

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

ELECTRICAL WORKERS MINORITY CAUCUS

SUMMER 2010

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LEADER TO LEADER



Sharing a Moment:

President Robbie Sparks with U.S. President Barack Obama

EXPANDING THE COMMITTED

VOICE OF THE EWMC

Electrical Workers

Minority Caucus

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Letter from the President

Welcome to the expanded vision of the EWMC. This quarterly newsletter will be part of an ongoing effort to keep members more informed about the great work that is being carried out by EWMC chapters in our communities across the country. Having your voice heard is critical in today's world. That is why this newsletter will feature members and chapters who are doing exceptional work to build and strengthen our communities.

Organized Labor is one of the most powerful forces in our nation. Yet, it seems that many workers, which sadly includes people of color, don't realize it. All it takes for this truth to become clear, however, is for us to look back at the gains that previous generations made. In our society it is not individuals who have made the most lasting gains for the good of the whole; it has largely been organized labor. Only the ignorant can look at the progress that has been made and conclude that they can stand alone and succeed. We all rise or fall together.

It is this vision that made our greatest leaders so important : They saw clearly that we are all interconnected and that only through working together in unity can we expect to see sustained progress in all of our lives.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was perhaps our greatest visionary in this regard. To be sure though, he was not the only one. We have all been reminded of this fact with the recent passing of several giants in the field of civil rights. Most notable among these passings were Dr. Dorothy Height and The Rev. Benjamin Hooks; two pioneers in the fight for justice and equality whose life

and work every member should study and digest. Yet, while we mourn the passing of such great leaders, in the 21st century it is time for us to stop depending on others to act for us. We are the ones we are looking for. We are the people who must make a significant and lasting impact on the quality of our lives.

Today, we are fortunate that we can shape our own futures. We can make choices and execute them in ways that previous generations were powerless to do. It is, in large part, the labor movement that allowed us to make these gains. Organized labor can give you skills that help you lead your household and give your family a better quality of life. In order to have these gains, however, each of us must work harder to ensure that everyone who wants them can have the same opportunities.

This is the beauty and the power of the labor movement. This is the truth that can make us free, if we will just stand and work together for our common goals.

We are excited about our national conference, which will be held January 13-16, 2011, in Washington, D.C. *You don't want to miss it.* So make your reservations early. The conference affords EWMC members the opportunity to network, listen to political and industry experts, expand their knowledge base through interaction with other members and have a good time too.

In Unity,

Robbie Sparks
President EWMC

The 2011 EWMC NATIONAL CONFERENCE



January 13-16, 2011

Please join the EWMC in the nation's capitol and the Headquarters of the IBEW for an informative and exciting conference. Be prepared for greater networking opportunities, depthful Plenary sessions and workshops, interactive panel discussions and historical tours of the metropolitan D.C. area. The *tentative* agenda is as follows:

- Wednesday, January 12:** Community Service Registration, Executive Committee Meeting,
(2:00pm-8:00 pm) Chapter Presidents' Meeting; Meet and Greet Session
- Thursday, January 13:** EWMC Community Services Day; Luncheon for volunteers
(6:30 am-7:00 pm) Conference Registration; Youth Caucus
- Friday, January 14:** Registration, New Member Orientation, Opening Plenary Session
(7:00 am-9:00 pm) Workshops; Luncheon: Construction and Industrial Caucuses;
EWMC Night OUT
- Saturday, January 15:** Plenary Session; Workshops; Lunch (on your own);
(9:00 am-11:30 pm) EWMC Reception and Awards Dinner Gala
- Sunday, January 16:** Closing Plenary Session
(9:00 am-2:00 pm)

All EWMC members are encouraged to participate in the Community Service Projects on Thursday, January 13th at 6:30 am.

Look for the 2011 National Conference Call by mail in September 2010 for greater details. You may also contact the EWMC at: ewmc2@yahoo.com for additional information.

The Conference Hotel is the **Capital Hilton Hotel**, located at 16th & K Streets, Washington, D.C. PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION *NOW* by calling the toll free telephone no: 1800 CAPITAL. To guarantee the EWMC room discount rate of \$139 for singles, **YOU MUST RESERVE** your hotel room under the EWMC code **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 30, 2010.**

MEMBER ILLUMINATION



Our featured member this month is Wendell Yee, Journeyman Wireman from Local 3, N.Y.C.

