



I.B.E.W. Local #1974



The Short Circuit



May 15, 1997



President's Message

There is still no news on the lawsuit against AT&T addressing pension money. Frank Possinger, President of the EM-3 System Council is still waiting for an answer from the attorneys.

Another meeting is scheduled in June with I.B.E.W. - C.W.A. and Lucent Technologies to discuss the possibility of extending the current contract. Hopefully after that meeting there will be some definite information to pass on.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has bought out Hyatt Legal Plan. This will not affect what we have in place today.

May 5th & 6th, the Union President, Vice President and Trades Committee Chairman, along with three management people from Allentown, Pennsylvania came to Omaha to see our Machine Tool Training Program that was put together by our Trades Committee with the help of the ETOP Committee. They were also impressed by our Trades Apprenticeship Program. Both of these programs are unique to the Omaha Works and are generating interest in several other locations.

During this visit, the National ETOP Co-Directors signed a contract with Metro Tech Community College. An electronics technology training program is scheduled to begin the first of September. This program is also the work of our Union Trades Committee with the help of the ETOP Committee. Great Job!!!

AT&T and Lucent Technologies have revised the AT&T Transfer System/AT&T Rehire System Resume to make it shorter, easier to use, and to eliminate items of information which are not used in the selection process. The new format, to be called The ATS/ARS Employee Profile, will be introduced in the next two to three months. Employees who have current resumes on file will not need to take any action.

It has been reported that there are some errors in the new benefits book. No details are available as of yet. We'll give you information as it comes in.

Out of thousands of applicants from Lucent Technologies and AT&T locations, we have 3 finalists in the 1997 I.B.E.W. Academic Awards Program from Local 1974. They are:

- **Stefani L. Cody** - daughter of **Thomas E. Akeson, Jr.**
- **Stephanie M. Greiner** - daughter of **William E. Elliot**
- **Elizabeth R. Sievers** - daughter of **Glenn E. Sievers.**

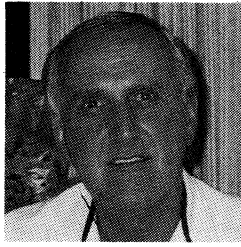
Congratulations and Good Luck!

***Fraternally, Marlene Wilson
President/Business Manager, Local 1974 IBEW***

TO: ALL UNION MEMBERS:

The monthly membership meeting will be held **Thursday, May 15, 1997 in the Small Meeting Room, 13306 Stevens Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Phone: 895-4080 - FAX 895-1828.**

Third Shift Meeting: 8:20 a.m. Second Shift Meeting: 2:00 p.m. Day Shift Meeting: 4:15 p.m.



Views from the Vice President's Office

by Sam Martin

Some of our brothers' and sisters' cars have been broken into recently in our parking lots. With these problems and another more tragic one, things are being put in place to possibly alleviate them. TV cameras on top of 60 bldg. — upgrading cameras on 30 and 50 bldgs. - increased coverage by more patrolling of our security forces.

Our Health-Fitness Center proposal — we have discovered Lucent Technologies already has 10 centers. Three of them are in factory locations (Reading, Allentown, Little Rock). This is a good sign but not a go sign yet.

The Omaha Works was certified as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program Star Work Site in 1994 through the efforts of everyone. This facility will be up for a recertification audit late this year. Currently we have a safety prize program, "Safety Makes Sense", to increase awareness. I will be telling you more about the upcoming audit and related events in the future.

As a Star Work Site, Labor, Management and OSHA have a cooperative relationship to have effective safety programs and reduce work injuries. Under the program, employees have all their rights under the OSHA Act including:

- Employees shall have access to the results of self-inspections and investigations upon request.
- Employees shall have the right to notify the Safety Organization, in writing, about conditions that appear hazardous, and to receive timely and appropriate responses without fear of reprisal.
- There will be no reprisal/discrimination against an employee if they should exercise the rights to which they are entitled as the result of their participation in the Safety and Health Program or under the OSHA Act. Remember, the Safety Hotline X3733, supervisor or the Union Safety representative when you need to express your concerns.

As a parting statement, if somebody believes or thinks a Union Rep has done something wrong, ask the individual — don't listen to the naysayers!

