

## IBEW Local 245



# SPOTLIGHT

LABOR UNIONS MEAN BROTHERHOOD AND BROTHERHOOD MUST FIRST BE IN YOUR MIND AND HEART.

Ray Zychowicz ..... President  
 Bob Coffman..... Vice President  
 George Wynn, Jr. .... Rec. Secretary  
 Larry Tscherne

.....Fin. Secretary & Bus. Manager

Phil LaCourse.....Asst. Business Manager

Ken Erdmann.....Asst. Business Manager

Phil LaCourse.....Treasurer

#### Executive Board:

John Carman, David Kebker,

Chuck Modrowski, Jack Schell,

Duane Gottschalk, Mike Tackett,

Jeromey Acosta

**Meets 2nd Thursday**

**Every Month**

#### Seasons Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

*Larry's  
Corner*

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well this holiday season. Here we are at the end of another year and ready to welcome in the New Year. As I reflect on this past year it has been a good year in terms of safety, employment and new members.

First, I am pleased to report that we did not have any type of serious injuries and would like to again remind you to continue to work safely, take no short cuts, and use all of your safety equipment at all times.

Also, this past year, we were happy to report on our two newest apprenticeship programs, the Substation Journeyman Program and the Traffic Signal Street Lighting Journeyman Program. As we continue to work with the different contracts, many of the past challenges have remained, and with more change in the near future. I can remember writing about and discussing the changes that were on the horizon on the Broadcast side of our Local and the industry back in 1999. Today we are experiencing for the first time a change in the way the stations are doing business. Our members are not only faced with new equipment, but also automation, which are going to amount to a reduction in jobs. Also this year we saw the sale of our WNWO TV 24 station to Barrington Broadcast and the sale of WTOL TV 11 Liberty Corp. to Raycom Media.

In many areas our members continue to be faced with inadequate company training. Even though providing the training is out of our control, we have continued to talk with the employers about the need to provide the training that is necessary to perform our jobs safely and with the skills and experience that is needed to be proficient. A lack of respect toward our members also continues to be an issue with some of our employers. Even though you are told continually how important you are to the company, they still seem to take you for granted and treat you without the respect you deserve. That continues to be very troubling to me personally and I simply do not know how to fix it or make them change. Hopefully someday they will come to realize what an asset you truly are to the company.

This year also saw a big swing in our State and National elections. I would like to thank all of you that took the time to vote this past November and also thank all that helped in so many ways to get our message out. As I have said many times we have to continue to elect and work with our elected officials who are sensitive to the causes of us the working men and women who value true working family issues such as affordable health care, social security, the right to our pensions and the list goes on. Only time will tell whether the new 110<sup>th</sup> Congress will follow through with our message and hopefully improve the lives that desperately need it.

On more of a personal note, I would like to welcome all of the new members and your family's who have come into Local 245 and ask that if you have not been sworn-in please try and attend our monthly meeting which is held on the second Thursday of each month and do so. Along that same line I remind the rest of the membership to do the same. Remember your union is only as strong as its membership.

A special thank you for all of your generosity in monetary contributions and canned goods that were collected for the Tom Ellenwood family that was our adopted family for Thanksgiving holiday. I would also ask that you keep Tom and his family in your thoughts and prayers along with Brother Jack Beard who passed away on December 4th and Brother Vince Broud who underwent surgery and is now recovering.

I would like to thank our officers, stewards and committee members who have worked so hard this past year trying to make a difference. Also a thank you to Kelli, Lisa, Phil and Ken for all of your time and hard work, you have truly made a difference. And last but not least thank you to you the members for your support, understanding and confidence. It is extremely humbling to serve you and look forward to working just as hard in the New Year. On behalf of our officers, stewards, Kelli, Lisa, Ken, Phil and I we wish you and your family's a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Happy Holiday's,

*Larry Tscherne*

Larry J. Tscherne  
Business Manager

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you.

I hope that, as of this writing, I find all of you well and looking forward to the upcoming Holidays. It is a good time for all of us to reflect to close family, old friends, people that you work with or have worked with, and those who have left us. If you really stop and think for a moment, we are all pretty fortunate to have our health, our families and loved ones and a means to support our families and our life styles.

Recently, we completed our 71/245-A Ohio Utility Power and URD Agreements that will go into effect January 1, 2007. We were able to negotiate a 5 1/2% increase for the first year and a 5 1/4% increase for the second year of a two year agreement. All has not been decided as to how much will go on wages and what percentage will go to retirement.

