

International History

Abridged history of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

1880

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders Protective and Benevolent Union of the United States and Canada

1888

National Brotherhood of Boiler Makers of the United States of America

Consolidated 1893

The Brotherhood of Boiler-Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America

In the 1860's an organization of Boilermakers and Blacksmiths was formed in Pittsburgh and other cities of Pennsylvania. In 1866 New Orleans, Louisiana (presumably on a government contract) Boilermakers struck for an eight hour day and they were successful however, the men gradually dropped out and the organization was disbanded.

In 1879, the Boilermakers of San Francisco organized the Boilermakers League of the Pacific Coast and demanded an increase in pay and being refused they went on strike and after three weeks they were successful.

Chicago organized in 1880, as did St. Paul, Minnesota and other cities. In October 1880, representatives of nine lodges met in Chicago, Illinois. At this first convention, a constitution and by-laws was adopted and the title of National Boiler Makers Protective and Benevolent Union was established. There were about 1,000 members. The Chicago Union demanded an increase in wages early in 1881, and being refused they went on strike and after six weeks won out.

This success gave motive to the movement there and the organizations of St. Paul, Chicago, and Detroit arranged to send Brother Thomas P. Dwyer, (who was at the time President of the Chicago Union) on an organizing tour to Detroit, Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo, Patterson, New Jersey, New York City, Boston, and Providence, where he was successful in organizing locals in these cities and arranged for the calling of the first national convention, which assembled in Chicago on the 16th of August, 1881. The following lodges were represented: No. 1-Chicago, Illinois; No 2-St. Paul, Minnesota; No. 3-Detroit, Michigan; No. 4-Cleveland, Ohio; No. 5-Cincinnati, Ohio; No. 6-Erie, Pennsylvania; No. 7-New York, New York; No. 8-Buffalo, New York; No. 9-Patterson, New Jersey; No. 10-Boston, Massachusetts; and No. 11-Providence, Rhode Island.

Thomas P. Dwyer, of lodge No. 1 called the meeting to order and was made temporary Chairman and Hugh Fitzpatrick of Lodge No. 8, Buffalo, Temporary Secretary.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the following officers elected for one year: John Quirk of Branch 7, New York President; James Ross, Lodge 3, Detroit, Vice President; James McGivern, Lodge 4, Cleveland, Secretary; Sylvester Reilly, Lodge 11, Providence, Treasurer. After perfecting their organization under the title of The National Boilermakers Protective and Benevolent Union and electing the above officers they adjourned to meet in Boston on the following year.

In the latter part of 1881, the following additional lodges were organized: No. 12-Portland, Maine; No. 13-Minneapolis, Minnesota; No. 14-Bay City, Michigan; No. 15-Milwaukee, Wisconsin; No. 16-Jersey City, New Jersey; No. 18-Roundout, New York; and No. 19-Chester, Pennsylvania.

In 1881, the Detroit lodge demanded an increase of 12% and struck to enforce damage which, in ten days was granted. St. Paul lodge also struck this year against abusive language used towards them and then made a demand for a ten per cent increase, at the end of eight weeks it was granted to them and all returned to work. In May 1882, the members of Lodge 7 of New York asked for a ten per cent increase in wages and on being refused, went on strike and after two weeks out were successful. The members of Lodge 5, of Cincinnati, at this time, made a demand for a fifteen per cent increase, on being refused, they went on strike and remained out for twenty-one weeks and lost out; the lodge was disbanded.

The second convention was successfully held in Boston this year and Lodge 20 was organized at Schenectady, New York. August 6, 1884, Lodge 21 was organized at Hamilton, Ontario, and on the same date the Third National Convention was held at Cincinnati. At this time the name of the organization was changed to the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders, Protective and Benevolent Union of the United States and Canada.

Lodge 22 as organized at Toronto, Ontario; Lodge 23 at Philadelphia; Lodge 24 at Burlington, Iowa; and Lodge 25 at Omaha, Nebraska. All of these were organized in 1884.

