Kyle Edmiston, and Kevin Fry

# AROUND THE JURISDICTION

Carr and Duff – Traffic Signals



Left to Right: Greg Diedrich, Dave Grochowski, Dwight Carter, Andre Mandell, Steve Keim, Matt Kosich, Andrew Melly, Thurman Pace, and Bob Komiewicz

Biter – Somerset



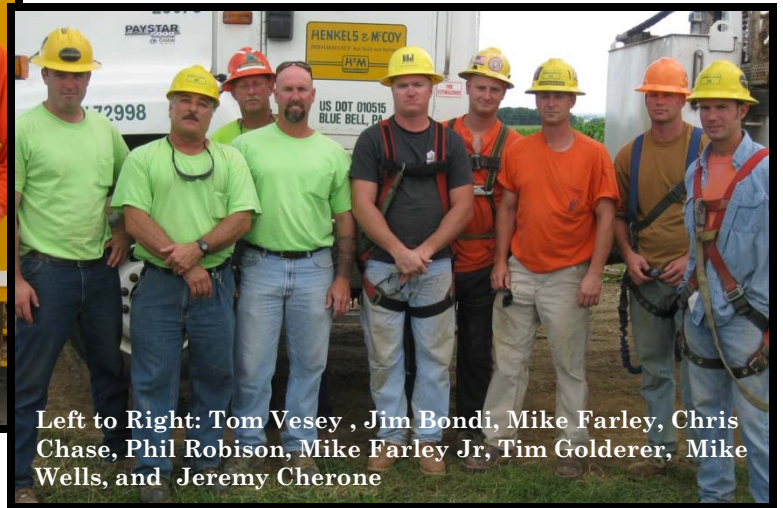
Left to Right: Matt Fagan, Jason Morris, and Paul Lesnak

Henkels & McCoy – PPL



Left to Right: Mike Booher, Dave Buck, Ryan Mirandou, and Fred Strouse

Henkels & McCoy – PPL



Left to Right: Tom Vesey, Jim Bondi, Mike Farley, Chris Chase, Phil Robison, Mike Farley Jr, Tim Golderer, Mike Wells, and Jeremy Cherone

PAR Electric – Mt. Morris



Left to Right: Mike Corsetti, Charlie Fitzgerald, Wayne Duval, Blair Brumbaugh, and Al Deible Sr

Sargent Electric – Somerset



Left to Right: John Wagner, Darrell Kephart, Mike Kennell, Eric Flanagan, Mike Sheaffer, Steve Angelovic, and Ed Brown

## 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 Mossdale 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  
Crowne Plaza, 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,  
(Conectiv TT)
- 3rd Thursday, 126-6 (LC) 7:00 PM  
L.U. #1307, I.B.E.W., 1 Mile South, Delmar, MD,  
Old Route #13  
(Conectiv 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 Hilton Garden Inn  
815 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA  
(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)

## Training Schedule

Howard H. Grabert  
Training Center  
3455 Germantown Pike  
Collegeville, PA

Calvin R. Peterson  
Training School  
522 Colver Road  
Ebensburg, PA

October 10, 2009  
BLS/FA/PTR/BR  
Class begins at 8:00 AM

November 7, 2009  
BLS/FA/PTR/BR  
Class begins at 8:00 AM

October 17, 2009  
T & D 10 Hour  
Class begins at 7:00 AM

December 19, 2009  
T & D 10 Hour  
Class begins at 7:00 AM

## Executive Board Will Address Violations of the Referral Procedure

Business Manager/Financial Secretary Thomas A. Leach recently reported to the Local Union Executive Board on recent occurrences regarding the abuse and circumventing of the Job Referral Procedure. Some members have been accepting job assignments directly from employers. He raised the question to the Executive Board "when did we start accepting job referrals directly from employers."

Charges will be filed, and the Executive Board will take action against members who circumvent or abuse the referral procedure.

The Executive Board feels that accepting any job calls from employers is circumventing the Referral Procedure and is jumping over other members who are ahead of you on the out of work list.

Referral agents are available to employers 24/7 to fill calls for manpower.

### *Local 126 OSHE Training Requirements*

Government standards mandate attendance to BLS/FirstAid, Bucket Rescue and Pole Top Rescue Classes on a yearly basis as well as the new Electrical Transmission and Distribution 10-hour Course every five years in order to be a "Qualified Employee".

Over 600 of our members took advantage of the new Electrical Transmission and Distribution 10-hour Course to this point and met the requirement for certification.

But we still need to keep up on a yearly basis our BLS/FirstAid, Bucket Rescue and Pole Top Rescue certifications. Please get signed up for these classes. Participation has dropped off in this high unemployment times and it should be the opposite. This is a good time to get caught up on all your recerts so when the time comes to go back to work you are a "Qualified Employee".

For those of you who missed the classes, we have established a Training Schedule for the remainder of 2009. If there is a high demand we will add more dates to the schedule. Don't waste time; get this training done as quickly as possible. It will be on a first-call basis, so get scheduled. It is your responsibility to make sure you are current on your certifications. Several companies have already refused to employ members without the proper training certifications. If you fail to attend these courses, you may miss a job opportunity!!!

Contact OSHE at 610-489-3990 at least two weeks prior to class date to sign up or for more information.

**ALSO GET YOUR TWIC CARD SO YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL JOB OPPORTUNITIES!!!**

Team Prizes!  
1st & Last Place

# GOLF OUTING!



Reserve your spot today

5th Annual  
**LAF LOCAL 126**  
longest drive, 50/50's

**\$85 per person**



**Sat., Sept. 12th,  
2009 7:30am  
Shotgun Start  
Best Ball**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Golfers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Refreshments**  
Beer & Soda  
Hot Dogs  
during  
tournament,  
lunch will be  
provided

**NEW Location**  
**Limerick Golf Club**  
765 N. Lewis  
Road  
Limerick, Pa  
19468  
610-495-6945

Full payment must be received by Sept. 4, 2009

Make checks payable to  
Lineman's Activity Fund  
1217 Chestnut St  
Narvon, PA 17555  
610-489-1185 or 484-343-1112

**\$15,000  
PUTTING CONTEST**



*Closest to  
the pin*

# EVERYONE WINS A PRIZE



## Members Rally In Washington To Support Health-Care Reform

Local Union 126, IBEW members traveled to Washington DC by bus to support Health Care Reform. Nearly 10,000 Union members rallied to show their support for legislation to insure that all Americans have access to health care.

### What Did Labor Give You

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on this Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom and leadership--- the American worker.

### A Job With Dignity

Human rights are a very basic foundation of human dignity. Every human being has a right to a job with dignity, a living wage, and freedom from exploitation. This not only includes access to health care and humane living and working conditions, but also a voice in society. Working people have a right, as Americans, to voice and vote, not only at election time, but in the workplace too.

#### **CURRENT LINES**

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