



VOLUME XXXII

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

# LOCAL 5 NEWS & VIEWS



IBEW Local 5 Meeting Hall, Training Center, And Headquarters Building 5 Hot Metal Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355



OCTOBER 2009

## AFL-CIO OFFICERS ELECTED

At the 2009 AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh, delegates elected a historic ticket. Our new President, Richard Trumka, will be joined in leadership by two women, Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker. Shuler, 39, is the youngest person ever to become an officer of the AFL-CIO. The dynamic team will lead the union movement into an exciting future.

Trumka, previously served as AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, Shuler, formerly the executive assistant to Electrical Workers (IBEW) President Edwin Hill, and Holt-Baker, who was re-elected as executive vice president, were voted into office by acclamation.

Trumka reflected on his upbringing in a union family in Western Pennsylvania and talked about the changes and challenges that we as a union movement are facing.

Even though the face of the American labor movement has changed, one thing hasn't; It's that the surest, the fastest, most effective way to lift workers and our families into the middle-class is with the strength that can only, only come with a union contract.

And, sisters and brothers, that fundamental truth hasn't been more critical to the future of this country than it is right now because, today, the American middle-class isn't being squeezed—we are being crushed.

The mirage of prosperity through borrowed money has dissolved—and now we're left with the reality of a hollowed-out economy and a broken financial system.

Even though it wasn't the labor move-

ment that got us into this mess, we are the people who are going to lead America out of it. But we can only do it if we seize this moment—we can only do it if we act now—we can only do it if we provide the leadership working Americans are demanding.

Well, today I'm telling you that we will seize this moment. We will act, we will lead, and, by God, we will win! The American labor movement can turn our country around—and together that's exactly what we're going to do!

But to do it, we need a new kind of labor movement—one shaped to meet the needs of Americans in a changing economy.

Trumka was nominated by outgoing AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, who praised his energy and dedication.

Shuler promised she would manage the AFL-CIO's finances responsibly and transparently, accountable to members, and she would make it a top priority to reach out to young

workers to sustain unions for future generations.

We need to revitalize and unify labor at every level. We need to reach out to unorganized workers—especially those under 35—who, for whatever reason, don't see us as the answer to the economic problems they face.

We know what young people are capable of—we worked side by side with them last year in a political campaign to make real change happen. We watched them organize and spread a message of hope to the American people, and we've got to build on those bonds of solidarity that were forged in the heat of the campaign.

Shuler's name was placed into nomination by Hill, who spoke of her energy and organizing skills, calling her "the right choice at this pivotal time":

Liz Shuler is going to do for you what she has done for us, be part of a team that will confront all obstacles,

win new victories and promote the solidarity and spirit that represent the best of our movement.

Holt-Baker said that her mission would be passage of the Employee Free Choice Act and reaching out to a new generation of workers, to give them a chance at the American dream.

We're not just concerned about labor's family. Our fight is really about ensuring life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all families.

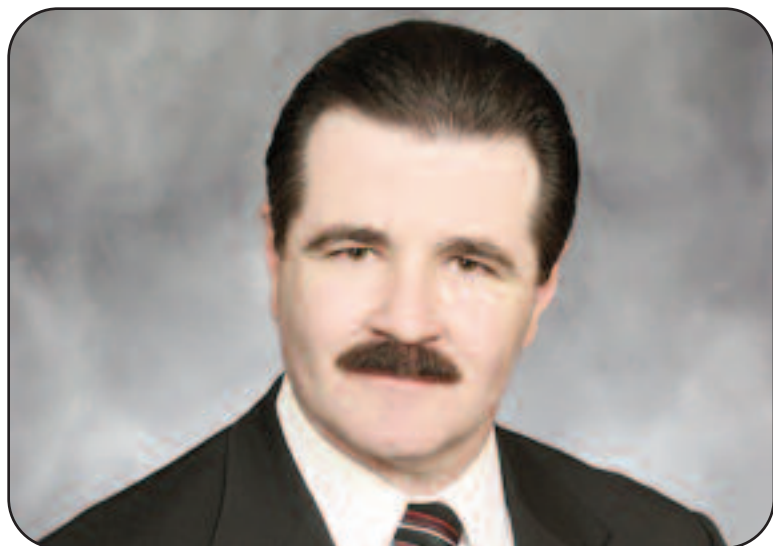
As we engage that pursuit, our themes may change, but our mission remains steadfast.

I believe with every fiber in my body that our movement must keep on ensuring that millions of workers in this country have the dignity and respect they deserve. That means good wages, decent pensions, affordable health care and continuous job training.



L to R: AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, IBEW President Edwin Hill, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler & Local No. 5 Business Manager Michael Dunleavy.



Corner by **Michael Dunleavy**

I will begin by recognizing Bob Thomas' many years of service to the IBEW. Bob has served as an officer for Local 10 and Local 5. Brother Thomas represented the IBEW on his Area Labor Council and Building Trades Council. His efforts on behalf of Labor are too numerous to list. I know that you will join me in wishing Bob all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

You will see listed in this newsletter the contract allocations for next year. We are entering the second year of the 3-year contract. Many factors go into determining where to distribute the money. Actuarial analysis, funding requirement, IRS limitations, tax implication and Labor Department restrictions are some of the considerations. We will be mailing new agreement books as soon as they return from the printer.

Please note that the vacation contribution has increased fifteen cents. Last year it increased by fifty cents and we asked you to voluntarily contribute fifteen cents of that to the Political Action Fund. The fact that you will now be receiving an additional fifteen cents and that the PAC Committee will contribute your money to any candidate that you designate, leaves you no reason to not sign a new PAC card. The PAC Fund is an extremely effective tool in helping to maintain your employment.

As I write this column, a healthcare bill has been voted out of the Senate Finance Committee. This version of the legislation taxes some healthcare plans. The house version currently being considered does not tax healthcare. I am asking you to call or write our two Senators and your Congressmen and urge

them not to tax your healthcare. If you need contact information, call the local union office.