During the period between 1884 and 1889 the following lodges were organized: No. 26- New York; No. 27-Ft. Howard, Wisconsin; No. 28-Green Bay, Wisconsin; No. 29-Reading, Pennsylvania; No. 30-Topeka, Kansas; No. 32-San Francisco, California; No. 33-Syracuse, New York; No. 34-Sacramento, California; No. 35-St. Louis, Missouri; No. 36-Brooklyn, New York; No. 40-Baltimore, Maryland; No. 41-New Orleans, Louisiana; No. 42-Chicago, Illinois; No. 43-Akron, Ohio; No. 44-Lowell, Massachusetts; No. 45-Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York; No. 46-Des Moines, Iowa; No. 47-Youngstown, Ohio; No. 48-De Soto Missouri; No. 49-St. Louis, Missouri; No. 50-Niles, Ohio; No. 51-Elizabeth, New Jersey; No. 52-Newport News, Virginia; No. 53-Portsmouth, Virginia; No. 54-Wilmington, Delaware. In 1892, the following lodges were organized: No. 55-New Haven, Connecticut; No. 56-Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; No. 57-Piedras Negras, Mexico; No. 58-Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; No. 59-Kewanee, Illinois.

Interest in union activity was spreading in other sections and in 1888, the National Brotherhood of Boiler Makers was formed in Atlanta, Georgia. Their first convention was held there in 1889 and Charles P. Patrick was elected President and J. J. Finnegan, Secretary - both of Atlanta, Georgia. May 12, 1890 the second convention was held at Birmingham, Alabama; with five lodges represented, they begin from Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Richmond, Virginia; Logansport, Indiana, and Indianapolis, Indiana. At this convention J. J. McCarthy of Indianapolis was elected President and Patrick McGovern Secretary. May 11, 1891, the third convention was held at Indianapolis with a representation of thirty-two lodges. J. J. McCarthy was re-elected President and Charles W. Crossier was elected Secretary. May 9, 1892, the fourth convention was held at Columbus, Ohio with a representation of seventy-three lodges. J. J. McCarthy was again re-elected President and Raymond Garcia of Atlanta, Georgia was elected Secretary.

One of the first serious strikes of the National Brotherhood occurred between the members of Lodge 14 and the C. & A. Railroad, which lasted for six months and resulted in a victory for the men, their getting an increase in wages.

May 1, 1892, Lodges 1 and 42 of Chicago and Lodge 10 of Boston struck for a nine-hour work day. After being out eight weeks, Boston compromised on a 58-hour week. Chicago members

remained out four months and lost, declaring the strike off. However, the following year they entered into negotiations with the employers and on May 1, 1893, the nine-hour day was inaugurated.

In 1892, the International Convention was held at Cleveland, Ohio at which time Andrew M. Keir of New Orleans was unanimously elected International President and later, during the same year, William J. Gilthorpe was appointed International Secretary-Treasurer, to fill a vacancy.

The fifth National convention was held May 8, 1893, at Topeka, Kansas with 108 lodges represented. Lee Johnson of Topeka was elected President and Raymond Garcia re-elected Secretary.

The International Brotherhood also met this year at Chicago, Illinois and as the matter of consolidation of the two organizations had been agitated for some time, both conventions appointed committees on consolidation with power to act.

These committees met promptly and soon came to an agreement on consolidation; a revised constitution was adopted and officers elected to serve until the next convention (at the time of consolidation Andrew Kier was President and William Gilthorpe was Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago International Union). Lee Johnson, President of the National Brotherhood, was elected President of the consolidated organization and William J. Gilthorpe Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood was elected Secretary-Treasurer and Kansas City was made Headquarters. A requirement of the new President, Lee Johnson, was to establish an official journal to be sent to the membership, with the Grand President acting as Editor-In-Chief. The first issue being July 1, 1893, No. 1, Vol. 1.

On November 1, 1893 a consolidation of the International Boiler Makers Protective and Benevolent Union and the National Brotherhood of Boiler Makers took place and the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America became an organization. International Headquarters was located in Kansas City, Kansas in one room of the Wyandotte Building on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Minnesota Avenue.

At the time of consolidation there were thirty-six lodges in good standing in the International and ninety-four in the National Brotherhood, thus giving the consolidated brotherhood a total of 130 lodges. The formal consolidation went into effect November 1, 1893, with the title of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America. All lodge numbers were changed due to consolidation, with the exception of Local 1.

Membership register numbers were established after consolidation, and assigned in lots to the locals. Register No. 1 was assigned to R.W. Armstrong of local 154. Number 652 was assigned to M. Lopez, the first member of local 65 in Mexico, and No. 2725 was assigned to Joseph Sullivan, the first member of Local 128 in Canada.

