



## PG&E General Construction

# Mission: Florida

By Eric Wolfe

It wasn't exactly your typical tailboard when Florida utility officials briefed Pacific Gas & Electric crews about working conditions in the messy aftermath of Florida's four devastating hurricanes.

PG&E crews by training are attuned to the hazards of electric shock, falls and wayward vehicles.

*But alligators?*

"They told us that some of the wildlife had moved inland, including alligators," said Gil Maiuro, one of about 130 PG&E General Construction employees dispatched to Florida on Sept. 28 to assist in power restoration efforts.

Sure enough, it wasn't long before Maiuro and his crew spotted an alligator. Up close. One crew member thought it looked dead.

"It's not dead," Maiuro said, and tossed a handful of mud at it.

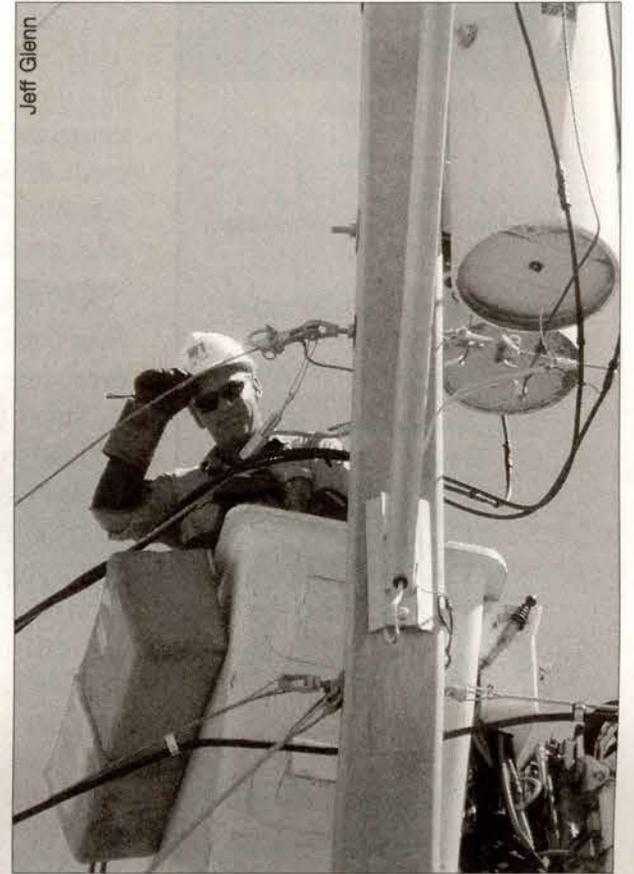
"He just viciously snapped at it just that quick," Maiuro recalled.

PG&E crews initially worked out of a staging area in West Palm Beach, using bucket trucks and pickups supplied by Florida Power and Light. A few days later, after PG&E equipment arrived by low-boy transport, the crews staged out of Vero Beach, according to Maiuro.

The work took them to coastal as well as inland areas. Wherever they went, people welcomed them with open arms.

"One line we put back up they had been out of power since the previous hurricane," said Casey Barker, a GC Lineman out of Salinas. "They were very excited to see us and extremely thankful."

In one case an area resident even used his swamp buggy to ferry crew members to a remote location that couldn't be reached by truck.



GC Lineman Todd Walker at work in Florida in the wake of the state's four devastating hurricanes. Florida residents expressed deep gratitude for the assistance.

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## Survey findings

Local 1245's most active members are reading the union's newspaper and visiting its websites, but they would like the union to do even more to communicate with members.

This is the chief finding in a survey of Local 1245 members conducted at unit meetings throughout the union's jurisdiction last spring.

