

Turlock ID votes in Local 1245

Employees in the Line Department at Turlock Irrigation District voted 40 to zero last month for union representation by Local 1245.

After employees contacted Local 1245 about possible representation, the union participated in a meeting that included a state mediator, three line officers, the personnel manager, a lawyer from Littler-Mendelsohn (representing the company), and Local 1245 Business Representatives Gary Mai and Dennis Seyfer.

According to Mai, the District made no effort to put on an anti-union campaign.

Seyfer was slated to meet with bargaining unit members on Feb. 29 to establish a bargaining committee.

East Bay crew honored for rescue

By Eric Wolfe

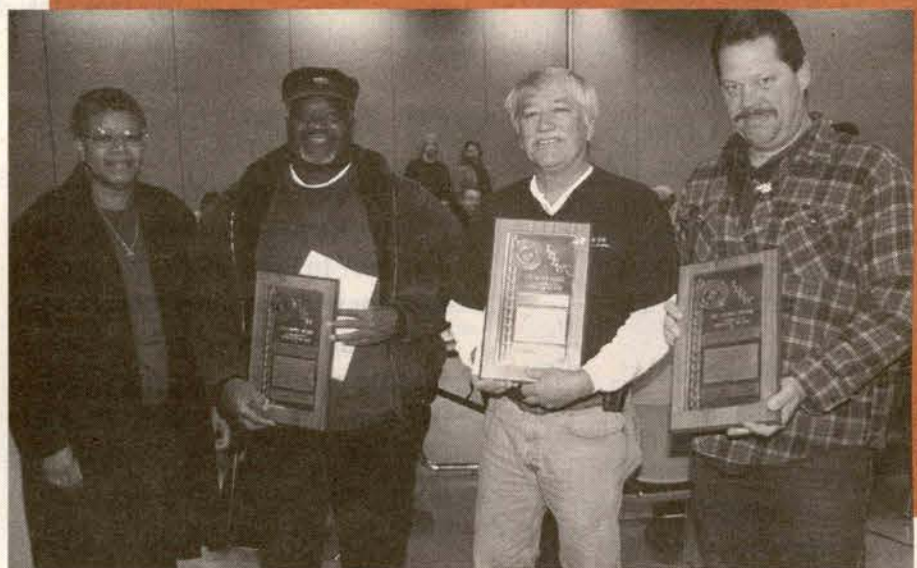
Two screams caught the attention of Local 1245 member Walt Colvin as he prepared to start a trenching job on San Pablo Dam Road in Richmond last fall. He decided he'd better check it out.

What he found was a sight that no one wants to see—and few people are prepared for. A contract worker on the job had cut off his foot with a rock saw.

"I ran over and I could see him bleeding profusely," said Colvin. "He was scared to death."

Colvin, an Equipment Operator, quickly alerted the other members of his crew: Underground Construction Foreman Jim McCauley and Underground Construction Journeyman Jim Reeves. Their decisive action during the next few minutes saved a life, and earned them the union's highest honor—the IBEW Life Saving Award.

McCauley, who is vice president of Local 1245, recalled the first seconds



LIFE SAVING AWARD

Local 1245 Business Rep. Lula Washington (left) presents IBEW Life Saving Awards to (from left): Walt Colvin, Jim McCauley, and Jim Reeves.

of the crisis:

"The guy had blood squirting out of his leg. Jim (Reeves) and I just looked at each other. And by the look in our eyes, we knew we didn't want to be in that situation. But you knew

unless you did something at that time the guy would be dead."

So they did what they were trained to do. They took action.

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What now for PG&E Clerical?

See Pages 5-7



Laura Ice raises an issue at PG&E Clerical conference in Sacramento.

CPUC ups revenues for PG&E

The California Public Utilities Commission on Feb. 17 issued a decision in Pacific Gas & Electric's General Rate Case that provides an increase of approximately \$200 million more than was initially recommended by a CPUC administrative law judge.

The decision, authored by Commissioner Carl Wood, was the most generous funding level of the three options being considered by the commission. It provides an increase for electric operations of \$136 million and for gas operations of \$93 million.

"This decision will provide PG&E with the funding to return to better

service quality, and will provide mechanisms for financial and regulatory accountability to assure the public that PG&E is spending authorized funds appropriately," Wood said.

Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally praised the decision as being in the best interests of customers who use PG&E service and the union members who provide it.

The CPUC ordered PG&E to implement a Quality Assurance Program that requires the company to compensate customers if it fails to meet certain standards of performance.

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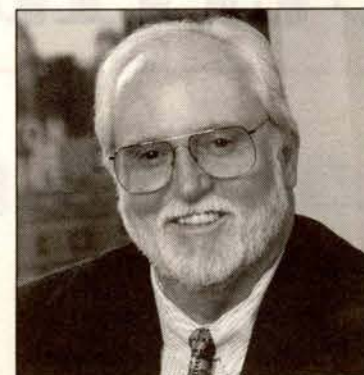
APPOINTMENTS

- CITY OF REDDING
- Negotiating Committee
Robert Sandoval
John Roberts
James Rich
Joe Kropholler

POINT OF VIEW

Local 1245 members shaped GRC decision

By Jack McNally, Business Manager



“You can’t fight city hall.”

How many times have you heard that one? In these cynical times, it’s easy for people to feel powerless.

But members of this union refused to play the part of the victim in the two-year battle over PG&E’s General Rate Case. Instead, we chose to fight. And on Feb. 17 the California Public Utilities Commission voted to substantially increase revenues for PG&E.

The stakes were very real for our members. PG&E had threatened to lay off up to 3,500 employees if adequate revenues were not approved. Here’s how you, the members of Local 1245, directly shaped the GRC decision.

1. Local 1245 members helped influence the make-up of the cur-

rent Commission.

It’s no accident that a utility worker is now a CPUC commissioner. Local 1245 campaigned vigorously for the election of Gray Davis as governor. We endorsed Davis early, we gave him money, and we provided volunteers for the labor phone banks that helped turn out the vote.

When it came time for Gov. Davis to make appointments, I personally shared with him my belief that the CPUC needed people who understand energy utilities, including concerns of utility workers. Specifically, I urged him to appoint Carl Wood, which eventually he did.

Gov. Davis also appointed Joel Hyatt, again after consulting with our union. When Hyatt abruptly resigned, Davis appointed Loretta

Lynch, an extremely knowledgeable person with experience in utility issues. Again, I was consulted before the appointment. This level of influence would have been unthinkable under the two previous governors.

2. Local 1245 members helped frame the debate. In the spring of 1998, at public hearings throughout California, our members offered expert testimony about the direct connection between workforce levels and service reliability. Utility opponents hoped the GRC debate would be focused on squeezing money out of PG&E. We kept the issue of service reliability in the public eye.



3. A rally at the CPUC by 300 members of Local 1245 last November put a human face on an abstract issue. Commissioner Josiah Neeper came outside to observe the rally, and later in the day said he hated to see people lose their jobs. He referred to the jobs issue again on the day the commission announced its decision.

The day of decision was Feb. 17. Three commissioners stood with us: Commissioner Wood, who authored the decision, Commissioner Lynch, and Commissioner Neeper. Wood’s decision explicitly referred to the issue of jobs and service reliability.

That’s the issue our members put on the table, the issue we kept in the public eye, and ultimately it was the issue that carried the day.


The big winners in this case are the public, who will continue to enjoy reliable service; our members, who will continue to provide it; and the democratic process itself.

There will be new battles over jobs in the future. But for now, Local 1245 members should feel deep satisfaction in knowing that you “fought city hall”—and won.



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Outside Construction

Contractor: PAR Electric
 Location: San Bernardino, Ca.
 Crew: Jeff Johnstone, foreman
 Laura Willingham
 Lane Kirky
 Bob Silva



Unit updates

Unit 3011, Sacramento Regional Transit, now meets at The Old Tavern, 20th & O St. in Sacramento. Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday.

Frank Saxsenmeier,
Business Rep.

Unit 3611, Marysville, now meets at Stacci's, on 7th Street in Marysville.

Phil Carter,
Business Rep.

Unit 2517, Sonora, will have a new meeting place effective April 11: The Peppery, 13494 Mono Way in Sonora. Meeting dates and time remain the same.