On June 4, 1894, with a representation from 150 lodges, the first consolidated convention of the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The delegates elected Grand President and Organizer Lee Johnson from the Atlanta group, and Grand Secretary-Treasurer William J. Gilthorpe from the Chicago group. The organization had expanded and International Headquarters now occupied rooms 61-63 of the Wyandotte Building. In the mid 1890's there were five lodges in Canada and four lodges in Mexico. The total active membership was less than 5,000 for the U.S.A, Canada, and Mexico.

The Consolidated International became affiliated with the American Federation of Labor effective June 9, 1896. The convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio with Lee Johnson being re-elected President and William J. Gilthorpe, Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1897, President Johnson was appointed Labor Commissioner of Kansas, resigned as President, and was succeeded by John McNeil, one of the Vice Presidents. In 1898 the convention was held at Buffalo, New York. John McNeil was elected President and William J. Gilthorpe Secretary-Treasurer by a referendum vote, this being adopted at the Cleveland convention. In 1900 the convention was held in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Helpers Division of the International was formed in 1902. This division was entirely separated from the Boilermakers with its own local unions, as helpers were barred from sitting in the lodge room with the mechanics. In 1902 the next convention was held in Baltimore, Maryland.

Compelled to secure more office space, and unable to do so in the Wyandotte Building, International Headquarters was moved to the Portsmouth Building in 1903, on the southwest corner of Sixth Street and Minnesota Avenue.

At the 1904 convention held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Grand President and Organizer, George F. Dunn of Indianapolis, Indiana was elected and Grand Secretary-Treasurer William J. Gilthorpe was re-elected effective January 1, 1905.

March, 1906, the year of the San Francisco earthquake, the 7th convention was held in Kansas City, Kansas. During this convention the name was changed to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America when the work "Helpers" was added to the name. Also, at this time, the words "Boiler Makers" was changed to one work, Boilermakers.

Under the referendum law as enforced, all these conventions could do was to recommend changes in the laws, which generally were defeated when submitted to a vote. Dissatisfaction with the running of the organization became widespread. At this convention the referendum laws were declared to not have been legally adopted, and they were declared inoperative. The convention then proceeded to adopt new laws and elected officers.

The title of President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice President was changed from Grand to International. The title of International Vice President was preceded by a number; i.e., first, second, third, etc., according to the number of votes cast, with the title of "First" given to the International Vice President receiving the most votes. George F. Dunn was re-elected International President and William J. Gilthorpe International Secretary-Treasurer and elected First International Vice President Joseph Franklin, the next International President. This action met with the approval of the membership and new life was injected into the organization.

When the convention assembled in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1908, it approved to be the largest and most successful held up to that time. At this convention Joseph A. Franklin was elected International President and William J. Gilthorpe International Secretary-Treasurer. Two International Vice Presidents were elected to represent the Helpers Division: John H. Dohney of the Western Division and John F. Schmitt of the Eastern Division. Buffalo, New York was the dividing line for the East and West in the United States. The first Canadian International Vice President, N. Quesnel, was also elected at the 8th consolidated convention.

Due to the organization's growth and the inability to secure sufficient floor space in the Portsmouth Building, International Headquarters was moved in 1908 to the Law Building at 721 Minnesota, Suites 6-12. In that same year, Seventh International Vice President F. E. Owens resigned due to allegations he owned a gambling house.

A large and successful convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri in 1910. All the plants of the American Locomotive Works had been organized the year before with a large membership, and much progress made in organizing many railroad systems. J. A. Franklin was re-elected International President and William J. Gilthorpe was re-elected International Secretary-Treasurer.

At this time the position of Editor of Journal was created and James B. Casey of Richmond, Virginia was appointed (a title previously held by the International President). In 1912 this position was changed to Editor and Manager and made elective with James B. Casey being elected to this post.

The tenth consolidated convention was held at Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1912. At this time laws were enacted to provide for a large increase in the revenues of the Brotherhood, so that a larger strike fund might be created, and larger financial benefits were provided for the members, death benefits were increased to a maximum of \$250.00 and a disability benefit created ranging from \$200.00 for an eye to \$800.00 for total permanent disability. In 1912, The Helpers Division was consolidated with parent organization (Mechanics Division, allowing helpers to attend meetings with the mechanics, dissolving the need for separate helper locals) and at the time of consolidation had eighty-five lodges. In the same year the oceans of the Atlantic and Pacific met with the construction of the Panama Canal.