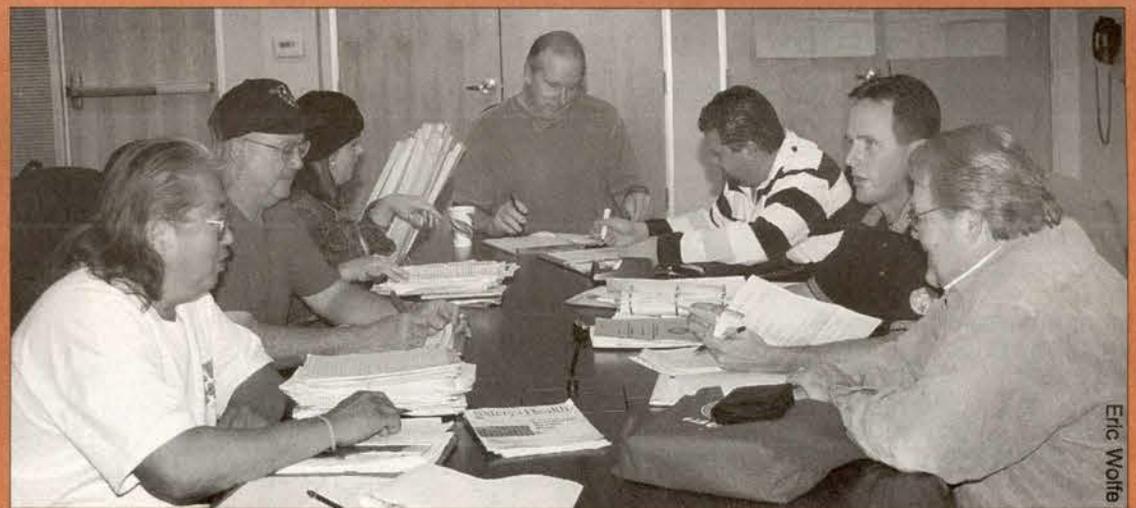
Six in 10 respondents say they find the Utility Reporter, the union's monthly newspaper, "very useful," while another 37% say "somewhat useful."

The specific newspaper features that rated highest in the survey are:

- Safety and Health (56% say very useful)
- On the Job Photos (51%)
- Letters to the Editor (47%)
- Front Page (45%)

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## Frontier bargaining at crossroads



The Local 1245 Bargaining Committee for Frontier negotiations met at Weakley Hall in Vacaville on Nov. 1 to plan next steps after the membership voted in an Oct. 29 mail ballot to reject a company contract proposal and to authorize a strike. Clockwise, from left, are: Eric Tanaka, Monte "Toot" Nelson, Sheila Lawton, Larry Martin, Tom Greer, Senior Business Rep. Ray Thomas and Business Rep. Jack Osburn.

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**ALAMEDA POWER & TELECOM**

**Negotiating Committee**  
Alfred Fortier  
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**Labor Management Committee**  
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**OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION**

**Examining Board Advisory Committee for Journeyman Lineman (Policy 22)**  
David Crawford  
Larry Thomson  
Scott Hudelson  
Aaron Ebo  
Justin Pinochi  
Richard 'Bubba' Avery

**CONFERENCES, COUNCILS & CONVENTIONS**

**Fall Meeting of California-Nevada State Associations of Electrical Workers**  
David Crawford

**IBEW NECA Benefits Conference**  
David Crawford  
Gina Kahlil

**2004 IBEW Nuclear Conference**  
John "Mike" Jacobson  
Patrick Duffy

# We're all in this together

By Perry Zimmerman, Business Manager



My message this month is short, sweet, and simple. It is directed to every one of our members.

Stand together. If we don't, we will fall together.

At PG&E, Rumor Central is hard at work. If you believe half the rumors you hear, the company will soon be well down the path to being a "virtual utility" with no employees.

Like you, we have heard rumors that call centers will be closed and their work outsourced, that local offices will be closed, that warehouses will be closed and their work outsourced, that system operators will be consolidated and their workforce reduced, that service operators will be consolidated and their workforce reduced, that gas transmission will begin contracting large jobs now performed by PG&E, and so on.

These are, of course, just rumors. If they should progress from rumor to plan, many of these actions would require negotiated changes in our collective bargaining agreement.

That's where you come in.

Our success—or lack of success—at the bargaining table will largely be a function of our ability to present a strong, united front. If the company senses any division within our workforce, that division will be exploited, just as stress finds the weakest seam in a garment.

If your attitude is, "I don't care what they do to clerks, it doesn't affect me," we will lose and you will lose. What happens to one group today will happen to another group tomorrow.

Make no mistake—the political forces of this state and nation are

aligned against us. The governor of California and the president of the United States are no friends of the working man and woman. The United States Senate and House of Representatives are controlled by those whose economic sympathies do not lie with wage-earning Americans.

