

**local**

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 1547

# communications

Unity in Action • May 2010

**Inside this Issue:  
Spotlight  
on Unit 102  
Fairbanks**

## LINEMAN CLASS OF 2010

*Deb Kelly, Ian Whitmore,  
Travis Bonnet, Instructor Pete Leov.*

## LINEMAN CLASS OF 2010

*Josh Henrick, Garrette Francis, Jacob  
Soboleff, Steven Johnson,  
Jeremiah Mullican,  
Ricky Richardson.*



## Business Manager's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Health insurance reform remains a hot topic for everyone in this country. After years of Americans begging for reform, it has finally happened. I think it's safe to say that there is no perfect solution, but we finally have something to work with and we must stay informed

and involved to be sure the issue continues to get the attention it deserves.

Many of the changes are taking place or will take place this year with many more scheduled for the years to come. All people with pre-existing conditions will now be eligible for coverage, including children. There is relief for seniors when their prescription costs hit

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## business manager's message cont'd

the "Donut Hole." Coverage can no longer be dropped when people get sick.

In order to bring down the cost of health-care, plans that spend too much on overhead must provide consumer rebates. These are just a few of the provisions provided for in this bill.

Summer in Alaska is short and I hope you all enjoy it to the fullest extent. The Summer Solidarity Picnic, sponsored by IBEW 1547 and approximately 20 other unions, will be held in Anchorage on Sunday, June 27 from noon to 4pm on the Delaney Park Strip. There will be live music, games for the kids, lots of door prizes and free food for your entire family.

When we come together for this event, we hope you will not only have a good time with your



friends and loved ones, but that you will remember the meaning of "solidarity."

As union members, we have a common interest—to strive to improve the working conditions

and salaries for working families, thereby improving our quality of life. We accomplish this through unity, solidarity and action. Solidarity means that our union stands for stability, trustworthiness and integrity. Let's remember this on the job and in our daily lives.

I hope you enjoy your summer and can take advantage of any sunny days that come our way.

In Solidarity,

*Larry Bell*  
Larry Bell

## Susan Reeves Elected to CEA Board

Anchorage Attorney, Susan Reeves, was recently elected to the Chugach Electric Association Board. Reeves finished first in a four person race with 5,408 votes.

Reeves is a partner in Reeves Amodio LLC. Her firm practice concentrates in Natural Law. She has extensive experience in



permitting, including assessing compliance with federal and state environmental laws and leases.

Anti-union incumbent, Alex Gimarc, was rejected after serving one term on the board.

After the election, Jim Nordlund was voted board Chairman; Janet Reiser was elected Vice Chair; and Susan Reeves was elected Treasurer.



## how to contact your union

Anchorage - Unit 101  
3333 Denali Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone 272-6571 • Fax 777-7255

Fairbanks - Unit 102  
2000 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Phone 456-4248 • Fax 456-4292

Juneau - Unit 103  
813 W. 12th  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone 586-3050 • Fax 586-9614

Ketchikan - Unit 104  
317 Stedman  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Phone 225-1547 • Fax 225-3924

If you would like to submit information to "Local Communications" please contact:

Communications Director  
Melinda Taylor  
mtaylor@ibew1547.org  
777-7248

Community Relations Coordinator  
Jackie Endsley  
jendsley@ibew1547.org  
777-7257

For your convenience, you can now reach us by dialing toll free 1-888-563-1547 within the State of Alaska. If you want to reach the Anchorage Office, please press 1, for the Fairbanks Office, please press 2, for the Juneau Office press 3 and for the Ketchikan Office, press 4.

# Local Update

## Notar Drags Up

**Mike Notar**, Assistant Business Manager for Unit 103 in Juneau has retired. Mike has been IBEW's Unit 103 Business Manager for 15 years and is a 33 year member of 1547.

Mike was initiated on May 1, 1977 as a Journeyman Wireman.

During his tenure, he has gone beyond the call of duty representing IBEW 1547's members in Juneau. Mike will be remembered for his dedication to his union, as well as for his good humor, laughter and positive attitude. He will be greatly missed and we send good wishes for a happy and productive retirement.