After we completed negotiations and I see the same dismal showings at your Union Meetings and few Brothers and Sisters thanking us for a good wage increase, the start of three new apprenticeship programs and other improvements to those agreements, several thoughts come to me. After the groundwork was laid by our Fore and Founding Fathers, it seems that all of this is just taken for granted and these enhancements should just happen, just because and that we are all just entitled and automatically these good contracts, working conditions and good wages should be freely given. Then I ask myself and a few others, when are people going to step up and take an active role in their Local Union, who will follow me and other Officers and when will people start being grateful for the Union Movement and all that this and other Unions provide to them? For myself, I have provided a good home to my family, good educational opportunities to my Sons, a steady income to support all of this and have always been grateful to my Union for all that it has done for my Family and others. Local 245 has not only helped me to provide for my Family, but, has also given me the training that made me a skilled craftsman to demand the wages that are warranted, safe working conditions for me and my fellow workers, representation if we are injured, support to families in need, a true community partner, continued education for all of our Members and the list goes on and on. Do you get the picture? The Local Union needs you to participate, GET INVOLVED, make a difference, be a positive influence, and help others enjoy the great life style that we all have.

We are currently working on several different Organizing Campaigns and you wouldn't believe

what fulfillment that you feel when you help others get a fair wage, a voice in the workplace and good benefits. Things again that sometimes we all take for granted. Hopefully, this message will ring through and we will see a renewed interest in your Local Union and more participation in the coming years.

As I already have mentioned, we have recently completed the Toledo Commercial, the 71 / 245 A, Substation & URD, with substantial increases in wages and language. We will soon be sitting down with Hancock – Wood Co-Op and the Rossford Firefighters. We are anticipating relaxed and productive negotiations with these employers.

Currently we have 26 ALBAT Apprentices and have 2 recent graduations to Journeyman Lineman. They are Brad Dusseau and Shane Elton, Brad in November and Shane in December. Congratulations to both of you and continue to learn and work safely.

On a sad note, Brother Jack Beard passed away on December 4th, 2006. Jack recently lost his wife Marion and became ill and succumbed to cancer last Monday. Jack was a 30 year member of IBEW Local 245 and was a Journeyman Lineman. Jack will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Also, keep in your thoughts and prayers Brother Vince Broud who is hospitalized and has undergone surgery just last week. Brother Broud is an active member of IBEW Local 245 and was a past Executive Board Member, elected to that position several times representing the Outside Branch here at local 245. We hope for you Vince, a speedy and full recovery. Also, keep in your thoughts, Brother's Don Chevalier, recently had a heart attack and is recovering at home, Jon LaCourse, had a recent knee injury on the job and will be back to work soon and Jay Carpenter, had an injury on the job and is recuperating from a broken leg. We wish for all of you a full and speedy recovery.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Please remember those in need and pray that our men and women in uniform to return soon and safely from their service to our country.

Fraternally,  
Phil LaCourse



Asst. Business Manager  
IBEW Local Union 245

President's  
Points

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Ohio State wins the big ten and is headed to the championship game, the Democrats win back the house and the Senate, and life is good. Now is not the time to relax or bask in the glory of our victories, we have a job to do and just like the Buckeyes they can't let their guard down and neither can we. We must use the momentum of this election to make the politicians address our needs. It took a lot of effort to get these people into office and we need to make it clear to them what it is going to take for them to remain there. This can be done through letters, telephone calls, e-mails or as part of a much bigger organization such as "Working Families activist network" (a link to this can be found on the Internationals web site at [www.ibew.com](http://www.ibew.com)). While speaking of effort I would like to personally thank Ken Erdmann and all of the Local Union 245 volunteers who worked so hard to make this election a success.

On another note, I have been encouraged by the turn out at the local union meetings lately. We are starting to see some young new faces. We need to get our new members as well as our old involved in the union. Just like everyone else, we have an aging workforce and with a number of negotiations going on there is a lot to learn about the current contract climate. I will be looking for people for the First Energy negotiations later this year. Those interested should contact Larry or myself.

In closing I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. And remember as bad as we have it sometimes there is always someone who has it worse, reach out and touch someone this holiday season.

## Thank You

A big thank you goes out to the following volunteers listed below for their generosity and help for participating in the Salvation Army "Adopt A Kettle" on November 24<sup>th</sup>. I would also like to thank Lisa and Kelli for helping with the scheduling.

Rhonda Hermes, Bo and Dane Puckett	
Andy Horvath	Art Laonde
Bill Mata	Ken Erdmann
Larry Tscherne	Greg Walters
and Jill	and Danielle
George Wynn	Scott McCarty
Roger Fox	

Thank you again for all your help in making this a successful charity drive.