Q. How long have you been a member of IBEW Local 3 and the EWMC?

A. I have been a member of Local 3 almost 10 years. I've been a member of the EWMC for 6 years.

Q. What Generation do you identify with?

A. I suppose I am apart of the Facebook generation. Initially, I was reluctant to claim this association. I thought texting and online social networking were too impersonal. But, after attending a recent AFL-CIO Youth Leadership Conference I can now see the value in it. Everyone is moving so fast now and these advances in technology help get people organized quickly.

Q. What is important to you at this point in life?

A. My two boys and my wife. Kids change your whole outlook on life. I have to provide a stable environment for them.

Q. How are you making a difference in the labor movement?

A. I am helping members who are younger than me to grow and develop. Actually, I am in a sort of middle ground position. I am still being groomed by older people in the movement. Yet, I am also teaching younger members how to stand up and handle themselves.

Q. What can be done to retain & recruit more members?

A. I think that creating social events that allow people to meet and bond would help in both cases. If people feel comfortable with each other that can easily lead to

them taking action together. We should go out into the community and go to the events there; college fairs, sporting events, etc.,. To those who are not members of the EWMC I'd say, don't be afraid; it's a vehicle to help you. Give it a shot.

Q. Where do you see yourself in labor 5 years from now?

A. I never got into this to have a position of leadership. I just want to be here to help in anyway that I possibly can, whether or not there is a title behind it.

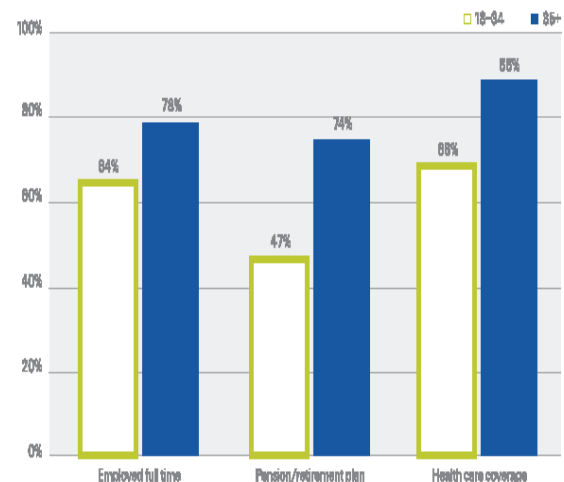
Q. What do you love about the EWMC?

A. Robbie sparks is like a mother to me! She is always giving me advice and pushing me on. She tells me I should never get complacent. I especially appreciate her for continuing to reinforce the idea that I shouldn't let my voice go unheard.

“ To those who are not members of the EWMC, I'd say, don't be afraid; it's a vehicle to help you. Give it a shot.”

Young Workers Are on the Painful Side of a Generational Divide

Percentage of young workers who are employed full-time, receive a pension or retirement plan, or are covered by health insurance compared with older workers.



SOURCE: EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data

FROM THE EWMC POWER LINES

Everett, Washington Chapter:

The chapter has volunteered six times for Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps low income people have a piece of the American dream of owning their own home. In the last year we have worked to rough-in, trim-in, paint and help build three different habitat homes.

The Everett Chapter worked with Teen Space, a youth group in Sedro-Wooley, WA, who needed help to run a concession stand at an outdoor theater. The money raised went to other projects and field trips they had scheduled. Teen Space is a great group who helps their community and puts together educational classes for teenagers, like a mechanics class, to help them learn to do maintenance on their cars.

We participated in a Disaster Response Training sponsored by Sisters in the Building Trades. Several of our members were certified to be first responders in case of a major disaster to help affected communities.

Members have also taken on some political activism helping Nicole Grant, our political organizer, by testifying before House and Senate Committees.

North Sound Alliance is an organization that brings large groups of people together to fight for the common good of the community. We are currently working with them to help rough in a brand new food bank in Mt. Vernon WA. Members have taken their leadership class on building one-on-one communication skills to help them find common issues in their communities.

Housing Hope is an organization that takes people from homeless to educated and working. They have a program called Sweat Equity where they help build their new home right next to volunteer labor. We have volunteered one day with them and have more scheduled.

Houston Chapter:

On January 7-14, 2010, HEWMC members participated in ABC TV's Extreme Makeover Home Edition Project rebuilding the home of Local 66 member, Larry Beach and his wife, Melissa. Their home was severely damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

The Beach family has fostered 80 children in their 23

years of marriage! At present, they are foster parents to 12 children. The episode was aired on Sunday, April 4, 2010.

Our members cooked breakfast tacos for donations to Local 716's Sick and Needy Fund on January 30, February 13, February 27, March 13 and March 27, 2010.

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, members participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Local 716's float took first place!! Congratulations to Roger Foster, who led the team, and all the members who helped build the float.