## 1547 Member Publishes Book

IBEW Member, **Mark McKinney**, and his wife, Josie, (below) are releasing their first book, "Alimar's Quest, Book 1, Asteria's Last Hope." It is the first in an Epic fantasy series for adult and young adult readers. The book is available online at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com or at your local bookstore.

More information can be found at [www.alimarsquest.com](http://www.alimarsquest.com).



Above: The ever resourceful Notar uncorks a wine bottle with his teeth at the Unit 103 Picnic.

## 101 COMM CLASS OF 2010:

Left: Tim Digan, instructor Bill Merry, Jason Huseman, Cassidy Deckert, Shaun Rodgers, Chad Botirius, Shawn Woodhead, Ricky Lusk, Dennis Kananowicz, Bobby Hale and Director Dave McAllen.



101 WIREMAN CLASS OF 2010: Above - Bottom row (l to r): Gwen Beecher, Mike Basargin, Jarred Calcote, Eric Urena, Sabastian Lennon-Rodriguez. Top Row: Business Manager Larry Bell, Patricia Bravo, Louis Young, James Bysheim, Kyle May, Terrance Trudell, James Calhoun, Allan Rusenstrom, John Wallace, Matt Zabinko, Kalen Glover, Steven Wright, Richard Bekoalok, Dawn Brender, Director Dave McAllen, NECA Chapter Manager Steve Boyd and Elliott Marlow.



## Staff Update



**Brett Allio** (left) was recently named Assistant Business Manager for Unit 103 in Juneau. He

Unit 104 in Ketchikan.

Engineer II, **Dusty Menafee**, (right) has been named Chief Shop Steward for Anchorage Municipal Light and Power.



replaces Mike Notar.

**Jay Rhodes**, (right) Mechanic, was recently named Community and Membership Development Coordinator for



Unit 102 recently presented a donation to the the Morris Thompson Visitor and Cultural Center to go towards completion of the of the exhibits at the facility.

Local 1547 has been a supporter of the project throughout the planning and construction phases, but decided to get more involved when members of the local toured the exhibits.

*Left to right, Jay Quakenbush, Charlene Marth (President of the Board of Directors of the Morris Thompson Center, Tony Delia (Director of Special Projects and Employment & Training Department for the Tanana Chiefs) Karm Singh, Cindy Schumaker (Executive Director of the MTC) and John Feree.*



Labor Unions played a significant role in the construction of the center. The facility was completed ahead of schedule and under budget in September 2008. Said Assistant Business Manager, Jay Quakenbush, "When we walked into the exhibit, a few jaws dropped. The exhibits reflect our members' lives, the industries we work in, how we enjoy the outdoors, the hunting, fishing... We wanted to do all we could to make sure the exhibit was finished."

## IBEW Powers Up Fish Hatchery Project

IBEW is helping power up the Fairbanks Ruth Burnett Sports Fish Hatchery. The hatchery will grow six species of cold water fish including: Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake trout, rainbow trout, chinook salmon and coho salmon. The goal is to double the amount of fish stocked in Interior lakes due to the high demand. At its peak, the \$46 million project employed 12 wiremen.



*Journeyman Philip McFadden (left) and Steve Shaver (right) at the Fairbanks Hatchery.*



*Members of Unit 102 March in the 2009 Labor Day Parade. Fairbanks has the largest Labor Day Parade in the State of Alaska.*

## Community in Action

Unit 102 regularly participates in Clean Up Day. This year, over 50 IBEW members gathered on Saturday, May 8 and cleaned approximately 10 miles of road in Fairbanks.

Throughout the summer, Unit 102 allows various youth organizations to use their parking lot for weekend car washes. Since the Fairbanks Hall is in such a visible location, it is the perfect place to hold their car wash fundraisers.

The Unit 102 Summer picnic will be held Sunday, June 27th from noon until 5 p.m. at the Kornfiend Training Center in Fairbanks. For more information, call the Training Center at (907)479-4449.

*Members of Unit 102 help out on Fairbanks Clean Up Day.*



# Spotlight on Unit 102 • Life on the Northern Tier

# Labor in Action

## Unions Boycott Anchorage Area Hotels

The Anchorage Hilton and Sheraton Hotels remain under boycott by the Alaska AFL-CIO.