The Employee Free Choice Act has temporarily taken a back seat to healthcare. EFCA is still alive and it has forced anti-worker interests to play defense. We will keep you apprised as this legislation progresses.

This issue of the newsletter contains endorsements of candidates seeking office. Please make sure you get to the polls and support the people that support your issues. These candidates have been approved by the local and will be there when you need them. I would further urge you to take someone to the polls with you to compound our impact. If you are aware of a candidate that you would like the local to support, please let us know.

As you are all aware, we are beginning the traditional seasonal slowdown. We also have the fact that the State took so long to pass a budget and the overall poor economy of the nation to contend with. Taking all those factors into account, we still have over 93% of the Local Union employed. Work will continue to slow, so please take all work offered to you.

I will conclude by reminding you that safety should be your top priority. The Local Union & JATC have courses available to you such as OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, MSHA, First Aid, Electrical Safety Related Work Practices (which includes NFPA 70E) and more. The Local Union has two representatives on the National Safety Council who are continuously monitoring the latest in safety initiatives so that they can be incorporated into our training and available to you.

**Assistant Business Manager Retires**

Bob Thomas will retire on October 30, 2009 with 39 years of service in the IBEW. Bob started his apprenticeship in 1970 and was initiated into IBEW Local 10 on July 1, 1971. From 1974 to 1984 he served on the Auditing Committee of IBEW Local 10 and in 1984 was elected to the Executive Board of IBEW Local 10 where he served until he was appointed as Local 10's first Organizer in December of 1989. In 1990 Bob was also elected as Secretary/Treasurer of Butler & Venango County Building Trades Council. Then in 1991, after the retirement of Business Manager Jack Staley, Bob was elected as Business Manager of IBEW Local 10. Also in 1991, he was elected as President of Butler & Venango Building Trades and held that office until his retirement. In 2000 Bob was appointed as an Assistant Business Manager of IBEW Local 5 and in 2005 he was elected as Treasurer.

In 1985 he was appointed as a delegate to the Butler County United Labor Council and was elected President of the council in 2002. In



June of 2009 he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Butler County Community Development Corporation. In 2002 the Butler County Board of Commissioners appointed him to The Butler County General Authority where he was elected as Vice-Chairman. Involvement in the community included appointments as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Butler County, the Wall, the Tri-County Work-Force Investment Board, Campaign Steering Committee of the Butler County YMCA, and the Butler County Chapter of The American Red Cross.

**Assistant Business Manager Appointed**

Jim Saeler, age 47, was initiated into IBEW LU 10 in November, 1981. He served on the Executive Board, NJATC, the LMCC of Local 10 and served as Vice President of IBEW LU10 until the merger with IBEW LU 5 in 2000. Jim also worked as a foreman on various projects and served as steward on several others.



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LOCAL UNION NO. 5

5 HOT METAL STREET, SUITE 400, PITTSBURGH, PA 15203-2355  
PHONE: (412) 432-1400 FAX: (412) 432-1499

October, 2009

To: I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION NO. 5 "A" MEMBERS  
From: Michael R. Dunleavy, Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
Re: **2010 DUES INCREASE**  
Dear Brothers & Sisters:

In accordance with a dues increase resolution that was passed at the 37<sup>th</sup> IBEW International Convention during the week of September 11 - 15, 2006, the **International portion of your dues will increase by \$1.00 per month in 2010, (The \$1.00 consists of a \$1.00 increase in the Pension Benefit (PBF) contribution). Please note that your Local Union portion of dues has once again not increased.** For your convenience, the following is a listing of the total dues payments, including both International and Local Union portions:

**\$460.40 ANNUAL Dues** (Payments due in Dec. or Jan.)

When paying your 2010 dues payment, please include the following:

- 1) Your **Card Number** or your Social Security Number
- 2) Please be sure that your **name** is visible and legible on your check (and especially on a money order)
- 3) Please be sure to use the **new dues amount** (checks with incorrect amounts will have to be returned)
- 4) Include a note if you have a **change-of-address** and be sure to include your **new telephone number**

If you should have any questions regarding your dues payment, please contact PATTY LUSNAK at (412)432-1400.

Sincerely yours,

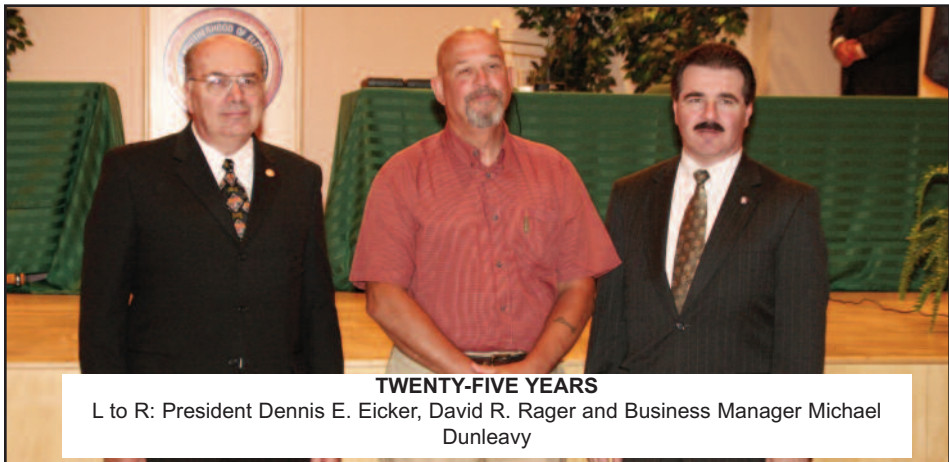
I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION NO. 5