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, HEWMC members participated in the annual Cesar Chavez Parade. Following the parade, our Chapter provided healthy snacks to the participants at the Parade's end.

San Mateo County Chapter:

On April 24, 2010, the EWMC Local 617 Chapter brought 20 members of the Local Union and their families together to give back to the community on National Rebuilding Together Day.

Rebuilding Together is a non-profit organization that utilizes volunteers to provide home repair/renovation to keep low income families living safely in their homes. They also serve community organizations that cannot afford to repair or renovate their facilities.

Starting with breakfast at the Hall expertly prepared and served by Local 617's President Mark Leach, the volunteers grabbed their t-shirts, signed the waivers and headed out to their respective locations. The projects varied from new outside lights at the childcare center, to new fixtures at the women's shelter, to new services at various residences, and to even hanging a door.

Thanks go to Joe Sweeting, Irving Hemingway, JaDaun Williams, Randy Williamson and his son Julian, Randy Wetzell, Alan Sheehan, Bob Harkins, Kit Veneble and his wife Katherine, Dave Huston, Steven P. Kennedy, Jim Robertson, Sterling Able, Robert Simon Jr., Jessie Magana, Chris Carrillo, Marc Ellingsen, Art Lee, Burleigh Maples, Armor Electric, C&E Electric and Rosendin Electric for all stepping up to the plate.

With strong support from Local 716's leadership, our EWMC Chapter has been able to gain strength and momentum to carry out projects like Rebuilding Together. It is this relationship that enables us to give back to our communities.

FROM THE EWMC POWER LINES

Seattle Chapter :

Thanks to everyone again for attending the National Conference in Portland Oregon. Our Sisters and Brothers of EWMC Portland and Local 48 "Stood Up", and did an outstanding job.

Since January, the EWMC-Seattle Chapter has accelerated efforts with a campaign to increase participation within various Local Committees and Councils which affect Organized Labor. This action falls directly in line with many objectives within the EWMC Mission Statement. With the current difficult economic times, we feel the need to have direct connection to the organizations which determine our work picture. One of our Founding Chapter members, Sandra Moore-Jones, was recently appointed as a delegate to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. County labor Council (MLK CLC). Nicole Grant, serves as representative on the MLK CLC Women's' Committee. Frederick Simmons, our first EWMC-Seattle Chapter President, working with the organization L.E.L.O., has resuscitated the Fast Jobs Coalition. This Coalition serves as the community 'eye and ears' which maintains accountability on the large Sound Transit and new Light Rail expansion projects in the Puget Sound Region. Currently, the EWMC-Seattle has three members who serve on the committee. Damon Barnett, our Policy and Law Minister, was been appointed to the Washington State labor Council, Diversity Committee. Member Fred Monroe is the Chairman of the W.S.L.C. Diversity Committee. With this participation, and that of others, Our Chapter receives consistent updates from our Member representative's first-hand involvement.

The Chapter has participated in many Labor-related rallies and marches during the first two quarters of 2010. In March, the Seattle Building and Construction Trades Council, held a 'We Need Jobs Now!' Rally in downtown Seattle. Members of EWMC-Seattle stood fast with Local 46 Officers and many others to show our support. On May 1st, the Annual Seattle May –EWMC Day March and Rally took place. This was a glorious day, as EWMC-Seattle members marched with some of our social and economic justice partner organizations like L.E.L.O. and Pinay sa Seattle.

On May 22, our Chapter, in partnership with Local 46 and our JATC, sponsored the First Annual Apprentice Graduation Party. This event was a huge success, with many apprentices and there families having a great time in the safe

EWMC mission was to expand the mentoring of youth within and outside organized labor. Through our Community Development and Relations Cabinet, we continue to develop a relationship with the lead Special Education teacher with a local school, and hope to adopt this school in the future.

We have been invited to work with our Sisters and Brothers to the North, the newly formed EWMC Chapter in Local 191. Our plan is to assist them and work together with Portland EWMC chapter.

Washington, D.C. Chapter:

The D.C. Chapter held its' 6th Annual Black History Month Celebration on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The event was very successful as usual. We had a very good turn out with a number of local elected officials in attendance. Our guest speaker was Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. Each year we honor members of color who have retired and this year we honored 6 retirees and their wives. We also invite signatory contractors who purchase tables. This event would not be successful without the tremendous support that we get from the Business Office.