Fraternally,

  
Ray Zychowicz  
President

I want to give a personal thanks to all of you who voted November 7<sup>th</sup> and thank all of you who encouraged your family members to vote. I also want to give a special thanks to all of our members who volunteered in Labor walks and Phone Banking in this past election cycle. Your efforts made a difference. This year we had a good number of our members help in this election cycle. I would also like to thank all of the members who helped distribute flyers to other members. If we all help a little then a lot can be accomplished.

Our local has been involved in state and local political activity supporting the efforts of the Ohio AFL-CIO; we have been a part of the Steering Committee for the largest political activity in the Ohio AFL-CIO's history. We have been recognized by the 4<sup>th</sup> district of the IBEW and also by the AFL-CIO for our participation and commitment. This is an accomplishment that we all can be proud of but this would not have happened without the help of our members.

The exit polls show that Union families are 23% of all votes cast. Out of that number union families supported Democratic candidates by 65 percent to 33 percent – a 32-point margin! Nonunion voters (the other 77%) supported Democrats by 52 percent to 47 percent, a 5-point margin. These numbers show that union families provided two-thirds of the Democratic victory. This was accomplished by all of our union brothers from all of organized labor pulling together to support the common good of working families.

What we as a Union need to keep in mind when it comes to election of political candidates is which candidates when elected will work for the interests of working families and retirees. We must remember that big business corporations have nearly unlimited financial resources and big business will use its finances to lobby politicians to enact laws that will improve their profits. Profits are important to big corporations and we as Unionists should not try to stop profits, we should be working hard everyday for our employers to improve their profits. Company profits should be distributed to all areas of a company and not just to the senior executives and share holders, but profits should also go to the dedicated hard working people who help make those profits. Many politicians allow corporations to inject huge amounts of money into their campaigns to get them reelected so they can continue to enact more laws that make it harder for working families to improve their wages, benefits, and working conditions. When we elect politicians who truly work for their constituents the voters and not the big money contributors, we are helping to balance the power in America and giving working families a better chance to improve the lives of our families. We as Labor in America can improve our political system by getting involved, it takes very little time if everyone helps in a small way. Always remember that corporate America may have the money but we have the

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votes. Let's continue to stand up for ourselves and be heard.

There are many things that you can do that won't take a lot of time or money to get involved. If you don't have a computer and access to the Internet please look into installing one in your home. From the Internet you can find many ways to become informed and voice your concerns with our politicians. We can and want to help you with these Internet contacts. Contact us through our web site or e-mail address we would be honored to help you get started.

With Gods Grace and your help by contacting our politicians, we can insure that our elected officials make moral decisions to contain corruption and greed in our government. Unionism stands for truth and justice. Our Union forefathers have been leading watch dogs helping working families for over 100 years. Our fight will never end because of the greed and pursuit for power of the rich. This election cycle made a difference. Let's continue to stand together and fight for our families and our rights.

May you and your family have a Joyous Christmas Season and Blessed New Year.

Fraternally,

Ken J. Erdmann  
Assistant Business Manager

**Reach Your Goals at Super Fitness**

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**\$15.00 per month\***

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FREE Nutritional Guidance  
2 Convenient Locations  
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\*Must be 18 years old \*Must be a first time visitor \*Must show proof of employment  
\*Must be EFT \*28 month agreement \* Enrollment fee due at time of signing \*Offer expires December 28, 2006

Local 245 and Super Fitness Health have worked together to offer all of our members 50% off the price of a membership to their two facilities. Normal price is \$30.00 per month but if you tell them that you and anyone in your family is a Local 245 member you will get the membership for \$15.00 per month.

## Dues Increase Effective January 1, 2007

Please be advised that at the IBEW International Convention that was held in September of this year, it was voted on to raise the Per-Capita portion of the Union Dues, which will go into effect on **January 1, 2007**. Therefore the entire increase will be forwarded to the International Office.

Below please find the increases, which are broke down by your membership type:

**“A” Membership – Increased by \$1.70 per month**

\$1.00 will go towards the per-capita portion and \$.70 will go towards your pension.

**Outside Members – New dues rate will be \$29.00 per month plus 2% of gross wages.**

**All other members – New dues rate will be \$1.70 more per month.**

**“BA” Membership – Increased by \$1.00 per month**

\$1.00 will go towards the per capita portion.

**All members – New dues rate will be \$1.00 more per month.**

Should you have any questions about the new dues rates or about what membership type you are, please feel free to contact the Union office and speak to either Lisa or Kelli or myself and we will be more than happy to help you out.