Gary Hughes
Business Rep.

Unit 3716, Napa/Vallejo, now meets at Molly's Seafood & Grill on Jefferson St. in Napa.

Ed Caruso
Business Rep.

Nevada electric deregulation encounters speed bumps

Electric utility deregulation may or may not be moving ahead in Nevada—depending on which day you pick up the newspaper.

As February drew to a close, Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn announced he would not permit electric deregulation to proceed on March 1. The legislation that established that date also gave the governor the power to move it.

Guinn apparently wants to convene a summit meeting of sorts to iron out rough spots in the state's plan to open the electric service market to providers other than the state's established utilities—Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power, which are in the process of merging.

The summit is expected to include representatives from the utilities, the Bureau of Consumer Protection, the gaming and mining industries, along with staff members of the Public Utili-

ties Commission—Nevada (PUCN). Local 1245 Business Rep. Ray Thomas said the union is seeking to gain a voice in these deliberations.

The proposed summit comes on the heels of a Feb. 4 decision in which the PUCN said it would not allow the utility to recover costs previously incurred to serve electric customers. If allowed to stand, this decision would lead to a pre-tax charge of \$20 to \$60 million against Sierra Pacific Resources' 1999 earnings. It could also lead to a reduction in future revenues of \$30 million annually, according to the company.

In addition, the PUCN said that Sierra Pacific could no longer perform customer service, metering, or billing after March 1, 2000 for any company seeking to enter the Nevada market as a Provider of Last Resort. This position is in sharp contrast to the position

held by Sierra Pacific and by Local 1245, which is that customer service, metering and billing should be performed by the Electric Distribution Utility, namely Sierra Pacific.

Who Will Be Responsible?

However, faced with the restrictions put forward by the PUCN, Sierra Pacific announced in filings with the PUCN on Feb. 25 that the company will no longer offer Provider of Last Resort (PLR) services after July 1, 2001. The company is under a legislative mandate to provide these services until that date.

If Sierra Pacific were permitted by the PUCN to abandon its Provider of Last Resort status, it is not clear who would be responsible for customer service, metering and billing in Nevada.

All of this political maneuvering came to a climax at the end of February when Gov. Guinn decided to put deregulation on hold and convene a meeting of interested parties. Although Local 1245, as representative of Sierra Pacific employees, has a real stake in these discussions, at Utility Reporter press time it was not clear in what capacity the union would participate in the summit meeting.

However, Local 1245 members at Sierra Pacific have shown they don't intend to be passive observers as the deregulation drama continues to unfold. Sierra Pacific union stewards joined Business Reps. Ray Thomas and Lynn Allen in distributing to employees the contact numbers for their legislators. Union members are encouraging legislators to adopt a cautious approach to deregulation and to avoid jeopardizing reliable service.



Overtime under attack ... again

Working people restored daily overtime pay for California workers by electing a new governor and helping pass an overtime law that puts \$1 billion back in the pockets of California working families.

But anti-worker interests won't give up. On March 31 the state's Industrial Welfare Commission will consider a proposal to gut daily overtime pay and shortchange millions of California workers.

This insidious proposal would be a pay cut for millions of California workers. Under this proposal, workers who receive a Thanksgiving turkey or \$25 supermarket gift certificate would be denied overtime pay all year long.

The proposal affects broader categories and larger numbers of workers than Pete Wilson's 1997 takeaway. It threatens IWC wage orders for all industries and overtime negotiated under union contracts, just as Wilson's overtime takeaway forced unions around the state to defend overtime pay at the bargaining table.

Join fellow unionists on March 31 to:

Defend Overtime Pay!

Industrial Welfare Commission Hearing

Friday, March 31
10 a.m.

State Capitol
Sacramento

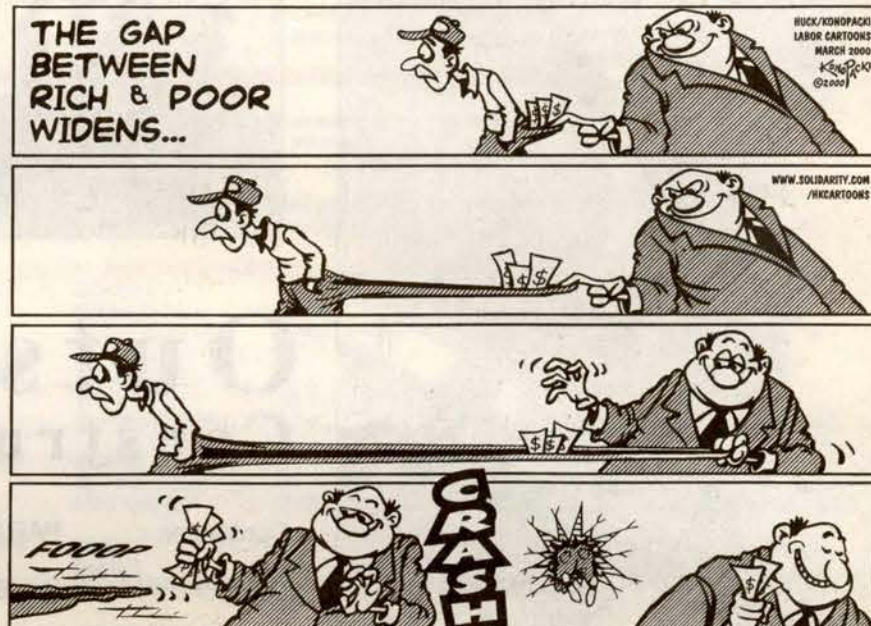
Secret files, Web censors & prison label switch

Since 1977, the richest one percent of the American population has doubled its share of the nation's wealth; it now has more wealth than the bottom 95% combined, according to a new report called *Divided Decade: Economic Disparity at Century's Turn*. The report says that after a quarter-century of diminishing inequality following World War II, the nation has gone back to the extremes of the 1920s.

► **State Prison Label Scam:** Two California state prison inmates have filed a civil rights suit against the state for punishing them after they blew the whistle on a scam in which they were ordered to replace "Made in Honduras" labels with "Made in USA" labels on clothing. The Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees (UNITE) reported that the whistleblowers were sent to solitary confinement after the story was reported in the media. UNITE has joined the prisoners in their suit.

► **More Full-Time Jobs, Now:** An arbitrator has ruled that United Parcel Service must create 2,000 new full-time jobs within 90 days, according to the AFL-CIO's Work in Progress. The Teamsters' 1997 master agreement with UPS calls for 10,000 new full-time jobs over five years. The ruling also requires the company to pay back wages with benefits, a total of more than \$80 million.

► **Secret Files at Microsoft:** WashTech, the Newspaper Guild/CWA organizing campaign at Microsoft, says that the software giant has been keeping secret files on its thousands of supposedly-temporary employees, Labor Notes reported. The company claims that these "permatemps" are independent contractors rather than employees, but WashTech says the existence of



personnel files indicates an employer-employee relationship.

► **Boeing Named in Complaint:** The union representing striking engineers and technical employees at Boeing Co. in early March announced plans to file an unfair labor practice complaint against the company, arguing it prematurely declared negotiations were at an impasse. Boeing notified the Society for Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace on March 1 that it considered talks at an impasse after Boeing's Feb. 26 offer was rejected. Among other things, that offer required SPEEA-covered employees to start paying premiums on their medical insurance.

► **First Contract:** The 74,000 home health care workers in Los Angeles who voted to join the SEIU last year have ratified their first contract. It provides a 50-cent pay raise and some health benefits, and establishes a job registry to match workers with appropriate jobs.

► **Yahoo! Censors Unionists:** Yahoo!, the Web portal, cancelled a Web advertising campaign by passenger service workers attempting to form a union at Los Angeles International Airport. The workers were

driven by company threats and intimidation into seeking the alternative communications strategy—placing banner advertisements on Yahoo! to publicize the labor dispute. Yahoo! cancelled the ads in early February, just days after an administrative law judge found the employer, Argenbright Security, guilty of committing dozens of violations of federal labor laws against the employees, including threats and intimidation designed to silence them.

