



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LU 2085

# LOCAL 2085 NEWSLETTER

[WWW.IBEW2085.COM](http://WWW.IBEW2085.COM)
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## RON STECY

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

As spring 2011 approaches, we hear of a potential flood coming our way, we hear of a potential federal election, we hear about numerous projects potentially coming our way, and so it goes.... **Lots to anticipate.**

In the last edition of the I.B.E.W. Coast to Coast 2010 Newsletter, there was an editorial regarding Merit shop (open shop or non-union) creating a partnership with Christian Labour Association of Canada (C.L.A.C.). This effort will enable them to lobby governments more effectively. We know what happened in the United States when Labour Legislation is passed that favours employers and Right to Work Legislation.

We must realize that when elected, right-wing conservative governments attack Labour Legislation that affects working people. Just look at what has happened in Saskatchewan with the passing of Bill 80 which was a signal that Union Workers are under attack.

We should remember that it was because of Unions that we have a working middle class society, and if we let our right-wing politicians have their way, there won't be a middle class for the next generation.

The I.B.E.W. position is that every Local should have an active Political Action Committee that presents our position to our Local politicians. More important, all of our members should know who their M.L.A. (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/alphabetical.html>) is and to have discussions with them about our concerns regarding Labour Legislation that embraces workers rights. We are facing a major problem where the Merit shops are often winning bids on our traditional work. We must continue to grow in membership and every member needs to perform to our Code of Excellence. We are the professionals in our industry. We can all step forward and continue the fight to restore or maintain our Labour Legislation that embraces workers rights.

We can win. We can all step forward and continue the fight to restore or maintain Labour Legislation that embraces workers rights.

# A DAY'S WORK FOR A DAY'S PAY

As was mentioned in the December 2010 newsletter, our work picture for 2011 looks promising with projects like, Milner Ridge, IKEA, HSC Women’s hospital and The New Power Plant, The Winnipeg Police Headquarters, The Blue Bombers Stadium, Great West Life’s (State of the Art data processing facility) and MB Hydro Riel Station. I continue to have a great working relationship with Gary Viser, Business Manager of Local Union 2038 in Regina and Greg Gaudet, Business Manager of Local Union 529 in Saskatoon. We currently have about 70 members employed in their jurisdiction and I understand that there will be more calls for workers.

The contractors at the MB Hydro Generating station at Wuskwatim continue to employ our members as the the project moves along towards completion in 2012.

**Please refer to page 8 of this newsletter for the instructions regarding the upcoming nominations and election for our Local Union Officers.**

This is your Union and you have a say in the affairs of your Local Union. You elect your own Local Union Officers, so complete your ballots when you receive them and mail them back as per the instructions.

Welcome to the many new members who have joined our Local Union. As the objects of our Constitution state; we wish to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependants in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

Congratulations to all Apprentices who have successfully completed their respective levels of in school training. Also, to the members who have passed the Interprovincial Exam and received their red seal certificates and “H” Licence .... A job well done.

Our sincere condolences to the family of our deceased member Paul Brazeau.

**In solidarity,**

**Ron Stecy, Business Manager/Financial Secretary**

The Manitoba Building and Construction Trades Council is pleased to announce the election of new officers for 2011—2014

<b>President:</b>	<b>Ron Stecy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2085</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Heiko Wiecheran, United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry Local 254
<b>Secretary Treasurer:</b>	John Sedor, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades, Local 739
<b>Trustees:</b>	Bruce Harris , Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Local 511 Robert Kozubski, International Association of Bridge, Structural Ornamental & Reinforcing Ironworkers, Local 728 Paul Horishney, International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators, Local 99
<b>Sargent at Arms:</b>	Frank Krauthaker, International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, No.1

**Attention All LU 2085 Apprentices School calls for 2011-2012**

**To ensure that you get into school next year please make sure you have your \$250.00 payable to Minister of Finance at our hall no later than May 15, 2011.**