THE SHORT CIRCUIT

Omaha, Nebraska

March, 1997

Official Publication of Local Union 1974,
International Brotherhood of

Electrical Workers AFL-CIO, Omaha, Nebraska.

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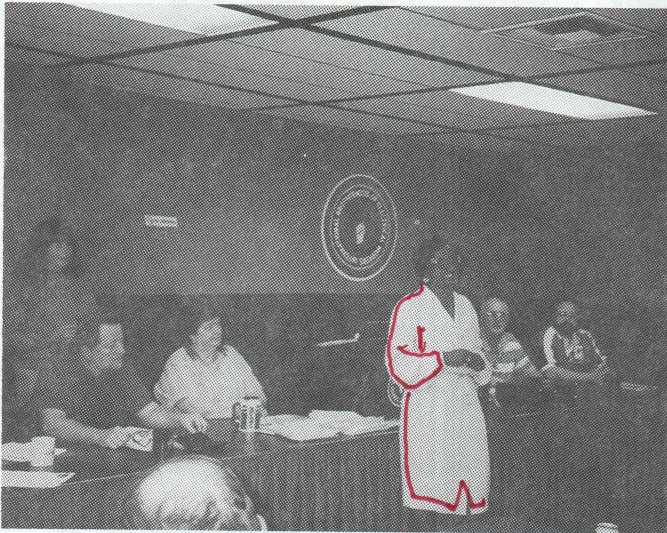
Editor Deb Gulizia
Artwork Tim Cremeens

IBEW

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers expressed dismay over decision by Thomson Consumer Electronics to close its only U.S. assembly plant and move some 1,500 jobs to Mexico. French-owned Thomson, which makes RCA, GE and ProScan TV brands, will close its Bloomington, Indiana plant in April, 1998 when its labor contract expires. Thomson is the biggest TV maker in the U.S. and its Bloomington plant is the world's largest assembly facility, turning out some 2.1 million units in 1996. Thomson also will close its TV assembly plant in Prescott, Ontario and transfer work to Mexico. IBEW members in both cities agreed three years ago to \$210 million in concessions, including wage freeze, in return for job guarantees. Mexican labor costs are \$2.10 hourly compared to \$19 per hour in wages and benefits that U.S. workers receive.

***Reprint from April 14, 1997 Issue
of Nebraska State AFL-CIO Newsletter***

Mayorial Candidate Brenda Council Addresses April Morning Union Meeting



Safety Contest

by Deb Gulizia

Phase I of the Safety Contest is wrapping up this week. By now I hope everyone knows the Emergency Response Number is X3222. A sticker should be on all phones in the plant.

In 2 weeks, Phase II will begin. The prizes are bigger and better and the questions are a little tougher. Make sure you have your glasses with side shields on or you will be disqualified for Phase II of this contest.

If you are approached by a Safety Sub-Committee member, you will be asked one of these 4 questions:

• **Where is the closest fire extinguisher in your area?**

Answer: Look in your area.

• **What information do we need to give the emergency response team when we call in an emergency?**

Answer: Please give your name, column # of the person, building #, and nature of the emergency.

• **Name the types of protective equipment that should be used at home as well as at work?**

Answer:

- Safety Glasses
- Ear plugs
- gloves

• **What are some good tips for preventing heat stroke?**

Answer:

- Limit time spent in direct sun
- Drink plenty of liquids
- Limit physical exertion
- All of the above

Phase Two will start on June 2nd. 72 Prizes will be awarded during this phase.

The winners for the following weeks were:

Week VII

Sandra L. Smith	A62
Sandra M. Schovanec	D13
Lavonne K. Randall	C15
Ruth Nolan	A64
Bobby T. Scott	B14
Kay E. Krueger	B14

Week VIII

Lawrence F. Schultz	B16
Margaret A. Haynes	B14
Judee R. Weis	D19
Rhonda L. Boger	C12
Hubert Cappen	C15
Debra K. Palma	C14

