

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

## LOCAL UNION 126



**VOLUME 47 , No. 4 “CURRENT LINES”**

**JULY 2009**

## Mid Year Report to Our Local Union Members by Business Manager/Financial Secretary Thomas Leach

How quickly things change. This time last year we had full employment, the economy was doing well, pensions and health insurance concerns were secondary.

Now we have more Journeymen Linemen and apprentices out of work than we have had for at least a decade, or maybe more. The recession has adversely affected most pension plans including our Local Union 126 Retirement Plan's individual accounts. With significantly less contributions coming into our Health & Welfare Fund the reserve to meet the promise of our accumulative accounts is becoming stressed.

At this time last year, it was believed that by now, our members would be very busy building large transmission projects. As you probably know the owner of the Trans Allegheny Interstate Line, (TrAIL) withdrew their request to build the Pennsylvania portion. The Mid Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) has set their project back at least one year. These and other projects might be delayed because the owners are waiting for stimulus money.



In past years, we were able to negotiate significant wage increases in most of our agreements. Now we are in arbitration for renegotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement in which some of our members have not had a wage increase since January 1, 2007.

However, there are reasons to be optimistic. It appears that Washington will make a sizable portion of the stimulus package available to upgrade the Transmission Grid system throughout the country. Although that will not create jobs immediately, it should be very beneficial to our members in the future. I am encouraged by the announcement that President Obama has asked Congress to present him with a National Health Care Reform Plan by the end of this year. It is too early to tell what form a National Health Care Reform Plan will take, but in any form, it should be a valuable supplement to the Local Union 126 Health & Welfare Plan.

International President Hill has formed a Transmission Development/Storm Emergency Response Task force. It consists of Business Managers from Outside Local Unions in Texas, Oregon, Illinois and myself. The Task Force has been assigned to meet with several of the largest line contractors to address issues of concern to our industry and the contractors who anticipate building 3,000 miles of transmission lines throughout the country and to attempt to come up with an orderly emergency response system. When things turn around and the transmission projects begin, the IBEW will be prepared for the challenges that will be presented.

Our Local Union 459 IBEW brothers and sisters employed by Penelec, a First Energy utility company, are on strike against their employer. Of course, we are honoring their strike by both refusing to work on the Penelec property and by assisting our striking brothers and sisters in other ways. Our Collective Bargaining Agreements contain language that allows us "to render assistance to other labor organizations by removal of our members from the job". Good Union members do not need written language to support striking brothers and sisters. We will not go through or behind a picket line and weaken the striking members fight against their employer.

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

## CURRENT LINES

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## IN MEMORIAM

Ernest Hentschel  
Retired Truck Driver  
Member from 1953  
until his retirement  
in 1986

## RECENTLY RETIRED

**Joseph A. Deems**

**Robert E. Sterner**

**Kenneth M. Gibbons**

## Safety and Training Schedule

### CPR / FIRST AID / BUCKET / POLE TOP RESCUE

**Howard H. Grabert Training Center      August 8, 2009 at 8:00 AM**

**Calvin R. Peterson Training School      August 8, 2009 at 8:00 AM**



# LOCAL 126 MEMBERS

## Asplundh - Peco



Left to Right: Jose Carvajal, Ronnie Cruz, Bill Geissler, Bob Lagonegro, Scott Thayne and Dave Moreland

## Vanalt - SEPTA



Left to Right: Pat Casey, Jim Haley, III, Joe Stoyer, Dennis Casey, Anson Costello, and Jim Haley

## Armour and Sons - Collegeville



Left to Right: Robert Lepore, Rob Huebner, and Craig Bruse

## Henkels and McCoy - Peco.



Matt Parkinson

## Local 126 - Training Class



B. Hillegass, D. Walker, R. Sowers, Ed Miller, W. Nearhood, S. Heimbach, T. Porr, J. Timmins, B. Fry, J. Bangert, C. Heffner, M. Rodweller, J. Demers, J. Havrilla, M. Parada, and H. Hoopes

## Matrix - Peco.



Left to Right ; Troy Humphries, Ed Houmas, Matt Daly, Ray Morrisette, Raul Ward, Errol Krebs, Kris West, and Nathan Albert

# AROUND THE JURISDICTION

**Henkels and McCoy - Peco**



Left to Right: Matt Parkinson, Robert Reed, Josh Brumbaugh, Tom Vesey, James Bojt, and Phil Henry

**Prysmian Cable - Peco**



Left to Right: Frank Rogers, Leigh Finney, John Korona, John Sharp, Bill Groover, and Sean Shorter

**Henkels and McCoy - PPL**



Left to Right: Mike Torpey, Steve Bonner, Geoff Armato, Scott Heimbach, Mike Rodweller, Bob Bennick, and Travis Porr

**Henkels and McCoy - Peco**



Left to Right: John Beauparlant, Josh Adams, Marc Giovannone, Dave Boyle, Matt Brumbaugh, Aaron Lorrigan, and John Owad

**Henkels and McCoy - PPL**



Left to Right: Ian Schneider, Doug Bush, Andy Richter, Fred Strouse, John Wyles, Dave Snyder, Darryl Samsel, Carter Moyer, and Mike Cerifko

**Reading Unit Meeting**



Left to Right: Mark Cavallucci, Larry Messner, Craig Kohler, Rich Furs, Keith Rittle, Dustin Murray, Rob Moore, and Steve Piech

## 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)

## *Do you know anyone with these beliefs?*

I will incite war, but I will not participate in the military aspect of it and I make sure none of my family does.

I will attack Gays and Lesbians, but if any of my family are in that category that is none of your business.