**The Apprenticeship accepts Visa, Mastercard, Cash and Cheques.**

## 2011 Harley-Davidson FLHRC-103 Road King® Classic

Draw for the Bike will take place as soon as all tickets are sold, or at the IBEW All Canada Progress Meeting in Quebec City, QC on July 13, 2011

Must be an I.B.E.W. Member to Purchase and Win

**Tickets \$100.00 each • Only 500 tickets to be sold**  
Winning Tickets go back in for the next draw.

**A second \$5,000.00 cash prize will be drawn at the All Canada Progress Meeting on July 13, 2011**

Proceeds to assist in funding of the reception at the IBEW International Convention in Vancouver in 2011.



# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## Skipping Church

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So ... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away.

This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed., "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole.

## IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked,

"Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smile and replied,

**"Who's he going to tell?"**

The Local Union Office requires a copy of your current HC Licence, WHMIS and First Aid Certificate, so mail, email, fax or bring to 556 Notre Dame Avenue a copy of said Licence and certificates.

### MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

#### UNIT I: WINNIPEG

Unit I Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at

**556 Notre Dame Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

#### UNIT II: BRANDON

Unit II Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at the

**Canad Inns Brandon  
1125 18th Street  
Brandon, Manitoba  
Salon "A" in Altos Restaurant**

**Greg McFarlane**

**Membership Development Representative**

For those that don't know there is a lot of work in Brandon and Southwest Manitoba. Several Non-Union contractors from out of province are coming into our jurisdiction and taking away our work. We need your help. If you would like more information please contact me.

Please be advised that Local 2085 has an Initiative Fund that pays you to bring Journeypersons and Apprentices from the Non-Union.

Please visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for **IBEW 2085** and join our network.

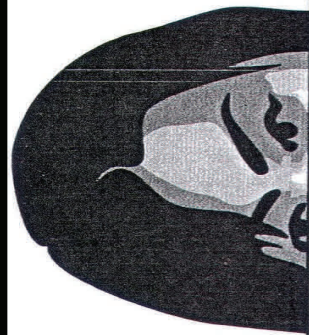
**Organizing is everyone's responsibility!**

**Greg McFarlane  
Membership Development Representative**

### DISCOUNT SPECIALS

**EECOL Electric is offering a 10% discount for any tool purchase to our members. Just show your dues receipt or union card to receive your discount. This offer does not apply to EECOL'S specials or sale items.**

**Mark's WorkWearhouse cards are available at the office to receive a 10% discount. New cards will be available in January.**



# READ THIS!

continued *Growing Labor Unions Will Grow our Economy* **A2**

They changed the tax system in ways that would benefit them at everyone else's expense. Rather than build factories that put Americans to work, they sent jobs overseas. Rather than pay workers middle class wages, they lent money to middle class families on increasingly risky terms.

Now we have the witch's brew: one part working people struggling to stay in the middle class, one part the gains from productivity growth going to the wrong people, and one part unimaginable fortunes chasing short term gains at any cost. We shouldn't be surprised that when Big Money met underpaid workers, the result was too much debt and too much funny money for the overall system to bear.

Looked at this way, we have a big policy problem. If we continue treating symptoms instead of problems, as we are now doing, the best we can hope for is to put things back the way they were. If we do that, we will have more rogue banks, more people without middle class incomes, and more fat cats running both Washington and Wall Street.

Lasting recovery will come only when we start treating the problem: without middle class wages, there is nothing "fundamentally sound" about our economy. We must grow our labor unions so they can do what only labor unions can do: keep the gains from worker productivity in the hands of working people.