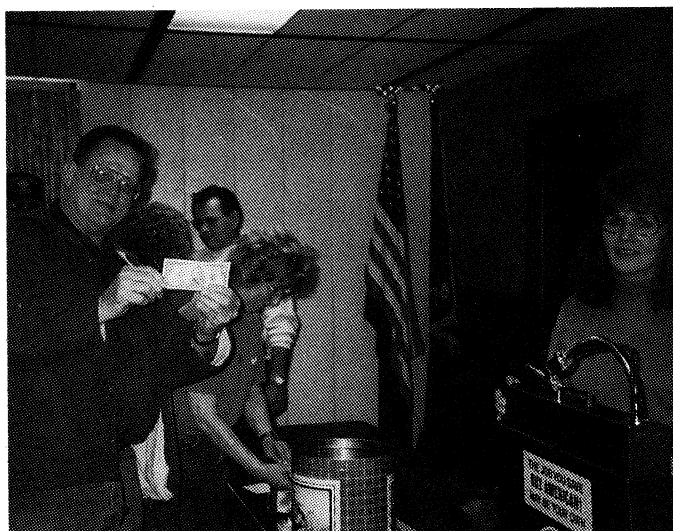
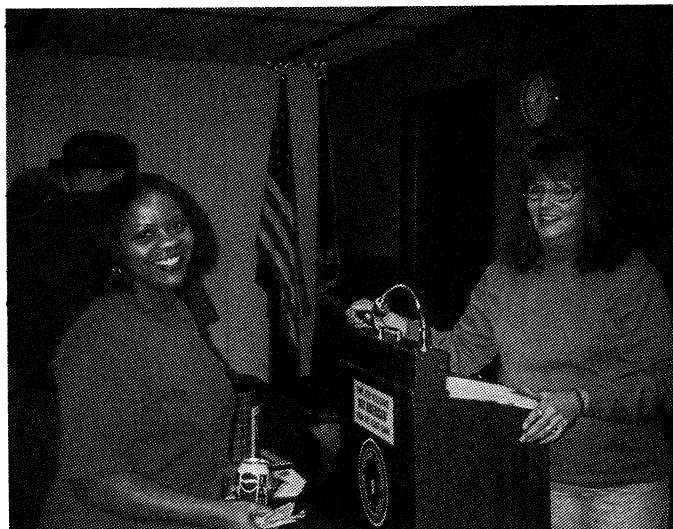
Week IX

Joan Knudtson	B16
William F. Lepley	A61
James M. Mayer	D17
Allen R. Buehler	A63
Gary L. Mintken	B12
Bobbie G. Lawson	A11

Week X

Linda Miller	C14
Donna H. Erickson	A65
Jeff Geissinger	A13
Richard J. Stevens	B16
Rebecca C. Hughes	D17
Gary J. Updegraff	D13

Drawing Winners



\$50 Door Prize

The winners of the \$50 door prize were:

At the 8:20 a.m. meeting — **Don Dilla.**

At the 2:00 p.m. meeting — **Tim Gillham.**

At the 4:15 p.m. meeting — **Dale Wichman.**

50-50 COPE Drawing

The winners of the 50-50 Cope Drawings were:

At the 8:20 a.m. meeting — **Larry Cherry \$7.00**

At the 2:00 p.m. meeting — **Everett Peterson \$3.50**

At the 4:15 p.m. meeting — **Ronnette Littleton \$7.50**

Larry Cherry and Everett Peterson donated their winnings back to the COPE Fund. All winners were given a special prize by the Cope Committee.



Safe & Secure Parking Lots?

By Deb Gulizia

We should have all received our new parking stickers by now. This is intended to keep us renegades from parking wherever we feel like parking. There **ARE** rules after all! Besides, if we all park in one area of the lot for each shift, the thieves and vandals don't have to wander around so much.

In April, several employees were the victims of their vehicles being broken into and having valuables stolen. They followed the proper procedure by immediately reporting it to the guards. When a copy was returned to the employees, they had names, vehicles, and items mixed up so badly, they had no idea which report belonged to whom. Now they get victimized again because it took up to 2 weeks of daily phone calls to get it straightened out. So, for 2 weeks they were unable to start settling up with their insurance companies. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?**

With all the break-ins that have been going on, we have been very fortunate that **so far** we haven't had anybody walk up to their car while being vandalized. A two-bit criminal could get nervous and we may end up with a serious assault or worse!