► **Dialing Up the Union:** Telemarketers at Telespectrum Worldwide Inc. in Cheektowaga, NY gained a voice on the job when they voted for IBEW Local 2213. This is the union's first win at Telespectrum, which handles sales calls for Bell Atlantic Corp.

► **Pinochet Release Decried:** The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions condemned Britain's decision to free Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator accused of massive human rights violations during his brutal rule in the 1970s and 1980s. The ICFTU called the move "a distortion of international law with short term political and commercial interests taking precedence over justice".

What now for PG&E Clerical?

Stewards mull over the challenges ahead as the utility industry continues to sort itself out

With utility restructuring knocking at the door, Local 1245 stewards in the PG&E Clerical bargaining unit met in Sacramento on Feb. 26 to discuss union strategies for job security as well as personal strategies for coping with change.

Records consolidation. The long-rumored closing of the San Francisco Call Center. New procedures for Title 19 Demotion and Displacement. The status of industry restructuring.

These and other concerns were aired during the day-long conference attended by over 60 Clerical stewards from throughout the PG&E system.

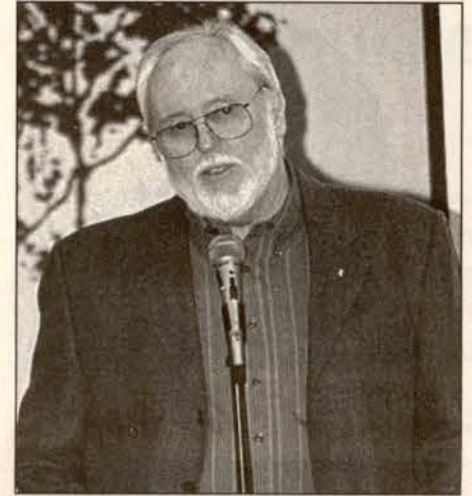
More than anything, they wanted to know what the future looked like. And for good reason. Utility restructuring is fast erasing the old order of things for Clerical employees, just as it has for power plant employees before them. Restructuring is a po-

litical reality with specific consequences, a force to be reckoned with.

Business Manager Jack McNally suggested at the outset of the conference that the union does more than merely try to predict the future. The future is something we try to shape.

"Politics are a fact of life," said McNally, and he reviewed the ways in which Local 1245 has successfully used the political process to advance the job security of our members. Notable milestones along this road have included passage of AB 1890, which created a funding mechanism to assist employees displaced by utility restructuring, and AB 1421, which protects jobs and service in the natural gas sector. The union continues to press for comparable protections for the electric sector, McNally said.

McNally said the election of Gray Davis as governor, and the subse-



Business Manager Jack McNally



Linda Lawrence



Mary Wise

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Bill Evans

Business Manager Jack McNally suggested at the outset of the conference that the union does more than merely try to predict the future. The future is something we try to shape. "Politics are a fact of life," he said.



Olivia Mercado



Douglas Thorn



Maryann Dennehy



Corrine Dauer

► From Page 5

quent appointment of CPUC commissioners who sympathize with our concerns, were important achievements that show what we can accomplish through strategic political involvement. (See Point of View, page 2).

Challenges ahead include an ongoing battle over PG&E's hydro resources, which could be broken into pieces and sold off to out-of-state interests, and efforts to promote "distributive generation" systems which could permit large numbers of customers to leave the utilities' existing distribution systems.

McNally said the bottom line was clear:

"If we change, if we organize, we can continue our standards. If we don't, we lose."

Impact on Clerical

Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier, a principal orga-

nizer of the conference, reviewed several ways in which utility restructuring could have an impact on Clerical members at PG&E. These include:

■ **Call Center consolidation.**

Although the company has said it intends to keep the San Jose Call Center open, it has made no such reassurances for the San Francisco Call Center, whose lease is up on Sept. 30. Closure of the San Francisco facility would trigger Title 19 activity. However, the company has indicated it does not wish to reduce the overall Call Center workforce, and has suggested it needs a minimum of 600 bargaining unit employees at its Call Centers. Currently there are 580.

The company continues to explore the possibility of offering new products and services through its Call Centers. These could include consulting services, call answering services, and selling other products.

■ **Records consolidation.** The company is still unable to determine if and when Records will be consolidated, Fortier reported. Currently about 300 employees work at the Credit Center in Stockton. Approximately half of those are working in records. Systemwide there are roughly 600 customer service employees working at local offices.

■ **Meter reading.** As provided for in the new labor agreement, the company is preparing to increase the number of regular meter reader positions, while scaling back Hiring Hall meter reader positions to no more than 15% of the total meter reader workforce. These new regular positions will be filled by employees exercising (a) preferential bidding rights, then other employees who submit transfers, and finally by unrestricted appointments by the company, including consideration of Hiring Hall meter reader employees.

Under the new labor agreement, meter reader and senior meter reader classifications have been moved from the Clerical into the Physical agreement. But Clerical employees maintain their current Title 19 rights into these classifications for the entire term of the new agreement.

Fortier reported on two other factors that could affect Clerical members in coming years: the company could choose to close additional offices, which would affect the Customer Services line of pro-

PG&E will soon distribute the new "Employee Election" forms that let all bargaining unit employees prioritize their displacement/demotion preferences. If and when employees are subjected to Title 19, their displacement would be guided by that prioritized list in combination with their seniority.



San Francisco Call Center's "3 Donnas": Lindsey, Dito, and Ambeau



Janice Sciarrotta

gression, and new developments in technology could have an impact on the Accounting, Customer Services, and Operating lines of progression.

Title 19

All of these job security issues increase the importance of Title 19 rights. Senior Business Rep. Ken Ball reviewed the Title 19 procedures put in place by the new labor agreement.

Ball said PG&E would soon distribute the new "Employee Election" forms that let all bargaining unit employees prioritize their displacement/demotion preferences. If and when employees are subjected to Title 19, their displacement would be guided by that prioritized list in combination with their seniority.

Ball urged stewards to advise members to "use your rights and customize the form to fit your situation."

Among the questions members should ask themselves in filling out the forms are:

- ◆ Are you the primary income for your household?
- ◆ Can you move to maintain your classification?
- ◆ Is retirement an option?
- ◆ Is severance an option and at what point?

Ball said the company intended to hold meetings in coming weeks in conjunction with distributing the Employee Election forms. He said

union members should pay close attention to any Title 19 or 206 announcements, even if they are not directly affected.

"You may want to check your form and update it for your current situation," he said.

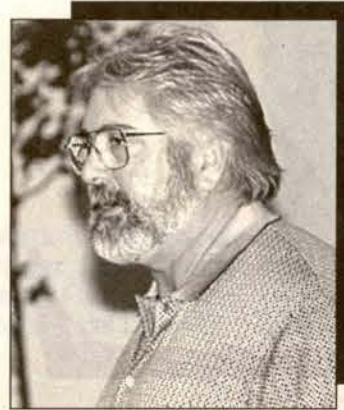
Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell reviewed some of the job security provisions contained in the new labor agreement, including the newly-enhanced severance benefit, pay protection when demoted for lack of work, rehire rights, and the successor clause.

He also outlined some of the factors members must take into account when contemplating severance or retirement. These include retirement pay, medical coverage, company life insurance, COBRA eligibility, 401K plan, and accumulated vacation.

Choose Carefully

"There are many ramifications to the choices people are going to be making," said Mitchell. "Members should choose with as much care and as much information as possible." He encouraged members to take their questions to PG&E Benefits, which has responsibility for administering benefit plans. (Call company line 8-223-3663.)

Vanita Kunert, a supervisor with the Employee Assistance Program, reviewed the program's mission and



Business Rep. Ken Ball

asked stewards to help increase employees' awareness that resources are available to help those with substance abuse or family problems, or other personal difficulties. EAP counselor Judith Boyd discussed stress management.

Attorney Will Flynn discussed the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Throughout the conference, stewards voiced their concerns about the future. Some asked about the status of the partnership at PG&E. Others expressed frustration with lack of progress at local labor-management meetings. Still others wondered if the company appreciated the efforts members made in support of PG&E's general rate case.

As with any conference, not all questions could be fully answered. But the many discussions made clear that more information is better than less, and that Local 1245 Clerical members must approach the future with their eyes wide open.