*Richard A. Levins is Professor Emeritus of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. He is a popular writer and speaker on issues of market power and labor. You can learn more about his work at [www.middleclassunionmade.com](http://www.middleclassunionmade.com).*

*This article was first printed in the St. Paul Labor Advocate.*

## **A1** **Growing Labor Unions Will Grow Our Economy**

by Dr. Richard A. Levins

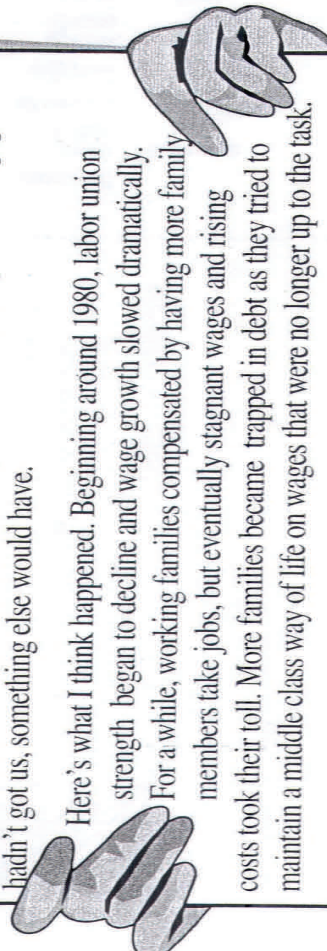
Ask anyone, and they will tell you that the subprime mortgage mess brought down our economy. Otherwise, the economy was "fundamentally sound." I'll agree that tanking mortgages pushed us over the edge, but the subprime train wreck was only a symptom of a much larger problem. If subprime mortgages hadn't got us, something else would have.

Here's what I think happened. Beginning around 1980, labor union strength began to decline and wage growth slowed dramatically. For a while, working families compensated by having more family members take jobs, but eventually stagnant wages and rising costs took their toll. More families became trapped in debt as they tried to maintain a middle class way of life on wages that were no longer up to the task.

Even though wages were stagnant, American workers continued to become more and more productive. This is something all of us can be proud of. But since there were not enough labor unions to bargain that productivity into higher wages, super wealthy owners fattened up on what otherwise would have gone to middle class families. Since 1980, the share of wealth and income going to the upper one percent of Americans more than doubled.

As the super-rich got even richer, they became more powerful. They changed banking rules to allow them to play fast and loose in ways that were once illegal.

continued on A2



Denis Précourt

EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING COORDINATOR

## Education &amp; Training – COURSE DATES – Spring 2011

Reserve via email – [dprecourt@mts.net](mailto:dprecourt@mts.net) or 982-2088

## Winnipeg (Unit I) – 556 Notre Dame Avenue

**On-Line Courses**

Available at

556 Notre Dame Ave

*There are now 20 courses*

Tuesday, Apr 5

Thursday, Apr 14

Tuesday, May 3

Thursday, May 19

Tuesday, Jun 7

Thursday, Jun 16

(4:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

*(Seating is limited to 6 members)*

Available on-line 24/7 from home

<http://www.vubiz.com/ChAccess/IBEW6/>IBEW Password is: **IBEWHS***We will pay you \$25.00 for each course taken.*

*Do not take any courses you have taken with CSAM as we will not pay for duplicates and we will NOT pay for courses taken from CSAM after March 31, 2011 except for Arc Flash: Safety Awareness which is required as per our collective agreement.*

*These courses are also available in our office during regular business hours*

**Pipe Bending**

Saturday, Jun 11

(8:00 – 4:00) All Day Course**Structured Cable**Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15  
(Cat 5e, Cat 6 & Fiber Optics)

(8:00 – 4:00)

All Day Course

**As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, all reimbursements for courses taken will be paid by cheque only. Cheques will be sent out by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following completion of courses.**

**Note: If you do not show up for a class that you have registered for without giving 24-hour notice, you will be charged \$50 per course**

Brandon (Unit II) – *(dates to be set when 10 people register) Call to set date & time.***First Aid / CPR**

This is an *all day course* available 7 days per week at St. John Ambulance. Please phone 982-2088 to reserve a seat.