I am afraid that the next several years will see extraordinary pressures on American workers. I know that the next several years will see extraordinary pressures on our members.

Our best chance for surviving these pressures is to stand together. I urge you to stop thinking along bargaining unit, geographical, or department lines. We're all in this together, and if we keep that in mind we will all get through this together.



## UtilityReporter



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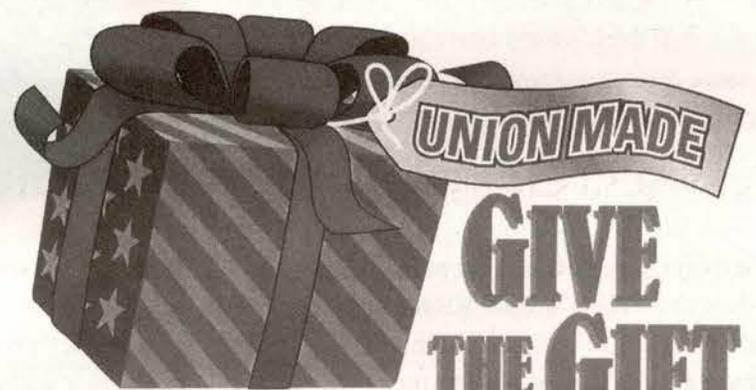
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## Shop Union for the Holidays



**GIVE THE GIFT OF GOOD JOBS**

This holiday season, support good jobs by giving union-made gifts. Your shopping dollars can keep good-paying jobs – with good wages and benefits – in your community.

**For a fine selection of holiday gifts, go to: [www.shopunionmade.org](http://www.shopunionmade.org)**

Union Label & Service Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

## Letters from members

### Tell the Truth

Dear Sir:

I could not believe what I read about giving rank and file money to keep Davis in office. I think you should read his background when he was attorney general. (He was no good.) He wanted to have PG&E cancel the retiree stock. The ruffraff put him in as governor. There has been no Democrat Party since the 60s. That is when they took over the socialist platform.

The union paper has been lying about George Bush ever since he took office. One letter to the paper said he started NAFTA. That's a lie. Clinton put NAFTA on the books. NAFTA was the result of union demands and environmental regulations. They have put thousands out of work.

Kerry and Edwards offer nothing. Kerry and his wife are radical environmentalists. She helped overturn the white government in South Africa. Start telling the truth or stop sending me the union paper. Thank you.

Paul Bennett  
Unity, Ore.

**Editor's reply:** The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was

actually introduced by President George H.W. Bush in 1991, but the writer is correct that NAFTA was enacted under President Clinton. Former Gov. Gray Davis never served as Attorney General, but did serve two terms as State Controller and two terms as Lt. Governor. We cannot find any evidence that Davis ever addressed the issue of PG&E suspending its stock dividends. We don't know if Teresa Heinz Kerry had anything to do with ending apartheid in South Africa, but the entire world was united in opposition to the white racist regime, so she would have been in good company.

### 'Haves & Have-Mores'

Dear Utility Reporter,

"What an impressive crowd: The haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite, I call you my base."

Your use of President Bush's words of October 19, 2000 as your front page quote are dispicable, dishonest, and disloyal to your readers. Your use of this quote, popularized by Michael Moore in Fahrenheit 911, is taken out of context, and you owe us an explanation.

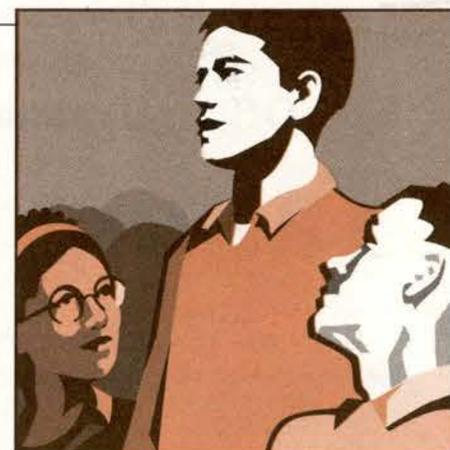
You also use it in your recom-

mendation page on page 8 and say it was at a dinner of his supporters. This is not true and you should explain this. This quote is from the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, a dinner that raises money for Catholic Hospital Charities of New York. A little research would show you that The President was making a joke. Presidential wannabe, Al Gore also spoke that night and made jokes about himself also. In fact, these speeches are given traditionally to make fun of the orator, in this case it was presidential candidate George W. Bush speaking.