Fraternally,

Larry J. Tscherne  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

# WE SALUTE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE CELEBRATED SERVICE ANNIVERSARY'S FOR THE YEAR OF 2006.

## 5 years

Christopher Bowlick	Matthew Bradfield
Michelle Brenot-Acino	James Brinkman
Daniel Camacho	Jeffrey Carr
Donald Chevalier	Brian Dauer
Michael Decker	Gregory Fox
Monica Franklin	Carl Freeman
Jeremy Geyer	Cari Grzechowiak
Randy Harris	Steven Head
Anthony Hoellrich	Charles Hooven
Michael Johnson	David Kenyon
Eric Kovacs	Kevin Krygielski
James Limes	Richard Long
Tommy Lucas	Kenneth Martien
Santos Martinez III	Rebecca Maylish
David Miller	Allen Roth
Robert Russell	Robert Sampsel
Terry Sarnowski	Lawrence Schneider
Gary Scott	James Smith
Steven Smith	Gabriel Somogyi
Robert Sutton	Edward Thieret
Kelli Way	

Michael McGhee  
Thomas Osborn  
Billy Reeves  
Edward Spitler  
Christopher Sutter  
Frank Trigaux  
Gary Valentine  
Larry Wegener  
Leonard Wise  
Robert Yenrick  
James Zippel

Loren Moore  
Thomas Purdue  
Stephen Smoot  
Jeffrey Sutphin  
Harry Teeple  
Don Upton  
Paul Vincent  
Jerry Williams  
Larry Wylie  
Randall Zeman  
Mark Zippel

## 25 years

William Bishop	David Bonner
Randall Christie	Mike Claucherty
Paul Diserio	Steven Fisher
Steven Kirian	Lawrence Krehmke
Thomas Luce	Dennis McConnell
Clarence Norman	Annette Overman
Moses Rodriguez	Steven Rosinski
Michael Skrzyniecki	Daniel Turner
Dale Wineland	

## 10 years

Robert Dellinger	John Finch
Bert Huff	Scott Lipinski
Emile McAnespy	Shawn Meckfessel
Ronald Schuh	Lawrence Stephens

## 30 years

Joseph Alvarado	Jack Beard
John Berger	Vincent Broud
Neil Cliff	Jim Johnson
Dennis Jones	John Kohlman
David LaPorte	Raymond Mathews
Thomas Mulkey	Robert Rice
Wally Rodriguez	Terrance Smith
John Staton	Kenneth Vincent
James Vogelbacher	Wayne Wiedenheft
Robert Wiggins	

## 15 years

Robert Berry	Jeffrey Cioroch
John Danklefsen	Michael Keith
Blake Kuntz	Joseph Lochotzki
Larry Merrick	Michael Mitchey
Joel Reeder	John Rodriguez
Karl Sherer	Michael Tackett
David Young	

## 35 years

Ronald Hearson	Alva Heller
John Hoffmann	Philip LaCourse
Dennis Marten	Dwight McCaster
Eddie Mikels	Robert Montgomery
Todd Rose	Gary Susor
Terence Szymczak	

## 20 years

David Apling	John Baker
Randy Barnett	Frank Bracken
Ken Erdmann	Orlando Garza
Robert Gregory	George Hall
Jay Hasselbach	Rudy Hernandez
Richard Hoffman	David Jaegle
Jack Kinser	Richard Koralewski
Harold LaPlante	Mark Mallernee

## 40 years

Gary Emch	Richard Vollmer
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**International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers**

LOCAL 245

705 Lime City Road Rossford, Ohio 43460

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Postal Charges**



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New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Local 245 Agenda**

- Dec. 9 – ALBAT @ 9 a.m.
- Dec. 12 – Retirees Meeting @ 10:30 a.m
- Dec. 12 – Executive Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 – Regularly scheduled Local 245  
Union Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 – ALBAT @ 9 a.m.
- Dec. 25 – Office Closed - Christmas
- Jan. 1, '07 – Office Closed - New Years Day
- Jan. 9 – Retirees Meeting @ 10:30 a.m
- Jan. 9 – Executive Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- Jan. 11 – Regularly scheduled Local 245  
Union Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 13 – ALBAT @ 9 a.m.
- Jan. 20 – ALBAT @ 9 a.m.
- Jan. 23 – Executive Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.

**ALL THE OFFICERS, STAFF AND MEMBERS OF  
IBEW LOCAL 245 WISH ALL OF YOU A SAFE AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAY!!!!!!!!!!**