



THE BULLETIN BOARD

L E T T E R

September 2009

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Donald J. Hoak, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Union Sovereignty

On behalf of Local 459, I would like to, most fraternally, thank the following for their assistance during the strike at Penelec/First Energy:

International President Ed Hill
Third District International Vice President Don Siegel
Third District International Staff
International Representatives Mike Welsh, Jim Schlosser and Paul Simon

Local 56 IBEW
Local 126 IBEW
Local 1319 IBEW
Local 5 IBEW
System Council U-3 IBEW
Local 777 IBEW
Local 272 IBEW
Local 29 IBEW
Local 94 IBEW
Local 614 IBEW
Local 1289 IBEW
Local 2180 IBEW
Local 1249 IBEW
Local 143 IBEW
Local 36 IBEW
Local 1637 IBEW
Local 1194 IBEW
Local 83 IBEW
PA State Electrical Workers Assoc.

Great Lakes BCTC and all affiliated
Local Unions
UWUA Local 180
UWUA Local 270 Ashtabula
Service Center
UWUA Local 140
UWUA Local 350
UWUA Local 351
CWA Locals of PA
Ironworkers
Carpenters
Teamsters
Boilermakers
Plumbers and Pipefitters
UMWA
NALC Branch 1495
SEIU 668
ATU 1279
UE
USWA 2635
USWA 6521
AFSCME
Machinists
Teachers
All PA Central Labor Bodies
PA AFL-CIO
DuBois Area Education Association
Ronald and Phyllis Ray
RRI Energy - Seward Power Plant
Employees
Ken and Sally Richards
Bedford Rural Electric Employees
Allegheny Manufacturing and
Electrical Service Employees

RRI Energy - Conemaugh Station
Employees
Coral Energy Employees
Windber Area Auth. Employees
United Electric Employees
City of Warren Employees
REA Energy Indiana Employees
REA Energy Ebensburg Employees
RRI Energy - Keystone Station
Employees
Highland Sewer and Water Auth.
Employees
Warren Electric Coop. Employees
RRI Energy - Shawville Station
Employees
Secretaries of Local 459
Greg Wolf
Don, Karestee and Alexxis Hoak
Northwestern REC Employees
Mobile Maintenance Central
Brookville Shop Employees
Sue Stevens
Dennis Carnahan
Johnstown Regional Central Labor
Council
Northwestern PA Area Labor
Federation
Joseph Antal
Thomas Bell
Harry Sedlmyer
James Sullivan
Mobile Maintenance Keystone
Employees
Bones Sassaman and Alex Bellick
Jr. Families
PA State House & Senate Members

Union Sovereignty (continued)

As everyone can plainly see, Local 459 has many friends that came to our aid in this troublesome time. Our membership's solidarity was second to none and we have every right to be proud of living up to our traditions. Going forward many of our adversaries will try to nullify our accomplishments, as has already begun. Our accomplishments will not be diminished in any way by such folly. We know exactly what occurred during our negotiations and our strike, and we won't be fooled by feeble attempts at a rewrite of the facts after they have been documented for all to see. One must only stop and reflect for a brief moment and the truth will shine through, making such futile attempts to redefine the facts, humorous at best.

We must always remember those that stood with us and do our part when they need us. Never lose sight of how good it felt when someone supported us in the community or on the picket line or at rallies. We must pick up and rush to do the same for them. Organized Labor has many steep hills to climb in this world of corporate greed and excess for those that think they are so much more entitled than us. The battle never ends. Where would we be without our Union? We are, and always will be, up to the task when called upon, either for ourselves or for others.

Union Sovereignty and Solidarity Forever. That's what Local 459 of the IBEW is about and that is pride that cannot be taken away by corporate tyranny which gives us cause to smile when they try.

Thank you to ALL who helped Local 459 during the strike of 2009 against Penelec/First Energy!

The Times "They Are a Changing"

Gregory W. Wolf, Assistant Business Manager, Local 459-Erie

The statement "Lies, damned lies, and statistics" is commonly attributed to Mark Twain and is commonly used to counter arguments by attempting to persuade by ridicule. The current debate on health care is an example gone to the extreme.

One only has to look at their premiums, deductibles and out of pocket expenses to see that the costs are prohibitive and that there hasn't been a light at the end of the tunnel for decades. A simple calculation and not a statistic would show that at the current rate of increases in 15 years would result in more than one-half a working person's hourly rate going to providing their health care. And people do not see that we have a problem.

We see town hall meetings being run rampant by attendees who mock government run health care while at the same time participate in Medicare and extol its virtues but don't see the hypocrisy. At these same meetings we seldom hear how good the medical care, rightfully so, that is provided to the Veterans of our military and do not believe that similar care should be afforded to all Americans.

We hear about Unions and their 'Cadillac' plans, but nothing is said about how wages were given up through negotiations for those plans. Nothing is said about the quality of the care that relegates the United

States to third world status in some categories. Nothing is said about preventative care that is a hallmark of European plans, and nothing is said about those non-vested benefits lost through corporate greed and legal bankruptcy.