UNITE-HERE Local 878 has been bargaining with the Sheraton since last June. Recently, four hotel workers were wrongfully terminated for handing out union material.

UNITE-HERE 878 has been bargaining for more than one year with the Hilton. During that time, the company has imposed work rules not mutually agreed upon.

Union members are asked not to attend events at either one of these facilities.

## Local 1547 Joins Fight for Freedom of Speech



Laborers Local 71 Business Mgr. Bob Johnson joins Local 1547 member Laura Bonner at the rally.

IBEW Local 1547 joined a statewide campaign to fight a ballot initiative

on the August 24th ballot.

Ballot Measure 7, also known as the Gag Law, is being funded by an East Coast multi-millionaire named Howie Rich. Rich has a history of pushing anti-worker laws around the country.

IBEW opposes the Gag Law because it will silence the political free speech of any entity that has a collective bargaining agreement with the government, while still permitting wealthy people who do not have contracts with the state to donate to campaigns and buy access to politicians.

## Obama Clears Way for Federal Project Labor Agreements

The Obama administration in late April issued a rule that will allow federal agencies to sign Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on large-scale public construction projects.

PLAs are pre-hire agreements that establish the terms and conditions of employment for a specific project. They're generally known for producing "on time, on budget" results.

Mark Ayers, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, welcomed the administration's action, noting that PLAs "have proven over and over that they are a valuable, market-based tool that ensures superior jobsite management, project efficiencies, and workforce productivity and development."

## Women, 78 Cents; Men, \$1.00

April 20 marked catchup day for women's pay — the day on which women workers completed the nearly 16 months of work that brought them up to what men were paid in just 12. Put another way, for every dollar men made last year, women made just 78 cents, so it takes women more than a year and one-quarter to make what men earn in just one year.

According to the most recent data available (2008) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median wages of full-time, year-round workers that year stood at \$35,745 for women and \$46,367 for men.

## End Run Around Partisan Politics Puts NLRB Back in Business

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is back in business.

For more than two years, partisan political maneuvering had kept the five-member board at only two, effectively crippling its ability to function. But Pres. Obama did an end run around the Senate during its Easter recess and slipped two more appointees into place.

The two are former union attorneys: Craig Becker, who most recently worked for the Service Employees union, and Mark G. Pearce, who represented a variety of unions while in private practice in the Buffalo, N.Y. area.

## Administration Moves Ahead To Kill Anti-Union Scheme

The Obama administration is a step closer to killing off a George W. Bush-era scheme that reimburses federal contractors for their expenses in waging anti-union campaigns. Under that program, bitterly attacked by labor when first put in place, federal contractors are able to use taxpayer dollars to hire union-busting consulting firms, produce anti-union materials, pay the wages of workers forced to attend anti-union meetings, and many other anti-worker/anti-union activities.

## Court Sides With OSHA On Worker Safety Rules

A federal appeals court has upheld the power of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to determine how to draft and uphold workplace safety rules. The decision marked a major win for workers, thousands of whom die on the job every year.

# 1547 in the Community



## Local 1547 Journeymen Share Skills with the Next Generation

Hundreds of young adults from around Southcentral high schools attended the 2010 Alaska Construction Careers Days in the Mat-Su Valley. Both Matanuska Telephone Association and the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Training Trust had journeyman linemen, residential installation & repair technicians and splicers on site for demonstrations.



## NECA/IBEW holds Science Fair at Denali Elementary School

This year the NECA/IBEW's School Business Partnership with Denali Elementary School continues to be a huge success via our sponsorship of Math and Science activities in addition to other projects. This year, Denali had the highest number of kids participating in the science fair compared to other schools in the district.