Mr. Zimmerman, you say on page 7 that you are not telling us who to vote for; rather, only giving us information to make an informed decision. It seems to me that nothing could be further from the truth.

Joe Matthews  
Tracy, Nev.

**Editor's reply:** The writer is correct that Bush's remark was delivered as a joke at a charitable fund-raiser. Our description of the context was inaccurate. Bush's comment at the charitable fundraiser showed an admirable willingness to poke fun at himself and his well-documented support for the super-rich.



## Speak Out!

Got something to share with your fellow Local 1245 members? Send letters (with name and phone number) to:

Utility Reporter Letters  
IBEW 1245  
PO Box 2547  
Vacaville, CA 95696

*Note: We can't print personal attacks on members or letters dealing with union politics. Opinions expressed in Speak Out are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of IBEW Local 1245.*



### Pierre Salinger: 1925-2004

## Press secretary to President Kennedy helped launch Utility Reporter

Pierre Salinger will be remembered as the White House press secretary who mirrored the youth, openness and wit of his boss, President John F. Kennedy.

But Salinger, who died Oct. 16 at the age of 79, left a more personal legacy to the members of IBEW Local 1245: he served as midwife to the birth of the Utility Reporter, the union's monthly newspaper.

In 1953, a year after PG&E employees elected Local 1245 to represent them, the union's Executive Board allocated \$100 for

Business Manager Ron Weakley to launch a union newspaper.

Figuring he'd need some help getting started, Weakley contacted Salinger, then a young reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle.

"I called him and asked him if he would help me put it together and he agreed," recalled Weakley in an interview last month. "He showed me how to put the thing together—what went on the first page and all that. He taught me a couple of tricks."

Salinger, a native of San Francisco, burst upon the national scene in November 1960 when, at age 35,

he became the youngest person ever to serve as a presidential press secretary. As a former newsman, Salinger established close rapport with the journalists assigned to cover the charismatic new president.

In 1964 Salinger won the Democratic primary in California for a US Senate seat, and in August of that year was appointed to fill the vacant seat created by the death of Sen. Clair Engle. But Salinger lost the seat to George Murphy in the general election that November.

In retrospect, Salinger's rise to national prominence shouldn't have

surprised anyone, given his boundless energy.

"He was into everything and jumped with both feet into any kind of issue he got involved in," said Weakley. "There was no shrinking violet about Salinger."

Weakley said Salinger didn't accept any pay for the assistance with the Utility Reporter. This was fortunate for Weakley because he needed the hundred bucks allocated by the Executive Board to pay the printer.

The Utility Reporter celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003.

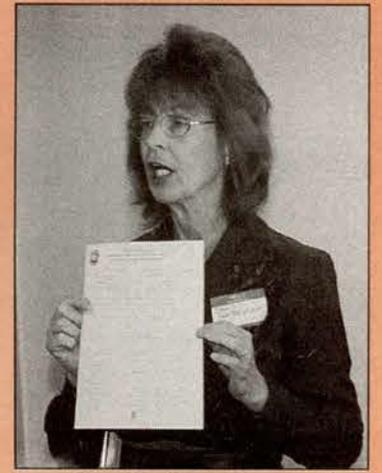
## Unit Officer Training

# Taking the Plunge

Newly-elected Unit Chairs and Recorders preparing to take the plunge into their new responsibilities gathered at Weakley Hall on Sept. 25 for a training class.

For unit officers assuming a leadership position for the first time, the conference offered instruction on their responsibilities and how to carry them out. For members with years of experience as a unit officer under their belt, the conference served as a refresher course and a chance to mingle with their peers from throughout the union's jurisdiction.

The conference included presentations by Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, President Ed Mallory, Recording Secretary Chris Habecker, and Assistant Business Manager Jim McCauley. The training included a mock unit meeting to illustrate some of the issues that can arise for a unit officer.