**VUBIZ**<http://vubiz.com/chaccess/IBEW2>

There are 200+ courses available to all members at no charge. All you need to start is your IBEW membership number and the password: **IBEW2**

**IBEW Canada in conjunction with Local 2085 are proud to announce the availability of 20 Online Health & Safety Training Courses**

Arc Flash: <u>Safety Awareness</u> (CSAM) <a href="http://www.constructionsafety.ca">www.constructionsafety.ca</a>		Required by May 1, 2011
Asbestos Awareness		
Confined Spaces: The Basics (CCOHS)		Required by May 1, 2011
Contractor Health and Safety (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
Electrical Hazards (CCOHS)		
Emergency Preparedness for Workers (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
Fall Prevention and Fall Arrest		Required by May 1, 2011
Fire Safety: The Basics (CCOHS)		
Health and Safety Committees (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
Ladder Safety (CCOHS)		
Lockout (CCOHS)		
Manual Material Handling and Back Safety		
Mould Awareness	<i>New</i>	
Office Health and Safety (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
Pandemic Planning (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
Preventing Hearing Loss from Workplace Noise (CCOHS)		
Return To Work: The Basics (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
Violence in the Workplace (CCOHS)	<i>New</i>	
WHMIS for Workers (CCOHS)		Required by the Province
Working at Heights (CCOHS)		Required by May 1, 2011
Young Worker Safety Orientation	<i>New</i>	
<i><a href="#">CCOHS</a> – The Canadian Center for Occupational Health &amp; Safety (Government of Canada)</i>		

These courses are available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until December 31, 2011. Be sure to take advantage of as many courses as possible.

**Reminder:** The highlighted courses must be completed as per our collective agreement by May 1, 2011.

To start your learning experience, go to: <http://www.vubiz.com/ChAccess/IBEW6/>

**Every time** that you sign on, you will need to enter:

The **IBEW Password** which is: **IBEWHS**

Your **Membership Card Number**: That is the number on your IBEW Membership Card or your IBEW Official Receipt, for example 123456 or 123456AA or AB123456. If you do not know your Membership Card Number, you can use any unique number such as your home phone number or postal code **without any spaces** for example 4169492211 or L3P4R9.

The **First time** that you sign on, you will need to enter a little extra information so that we can set you up.

**Membership Card Number (confirmation)**: This is to confirm the information that you keyed above.

**Local Number**: Please enter the number of your local.

**First Name & Last Name**: So that we can identify you properly in the system when you return.



# NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS FOR IBEW LOCAL UNION 2085 ELECTIONS 2011

**NOMINATIONS** for Officers of Local Union 2085 will be held as follows:

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous good standing in Local Union 2085. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the two (2) years preceding the nominations. Apprentices are not eligible to hold office in the Local Union.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the I.B.E.W. Constitution whose term of office shall be three (3) years:

## Unit I

**Date:** April 13, 2011

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Place:** IBEW Local Union 2085  
556 Notre Dame Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1S4

## Unit II

**Date:** April 20, 2011

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Place:** Canad Inns Brandon  
1125 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brandon, MB R7A 4J4  
Salon "A" in Altos Restaurant

For the following positions:

### NOMINATED AND VOTED AT LARGE:

President	Delegate to International Convention
Vice President	
Recording Secretary	
Treasurer	
Business Manager/Financial Secretary	Delegate to International Convention
3 Executive Board Members	
2 Delegates for the International Convention	

### ELECTION

**DATE:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**TIME:** 9:00A.M. The election Judge will pick up ballots from P.O. Box

**PLACE:** Counting Ballots at 556 Notre Dame Ave, Winnipeg, MB.

The last day for receiving ballots will be June 23<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Midnight.

### NOMINATED AND VOTED AT UNIT II MEETING:

Nominations for Unit II officers will be held at the Unit II meeting on April 20, 2011.

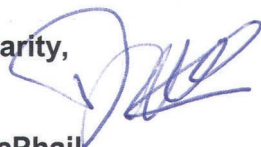
Chairman

Vice Chair

Recording Secretary

{Voting to take place at the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting.}

In Solidarity,



Dave McPhail  
President, I.B.E.W. LU 2085