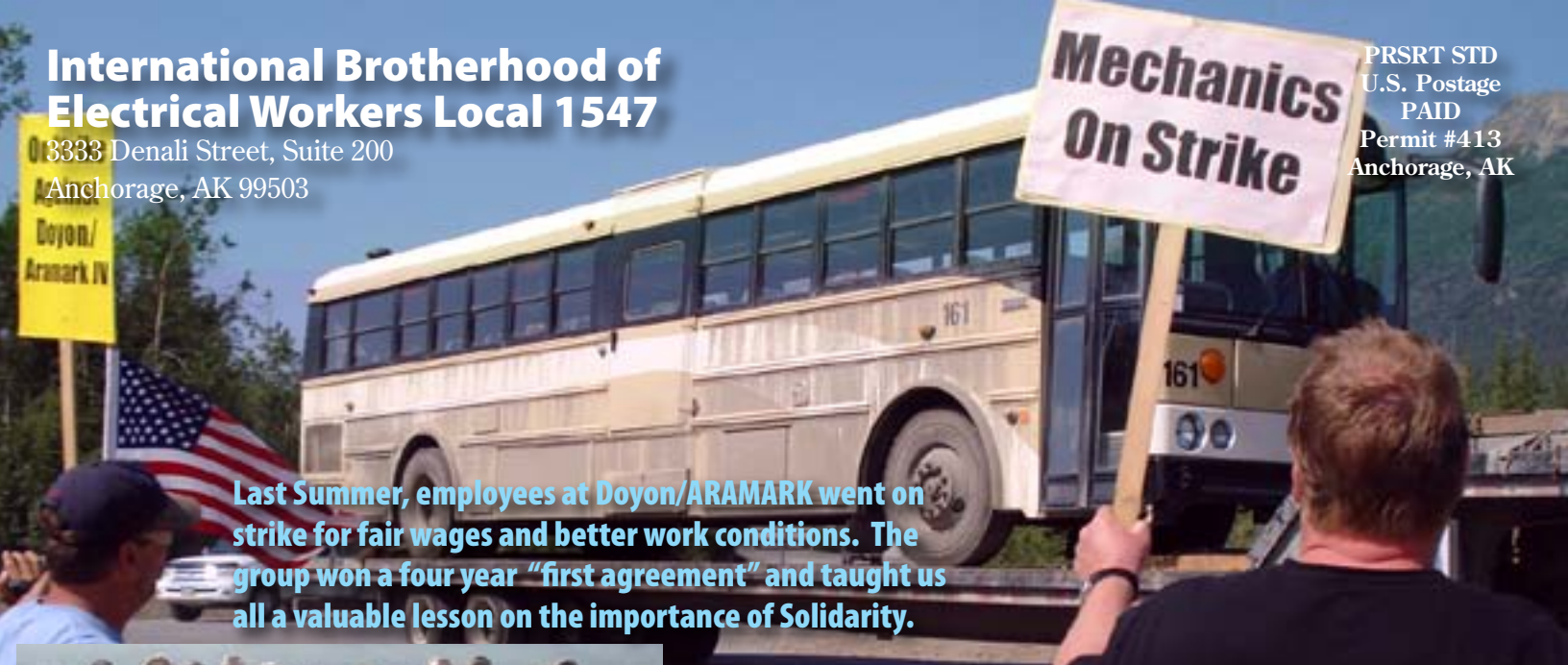
IBEW 1547 member, Dora Wilson, was one of the judges.



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547

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Last Summer, employees at Doyon/ARAMARK went on strike for fair wages and better work conditions. The group won a four year "first agreement" and taught us all a valuable lesson on the importance of Solidarity.



## Local 1547 is a Proud Sponsor of the 2010 Ketchikan CHARR Derby



Two years ago, IBEW kid, 9 year old Gage Heath, son of Local 1547 member Dan Heath was crowned King of the Charr Salmon Derby by reeling in a 42.7 pound King. The 2010 tournament starts at the end of May over Memorial Day weekend and continues for the following two weekends. For more information on the Derby call Denny or Ginger at (907)225-1547. Top prize \$5,000!

## Upcoming 1547 Picnics

- Unit 103 - Sunday, June 6, Juneau
- Unit 102 - Sunday, June 27, Fairbanks
- Unit 101 - (Solidarity Picnic w/other Unions) Sunday, June 27
- Unit 104 - August 21, Ketchikan



L to R: Apprentices Michael Basargin, Dylan Finnigan and Journeyman Dennis Traylor work the grill at the 2009 Picnic.