*Michael R. Dunleavy*

Michael R. Dunleavy  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary



# SERVICE AWARDS



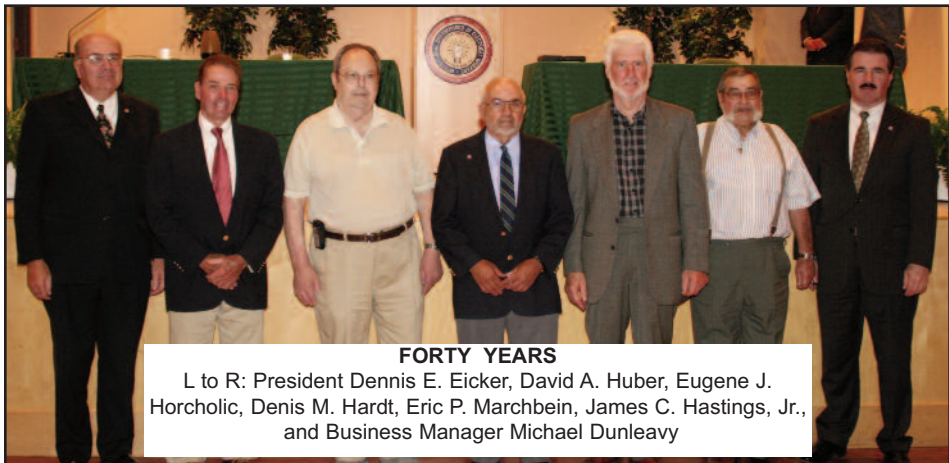
**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS**

L to R: President Dennis E. Eicker, David R. Rager and Business Manager Michael Dunleavy



**THIRTY-FIVE YEARS**

L to R: President Dennis E. Eicker, Joseph L. Reasey, Matthew Keller, James M. Costello, Vincent E. Wisyanski and Business Manager Michael Dunleavy



**FORTY YEARS**

L to R: President Dennis E. Eicker, David A. Huber, Eugene J. Horcholic, Denis M. Hardt, Eric P. Marchbein, James C. Hastings, Jr., and Business Manager Michael Dunleavy



**FORTY-FIVE YEARS**

L to R: President Dennis E. Eicker, Vice President Thomas McIntyre Jr., Thomas McIntyre Sr., Terry W. Hollis, Leonard M. Boras, John Chalovich, William M. Wilson, Jr. and Business Manager Michael Dunleavy

## 20 Years of Service

James E. Burke

Mark H. Rumpf

## 25 Years of Service

Thomas A. Hornberger  
David E. Rager

Carylotta E. Tucker

## 30 Years of Service

Gary H. Blank  
Frederick C. Bryan  
Donald L. Bush  
Garner G. Faulkner  
James H. Grate  
Jerry K. Herdman  
James R. Johns

Owen V. Michael  
William J. O'Hanlon  
Eugene R. Siters  
Robert F. Steiner  
John P. Stewart  
Gerald L. Vidmar

## 35 Years of Service

John W. Auberzinsky  
Stanley M. Ayers  
John R. Bardonner  
Gregory J. Canary  
Emile Chuprinko  
William F. Clark  
James M. Costello  
Timothy C. Dale  
Peter T. Delmer  
Bernard E. Faust  
George G. Faust  
Clyde M. Fisher  
George P. Friel  
Joseph Froncek  
Clarence J. Hazlett, Jr.  
Elmer J. Hunyady  
Nickolaos Kalogeris  
Matthew J. Keller

Robert F. Leininger  
Donald G. Lieberum  
Arthur E. Luke, Jr.  
James W. Marsula  
John M. Massar  
Miles A. Nelson  
Gerard Ninehouser  
Joseph Pockaj  
Joseph L. Reasey  
Allen L. Schmid  
Larry N. Sillaman  
Lee J. Tremel  
Henry J. Troy  
Elmer A. Volzer  
Raymond A. Watt  
Robert S. Wilson  
Vincent E. Wisyanski

## 40 Years of Service

Douglas W. Anderson  
Allen G. Ashcroft  
Albert E. Badzgon  
Donald C. Baxter  
Richard T. Berdes  
Julius Bertoni  
John A. Blough  
David K. Ebersole  
Thomas W. Eger  
Mark J. Fortwangler  
Robert V. Glass, Jr.  
Denis M. Hardt  
James C. Hastings, Jr.  
Eugene J. Horcholic  
David A. Huber  
Donald K. Johnston  
Eric P. Marchbein

Robert T. Milligan  
Anthony F. Mitchell  
Richard A. Olkowski  
Irwin L. Raleigh  
Walter H. Robb, III  
Donald L. Schmidt  
Arthur W. Sloan  
Andrew L. Tomko  
Carl F. Voll  
William R. Waugaman  
Gary P. Weinheimer  
Raymond F. Willard  
Carlton D. Yoder  
Marlin S. Yoder  
Robert R. Yoder  
Dennis F. Zeszutek

## 45 Years of Service

Blaine W. Allan  
Albert A. Barone  
Joseph J. Bodick, Jr.  
Leonard M. Boras  
John Chalovich  
James R. Deer  
Leo J. Gielas, Jr.  
Terry W. Hollis  
Thomas L. McCoy

Thomas McIntyre, Sr.  
Raymond E. Mook, Jr.  
Brian J. O'Leary  
Gary L. Reinert  
Paul E. Rost  
Elliott Simon  
Robert P. Stierheim  
William M. Wilson, Jr.  
James E. Winters





# Labor Day 2009









# Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council: Hundreds of union construction workers rally for Project Labor Agreements on Capitol steps.



Frank Sirianni, the President of the Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council leads the protest.

Harrisburg, PA, 10:00 am, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Hundreds of unionized construction workers from all over Pennsylvania gathered today on the steps of the State Capitol building in support of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for use on construction projects funded with tax dollars.

The rally coincided with a press conference headed by State Representative John C. Bear (R-Lancaster), who is introducing legislation seeking to outlaw PLAs in the Commonwealth.