Complacency on this issue will not work and apathy will find no home. If you believe decent affordable health care is needed for the future and you do not think that the current status is the way to go, then get active on the political front, demonstrate for your own well being and remember someone did something for you to have what you have. That's what Unions are all about.

United We Bargain.....

Paul L. Cameron
Vice-President/Business Representative

PA AFL-CIO President Bill George made a statement at a conference that stuck with me. He said, "During the revolutionary war this country was basically divided into three groups, those who supported the revolution, those who supported the British and those who did not want to be involved."

With this in my mind, Brother Tony Henry and I took a motorcycle ride to the southwest portion of Pennsylvania, to the site of a 1750's battle. The battle at Fort Necessity in the summer of 1754 was the opening action of the French and Indian War. This war was a clash of British, French and American Indian cultures. It ended with the removal of French power from North America. The action at Fort Necessity was also the first major event in the military career of George Washington. The stage was
(Continued on Page 3.)

United We Bargain.....(continued)

set for the American Revolution.

Tony and I met for this ride on a very sunny and warm Saturday morning. We rode through Ohio State Park on our way to 'The National Road,' today called U.S. Route 40. This was the first highway built entirely with federal funds. The route closely paralleled the military road opened by George Washington and General Braddock in 1754-55.

As always, the topic of discussion between Tony and I shifted to Union issues. We discussed what PA AFL-CIO President Bill George stated about only one-third of the people supporting the American Revolution. Then we talked about the strike that was going on at the time against Penelec. We discussed if this were true today. At that moment, our Local 459 Brothers and Sisters were fighting a battle against an enemy to labor and could we say that 100% of the remaining membership gave their full support? Any steward who collected the much appreciated donations for food knows the answer as do the members who chose NOT to help their Brothers and Sisters in a time of need.

After visiting the reconstructed fort and battlefield, Tony and I continued our ride in the direction of Somerset, PA. Riding through the outskirts of town, we spotted a line crew working near the road. Sure enough it was a scab crew. As we passed, the scabs noticed us and were looking in our direction. As I started to raise my hand, one of them thought he was going to receive a friendly wave, so he was already returning with a friendly wave to me. He soon found my

gesture to be not very friendly at all, and just in case he was not sure, Tony gave him the same.

.....**Divided we beg.**

Labor Day

Kenneth L. Richards, President/Assistant Business Manager/Editor

I am sure by the time this newsletter is out to the membership, the Labor Day holiday will be behind us. Local 459 and all of the Officers and Staff hope everyone had a happy holiday. Labor Day is not just a day off or a day that most of our collective bargaining agreements recognize. It is a day we should celebrate the history of the entire labor movement along with the founding of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. This is a day when people before us worked side by side to build strength of their union and by doing so, they built strength of this country. Without unions, there would be no overtime pay, no health care benefits, no safe work sites, etc., and the list goes on. Things like this weren't just handed to us. People fought hard and sacrificed a lot to get to where we are today with the quality of life we enjoy. Our predecessors understood how standing alone as one, we could accomplish great things.

One of our units recently went on strike against their employer. It takes great courage to take a stand and those members were up to the challenge. They stood strong together and showed great support to the leadership. The unit had much support from other I.B.E.W. locals near and far. Much support came from some of our other units. We need to thank each and everyone who supported the strike. Thanks to all!

On Labor Day we need to sit back and reflect on how it is up to us to keep the spirit alive and by doing so, we will be able to bargain with greater strength. When we celebrate the holiday in the future, think about the true meaning of the day and how we belong to the greatest union in the U.S.A. - the I.B.E.W.

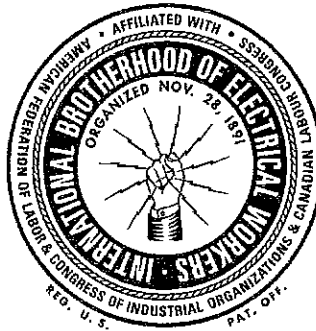


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As a program of the TRCP, USA is non-partisan and does not take positions on political, legislative or policy issues. Nor does the USA endorse or support any candidates or political parties. All legislative, policy or grassroots activities are confined to the TRCP's conservation agenda. TRCP strongly supports the 2nd amendment, but focuses exclusively on conservation and access issues. The above statement does not apply, in any way, to how USA's participating unions communicate with their members on political, legislative or policy issues.

By joining the USA, you automatically become a TRCP Partner at no additional charge. You will be able to join directly in TRCP's grassroots driven efforts to guarantee all Americans a place to hunt and fish. Learn more about the TRCP's mission at: www.trcp.org.

**International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers
AFL-CIO
Local Union 459
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**The Bulletin Board is the official
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ATTEND YOUR MONTHLY UNION MEETINGS

1ST Thursday

4:00 PM Executive Board

2ND Monday

7:00 PM Northwest District
(Erie/ Warren)

2ND Wednesday

7:00 PM Central District
(Clearfield)

2ND Thursday

7:00 PM Northeast District
(Towanda)

3RD Thursday

7:00 PM Southwest District
(Johnstown)

DON'T LOSE

YOUR VOICE



ATTEND YOUR

UNION MEETINGS