The 1912 Convention voted to hold the next convention at San Francisco, California. This was a very large undertaking as a large part of the delegates had to travel clear across the Continent to get to the convention city and most delegates had to travel long distances and it was feared this would prevent a large part of the lodges from being represented. However, the attendance was very good considering and a successful convention was held. All of the same officers were re-elected, except International Secretary-Treasurer Gilthorpe (after serving 20 years in office), who was succeeded by Frank P. Reinemeyer of Lodge 227 of Chicago, Illinois, Brother Gilthorpe was granted an annuity of \$1,200 per year for life in recognition of his long and faithful service.

In March, 1913 all International Vice Presidents and International Deputy Organizers were laid off due to lack of funds in the general account. May, 1913 all International Vice Presidents and Deputy Organizers were ordered back to work (it was rumored that International President Joseph Franklin was very upset with the Executive Council and fired them and further more, that he had all the locks changed on the International offices).

It was decided to make Kansas City the permanent convention city due to it being located near the geographical center of the country. The time for holding conventions was also changed from two to three years. Therefore, the next convention assembled in Kansas City, Missouri in September, 1917. At this convention the position of Assistant President was created, two candidates were placed in nomination for this position, Albert Hinzman, who had served as First Vice President from 1908, and Louis Weyland, Vice President of the Great Lakes and Territory District; a majority of the votes being cast for Louis Weyland and he was declared elected. All of the other officers were re-elected for another term.

Due to World War 1, on March 1, 1918 President Franklin was appointed Assistant Director of Labor under Director General of Railroads Mr. McAdoo, with headquarters in Washington. He was granted an indefinite leave of absence by the Executive Council and Assistant President Wayland assumed the duties of Acting President and Vice President Atkinson was selected to act as Assistant President. President Franklin remained with the United States Railroad Administration until June 1, 1920, when he again took up the duties of President.

Owing to the shipbuilding escalation of World War 1, the great demand for American exports created a boom in nearly all kinds of labor, and as a result the membership grew rapidly from 1916 and after the United States entered into it, when shipyards were being opened by the scores and thousands upon thousands of men employed in these yards and other big enterprises, the membership grew by leaps and bounds, the International had about 180,000 members. It was impossible to find a sufficient number of trained ship builders or boilermakers to supply the demands of the government, so men from nearly all trades and walks of life were put to work in the shipyards and boilersshops, a large part of these became members of the

organization while the rush was on, but as soon as this was over they returned to their former occupations and dropped their membership.

In 1919, World War 1 ended and International Headquarters moved from the Law Building back to the Wyandotte Building where it was located 24 years earlier, housing offices for the President, Secretary-Treasurer and one Stenographer. The building had been completely remodeled and the officers secured the entire third floor for international operations, then requiring 46 employees.

When the convention met in September, 1920 the union had lost a large number of the war time members, but still had a very large membership, and the attendance at this convention was the largest by far that the Union ever had, and numbered more than 550 delegates with 700 lodges organized. Many lodges had enormous memberships during the war, reaching into the thousands, Lodge 104 of Seattle was credited with a membership at one time that exceeded 16,000. After all the government ships that were contracted during the war were completed, most of the shipyards were closed and a large part of the lifelong shipbuilders were forced to seek other lines of work. Joseph Flynn was elected International Secretary-Treasurer at the convention.

The Boilermakers bought a two-story building at 8th and Minnesota, added three stories, and named it the Brotherhood Block, relocating International Headquarters to the 5th floor.

By 1921, all industrial building had ceased and mills and manufacturing plants closed, and large numbers were thrown out of employment, at one time it was estimated at 5,000,000. This condition still further seriously effected the membership; then July 1, 1922 the nation wide strike of the Railroad Shipment took place which involved approximately 30,000 boilermakers. As a result of this strike the Union lost a great many of the oldest and staunchest members, their homes as well as jobs were lost, they could not secure employment at their trade and were forced to seek other means of earning a living. Many of the railroad systems that had been the backbone of the organization in the past were also lost.