Participants

- Abriam, Ed
- Ambeau, Donna
- Bailey, Ruth
- Barber, Mary C. Cathy
- Barton, Sherry
- Baute, Alfonso
- Bayless, Anna
- Billingsley, Mary
- Bradley, Cheryle
- Carroll, Bryan P.
- Coffin, Gail
- Daniel, Peggy
- Dauer, Corrine
- De La Torre, Cecelia
- Delgado, Elaine
- Dennehy, Maryann
- Dito, Donna Jean
- Dixon, Thelma J.
- Edwards, Arlene
- Eide, Patti
- Evans, William C.
- Felix, Robert
- Ferguson, Terri
- Franks, Adrienne
- Fries, Glen W.
- Garabedian, Charles
- Gill, Maritess
- Gomez, Anna Maria
- Graham, Marie
- Habecker, Chris
- Halvorson, Alton
- Holloway, Lynda
- Ice, Laura
- Jones, Tina
- Jones, Eugene
- Jurado, Linda
- La Shon, Harvey
- Lawrence, Linda
- Lindsey, Donna
- Long, Judy
- Marshall, Frank L.P.
- McCord, Christine
- McKissack, Pate
- Medina, Kimala
- Mercado, Olivia Irene
- Munoz, Magdalena
- Norris, Linda
- Oftedal, Annette
- Pinson, Debbie
- Ricker, Norma
- Rorabaugh, Julia
- Russell, Karen
- Sciarrotta, Janice
- Smith, Steve
- Spencer, Annette
- Stevenson, Rick
- Szostak, Judith M.
- Thorne, Doug
- Uschmann, Robert
- Van Hook, Jeffrie
- Warren, Chuck
- Wheeler, Susan
- Wise, Mary
- Wood, Cathy

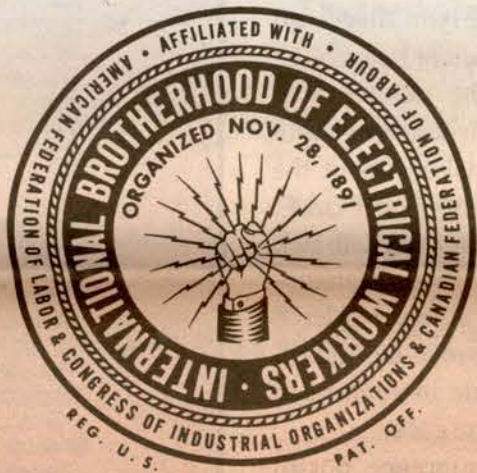


Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell



Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier

PZ



Business Manager Jack McNally thanks Perry for his years of service to the members of the union.

In his two decades of service to the members of Local 1245, Perry Zimmerman handled his share of grievances. But one grievance stands out.

After Zimmerman grieved a termination, the grievant suddenly died. The employer took the position that death rendered the grievance moot. But Zimmerman didn't see it that way. He knew that if he could get the termination reduced to a suspension, the grievant's widow would be eligible to receive the grievant's insurance and accumulated sick leave.

It was vintage Zimmerman: devoted to representing members on the job ... and beyond the grave.

Zimmerman's career, which began when he hired on at Pacific Gas & Electric in 1961, ended 39 years later on Feb. 11 when he retired as Assistant Business Manager for Local 1245.

Zimmerman, a gas serviceman, was introduced to the union by fellow gas serviceman Tex Smith. It wasn't a real formal ceremony.

"He said, 'Here's a card, sign up,'" Zimmerman recalled.

Formal or not, it was the first step on a long road of unionism.

Zimmerman became a steward in 1977, became vice chair of Unit 3811, Sacramento, in 1978, moved up to unit chair in 1979, and went on the Advisory Council in 1980.

In 1981, recently-elected Business Manager Jack McNally tapped Zimmerman as a temporary replacement for Business Representative Al Sandoval, who was ill.

When Sandoval unexpectedly passed away, Zimmerman's status as a business representative was made permanent.

As a new rep, Zimmerman said, "I finally recognized that I did not know anything. I learned through trial and error."

However, he began in an area where he was well-liked, Sacramento, and he said people were forgiving of his mistakes.

In 1984 Zimmerman spent a brief period representing members at Citizens Utilities (now Citizens Communications) and other properties, but by the end of the year found himself as rep for PG&E members in the North Bay. In 1987 he was assigned to PG&E San Francisco, in 1988 he served as a relief rep, and in 1989 was given responsibility for PG&E members in the East Bay.

You might say Zimmerman got around. Fortunately his wife, Dolores, was on hand to assist him in his migratory ways. In 1990 they returned to Sacramento when Zimmerman was assigned to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

All that moving around gave plenty of members a chance to get to know Zimmerman. And the members rendered their judgement in a



Perry Zimmerman

For Perry Z it was all ab

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very visible way in 1991 when they gave Zimmerman more votes than any other candidate in the election for delegates to the centennial convention of the IBEW in 1991.

At Zimmerman's retirement party on Feb. 12, McNally described Zimmerman as a "people person."

"A person who knows how to listen. A person who can establish a dialog, a rapport. A person who can be patient, show interest, and have concern for the issue or problem. A person who operates on the basis of principle.... This is how Perry Zimmerman conducted himself through his career at Local 1245," McNally said.

In 1992, following the retirement of Orv Owen, McNally called upon Zimmerman to be an Assistant Business Manager. Zimmerman's assignment was overall responsibility for public sector employers, and for non-PG&E private sector employers, except tree trimming companies and construction.

In his last year at the union Zimmerman was given responsibility for handling PG&E grievances at the Review Committee level.

Zimmerman carved out his own unique niche on the union staff, but he named a few staff members who influenced him.

"I looked up to Larry Foss and Joe Valentino. And Tom Dalzell." Smiling, Zimmerman added,

"But don't let Tom know I said that."

Smiling even more, he said, "And you might add Jack McNally—just in case I ever want to come back to work."

"Seriously, I have a lot of respect for Jack. He was the greatest person I ever worked for. I didn't feel like he was my boss, I just did things because I *wanted* to do things for him."

As might be expected for someone whose watchword has been service, Zimmerman doesn't plan on becoming a recluse in retirement. In addition to his not-very-secret attraction to the game of golf, Zimmerman plans to perform volunteer service. In particular, he's thinking about trying to find some way to help out homeless teenagers.

At his retirement party, after receiving allocades from employer representatives and union staff members he's worked with, Zimmerman pulled a card from his pocket.

"I've been carrying a card with me that my wife gave me 18 years ago," he said. "I've had this card every day. The card says: 'The measure of a man is not the number of his servants, but the number of people that he serves.'"

"I tried to live by that. I really felt my role was to serve the members. When things got tough, I'd remind myself—that was what I was there for."



Perry Zimmerman: February 12, 2000

For Perry Zimmerman it was all about service

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February 12, 2000

Zimmerman out service



Assistant Business Manager Bob Choate presents Perry with a gift from the Local 1245 staff.



Perry greets well-wishers at his retirement party.



Assistant Business Manager Sam Tamimi, speaking at Perry's retirement party, maintained he was hired because he was the only person who could understand Perry's distinct way of speaking...or was that the other way around?



Perry and pals.

Photos: Eric Wolfe



An injury to one is an injury to all

By Orv Owen

It is my view, with history as my guide and the measurement of truth, the captains of industry and the other anti-worker extremists of the world are continuing their relentless efforts to limit and control the political participation of the working class of the world through the legislative process.

They seek to do through the political process what they could never accomplish across the collective bargaining table in a free society.

Past legislation at both the state and federal level has sought to limit the workers' political power. These efforts include the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, which allows states to establish "right to work" laws (or as many

workers call them, "right to starve" laws), and the Landrum-Griffin law of 1959.

In the 1998 election, anti-worker extremists were able to qualify Proposition 226 for the ballot. That initiative, if it had passed, would have made it virtually impossible for working Californians to participate in the political process by severely limiting the right of unions and employee organizations to contribute to candidates or ballot initiatives. Fortunately, union members, seniors and other citizens were able to get the vote out to defeat Proposition 226.