When you come to work at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. and a car follows you onto the property, do you hope he/she works here or are you afraid they're following you because you are alone in your car? Do you have a safe place to go? Will there be a guard there when you **enter** the lot? **NO!!** . . . but we do have fences with barbed wire and cameras that **MAY BE** working. (We'll check the film later!)

In my opinion, there are more important security issues to worry about than where we should park!

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

• The 12th Annual Nebraska State AFL-CIO 18-hole four-person Golf Tournament will be held June 14 at the Hidden Acres Golf Club in Beatrice (402-228-2145). Call our union office (895-0480) for a registration form.

• The 7th Annual Nebraska State AFL-CIO 18-hole two-person Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, August 16 at the Bay Hills Golf course in Plattsmouth (402-298-8191). Call our union office (895-4080) for a registration.

What Teamwork?

How many AQT meetings have you attended where all you hear about is **teamwork**? Why is it that managements "team" received bonuses ranging from five to fifteen percent of their salaries, and my "team" gets a handshake? I guess our bonus is the automatic flushers in the restrooms.

I find it amusing that management can find the means to reward supervisors, engineers, and department chiefs, for a job well done, when it is actually the poor working stiffs in the plant that make all the quotas for them. Then they take all the credit and reap the benefits. Our so-called "coaches" should devote as much time to the job as their "worthless" meeting after meaningless meetings.

Now we hear talk that the company would like to extend the contract. Well, for a five to fifteen percent raise, we'll skip the meeting and take it without negotiating!

Other companies at least give their employees perks, i.e., state park passes, zoo passes, etc. - not even the company picnic is **free** anymore!

If any of you non-members out there, getting a free ride, think that management would be fair with you if there wasn't a union, you had better think again!

"Teamwork"? **BULL — SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!**

Ben Garcia



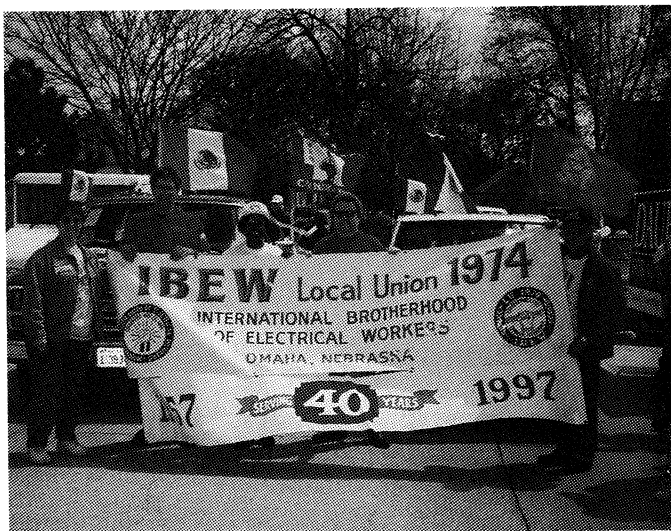
INVEST IN AMERICA
BUY AMERICAN MADE WITH
THE UNION LABEL.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards and flowers I received while I was out sick. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

— *Linda McGuire*

Cinco de Mayo



Employee Resource Center

The E.R.C. awareness fair held in the company auditorium was a huge success. Over 500 employees attended the fair this year.

A total of 15 various agencies including Lucent's own work/family development fund.