Joe Flynn assumed the duties of International Secretary-Treasurer, January 1, 1921 and continued in office until his effective resignation date of November 20, 1926. Charles F. Scott was appointed by President J. A. Franklin to fill the unexpired term of International Secretary-Treasurer.

On September 28, 1924, the Brotherhood Bank was established, and was located on the first floor of the Brotherhood Building.

By action of the delegated at the 15th convention, Charles F. Scott was elected International Secretary-Treasurer in 1926.

On November 20, 1929 the Executive Council took action and removed J. A. Franklin as President and elected Assistant International President, William Atkinson (effective December, 1929), to the office of International President in accordance with the provisions of Article IV., Section 10, International Lodge Constitution. The problem was the handling of the membership life insurance program.

At the 15th Consolidated Convention September, 1930, the delegates over rode the Executive Council Action of November, 1929 and re-elected J. A. Franklin as International President.

The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers announced their affiliation with the National Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor February, 1931.

President Joseph Franklin directed an executive mandate to all International Vice Presidents, Officers, and Locals that due to the International's financial status (due to the depression) it would not be possible to convene the 1934 International Convention (delayed until 1937).

In 1936 International Secretary-Treasurer Scott passed away and International Vice President William E. Walters was appointed International Secretary-Treasurer by the International Executive Council. Charles MacGowan became International Vice President. Later that year, Social Security issued their first payment.

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked. With the war efforts came an increase in the shipbuilding, railroad, and fabrication shop industries resulting in a rise in Boilermaker membership to about one-half million members during World War II.

During World War II, women boilermakers were hired and trained. Ms. Alice LaVonne Martin, a member of Local 72, Portland, Oregon was issued the boilermaker register No. 1,000,000 in 1943.

The next convention was to be held in 1941 but delayed until 1944 due to World War II, thus from 1937 to 1944 there were no conventions held. With the increase of membership the International hired many extra high school girls to work nights and weekends to process membership application which at that time were all done by hand.

At the 17th convention in 1944, International President Franklin (having served 36 years in that office) retired and the convention delegates elected Charles MacGowan International President and International Secretary-Treasurer Walters was re-elected. It was voted to establish a Research Department, to be headed up by Thomas L. Wands, Sr.

In 1945, World War II ended. International Secretary-Treasurer William E. Walters died and William J. Buckley was elected International Secretary-Treasurer by the International Executive Council.

The ground breaking and construction on the New Brotherhood Building began on January 22, 1948. International Headquarters moved to the 5th floor of the new building in September 1949.

In June, 1953 at the Boilermakers' 19th convention the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths merged with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. The amalgamated organization became the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers. A new International seal was adopted to include all the crafts. The seal was designed by T.L. Wands, Sr.

International President Charles MacGowan retired in 1954 and William Calvin was elected International President by the International Executive Council. As of October 1, 1954, the Boilermaker National Health and Welfare Fund was established with T.L. Wands, Sr., Chairman and H.J. Clark (C.B.I.) as Secretary and Bloomquist and Reeds of Chicago as Administrators.

In 1958 International Secretary-Treasurer Buckley died and the Executive Council elected International Vice President H.E. Patton to the position of International Secretary Treasurer.

The Boilermakers National Joint apprenticeship fund was established on November 9, 1959, with T.L. Wands, Sr. as Secretary.

In 1960, International Representative Charles W. Jones became International Vice President and the future International President. The Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust became

effective October 1, 1960, with Robert Murry as Chairman, T.L Wands, Sr., Secretary, and T. Lusk Wands as Administrator effective November 1, 1960.

In 1961, by convention action, the International President assumed the duties of editor, and the office of International Editor was no longer a separate elected office.

On January 27, 1962, International President Calvin died and International Vice President Russell K. Berg was elected by the International Executive Council to serve as International President.

The first Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension retirement checks were paid October 1, 1962.

The Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust and the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund merged for joint administration and located in the New Brotherhood Building, as of July 1, 1963.

In 1965, Local 107 Business Agent David Lewis became International Representative and moved to Kansas City Headquarters. The first apprentice to complete the national program graduated and International Vice President J.A. Grant retired. His father, E.M. Grant had also served the Brotherhood as an International Vice President having been elected at the 1906 convention.

After the death March 18, 1967 of Thomas L. Wands Sr., who helped establish the National Pension, Health and Welfare and Apprenticeship Funds, International Representative David Lewis was appointed Special Assistant to the International President and Secretary to all three National Funds.