Now here again in this month's primary, we Californians have been forced to defend our right to participate in the democratic process—a process that is supposed to be for "we



the people." Wealthy extremists backed this new initiative—Proposition 25—to limit the rights of working families to exercise their rights as citizens.

These wealthy individuals claim that the Constitution allows them to contribute as much money as they want to political candidates, but through Proposition 25 they want to deprive us of this same right. (Editor's note: this edition of *Utility Reporter* went to press before the March 7 Primary Election.)

It is ironic that after all the years of confrontation between working people and their employers, the capitalists have never been able to grasp that the wealth on which their political power is based actually springs from the productive powers of the working class. The wealthy class seems intent on destroying the working class that produces their wealth. It doesn't make any sense to me.

With the establishment of the World Trade Organization, all workers should remember that an injury to one member of the working class is an injury to every member of the working class. Remember the old labor song:

*They have taken untold millions
that they never toiled to earn,
But without our brain and muscle
not a single wheel could turn,
We can break their haughty power,
gain our freedom when we learn,
That the union makes us strong!
Keep the faith!*

Orv Owen is a retired Assistant Business Manager of Local 1245.

Make a Date...

The Local 1245 Retiree Club invites you to join us for companionship, discussion and projects. Current meeting locations are:

East Bay Chapter: meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 1245 headquarters, 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, CA.

San Jose Chapter: meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 332, 1870 Stone Ave., San Jose.

Penalty on senior earnings may be lifted

A bi-partisan effort in Congress may soon lift the penalties currently assessed on older Americans who earn wages.

On March 1 the US House voted 422-0 to allow most Social Security recipients to work without suffering a reduction in their Social Security benefit. The Senate will consider a similar measure soon and President Clinton has already said he would approve the legislation if it reaches his desk.

Current law provides that people ages 65 through 69 lose \$1 of their Social Security benefit for every \$3 they earn above \$17,000. The earnings limit does not apply to people 70 and above. The bill passed by the House would completely eliminate the earnings limit for all ages.

The earnings limit has its roots in the Depression of the 1930s, when Social Security was enacted. The intent of the limits was to discourage older people from working so that more jobs would be available for younger workers in an economy

where jobs were scarce.

Economic conditions are considerably different today, where official unemployment is low and some sectors of the economy are having difficulty attracting workers. Repealing the penalty on senior earnings could entice more seniors into the job market. Many employers prefer older workers because they tend to have already developed good work habits.

Horace Deets, Executive Director for AARP, hailed the decision as "good labor, social and economic policy."

According to the Social Security Administration, about 800,000 seniors lost some or all of their benefit last year because they earned more than the limit.

The changes approved by the House would not apply to workers who take early retirement benefits from Social Security. The earnings limit would continue to apply to people ages 62 through 64, who would continue to be subject to a \$1

loss in benefits for every \$2 in earnings above \$10,080 annually.

Leaving the earnings limit in place for early retirees will tend to encourage people not to take Social Security before 65. Policy makers believe this is desirable because research has shown that people who take a reduced Social Security benefit at age 62 are more likely to end up in poverty than those who work to full retirement age.

While many seniors and seniors-to-be will welcome this opportunity to earn additional income without jeopardizing Social Security earnings, they are less likely to appreciate another policy addressing the issue of seniors and work. In recent years Congress has enacted legislation to require workers to wait longer before they become eligible for full Social Security. This means that members of the baby boomer generation and those that follow will have to wait until age 66 or age 67 to start drawing full benefits from Social Security.

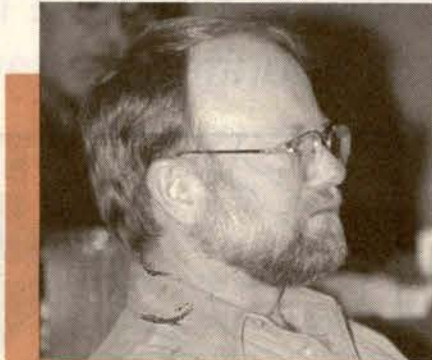
SMUD stewards: there for you!

When Local 1245 members at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District have a problem with a supervisor where do they turn?

Their first stop is generally a Local 1245 SMUD steward.

And when Wayne Greer began his new assignment this year as union business representative for SMUD, where did he turn for information on SMUD's complex re-engineering program.

You guessed it. He turned to the stewards.



David Reishus, shown here at February's Advisory Council meeting, is one of nearly 30 stewards serving Local 1245 members at SMUD.

Over the years SMUD stewards have not only been active in solving day-to-day workplace problems, they've consistently been a source of information and expertise for the union's bargaining committee.

This month, the Utility Reporter salutes SMUD stewards for the job they do in protecting members' rights. If you work at SMUD and happen to run into one of the folks listed below, you might want to thank them for doing a job that is unpaid and too often under-appreciated.

SMUD Stewards, by Location

Steve Ahern	Sacramento	William Kopinec	Sacramento
Rick Allred	Sacramento	Jim Loy	Sacramento
David Brown	Sacramento	Don Murray	Sacramento
John Callahan	Sacramento	Stella Poole	Rancho Seco
Bryan Coffelt	Sacramento	Peter Ramon	Sacramento
Martin Correia	Foothill	David Reishus	Fresh Pond
Paul Easley	Rancho Seco	Grant Ritchie	Sacramento
Raymond Gladden	Sacramento	Scottie Southerland	Fresh Pond
Carmen Guzman	Foothill	Gary Stoffer	Fresh Pond
Pete Henderson	Sacramento	Art Torres	Sacramento
Leslie Hulett	Foothill	William Uphoff	Rancho Seco
Donald Hurdle	Foothill	Frank Weathers	Foothill
Thomas Hylton	Sacramento	Jim Wilhelm	Foothill
Brian Knox	Sacramento	Ike Williams	Foothill

Life Saving Award

► From Page 1

The men laid the worker down. Colvin grabbed the pressure point on the man's thigh in an effort to stop the bleeding. Reeves got some rags to put around the injured worker's damaged leg. McCauley called 911.

As they waited for the sound of sirens, the men concentrated on stopping the bleeding.

"We had to take turns holding the pressure point because you had to hold it so tight," said Reeves.

"It seemed like it took six weeks" for help to arrive, said McCauley. In reality, a fire truck arrived in about five minutes.

"I was so glad to see them arrive," said Reeves. "But they said, 'Just keep doing what you're doing,' so the crew continued to render assistance until medics arrived a few minutes later.

Someone thought to retrieve the man's foot. After several surgeries, the injured man is still not walking. But he expects eventually to make a full recovery. Against doctor's orders, he recently sneaked out of his house and drove with one leg to the Richmond yard so he could find his rescuers and thank them.

"He said he knew if we hadn't been there he would have died," said Reeves.

On Feb. 24, with several dozen of their fellow workers looking on, Local 1245 Business Rep. Lula Washington presented McCauley, Colvin and Reeves with the IBEW Life Saving Award, along with a letter from International President J. J. Barry and Secretary-Treasurer Edwin Hill.

"The officers of your Brotherhood and all our members join us in extending congratulations and best wishes to you on receiving the IBEW Life Saving Award, the highest award the IBEW has to offer," the IBEW leaders wrote. "You have now joined a small and honored group of our members—those who have saved a human life."

They joined that small group partly through circumstance—they happened to be nearby. But they weren't just nearby. They were trained.

Said Reeves: "First aid works."



APALA

Local 1245 participants in the recent Asian and Pacific American Labor Association meeting in San Francisco were (from left) Jiro Takeuchi, Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier, Ed Abriam and Beatriz Foronda.

Kaiser plan changes

On May 1, the Kaiser Medical plan copayments are changing for Local 1245 members at PG&E.

Copayments for office visits increase to \$5 (except for mental health, which remains at no charge) and to \$25 per emergency room visit. Employees and retirees currently enrolled in a medical plan will be given a chance to leave or join Kaiser if they live in the Kaiser service territory and .

Retirees will be able to change plans from March 20-24 and employees from March 27-31. The company will distribute more information prior to these dates.