Local 1245 Recording Secretary Chris Habecker discusses duties of Unit Recorders.



Adrienne Franks, Recorder, East Bay Clerical Unit 2301



Janice Sciarrotta, Recorder, Marysville Unit 3611



Ed Mallory, Local 1245 President



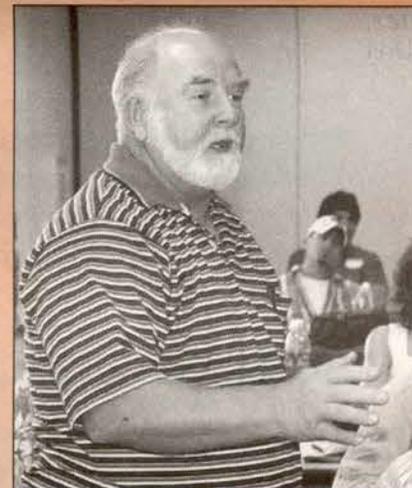
Hector Morales Chair, Asplundh-Mountain View Unit 4711



Fred DeAguinaga, Chair, San Jose Physical Unit 1511



Ray Shepherd, Chair, Oakland Physical Unit 2311



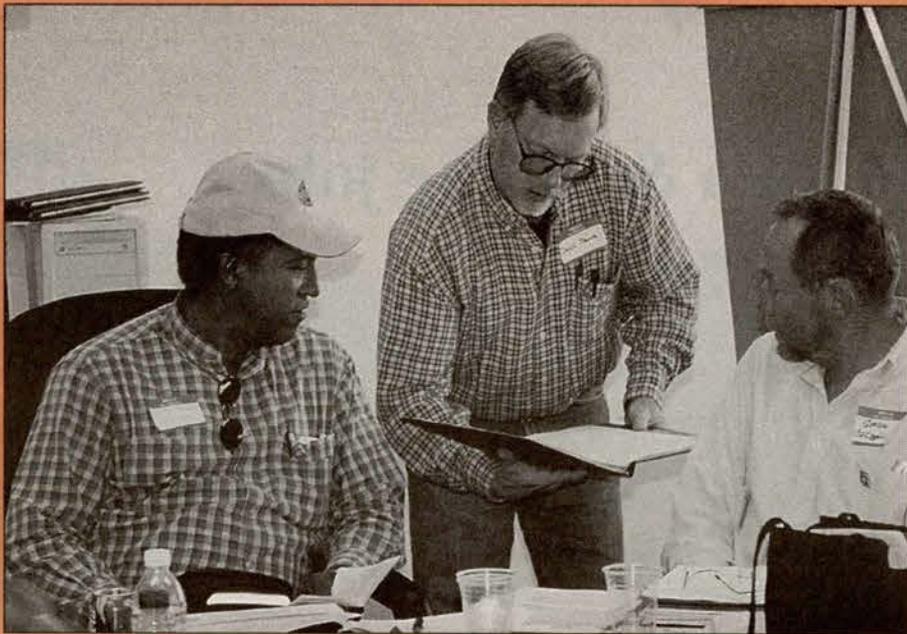
John Shepherd, Davey Tree-Redding Unit 4419



Bob Quinn, Belmont Unit 1512



Richard Manley, Recorder, King City Unit 1213, right, raises an issue with Business Manager Perry Zimmerman.



Daryl Turner, Recorder, Santa Cruz Unit 1513 (middle) consults with Darryl Munson, Recorder, Lemoore Unit 1128 (left) and Gordon Callaghan, Recorder, Belmont Unit 1512 during the workshop for Unit Recorders.