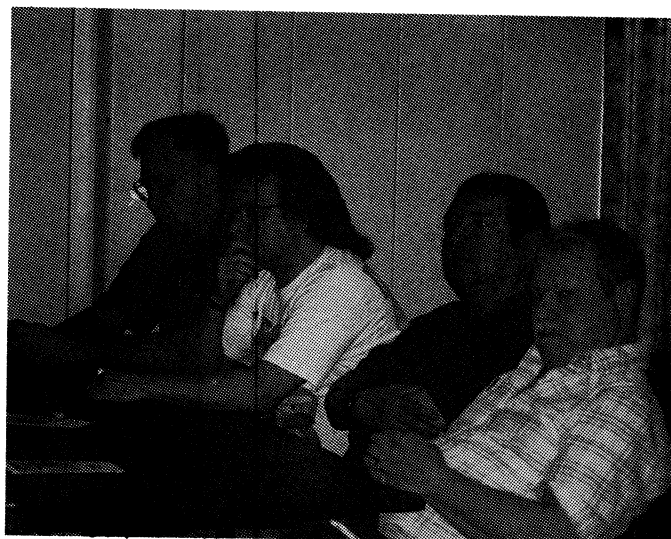
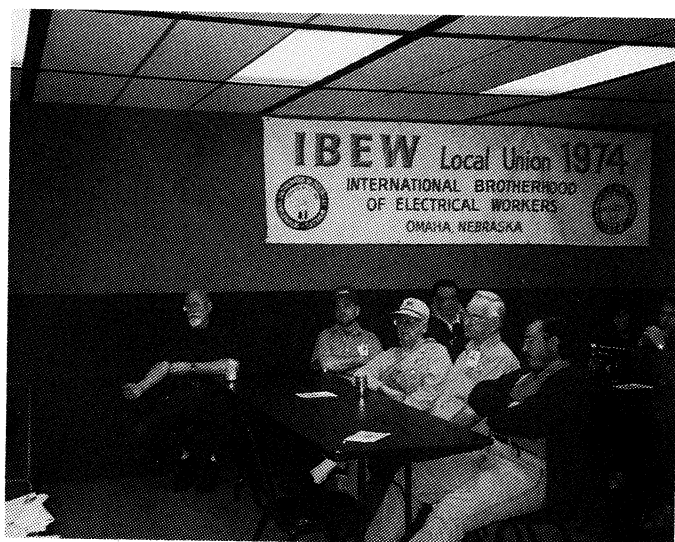
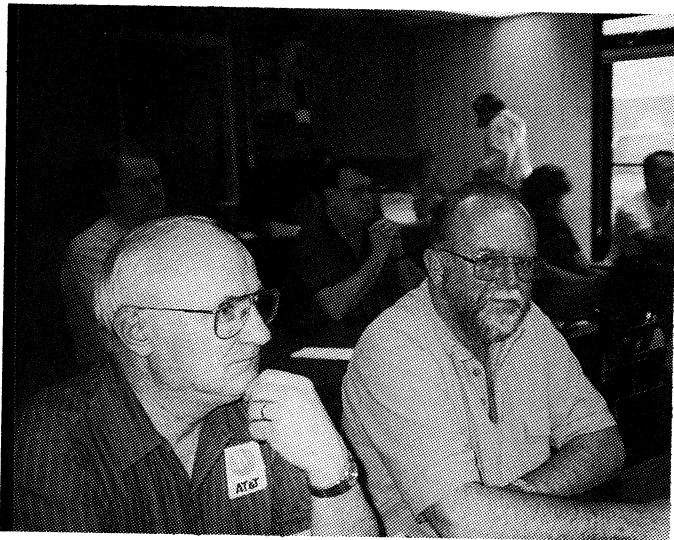
And also our SAFETY, ETOP, EAP organizations had their displays at the fair. Remember, all of these agencies are here for you ... CALL. The ERC would like to thank all employees for making this year's fair one of the best ever. We look forward to seeing you again next year. Remember, the fair is sponsored by the ERC. The ERC is sponsored by your UNION. The UNION is sponsored by YOU! Make use of your benefits and support your UNION!!!!

Ten Essentials to Safe Mowing

1. Never wear shorts or sandals when mowing.
2. Always start mowers outdoors.
3. New mow wet, slippery grass.
4. Clear debris from your yard. Keep bystanders away.
5. Don't push a mower up and down a steep slope.
6. Always push the mower forward — never pull it toward you.
7. Never reach into the exit chute when a mower is running.
8. Let a hot engine cool before refueling. Don't refuel a mower in a poorly ventilated area. Use approved fuel-storage containers.
9. Never work on a mower without removing the spark-plug wire.
10. If you are tired, sick or taking medication, don't operate power equipment.

Spring 1997 — Family Safety and Health

Interested Members at April Meeting



Wheel To Spin Union Made!

Labor-Day Week will be union-made and union-member's week on the popular Wheel of Fortune television quiz show this year.