Frank Sirianni, the President of the Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council, noted that a PLA on a publicly funded building project is the only way to guarantee that Pennsylvania taxpayer dollars spent on construction projects like roads, bridges, schools and prisons will stay in the Commonwealth and go to pay Pennsylvania workers

"While Representative Bear, the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), and their allies in the Legislature would like to paint a different picture, the reality is that, without PLAs, our state tax dollars are being siphoned off by out-of-state contractors and the benefits are going to workers from other states," said Sirianni. "In fact, of the more than 5,000 publicly funded projects released in 2008, only a handful had PLAs. We think it is time for our state and local governments to stop catering to the big out-of-state contractors who feed on our tax dollars and put Pennsylvania skilled construction trades workers first."

Sirianni said that PLAs were specifically designed to guarantee more job opportunities for Pennsylvania workers and contractors. He said PLAs also allow contractors to access a pool of skilled and qualified local workers, taking away the need for importing unskilled - and many times undocumented - workers that out-of-state contractors often use to undercut the bidding process on publicly funded projects.

"At a time when Pennsylvania is trying to work its way out of a budget crisis, the last thing our state and local governments need to be doing is looking for ways to make it easier for unscrupulous out-of-state contractors to exploit unskilled and undocumented workers from places like Ohio, Alabama, Indiana, Arkansas and other states," said Sirianni. "Contractors use these workers to win construction bids that result in shoddy workmanship and send our tax dollars to support some other state's economy."

Unionized building trades members at the rally pointed out that PLAs put tighter controls on how Pennsylvania taxpayer's dollars are spent, requiring local workers to have demonstrated skills and qualifications and be subject to drug testing and criminal background checks. PLAs were also described as guaranteeing opportunities for minorities and women, decent health care benefits, a safer work environment, reductions in lost time on projects, and better "on time" and "on budget" stability.

Contrary to the assertions of Legislators opposed to PLAs that such agreements "discriminate" against nonunion contractors, Sirianni noted that the National Labor Relations Act specifically prohibits both employers and unions from discriminating against employees based on their membership or non-membership in labor organizations. The Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council follows this Federal law.

"The fact of the matter is that many non-union contractors here in Pennsylvania bid on projects with PLAs and win those bids," said Sirianni. "They then go on to complete those projects using unionized local crafts persons and still turn a profit. The myths that the ABC like to spread about PLAs are nothing more than a smokescreen to deny local Pennsylvania workers the opportunity to work close to home in a stable job funded by our tax dollars."

## Health Care Reform

**The IBEW supports the fight for REAL health care reform.**



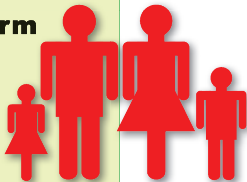
### Why Do We Need Health Care Reform?

- Health care premiums are increasing three times faster than wages or inflation
- Health insurance company profits have increased more than 1,000 percent during the past five years
- Workers who have health insurance now pay 68 percent more than they did in 2000
- Every thirty seconds, someone files for medical bankruptcy in the United States

**The status quo is unsustainable, and without action health care costs will crush families and businesses.**

### Five Points the IBEW Considers Essential for REAL Health Care Reform to Benefit Working Families

- A public health insurance option should be included.** This will provide competition for insurance companies, drive out waste, bring down costs, and guarantee affordable health care for all.
- Health benefits should not be taxed.** Taxing benefits will raise the costs for workers at a time when they need relief.
- Employers should be required to pay their fair share (Play-or-Pay).** This will keep companies that do not provide health care from shifting the costs to all of us.
- Small businesses should not be exempt.** Small IBEW employers provide health insurance for their workers, and exemptions put them at a competitive disadvantage for doing the right thing.
- Affordable coverage for pre-Medicare retirees should be offered.** Currently, workers who retire before age 65 have no affordable options for finding coverage on their own.



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# ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS



## Supreme Court

Judge Jack PANELLA (D)

## Superior Court

Judge Anne E. LAZARUS (D)

Kevin McCARTHY (D)

Judge Robert J. COLVILLE (D)

Teresa SARMINA (D)

## Commonwealth Court

Linda S. JUDSON (D)

Barbara B. ERNSBERGER (D)

## Pittsburgh

### Mayor

Luke RAVENSTAHL

### City Council

District 2

District 4

District 6

Theresa SMITH

Natalia RUDIAK

Daniel LAVELLE

### State wide Retention

## Superior Court

Judge Kate FORD ELLIOTT

## Commonwealth Court

Judge Dante R. PELLEGRINI

## Allegheny County

### County Council

District 1

District 3

District 4

District 8

District 9

District 12

District 13

Thomas MICHALOW

James R. BURN, Jr.

Michael J. FINNERTY

Charles J. MARTONI

Robert J. MACEY

Jim ELLENBOGEN

Amanda GREEN

### Sheriff

Bill MULLEN

### Common Pleas Court

Susan EVASHAVIK DiLUCENTE

Joe WILLIAMS

Arnie KLEIN

Phil IGNELZI

Don WALKO

### Allegheny County Retention

## Common Pleas Court

Kim Berkeley CLARK

Robert J. COLVILLE

Kim Diane EATON

Paul F. LUTTY, Jr.