Jose Sanchez, Recorder, Asplundh-Mountain View Unit 4711

Photos by  
Lynn Moon

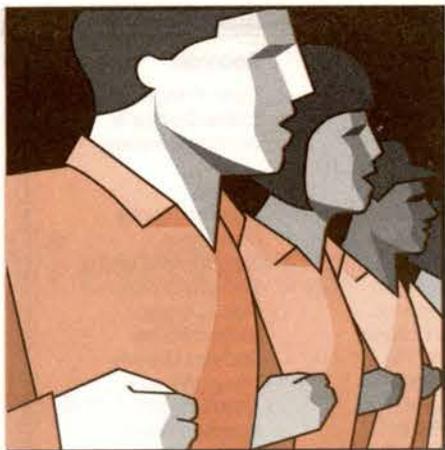


Scott Branch, Chair, Bakersfield Unit 1112



Lauren Bartlett, Recorder (left) and Constance Bibbs, Chair, Sacramento Regional Transit Unit 3011

Unit#	Unit Name	Chairman	Recorder
1111	Fresno	Chris Habecker	Tana Prince
1112	Bakersfield	Scott Branch	Elena Quintana
1115	Los Banos	Joe Esparza	Jeanne Downey
1120	Selma	Pedro Sandoval, Jr.	
1121	Coalinga	Brian Wheeler	Vacant
1122	Merced Id	Jerrid Fletcher	Rodrigo Flores
1123	Merced	Mike Jameson	Dan Mayo
1126	Turlock Id	Heath Schab	Jan Backstrom
1128	Lemoore	Jim Brager	Darryl Munson
1129	Auberry	Dave Cannon	Vince Hogan
1211	Salinas	Debra Montanez	Robert Fisher
1213	King City	Frank Padilla, Jr.	Richard Manley
1215	Pismo Beach	Jerry Camacho	Stuart Weaver
1216	Santa Maria	Mario Landeros	John Briggs
1217	Templeton	Gregg Burk	Stephen Ward
1219	Hollister	James Vermilyer	Barbara Saunders
1220	Diablo Canyon	Lynn Moon	James Hayes
1221	Buellton	Brennen Swanson	Brian Hall
1311	Hinkley	Robert Gregg	Craig Simpson
1313	Topock	Gregory Shettko	Majorie Ferguson
1314	Kettleman	Manny Guzman	Vacant
1411	City Of Santa Clara	Ralph Muraca	Dan Ryker
1511	San Jose Physical	Fred Deaguinaga	Natalie Christenson
1512	Belmont	Bob Quinn	Gordon Callaghan
1513	Santa Cruz	Art Freitas	Daryl Turner
2211	Oakland General	Al Fortier	R. 'Stony' Burk
2301	East Bay Clerical	Donna Ambeau	Adrienne Franks
2311	Oakland Physical	Ray Shepherd	Ron Bastiaans
2314	Hayward-Fremont	Ignacio Araquistain	Darla Weaver
2315	Livermore	Doug Dieb	Pete Jereb
2316	Concord	Randy Lassus	Carlos Vega
2317	Antioch	Dan Tucker	
2318	Richmond	Don Campbell	Al Estes
2412	San Francisco	Vince Jones	Robert Smith
2511	Stockton	Sam Gutierrez	Christina Schaefer
2512	Angels Camp	Grover Day	Dan Meyn
2513	Jackson	Brian Boitano	Pete Hansell
2515	Modesto	Anthony Fortune	John Loades, Jr.
2516	Lodi	Ken Enzi	Ed Fitzpatrick
2517	Sonora	Brian Owens	Mike Giacosa
2518	Modesto Id	Mike Quigley	Karri Davis
2519	Tiger Creek Pwrhse	E. Rick Davis	Lewis Pence
3011	Sacramento Rtd	Constance Bibbs	Lauren Bartlett
3012	USBR CVO Sacto	Mike McKay	Betty Ingram
3021	Sand Point	Tab Anderson	Paul Weid
3022	Klamath Falls	Blake Ironside	Vacant
3023	Walla Walla	Mike Prior	Rose Martinez
3025	Spokane, Wa	Vacant	Pat Rigg
3026	Portland	Susan Corey	Vacant
3027	Rosalia, Wa	Patrick Brown	Brian Beaver
3028	Redmond, Or	Alan Kissee	Keri Severance
3111	Eureka	Cathy Wood	Linda Jurado
3212	Redding	Russell Rylee	Dave Galimba
3213	Burney	Ed Hood	Roger Bauer
3214	Red Bluff	James Johnstone	Micky Harrington
3217	City Of Redding	Dwayne Norman	Dwayne Baker
3218	USBR-WAPA (N. Ca.)	Greg Walpole	Dan Wyand
3310	Truckee	Dennis Romeo	Jackson Bergland
3311	Reno	Wayne Paterson	Rita Weisshaar
3312	Carson City	Sean Cherry	Nancy Baden
3313	Yerrington	Lee Soukup	Paul Wiles
3314	S Lake Tahoe	Percy Stahl	Percy Stahl
3315	Mt. Wheeler - Ely	Michael Venturino	Jose Sandoval
3316	Fallon - Nv Sppc	Shawn Cunningham	Lewis Robinson
3317	Winnemucca	Jeff Henriod	Don Rogers
3318	Elko	T. Norlan	Carolyn Rand
3319	Wells Rec	Torrey Leach	Shawn Kelley
3320	North Lake Tahoe	Bruce Warmuth	Charles Sala
3417	Paradise	Richard Jaster	Richard Manley
3511	Auburn	Terry Andreucci	Steve Chapman
3512	Roseville	Michael Barton	Cheril Fowler
3513	Grass Valley	Jack Maslov	Lyn Hudgens
3514	Chilcoot - Portola	Clint Begley	Linda O'Neill
3611	Marysville	Mark Anderson	Janice Sciarotta
3711	Marin County	Ione Snyder	
3712	Santa Rosa	Lem Stubblefield	Linda Norris
3714	Ukiah	John Perez	Corrine Dauer
3715	Lakeport	Bill Dawson	Gary Woodson
3716	Napa - Vallejo	John Kent	Charlie Carbone
3717	Ft Bragg - Pt Arena	Gary Fernandez	Stanley Federnak
3801	Sacramento Clerical	Dave Ryan	Wendi Rulon
3811	Sacramento	Lou Mennell	Christine Lay
3812	Vacaville	Ernest Owens	Mark Bendel
3813	Placerville	Henry Garcia	Jeff Campodonico
3814	Woodland	Dan Parmenter	Steven Gravink
3911	Smud	Dave Trigeiro	Art Torres
3912	Fresh Pond (Smud)	Ray Curtis	Mike Worley
4012	Susanville	Kevin Merrill	Joann Villalovos
4013	Alturas	Monte Nelson	John Ramos
4014	Elk Grove	Sheila Lawton	Tom Greer
4015	Burney Cucc	D. Trowbridge	Mary Unterreiner
4419	Davey Tree - Redding	John Shepherd	Virgil O'Neal
4419	Asplundh - Chico	James Lococo	
4711	Asplundh - Mtn. View	Hector Morales	Jose Luis Sanchez
4712	Asplundh - Selma	Salvador Castaneda	Hector Arellano
4713	Asplundh - San Jose	Edward Arellano	Sergio Munoz
4714	Davey Tree-Placerville	Brent Seibert	Steve Speak
4715	Asplundh - Sonora	Chris Brewer	Stephen Hix
4716	Utility Tree - Gridley	David Bruemmer	Gaberial Garcia
4911	O/L - Sacramento	Larry Thomson	Scott Hudelson