Helping women succeed in the trades

WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Ladies Federal Labor Union

Four years after the founding of the American Federation of Labor, in 1890, a Federation convention had its first woman delegate: Mary Burke, a charter member and first vice-president of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association. She introduced a successful motion calling on the AFL to appoint women organizers. It wasn't implemented for several years.

But women workers weren't prepared to wait—at least not in Chicago, where organized women of various occupations were collectively given a charter as "Ladies Federal Labor Union Number 2703." (If an AFL craft union's jurisdiction did not cover a job category held by women, the AFL could charter a "Federal Local" directly affiliated to the Federation.)



Ladies Federal Labor Union No. 2703 was chartered in 1888. Four years later it had brought to life 23 separate unions of women workers in Chicago, including unions of shirtmakers, shoemakers, watchmakers and bookbinders. A key organizer in this impressive union effort was the local union's secretary, English-born Elizabeth Morgan.

She once wrote to AFL President Samuel Gompers: "My education is but poor, but I will do the best I can as I like many other children had to work when I was but 11 years old. I went to work in a mill and worked 10 to 16 hours a day." Despite her lack of education, the former mill girl was a brilliant and hardworking organizer. She gained national attention for her fight against sweatshop conditions in Illinois.

A conference of Northern California women in the trades last fall has produced a wealth of ideas for getting women into the trades and helping them succeed once they get there.

The conference, held at Laney College in Oakland, produced many recommendations, which the Utility Reporter reprints here to help stimulate discussion on this important topic:

Recruitment—Getting more women into the trades.

Women entering the construction trades encounter more difficulties than men. Chief among these are childcare and transportation, especially for women entering the trades through the welfare to work program. Other difficulties include lack of access to information, such as how to locate open apprenticeships programs. Forced overtime and discrimination on the job are also factors. Training and recruitment should begin at the grade school level by helping girls as well as boys at all grade levels understand that women can do "non-traditional" work.

Thriving on the Job—Working with unions, employers, agencies and co-workers.

Recommendations for helping women thrive on the job once they are there included:

- Mentoring programs;
- Eliminating discrimination on the job sites and hiring halls (includ-



ing training programs for the men you work with); and

- Making management accountable for jobsite discrimination.

Thriving on the Job—Working with each other as tradeswomen.

Too often women are pitted against each other on the job site instead of helping each other out. Measures to prevent this could include:

- Tradeswomen support groups, whether for women of color, lesbians, or women in general;
- Developing written material for women apprentices;
- Providing women mentors; and
- Unions helping tradeswomen connect with one another through e-mail or other forms of networking.

Balancing life and work—with help from unions and the state.

Women need:

- Stronger lobbies at the state level for better health and safety standards, and stronger OSHA enforcement.
- Improvements in paid sick leave and vacation.

- More support for handling family problems. Unions can help by bargaining for paid time off for caring for sick kids.

(Local 1245 made recent progress on this front by incorporating into its new labor agreement with PG&E the new law that requires certain employers to allow their employees to use half their annual sick leave to care for family members who are ill.)

Leadership—Organizing and advancing in our unions and on the job.

Although some women have been in construction for over 20 years, too few have reached the levels of superintendent, union business agent, or even foreperson. Recommendations for helping women reach these levels of leadership include:

- Change the times of union meetings when doing so would increase participation.
- Provide child care at union meetings.
- Fund women's caucuses within local unions and at the state level.
- Fund mentoring programs and reinstate affirmative action.

Tracking injuries on the job

The Local 1245 Safety Committee logged 158 incident reports during 1999. Of these, 101 resulted in lost time away from work, and there was one reported fatality.

"Strains and sprains were once again at the top of the list, but there were numerous falls from poles and trees as well as electrical contacts," reported Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Art Murray. He noted that many of these injuries had the potential to be more severe.

The Safety Committee is trying to track trends and look for causes that can be corrected. As a result of the committee's work, work methods

on some properties have changed, and Local 1245 members are enjoying a much safer workplace.

The committee wants to do more in identifying trends and causes, Murray said, "but with the limited number of employer groups reporting, it is very hard to track data that is useful and really shows a pattern.

The Safety Committee requests the assistance of all members, whether through your unit, shop steward or Business Representative, in reporting all safety-related incidents.

"Talk safety, on the job and off. Safety must be a concern, even at home," Murray said.

Machine Shop Services Emeryville Central Repair Facility

The PG&E Emeryville Central Repair Facility wants all of PG&E to know that we can provide a wide range of quality services to the wider PG&E community. Services include:

- ◆ Support service to substation & field repair.
- ◆ Rush & emergency repair. (Minimize downtime at no additional cost. Call-out available.)
- ◆ Repair to critical equipment.
- ◆ Specialize in PG&E's older equipment (large inventory and hard-to-find parts).
- ◆ General machine shop service.
- ◆ Work with all materials. Access to many hard-to-find materials.

We specialize in:

- ◆ Load break tools
- ◆ Bushings repair & fabrication (nylon)
- ◆ Flex connectors
- ◆ Gears
- ◆ Tap changer repair
- ◆ Braided strap (various sizes & configurations)
- ◆ Bus bars/adaptor plates (aluminum, copper, brass)
- ◆ Wash nozzles

Emeryville Machine Shop
4525 Hollis Street
Emeryville, CA 94608-2999
Outside: (510) 450-5793
PG&E: 8-455-5793



By the Local 1245
Safety Committee

Service on Safety Committee

The Local 1245 Safety Committee is currently fully-staffed. However, in June of each year, two members rotate off, and are replaced by interested members of Local 1245.

We keep a well-rounded makeup of various classifications. If you are interested in being considered for an appointment to this committee at a future date, please contact your Local 1245 business representative.

On back pain

Many of us have a tendency to gain excess body fat around the mid-section. This tends to put more strain on the spine.

In time, we get backaches and pains due to poor posture, curvature of the back bone, and generally being out of balance.

Most back problems are caused by overuse, abuse, and/or poor sitting and standing posture.

Our bodies are always ready to get stronger and fitter, no matter what shape we are in. To avoid excess body fat, we need to watch our diet, try to do some type of aerobic exercise three to four times a week, and include exercises that keep our muscles toned.

Be sure to get medical help if any back pains last more than a few days, or if weakness or numbness in the legs accompanies the back pain.

The little black spot

It started by looking like a pimple on my forehead right at the line of my hard hat.

I ignored it, thinking it would go away. It didn't. In fact, it got bigger and took on a character of its own.

It grew into a white lump with a little black spot in the middle, reminding me of its existence every time I wore any kind of hat.

No longer able to ignore its existence and starting to worry about cancer, I finally made an appointment with the doctor.

It was only a cyst, but it took two visits to remove the little black spot.

Skin cancer comes in many forms. Because many of us work in the sun it is important to protect ourselves from its effects.

Skin cancer may look gray or black, look like a patch or a mole, may be big or small, and can appear any place on the body.

Watch out for changes in size. Remember to protect yourself from the rays of the sun by wearing a wide-brim hat and using sun screen.

And stay in touch with the features of your body. See a doctor at the first sign of something that doesn't belong there.

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee are: Stoney Burke, Alameda Power & Telecommunications; Keith Hopp, Pacific Gas & Electric; Ralph Muraca, City of Santa Clara; Mark Rose, Davey Tree; Al White, Pacific Gas & Electric; Rod Wright, Modesto Irrigation District; and Assistant Business Manager Art Murray.

UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE JANUARY - JUNE 2000

SAN JOAQUIN

				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1111	FRESNO Cedar Lanes Cedar & Shields	Chairman: C. Habecker	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	4	8	7	4	9	6
1112	BAKERSFIELD Labor Hall 200 W. Jeffery St.	Chairman: R. Moon	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
1120	SELMA Sal's Mexican Rest. 2163 Park St.	Chairman: P. Sandoval	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
1121	COALINGA PG&E Dntwn Office Coalinga	Chairman: R. Eakin	Wednesday 4:00 p.m.	5	-	1	-	3	-
1122	MERCED IRR.DIST Branding Iron 640 W. 16th	Chairman: J. Ellett	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	4	1	7	3	2	6
1123	MERCED Branding Iron 640 W. 16th St.	Chairman: P. Galan-Wert	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	5	9	1	5	10	7
1128	LEMOORE Fleet Reserve 788 "D" Street	Chairman: M. Ormonde	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	15
1129	AUBERRY Daddy Joe's Auberry Road	Chairman: T. Moore	Tuesday 5:45 p.m.	11	15	14	11	16	13

COAST VALLEYS

1211	SALINAS Mtn. Mike's Pizza E. Alisal St.	Chairman: J. Merdan	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	4	8	7	4	9	6
1213	KING CITY Round Table Pizza 500-Bcanal St	Chairman: J. Sportsman	Thursday 4:15 p.m.	6	10	9	6	11	8
1215	PISMO BEACH Del's Pizzeria Shell Beach	Chairman: T. Castanon	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	6	10	9	6	11	8
1216	SANTA MARIA Giavanni's Pizza Orcutt	Chairman: B. Bell	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	4	8	7	4	9	6
1217	TEMPLETON The Pizza Place Templeton	Chairman: G. Burk	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	11	15	14	11	16	13
1219	HOLLISTER Straw Hat Pizza 191-A San Felipe	Chairman: J. Vermilyer	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	5	9	8	5	10	7
1220	DIABLO CANYON Mergie's Diner San Luis Obispo	Chairman: D. Lockwood	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	5	9	8	5	10	7
1221	BUELLTON Antonio's Pizza Buellton	Chairman: T. Mathews	Monday 4:00 p.m.	10	7	6	10	8	12
1222	MORROBAY Dorn's Rest 801 Market Ave	Chairman: H Rider	Wednesday 4:45 p.m.	12	16	15	12	17	14

PIPELINE

1311	HINKLEY PSEA Rec. Room Hinkley Station	Chairman: P. Earl	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	-	2	-	5	-	7
1313	TOPOCK PSEA Rec. Room Topok Station	Chairman: K. Feil	Thursday 4:45 p.m.	-	3	-	6	-	8
1314	KETTLEMAN PSEA Rec. Room Kettleman Station	Chairman: S. Jameson	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	18	-	25	-	16	-

SANTA CLARA

1411	CITY OF SANTA CLARA Vesuvios Rest. 3044 El Camino	Chairman: B. Wallace	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
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SAN JOSE

1511	SAN JOSE Straw Hat Pizza 1535 Meridian Avenue	Chairman: J. Fradom	Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	5	2	15	12	17	14
1512	PENINSULA T.W.U. Local 505 1521 Rollins Rd	Chairman: B. Quinn	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
1513	SANTA CRUZ VFW Post #7263 2259 7th Avenue	Chairman: A. Freitas	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	11	15	14	11	16	13

CITY OF OAKLAND

2211	OAKLAND GENERAL Francesco's Hegenberger & Pardee	Chairman: L. Rodriguez	Thursday 4:00 p.m.	20	17	16	20	18	15
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EAST BAY

2301	EAST BAY CLERICAL Hacienda Restaurant 12020 San Pablo/Rchmnd	Chairman: P. Kelleher	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7
2311	OAKLAND PHYSICAL Francesco's Hegenberger & Pardee	Chairman: J. Audelo	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6
2314*	HAYWRD/LIV/REMT* Round Table Pizza 28261 Patio Dr/Cstr Vly	Chairman: D. Garrity	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	19	16	15	19	17	21
2316	CONCORD IBEW Local 1245 Walnut Creek	Chairman: B. Bolen	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
2317	ANTIOCH Aladino's Pizza 1324 Sunset Drive	Chairman: D. Tucker	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
2318	RICHMOND Hacienda Restaurant 12020 San Pablo	Chairman: C. Jackson	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7

SAN FRANCISCO

2401	SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL Beale St. Bar & Grill 133 Beale St., S.F.	Chairman: F. Marshall	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
2412	SAN FRANCISCO Ship Clerks Union Hall 4 Berry St., S.F.	Chairman: M. Phillips	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7

STOCKTON

2511	STOCKTON Ed Stewart Post 3110 N. West Lane	Chairman: A. Bayless-Martinez	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	13	17	9	13	18	15
2512	ANGEL'S CAMP Mike's Pizza Hwy.49/MurphysGrade	Chairman: G. Day	Thursday 4:00 p.m.	6	10	2	6	11	8
2513	JACKSON Mtn. Mike's Pizza 525 S. Hwy 49	Chairman: B. Boitano	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	4	8	7	4	9	6
2515	MODESTO Days Inn 1312 McHenry	Chairman: F. Malcria	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	12	16	8	12	17	14
2516	CITY OF LODI Round Table Kettleman Lane	Chairman: B. Fisher	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	6	3	2	5	4	1
2517	SONORA The Peppery 13494 Mono Way	Chairman: B. Owens	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	11	15	14	11	16	13
2518	MODESTO IRR. DIST. Pizza Pub Kansas Avenue	Chairman: R. Wright	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	5	2	1	4	3	7
2519	TIGER CREEK Pioneer Vets Hall 25100 Buckhorn Ridge	Chairman: R. Davis	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	18	22	21	18	23	20

PG&E GAS TRANSMISSION NORTHWEST

3023	WALLA WALLA PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: N. Prior	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	12	16	15	12	17	14
3024	REDMOND PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: R. Hulstaber	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	12	16	15	12	17	14
3025	SPOKANE PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: S. Jordan	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	13	17	16	13	18	15
3026	PORTLAND PG&E GTNW Office	Chairman: M. Gustafson	Wednesday 12:00 p.m.	26	23	29	26	31	28
3027	ROSALIA Harvester Restuarant Spankel	Chairman: J. Fleets	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	13	17	16	13	18	15

HUMBOLDT

3111	EUREKA Labor Temple 9th & "E" Street	Chairman: C. Wood	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	11	15	14	11	9	13
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SHASTA

3212	REDDING Round Table Pizza 2805 McMurry Dr. Anderson	Chairman: A. Streetman	Wednesday 5:15 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
3213	BURNEY Sam's Pizza Johnson Park	Chairman: T. Marymee	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	11	8	7	11	9	13
3214	RED BLUFF The Green Barn #5 Chestnut	Chairman: H. Iness	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	15

**Your Union, Your Voice--
Attend Your Unit Meetings!**

UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE JANUARY - JUNE 2000

CITY OF REDDING				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3217	CITY OF REDDING Labor Council 900 Locust Street	Chairman: J. Kropholler	Wednesday 5:15 p.m.	5	2	8	5	3	7
NEVADA				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3311	RENO IBEW Hall LU 401 2713 E. 4th Street	Chairman: W. Paterson	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7
3312	CARSON CITY Carson City Fire Dept. Station #3	Chairman: W. Keating	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	11	8	14	11	9	13
3314	SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Steamer's 2236 Lake Tahoe Blvd.	Chairman: P. Stahl	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	6	3	2	6	4	1
3315	MT. WHEELER/ELY Ely Fire Department Dept. Meeting Hall	Chairman: R. Miller	Wednesday 4:20 p.m.	11	8	7	11	9	6
3318	ELKO Stockman's Hotel Elko	Chairman: L. Allen	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
3319	WELLS R.E.C. SilverSage Sr. Ctr. 1st Street, Wells	Chairman: C. Swett	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	7
3320	NORTH LAKE TAHOE Carpenter's Hall Kings Beach	Chairman: H. Bartolomei	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	19	16	15	19	17	21
DESABLA				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3417	PARADISE Red Lion Pizza 6611 Skyway	Chairman: B. Lovett	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	6	3	2	6	4	8
DRUM				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3511	AUBURN Moose Lodge Sacramento & High	Chairman: T. Andreucci	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	11	8	14	11	9	13
3512	ROSEVILLE Fast Freddie's Pizza 130 Main Street	Chairman: T. Bakkie	Tuesday 5:15 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6
3513	GRASS VALLEY Swiss House 535 Mill Street	Chairman: T. Gilbert	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
3813	PLACERVILLE Spanky's Pizza 197 Placerville Drive	Chairman: J. Campodonico	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6
COLGATE				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3611	MARYSVILLE Stacci's 7th Street	Chairman: J. Edwards	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7
NORTH BAY				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3711	MARIN COUNTY Roundtable Pizza S. Novato Blvd., Novato	Chairman: I. Snyder	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14
3712	SANTAROSA Roundtable Pizza Steele & Cleaveland	Chairman: L. Stubbiefield	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6
3714	UKIAH Wright Stuff Pizza Ukiah	Chairman: K. Wilson	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	7	4	1	6	3	1
3715	LAKEPORT Senior Center 527 Konocti Avenue	Chairman: B. Dawson	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	4	8	7	4	2	6
3716	NAPA/VALLEJO Molly's Seafood & Grill Jefferson St, Napa	Chairman: J. Kent	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	6	3	2	6	4	1
3717	FORT BRAGG/PTARENA Masonic Temple 426 N. Main	Chairman: G. Fernandez	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	20	24	23	20	18	22
3718	WEST GEYSERS Giorgio's Pizza Healdsburg Ave	Chairman: A. MacLean	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	18	22	21	18	16	20