Jeffery A. MANNING

Kevin G. SASINOSKI

Eugene Strassberger

## Altoona

### Mayor

William SCHIRF

### City Council

Mark GEIS

Cathy MULLER

## Cambia County

### Johnstown City Council

Pete Vizza

Maria Mock

Theresa Horvath

### Common Pleas Court

Pete Vizza

Maria Mock

Theresa Horvath

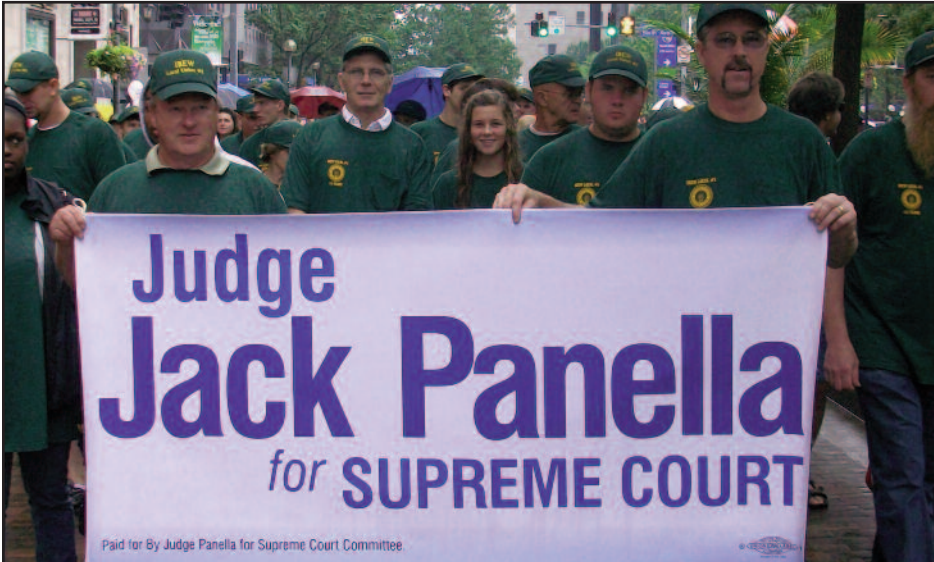
## Westmoreland County

Court of Common  
Pleas

Chris Scherer



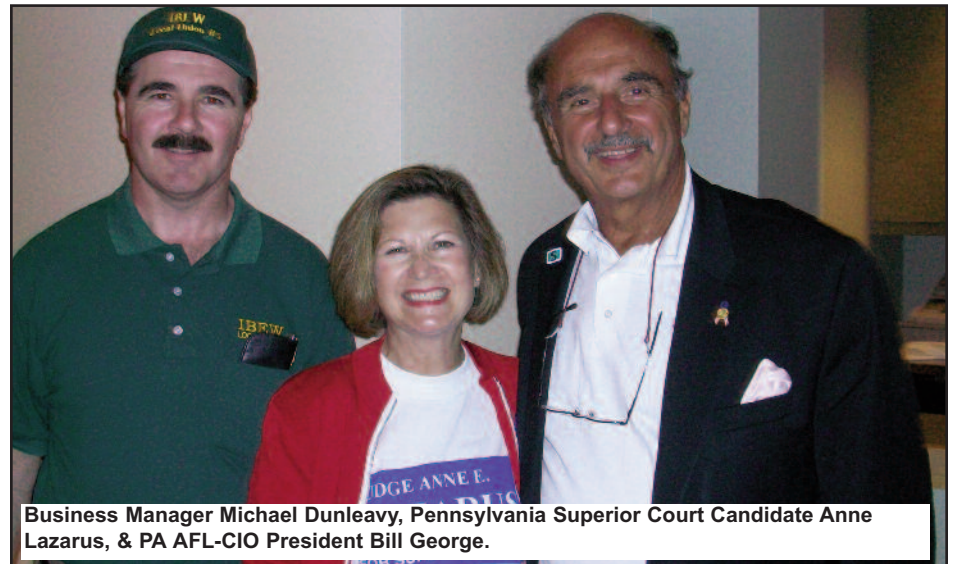
# Everyone Enjoys Labor DAY



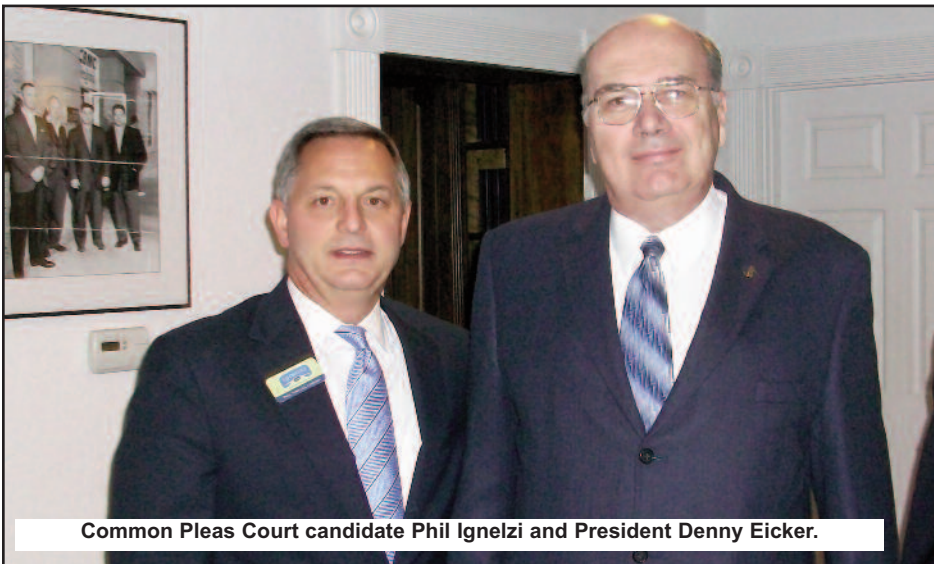
Pennsylvania Superior Court Candidate Robert J. Colville, Business Manager Michael Dunleavy, & Allegheny County Labor Council Political Director John Vento.



Allegheny Councilman Robert Macey, Vice President Thomas McIntyre, Allegheny County Council President Richard Fitzgerald and Recording Secretary Thomas Higgins.



Business Manager Michael Dunleavy, Pennsylvania Superior Court Candidate Anne Lazarus, & PA AFL-CIO President Bill George.



Common Pleas Court candidate Phil Ignelzi and President Denny Eicker.



Allegheny County District Attorney Steven Zappalla and Business Manager Michael Dunleavy



Michael Varholla, Common Pleas candidate Arnie Klein and Business Manager Michael Dunleavy.



# Explorers Post 105 Starts 9th Year

Explorers Post 105 starts its 9th year, and IBEW Local No. 5 is happy to be the host of this great opportunity for youngsters.