I will promote abstinence and condemn premarital sex, but if any of my family breaks those rules then that is all right, just not with your family.

If I have a high position with a company, I will demand a contract that details my compensation and gives me a large bonus in case I am laid off. If the hourly employees within my company want a contract similar to mine then I am not good with that. I really do not see why any hourly worker should have the same rights as me.

If I work for a non-union work force, I will complain if my wages fall far behind those of Union workers because after all I do similar work and should be paid as much as the Union workers.

I am chagrined when my wages fall far below those of Union workers because I know that the management in my company is only looking out for me and will always be fair.

If anyone disagrees with me politically or otherwise, then they are wrong.

If I am an hourly worker and my work group is represented by a Union then I would like all the same wages and benefits of the Union members but I do not believe I should have to pay dues and be a member of the union .

In order to help our economy, I believe everyone should buy American made products. I however, will buy cheaper foreign made products because I want to make my money go further so I can drink more foreign made beer.

If there are poor struggling people within our society, I do not think we should help them with medical care and food. Let them achieve wealth like I did. By inheriting it from my rich daddy. If they do not have a rich daddy, they can prostitute their daughters or something.

If possible, for yard work etc. around my house, I prefer to hire illegal aliens. It is possible to pay them much cheaper than the going rate and I like saving money.

I want the government to reduce my taxes because that way I can go on a cruise and buy cheap souvenirs in Mexico.

If I run for political office, I will ruthlessly try any tactic whether dishonest or not to discredit my opponents. If any crooked allegations are traced back to me, I will deny them.



**Take a look at the  
website!!**

## About the Employee Free Choice Act

A growing, bipartisan coalition of policymakers supports the Employee Free Choice Act, proposed legislation that would ensure that workers have a free choice and a fair chance to form a union. Simply put, the Employee Free Choice Act will allow workers to once again choose to form unions without the fear of being fired.

The legislation would give workers a fair and direct path to form unions through majority sign-up, help employees secure a contract with their employer in a reasonable period of time, and toughen penalties against employers who violate their workers' rights.

Why is this bill so important? It's plain as day: workers are struggling in this country. The Employee Free Choice Act can restore the balance, giving more workers a chance to form unions and get better health care, job security, and benefits – and an opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Protecting the right to form unions is about maintaining the American middle class. It's no coincidence that as union membership numbers fall there are growing numbers of jobs with low pay, poor benefits, and little to no security. More than half of U.S. workers—60 million—say they would join a union right now if they could.

Why? They know that coming together to bargain with employers over wages, benefits, and working conditions is the best path to getting ahead. Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than non-union workers, and are 59 percent more likely to have employer-provided health care. Without labor law reform, economic opportunity for America's working families will continue to erode.

## L.U.126 ACTIVITIES COMING UP IN 2009

### 3RD ANNUAL REDNECK RODEO

JULY 18, 2009

CONTACT: Bernie Kephart at 814-553-2863  
Rich Muttik at 610-489-1185

### 5TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

September 12, 2009 is the date of the Local Union 126, IBEW Golf Outing at the **Limerick Golf Course**. The Golf Outing is arranged by and on behalf of the Lineman's Activity Fund. Proceeds assist in sending our team to the International Lineman's Rodeo.

### Local 380's SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 15 & 16, 2009



### Bechtel Power Circa 1983

Jimmy Day  
Dan Walker  
Larry Mengel  
Stu Keith  
Doug Rapp  
Ron Thomas  
Glen Buchter  
John Owad

## Sun and heat

## Summer Health and Safety Tips

Studies show more than a million cases of the most common forms of skin cancer are diagnosed each year, and that even a few serious sunburns can increase your risk of getting skin cancer. You can protect yourself during the time of day when the sun's UV (ultraviolet) rays are strongest—between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.—by wearing long sleeves and pants, and by applying sunscreen and a protective lip balm with an SPF of 15 or higher. Be sure to reapply frequently, especially after swimming.

Heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States from 1979-1999. Most heat-related deaths occur in the hot summer months, and the elderly, the very young and people with chronic health problems are most at risk. Because even healthy people can fall victim to summer heat, take the following precautions to reduce your risk:

1. Drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic beverages.
2. Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that is light in color.
3. Reduce strenuous activities or do them during the cooler parts of the day.

## Water safety

Thousands of Americans drown each year, and thousands more are injured or killed in boating accidents. Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children age 14 and under. Follow these commonsense precautions for safe summer fun in the water:

1. Always have an adult closely supervise young children any time they are swimming, playing or even bathing in water.
2. Never swim alone or in unsupervised locations. Teach your children to always swim with a buddy. Never drink alcohol before or while swimming, boating or water skiing, and never drink alcohol while supervising children.
3. Learn to swim, as swimming lessons benefit adults and children age 4 and up.
4. Properly maintain your pool to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Never swallow pool, lake or river water.

## Food safety

Summer is the season for outdoor barbecues and picnics; however, food-related illness can put a damper on those outdoor fests. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 76 million Americans get sick from food-related illness every year. More than 300,000 end up hospitalized and about 5,000 die each year from food-borne illness. Protect yourself and your friends and family in these ways:

1. Cook meat, poultry and seafood thoroughly. Use a meat thermometer to be sure your grilled meats are "done." Ground beef, for example, should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Don't cross-contaminate one food with another. Wash your hands, utensils and cutting boards after they have been in contact with raw meat or poultry and before they touch another food.
3. Bacteria can grow quickly at room temperature, so refrigerate leftover foods promptly.
4. Wash produce thoroughly to remove visible dirt, and discard the outermost leaves of a head of lettuce or cabbage.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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