SACRAMENTO				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
3011	SAC REGTRANS The Old Tavern 20th & O Streets	Chairman: J. Mendonca	Wednesday 4:45 p.m.	13	10	15	19	17	21
3801	SACRAMENTO CLERICAL Sac. Cntrl Labor Council 2840 El Centro	Chairman: A. Edwards	Thursday 5:15 p.m.	20	17	16	20	18	15
3811	SACRAMENTO Florin Odd Fellow 8360 Florin Road	Chairman: J. Macias	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7
3812	VACAVILLE 140 Browns Vly Pkwy Vacaville	Chairman: B. Yaws	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	11	8	14	11	9	13
3814	WOODLAND Amer. Legion Hall 523 Brush Street	Chairman: B. Wallace	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	6	3	2	6	4	1
3911	SMUD Cntrl. Labor Council El Centro & I-80	Chairman: D. Doll	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	8
3912	FRESH POND (SMUD) 50 Grand Pollock Pines	Chairman: D. Newton	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	5	2	1	5	3	7
CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
4012	SUSANVILLE Grande Cafe 730 Main Street	Chairman: J. Deal	Tuesday 5:15 p.m.	13	10	16	13	11	15
4013	ALTURAS The Brass Rail Hwy. 395	Chairman: M. Nelson	Wednesday 5:15 p.m.	12	9	15	12	10	14
4014	ELK GROVE Laguna Town Hall 3020 Renwick Elk Gr	Chairman: D. Morrison	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	20	17	23	20	18	22
4015	BURNEY Sam's Pizza Hwy 299 East	Chairman: D. Trowbridge	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6
TREE TRIMMERS				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
4404	DAVEY TREE/OAKLAND Francesco's Hegenberger & Pardee	Chairman: J. Gonzalez	Tuesday 4:30 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6
4406	DAVEY TREE/PARADISE Red Lion Pizza 6011 Skyway	Chairman: P. King	Thursday 6:00 p.m.	6	3	2	6	4	8
4418	DAVEY TREE/EUREKA Labor Temple 9th & E. St.	Chairman: D. Dunlap	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	12	16	15	12	10	14
4419	DAVEY TREE/REDDING Pietro's 995 Hilltop Drive	Chairman: G. Suarez	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	19	16	15	19	17	21
4711	ASPLUNDH TREE Mtn. Mike's Pizza Redwood City	Chairman: D. Sanchez	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	19	16	15	19	17	21
4712	ASPLUNDH TREE/SELMA Sal's Restaurant Park & Skelton	Chairman: A. Martinez	Thursday 4:30 p.m.	6	10	9	6	11	8
OUTSIDE LINE				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
4911	OUTSIDE LINE/SACRAMENTO 2840 El Centro Sacramento	Chairman: J. Madigan	Saturday 10:00 a.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
4912	OUTSIDE LINE/RIVERSIDE Riverside Hall Riverside	Chairman: J. Johnstone	Saturday 10:00 a.m.	15	19	18	15	20	17

**Make Your Voice Heard--
Attend Your Unit Meetings!**

It's not just fishing ... it's a cause

By Eric Wolfe

When you retire, you can go a lot of different directions. You can go fishing. You can volunteer to help others.

Or, like Compy, you can try doing both—at the same time.

Retired Local 1245 member Uril "Compy" Compomizzo brought his love of fishing and his concern for kids together in 1986 with "Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs," an innovative program designed to steer young people away from dissipating temptation and toward the authentic pleasures of the outdoors.

The program has won praise and spawned imitators state-wide. But Compomizzo isn't resting on his laurels. He's now in the midst of a vigorous campaign to clean up the junk-filled waters beneath the Antioch fishing pier.

A recent diving expedition under the pier found cables, a bathtub, even a kitchen sink—the kind of objects that snag fishing lines and forced Compy to move his fishing derbies to the Contra Loma Reservoir.

So far he's raised more than \$108,000 of the estimated \$250,000 the clean-up will require, and picked up enthusiastic support from local politicians along the way. Contra Costa County Assemblyman Tom Torlakson, who has called Compy "the best fisherman on Earth," lobbied Gov. Davis last year to approve state money for the clean-up effort. Antioch City Manager Mike Ramsey called Compy "one of Antioch's true warriors."

Compomizzo's activism is rooted in his longstanding love of the outdoors. But it also reflects a compassion for people and sense of fair play that goes back to his days as a union



'Compy' Compomizzo

gas line mechanic for Standard Pacific Gas Lines.

Jointly owned by PG&E and Standard Oil, Standard Pacific provided Compy a job at \$25 a week, plus free company housing, including utilities.

"It was more like a family than a company," Compy remembers. "I had the best bunch of guys to work with. They all looked out for one another."

Compy drove a tank truck, picking up condensate from the "drip pots" situated along low spots in the gas lines. He also performed maintenance work on company houses in Concord, Antioch, Tracy, and Kettleman, and wound up as a gas line repairman.

Although he still speaks with near reverence for his superintendent, William Johnson, not all was well on the job. Particularly annoying to the men was the requirement they remain on "stand by" during their days off.

"There were a lot of things we couldn't do because we had to stand by," Compy recalls. "Some of

the guys just got disgusted with that." Disgust led to unionization.

Compy recalls that union meetings in those days were well attended and credits the union reps with keeping the members "very well informed."

Fishing Conditions

But it wasn't working conditions that most engaged Compy's activist nature. It was fishing conditions.

His first real plunge into activism came during the era of Gov. Pat Brown. Compy got wind of a state plan to eliminate camping at Russian Gulf State Park near Ft. Bragg. He contacted his congressman, Jerome Waldie, who arranged a meeting with state officials in Sacramento.

"I said my family's camped there for years and we love it. I made it clear how we felt. Two weeks later I received word the park wouldn't be closed, and they would enlarge it somewhat. I was pretty proud of that."

For Compy there was no turning back. He has since made a name for himself writing a weekly camping and fishing column for Bay Area newspapers, leading walking tours through historic sites, organizing father-son boat trips along a 268-mile stretch of river between Red Bluff and Antioch, and earning the coveted John Britton award from PG&E for rescuing a

drowning teenager at Donner Memorial State Park.

Not to mention the fishing derbies, and steering kids toward pleasures more enduring than drug use.

Compy says he is motivated by a desire to "give back."

Growing up he was one of eight children. When his father died young, Compy was taken in by the owner of the local bait and tackle store, Guy Chattell.

"He trapped beaver and otter, he taught me that," Compy fondly recalls.

Even after he was grown up and married, Compy and his wife, Anna, remained close to Chattell. Compy says Chattell "showed us what life was really like. He treated us like a son and daughter."

Compy retired from Standard Pacific Gas Lines in 1979, but has remained a union member to this day.

"I always said I was a union man. Because the union looked after us. We knew you were there when we needed you."

Recently the Antioch City Council recognized Compy's contribution to the community by renaming the local fishing pier in his honor. A dedication ceremony is slated for July 4.

It's a pretty good bet that Compy will reach his goal of restoring good fishing conditions in Antioch. After that, what? He can't retire—he's already done that. One prediction seems fairly safe. You're going to find Compy where the fishing's good and the cause is right.



Hooked on fishing

Tax deductible contributions, earmarked for the River Bottom Clean Up Project, can be sent to: Antioch Rivertown Business Association, PO Box 117, Antioch, CA 94509.