Our Explorers Post works with interested high school youth to expose them to the unique and rewarding opportunities that exist in our Apprenticeship Program. Explorers learn firsthand if a career as an electrician with Local No. 5 is the career path for them.

Local No. 5 brothers Walter J. Bentley, Mike Carter, Mike Williams and Norman C. Brice act as active advisors to the Explorers. Business Manager Michael Dunleavy acts as the Chairmen of the Post.

At the meetings they explain and work hands-on to mentor these young men and women in what a career as an electrician is all about. This exposure offers young men and women the opportunity to make a more informed decision about entering our apprenticeship program—or any of the excellent opportunities that exist in other Building Trades programs.

At the last meeting Walter J. Bentley briefed the Explorers on what they could expect of the Post this year. He introduced Robert Stein of the Boy Scouts of America who discussed the roles and responsibilities of Explorers. Paul Reinert of our Apprenticeship program spoke about what life is like for an apprentice, spoke about the entrance procedures and talked about our unique relationship agreement with the Community College of Allegheny County.



An important part of the program is entrance test preparation --so that apprentice applicants can succeed on the entrance test. The advisors work with all explorers, and if any academic remedial work is needed—it's given.

Explorers Post 105 and IBEW Local No. 5 are proud to count many current apprentices and journeymen as past Explorers.

Explorers Post 105 meets the third Thursday from 6:00PM to 8:30 PM at our IBEW Local No. 5 Training Center. If you know anyone that would be interested in joining Explorers Post 105—contact Ms. Carol Sunday at the Hall at: (412) 432-1400.



## Retirees Picnic at South Park





## REPORT OF LEGAL COUNCIL - JOSHUA M. BLOOM

Odd numbered election years are often lackluster without the exciting political races such as U.S. President, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, PA Governor, PA Senators, and PA Representatives. Hence, the voter turnout is substantially lower during such elections. Unfortunately, the lack of voter turn out typically hurts candidates that are supportive of working people. During such elections, the Democratic voters do not turn out as effectively as Republican voters. The overwhelming majority of Democratic candidates are supportive of working people. Although there are a small percentage of Republican candidates who support working people, the overwhelming majority of Republicans stand solely with Big Business.

Meanwhile, the odd numbered election years are crucial with regard to securing enforcement of the legal rights that working people maintain. This November is absolutely critical to maintaining such rights via the PA judicial elections.

The Pennsylvania Courts routinely decide issues that will directly impact your employment or lack thereof as well as your family's bank account. The PA courts constantly decide issues arising from the PA Prevailing Wage Law which essentially determines whether a Local 5 contractor will successfully bid on a publicly funded construction project. The courts are often asked to rule on disputes relating to whether large publicly funded construction projects will be subject to project labor agreements that provide that Local 5 members must be utilized on such projects. The PA courts decide workers' compensation issues every day that relate to your family's financial well being in the

unfortunate event that you are injured on the job.

With respect to the big picture, this election is crucial in that it will decide how this state is redistricted. This is very important because redistricting determines who has the advantage in winning legislative seats. The Republicans already maintain a huge advantage with regard to how the legislative districts are drawn. If they win this election in the PA Supreme Court, the Republican advantage could become overwhelming. In other words, we would have no chance at securing better laws for Local 5 workers in Pennsylvania. Moreover, the following laws would face substantial danger of becoming ineffective for Local 5 members such as the PA Prevailing Wage Laws and the PA Workers' Compensation Laws, and the right to use project labor agreements could become extinct in PA.

I am respectfully urging you, your family, your friends, and neighbors to vote and help get out the vote for the following statewide judicial candidates: PA Supreme Court - Jack Panella (D); Commonwealth Court - Linda Judson (D) and Barbara Ernsberger (D); Superior Court: Kevin McCarthy (D), Anne Lazarus (D), Robert Coville (D), Teresa Sarmina (D). Also, please support the Local 5 locally endorsed judicial candidates.

Joshua Bloom & Associates, P.C. 1230  
Grant Building 310 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-288-6000  
bloomlawyers.com



## HARRISBURG REPORT - TIM SOLOBAY

Small-business owners and electricians are an important part of Pennsylvania's economy. Unfortunately, our electricians have been hit especially hard by this recession. As the economy slows, construction and home improvement jobs wane, threatening the livelihoods of electricians and others in the construction industry.

We are working in Harrisburg to improve the state's economy, create jobs and help our small businesses thrive.

When my colleague state Rep. Marc Gergely reported to you from Harrisburg in July, H.B. 1770, which I co-sponsored, was still making its way through the legislative process. I am pleased to report that this bill was signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Act 30 of 2009 and is helping thousands of unemployed workers by extending unemployment benefits.

Act 30 makes a temporary change to the Unemployment Compensation Expanded Benefits law to allow the state to tap nearly \$145 million in federal stimulus funding to extend unemployment benefits by seven more weeks for a total of 79 weeks.

Extending the benefits will help those who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, continue putting food on the table and paying their bills while they look for work.

House Bill 1355, the Electricians Licensure Act, is currently before the House Professional Licensure Committee, of

which I am a member. This bill would establish the State Board of Licensed Electricians within the Department of State. The measure also provides for qualifications for licensure, continuing education, reciprocity with other states, and penalties for unlicensed practice.

Lastly, Act 132 of 2008 (S.B. 100) establishes the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (HICPA), which requires that all contractors who perform at least \$5,000 worth of home improvements per year register with the Attorney General's Office. I supported this bill when it came to the House floor for a vote.

The registration section of the Attorney General's Office includes helpful information in selecting a contractor and a link to the Better Business Bureau.

The law also requires contractors to maintain minimum insurance coverage of at least \$50,000 in property damage and at least \$50,000 in personal injury liability. Contractor pacts engendering project information, start and complete dates, and a comprehensive description of the work and consumers' rights under the law must also be provided under the state's HICPA.