In December of 1968, International Representative Paul Wedge was killed when a bridge collapsed. The National Apprenticeship Program established the "Paul Wedge Award" in his honor.

In 1969, Brother Cramer, of Local 1, was the first Boilermaker member to receive a heart transplant and the claim was paid under the Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Program.

Due to poor health, International President Berg retired in 1970, and the Executive Council elected Special Assistant to the International President Harold J. Buoy as International President.

International Secretary-Treasurer H.E. Patton retired March 31, 1973 due to poor health and International Vice President Charles Moran was elected International Secretary Treasurer by the International Executive Council, effective April 1, 1973.

At the 24th consolidated convention, August 1973, International President Buoy and International Secretary-Treasurer Moran were elected for a four year term. The delegates to the 24th consolidated convention voted to establish a Construction Division at International Headquarters for the purpose of servicing solely those members who have an employment relation with the construction industry, to assist in collective bargaining, to negotiate and administer all jurisdiction agreements and to engage in research and other related organizational activities.

The 25th consolidated convention was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, August 8, 1977, and International President Buoy and International Secretary-Treasurer Moran were re-elected.

The number of years between conventions was changed from four to five years because of the cost factor. This was done at the 26th consolidated convention in 1981, and International President Buoy and International Secretary-Treasurer Moran were re-elected.

In 1983, International President Buoy retired after serving 13 years in that office and second-generation Boilermaker International Vice President Charles W. Jones was elected as International President by the Executive Council.

On March 15, 1984, the delegates to the special merger convention of the United Cement, Lime Gypsum and Allied Workers International Union voted to merge with the Boilermakers. The merger of these two organizations, both with a long and proud history of accomplishments for their membership, forged an organization with a greater ability to provide service to its members. The CLGAW Division has nearly ten thousand members who dominate the building products and supplies industry.

In 1986, after serving 25 years as Administrator of the National Funds, T. Lusk Wands retired due to health problems. V. Keith Reed was named as his successor. International Secretary-Treasurer Moran retired April 30, 1986, and Canadian International Vice President Donald Wahn was elected to the position of International Secretary-Treasurer by the International Executive Council.

August of 1986, the Brotherhood's 27th Consolidated Convention was held in Hollywood, Florida. After a spirited convention that saw much division and disagreement, the delegates re-elected International President Charles W. Jones and International Secretary-Treasurer Don Whan. Three new International Vice Presidents were elected: Mike Wood, Page Groton, and Henry Bechtholdt, to serve in place of those who ran for higher office and lost.

After the 27th consolidated convention, political and ideological differences within the organization calmed, though those who lost in their bid for higher office and control of the union lured a few thousand members into an independent group called the Independent Workers of America. This outfit, headed by the former President of the CLGAW and a former Vice President of the Brotherhood, ultimately failed and the members were absorbed by the papermakers, and AFL-CIO affiliate.

In 1987, Dave Lewis retired as Executive Assistant to the International President. He remained active as Trustee and Secretary of the National Pension, Health & Welfare and Apprenticeship Trust Funds until his death in 1991.

On April 1, 1989, International Secretary-Treasurer Whan retired and Director of the National Transient Division Jerry Willburn was named International Secretary-Treasurer by the International Executive Council.

The Boilermaker Reporter, the Brotherhood's official publication, was redesigned in January 1990, and has become a major link in our communication system.

The Brotherhood's "Fight Back" program is highly respected among labor organizations as the only effective construction organizing strategy in North America. Canada is in the process of establishing a similar program and all Boilermakers can be proud of "Fight Back", it works!

At the 28th International Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada in August, 1991, Charles W. Jones and Jerry Willburn were unanimously re-elected to their respective positions.

Beginning in 1991, members saw well-equipped, Boilermaker mobile-organizing facilities on the road, hard at work seeking new members and new bargaining units. An inplant incentive organizing program that was effective in gaining new members wherever it was instituted.

The National Apprenticeship Program, a very good program, included local union and mobile training centers across the United States and Canada, and in 1991 the National Training Center in Kansas City, Kansas was established.

The Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP) continues to be effective in promoting legislation that brings jobs and protection for our members.

The National Pension Plan being the envy of the entire labor community and the pride of its members, also a National Annuity Plan that has been fast growing as a parallel to the National Pension Trust.