All prizes on the shows broadcast that week will be union-made, and all the shows will feature contestant teams made up of two union-family members. The shows will be taped August 1 at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus for broadcast Labor-Day week. Auditions for union-members family contestants will be held in Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles in June. Details on participation are available from individual unions.

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THE RECORD

BOB SOPPE, C15, MEMBER
FRANCIS SCHON, C14, MEMBER
BEV BROWN, C14, MEMBER
MARIAN M. WILLMER, C14, MEMBER
Kenny Wright, B14, Sister
Mike Ellsworth, B12, Grandmother
Walt Ruff, D13, Father-in-law
Gene Drvol, A11, Brother
Clara Walla, D12, Husband
John Gude, B14, Grandfather
Jim Rush, B14, Mother
Tim Johnson, B14, Grandfather
Larry Kriegler, B16, Grandmother
Agoston Frics, B16, Father
Cathy Lewis, B12, Sister
Rebecca Kingham, D17, Grandmother

Ergonomics Corner

by Don Wieczorek

It fits like a . . .

What do gloves do? On the positive side, they protect users' hands from heat and cold; from chemical burns and the cuts of knives; and from the effects of vibration and electric current. But, no silver lining is without a cloud.

Gloves reduce the sense of touch so that people tend to grip more forcefully to avoid dropping the thing they are holding. This can contribute to muscle fatigue and injury.

Gloves also reduce manual dexterity. Poorly fitting gloves can cause blisters. One study has found that gloves reduce assembly performance by up to 37 percent. The Kodak study found that gloves also can reduce maximum grip force between 19 percent and 38 percent.

Making the right choice

Choose materials providing necessary protection and the best frictional characteristics with the tools to be held. Often leather gloves, though expensive are the best choice to optimize safety, comfort and productivity.

Make as many sizes as possible available to users so that everyone has a well-fitted pair. Gloves that are too small will restrict movement and possible blood flow in the hand. Gloves that are too big will increase the grip force requirements, create pressure points where the material bunches and may get caught in equipment.

Avoid double gloving. This substantially increased the grip force demands and reduced dexterity.

Gloves increase effective hand size — make sure that the use of some tools is not precluded or made awkward by the gloves selected.

There is often significant benefit in having user trials to select gloves, providing optimum choice and better user acceptance.

— from *LRP Publications*

Retired March 1997

Ronald R. Barrett
Janet P. Canterbury
Louis R. Gasper
Harlan H. Holck
Darvin E. Janousek
Opal C. Jarrett
James T. Jershin
Joyce E. Patrick

Denis L. Portrey
Jolene K. Possinger
Al Praitis
Betty Rowland
Dale J. Snyder
Shirley G. Tate
Carole S. Will
Evelyn P. Winters

40th Anniversary T-Shirts

By Deb Gulizia

We will be ordering shirts with the 40 year anniversary design. If you are interested, please fill out the order form below and give it to your Union Rep or officer. These t-shirts will be available for a limited time only.

Colors	Sizes and Cost	
White	M-XL	\$10.00
Grey	XXL	\$11.00
	XXXL	\$13.00

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

IBU _____ Ext. _____ Shift _____

Quantity	Color	Size	Price
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Union Rep _____ Total \$ _____

Shirts must be paid for at delivery!

"The Fair Share Bill"

By John Gude

In the current session of the Unicameral, LB 124, "The Fair Share Bill" which would require non-members to pay a portion of Union dues that pertained to bargaining, and representation is out of committee and on the floor.

This bill is long overdue to be passed. It would finally require non-member deadbeats to contribute their "Fair Share" back to the Union that negotiated with the company for the good wages, benefits and working conditions that we have.

Decent, hard-working Union members are smart enough to see the value of the Union shop we work in and pay dues to belong. This bill does not require these deadbeats to join the Union, (although if they were the least bit intelligent, they would) but to pay their "Fair Share." Any of you good members that know any of these deadbeats as I do, have heard all of their lame excuses before why they won't join. Bottom line is (in my opinion), that if they don't believe in Unions with all the good wages and benefits we have negotiated, they should quit and go to work in a non-union environment. Of course they won't because they won't find a better place to work than a union job!!!

In closing, I urge all of you good members to call and write your State Senators. Tell them to vote YES for LB 124.