*State Rep. Tim Solobay represents the 48th Legislative District, Washington County.*



# SQUEAKY WHEELS DON'T ALWAYS NEED OILED

The G-20 Summit has come and gone, and Pittsburgh is still standing. A few broken windows and a little more trash, but overall it held up pretty well. Protesters, both peaceful and violent, tried to have their say, but chances are few in "power" noticed. That's how public protests tend to go, and that's why some protests like the ABC's current efforts to ban the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) in Pennsylvania will fail to muster much attention. Nor should they.

On Tuesday, September 29, 2009, a rally was held on the steps of the State Capitol in support of legislation by State Representative John Bear (R) of Lancaster County to prohibit the use of PLAs in Pennsylvania. Amid some banner waving and chest thumping, the ABC is attempting to make the case that PLAs drive up labor costs and force contractors to use unfamiliar workers. What they are really saying is PLAs support local labor, making it difficult for open-shop contractors to undermine Pennsylvania's working middle class by importing workers from beyond the

state's borders. What they're also saying is Pennsylvania should be supporting contractors whose employees, both local and non-local, often fail to receive health care benefits, thereby driving up health care costs for other tax-paying Pennsylvanians. And finally, what they're also saying is Pennsylvania should gamble our tax dollars on contractors whose workers are less trained and who can not guarantee completing projects on time and on budget. It just goes on and on.

Putting all the rhetoric aside, project labor agreements have been successfully used for many years on projects throughout Pennsylvania and across the United States. Nationally, such facilities as the Cape Kennedy Space Center, O'Hare Airport, and the Grand Coulee Dam to name but a few have been built under PLAs. Locally, they were used to help build Heinz Field and PNC Park, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh/UPMC, Baldwin and Shaler Area high schools, Pittsburgh International Airport and many more. Contrary to what is said,

no owner, whether public or private, has their arm twisted to use a project labor agreement. They may be encouraged, but they are hardly forced.

The reason PLAs are used is because it's good business and good public policy. When tax dollars are used on such projects in Pennsylvania as public financed sports stadiums, schools, and prisons, it is because these facilities must be built well, within a defined schedule and budget. School construction in particular is based on tight schedules that minimize impacts on students. They're also based on hiring professional contractors whose employees are well trained through State certified apprenticeship programs with the comfort of knowing that the construction will be done right with the safety of the students at heart.

The ABC can kick and scream about project labor agreements all it wants. It can try to make the claim that PLAs increase construction costs. But labor costs account for less than a

third of total project costs and the cost of paying middle class wages and benefits to Pennsylvania residents is substantially offset by the state taxes collected from these same workers' wages, not to mention the discretionary income they spend throughout the state as Pennsylvania residents.

The squeaky wheel of the ABC is one wheel that should not be oiled. If an owner believes it is not good business to use a project labor agreement, so be it. The option should be theirs. It does not need to be mandated by the State legislature.

**By Jason Fincke, Executive Director Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania**





From the North by Bob Thomas



Miller Electric at Westinghouse Building 1 Fit out L to R: Ken Baldauf, Kalli Finau, Jim Ruane, Craig Pool, Jim Hinterliter, & Norman Sturgess



Miller Electric at Westinghouse Building 3 Fit out. L to R: Rob Castell, Aric Graham, Ken Simon, Mark Randig, Devlin Rommes, Rick Grecco, Brian Meyers, Art Barnes, Dave Bikner, Jeff Hazard & Joe Harper.

From the Near - North by Rich Dunkel



Gearhart McKee, Inc. at Keystone Generating Station. L to R: Rod Nagg, Eric Wyant, Steve Snyder, Dave Good & Kim McKee.



Marsula Electric at Iron City Can line at old Rolling Rock Brewery. L to R: Tom Hunter, Kurt Hoak and Bob Kuceroski..

From the North by Bob Kutz



Bettwy Electric at Stryker Brigade, Huntingdon, PA. L to R: Monte Michalangelo, Jeff Bender & Mark Carr.



Bettwy Electric at Mount Nittany Medical Center, State College L to R: Matt Bettwy, Rusty Horner, Pat Treese, Stan Clark, Mike Carey, Tim Pielmeir, Doug Oswald, Denny Goss, Jaime Burley, Darrell Kimble & Scott Strohmer.

From the Far North - East by Jeff Miller



Kirby Electric at Shawville Generating Station Justin Bair, Randy Williams, Dan Davidson, Mike Deterline, Greg Scanlon, Greg Gardner, Chris Lavelle, Charlie Robison, Stan Young, Floyd Peterson, Denny Huff, Joe Cornelius, Tim Caylor, Kurt Rhymestine, Mike Wilber, John Evans, Bj Barnes.



Biter Electric at Clearfield Water Treatment. L to R: Jim Wills, Don Hubler, Kurt Snyder & Isaac McGarvey.

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY



Lighthouse Electric at Piatt Place Offices Front L to R: Sam Saxton, Scott Townsend, Chris DeAngelo, David Bradwell. Back L to R: Mike Shemerdiak, Joe Cox, Tim Conlan, Kevin Linza, Ben Geresti, Mike Berta, Steve Rucker, Thomas E. Weber & Jonathan Telban.



Wellington Power at North Shore Connector Back L to R: Randy Ziegler, Jim Gillespie, Dan Joos, Mike Egnac, Frank Stenzel, Ken Evanchec, Larry Wydrenski, John Murrio. Front L to R: Ron Williams, Ashley McClung, Damian Hogan & Tom Weikel.