We are planning our 4th Annual Community Service Project. This year we will be doing minor electrical repairs at a shelter for single moms and their children called "Covenant House." The Community Services Agency of the Washington , DC Metropolitan Council usually assists us in identifying a local non-profit in need. We have a faithful partner in one of our larger contractors – Dialectic, Inc. who supplies all materials for the project and we recruit members to in carrying out the work. assist

We support Local 26's political agenda by phone banking, door knocking and gotv work. The chapter, in conjunction with the Local union 26, supports a local high school through an adopt-a-school agreement that is in its fourth year.

Upcoming events include participating in a 5k Walk/Run for Breast Cancer Survivors, feeding the homeless at a local shelter for men, and raffling a \$250 monetary gift to an unemployed member. This event replaces our Secret Santa effort that was done in the past.

Lastly, we will be working under the guidance of the National EWMC to prepare for the upcoming EWMC's Annual Conference to be held in Washington D.C. in January 2011.

FROM THE EWMC POWER LINES

Florida Chapter:

On June 5, 2010 the EWMC Florida Chapter took part in Jules Burt's High Heel Hike. Well, it is technically more of a strut when you are in high heels. It is a 1K walk - Everyone can handle that - even in heels. The 2010 High Heel Hike was in Westshore Plaza in Tampa, Florida. We raised donations and awareness for Autism.

School Supplies – EWMC Florida Chapter delivered boxes of school supplies to Potter Elementary and MOSI Partnership Elementary. Both are Title 1 schools with 91% of the student population economically disadvantaged. Both schools were thrilled!

Heavenly Hats to benefit chemotherapy patient. We donated about 50 hats to this great organization in 2010! Heavenly Hats is a non-profit organization that donates new hats to cancer patients who lose their hair due to cancer or other medical conditions. The hats boost patients' self-esteem and give them the courage that is needed in their battle against cancer.

Meal preparation at the Ronald McDonald House in Tampa In February we prepared dinner for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House next to Tampa General Hospital.

Mother's Day baskets for The Spring there are about sixty Bay Area children who had an awesome Easter surprise thanks to EWMC! These members coordinated the project and with the help of volunteers shopped in order to fill and deliver sixty Easter baskets with candy and other goodies for the age-appropriate baskets! The baskets all made it to The Spring of Tampa Bay, a domestic violence shelter for women and their children.

Local 18 Chapter:

The chapter is building a great relationship through its involvement with an Adopt-a-School Program and LaSalle Elementary School. We collected and delivered donated books, games and school supplies to the 4th grade classes early this year.

On May 14, 2010, the chapter participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in Lynwood, CA. We assisted in building 10 unit duplex homes. This project is the first LEAD certified development in the City of Los Angeles; green materials are being used throughout the project. We worked on electrical, painted, drywalled and relocated trees. It was a great experience that showed how a little effort can go a long way in making a difference in people's lives and in our communities



Longtime EWMC member Sylvester Taylor is running for State Representative for Missouri's 80th District. Brother Taylor is a 20-year Journeyman Wireman and member of Local 1.

Taylor's campaign is producing steady gains, in part because of his promise to focus on "accountability when we need it the most." He has been "accountable for 3 Fire Protection District engine houses that were built on time, on schedule, and with significant minority participation." We wish Brother Taylor success in his campaign and election, which takes place on August 3rd. Let's continue to support Brother Taylor in his election bid.

Contact Sylvester at: 12756 Orley Drive Black Jack, MO 63033; email: Sylvester@sylvestertaylor.com; (314) 220-1407.

MISSION POSSIBLE: STORIES THAT INSPIRE

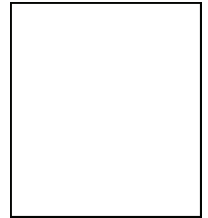
The EWMC Mission (see page 8) is all about leadership, activism, helping lift others up and having a real voice in your union, community, and political affairs.

We are looking for good stories on leadership development, community service, union and political activism, and mentoring.

Share your success story with the EWMC family and help motivate and inspire others to do more with their God given talents. Help other members learn how to achieve their goals. Post your story at ewmc2@yahoo.com. Send your photo along with it; you may be featured in our upcoming EWMC newsletter.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus

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ELECTRICAL WORKERS MINORITY CAUCUS

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EWMC MISSION:

Promote equal opportunity and employment for minorities at all levels of the IBEW

Provide assistance to and address discrimination in the IBEW

Promote and support the organizing of minorities in the IBEW

Encourage minority workers to be greater community and political activists

Encourage active involvement in human, civil and women's rights organizations within and outside of organized labor

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Local 2127

Vice-President
VICTOR UNO
Local 595

Secretary-Treasurer
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Local 1245

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