2010 Scholarships

Applications for the 2010 scholarships are available from September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Those who are eligible are high school seniors who are sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of Local #5 "A" members. Complete eligibility rules and applications can be obtained, by mail from:

NECA 5 Hot Metal Street  
Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2357

2010

Wage & Fringe Allocation  
Journeyman/Technician

Base Rate	\$31.61
Vacation	\$2.65
Insurance Fund	\$7.00
Pension Fund	\$5.10
Apprenticeship Fund	\$.75
Deferred Compensation Fund	\$4.00

Residential Wireman

Base Rate	\$19.30
Vacation	\$1.85
Insurance Fund	\$7.00
Apprenticeship Fund	\$.25
Deferred Compensation Fund	\$2.05

Updated Agreement Books will be Mailed Soon





## BEST WISHES TO PENSIONERS

The officers, and members of Local 5  
congratulate these newly retired members and  
wish them a long and healthy retirement:



### JULY 2009

William M. Snyder

Robert H. Trojan

### AUGUST 2009

Dennis P. Brunner  
John A. Lieb

James I. Miller

### SEPTEMBER 2009

William J. Dillon

Larry R. Huffman

## BLOOD BANK DONORS THIRD QUARTER 2009

Local 5 thanks our quarterly blood donores for their "gift of life" to others:

Catone, Robert J.	Kopta, Robert P.	Patton, Darrell W.
Chaff, Andrew M.	Kovach, Jennifer R.	Quinten, Larry M.
Coates, Karen J.	Lemons, Robert J.	Rectenwald,
Dietz, Elizabeth D.	Lydon, Robert E.	Bernadette M.
Eiben, Thomas L.	Mc Cormick, David G.	Rothhaar, Charles M.
Ergler, Robert B.	Miskovich, Susan R.	Shimko, Robert M.
Grady, Susanne F.	Morrow, Karen K.	Smith, Randy S.
Hackett, Patrick F.	Neubert, Gerald H.	Terreri, Kathy D.
Harman, Herbert H.	Norbutt, Joseph A.	Wightkin, Joseph M.

## BENEFIT INFORMATION

### IBEW LOCAL 5 OFFICE: 412-432-1400 or Toll Free 1-800-225-IBEW

Judy Elkanich: Pension applications, deceased member notification / information, beneficiary changes ,  
scheduling of appointments with the Business Manager, "Honorary and Participating"  
withdraw information, and "Military Card" requests.

Leona Vozar: Highmark, Security Blue, Freedom Blue, UPMC, Pensioners \$10 Dental and Optical  
Premium and Maintenance assessments.

Patty Lusnak: Dues payments and inquiries, change of address notifications, and BA Member  
information.

### National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA): 412-432-1155

Chris Cottrill: Scholarship information.  
Mia Mogielski: Pension benefit calculation inquires and W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund Death benefit  
beneficiary updates.

### JATC Apprenticeship Office: 412-432-1145

Lisa McManus: Apprenticeship information.

### Central Data Services: 412-432-1125 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1410

Kathi Giovetsis: Beneficiary changes and ERTS.  
Kathy Smith: Deferred Compensation, Supplemental unemployment Benefit (SUB) withdrawal, and  
Sick and Disability benefit inquiries. (412) 432-1144

### W.P.E.E. Insurance Trust Fund: 412-432-1130 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428

Medical/Surgical, Major Medical, Dental, and Vision claim Inquires

### Pensioners Dental & Optical Claims

Judy Trimbur: (412) 432-1130 or Toll Free 1-800-382-1428

### Secretary of Funds: 412-432-1128 or Toll Free 1-877-782-1817

Susan Lovely: Contractor contribution information, benefit hour information, vacation check inquiries.

### IBEW Local 5 Federal Credit Union: 412-432-1152

Evening hours: Monday and Thursday 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

### Social Security Information: 1-800-772-1213

Any other questions or concerns can be directed through  
the switchboard operator: Carol Sunday 412-432-1400

IBEW LOCAL 5  
5 Hot Metal Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 3022

## IN FRATERNAL MEMORY

### Deceased Retired Members

Henry W. Campoll	July	13, 1918	-	July	15, 2009
Howard H. Mench	May	25, 1945	-	July	30, 2009
Merrill K. Mitchell	Sept.	16, 1931	-	July	25, 2009
Irwin Grunebach	June	8, 1925	-	Aug.	13, 2009
Edward J. Hursen	Nov.	7, 1933	-	Aug.	13, 2009
James F. Sheehan	July	16, 1933	-	Sept.	9, 2009

### Deceased Active Members

John F. Conry, Jr.	Dec.	12, 1984	-	Aug	9, 2009
John J. Huesdash	Oct.	21, 1948	-	Sept.	25, 2009

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

It is very important that you notify the Local union promptly  
of any mailing address or phone number change!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# (INCLUDE AREA CODE): \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL TO:

IBEW LOCAL #5 5 HOT METAL STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15203-2355

### Business Agents Home Numbers

Richard Dunkel. . . . .	724-334-4295	Alfred Franklin . . . . .	814-372-2360
Dennis Eicker . . . . .	412-432-1400	William Garner . . . . .	412-793-4649
Thomas Higgins . . . . .	724-941-6551	<b>Manpower Coordinator's Office</b>	
Robert Kutz . . . . .	814-941-2776	Michael Varholla . . . . .	412-432-1400
Jeffrey Miller . . . . .	814-674-5625	<b>Prevailing Wage Investigator's Office</b>	
Robert Thomas . . . . .	724-287-2104	Greg Vogt . . . . .	412-432-1400
Thomas McIntyre . . . . .	412-854-1148	<b>Meeting Hall Rental Information</b>	
		Lee Deiseroth . . . . .	412-432-1420



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5 Hot Metal Street - Suite-400  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2355

Phone: 412-432-1400 www.ibew5.org FAX: 412-432-1499



Business Manager - Financial Secretary . . . . . Michael R. Dunleavy  
President . . . . . Dennis E. Eicker  
Vice President . . . . . Thomas R. McIntyre, Jr  
Recording Secretary . . . . . Thomas H. Higgins  
Treasurer . . . . . Robert A. Thomas

### Executive Board

Dennis E. Eicker, Chairman  
Thomas H. Higgins, Secretary

Walter J. Bentley, II  
Robert E. Cole, II  
Thomas R. McIntyre Jr.

James R. Gillespie  
Leo P. Truby

### Examining Board

Joseph Mitchell

William D. McCloy, Sr.

Leticia M. Fedora