## Child labor, mad man & killing jobs

**J**ohn Kerry lost his bid to become president, but it wasn't for lack of effort by union members. Union households accounted for one of four voters, totaling 27 million union household voters in 2004, according to an independent election night survey and the exit polls. Union households provided a 5.8 million vote advantage for the Democratic candidate for president, one exit poll found. Sixty-five percent of union members voted for Kerry, with an even bigger margin—68%—voting for Kerry in battleground states, the AFL-CIO reported. Overall, 62% of union members surveyed say they disapprove of President George W. Bush's job performance, with 67% saying they have only some or very little confidence Bush will look out for *working families*. More than 90% of union members say they received information from their unions on issues in the presidential campaign.

► **Madman:** Players and union representatives from the 30 National Hockey League clubs, 48 days into a lockout, said that they would never accept a hard salary cap and that the next move in the protracted labor dispute had to come from the NHL. "I think there's a lot of great owners out there but there's a madman leading them down the wrong path," Philadelphia Flyers goalie Robert Esche told the Canadian newspaper *Globe and Mail*.

► **Paralysis Planned:** Members of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) plan to totally paralyze the oil sector of Nigeria in a nationwide strike planned for Nov. 16 by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), the *PM News of Lagos* reported. Brown Ogbeifun, the President of PENGASSAN, said his union

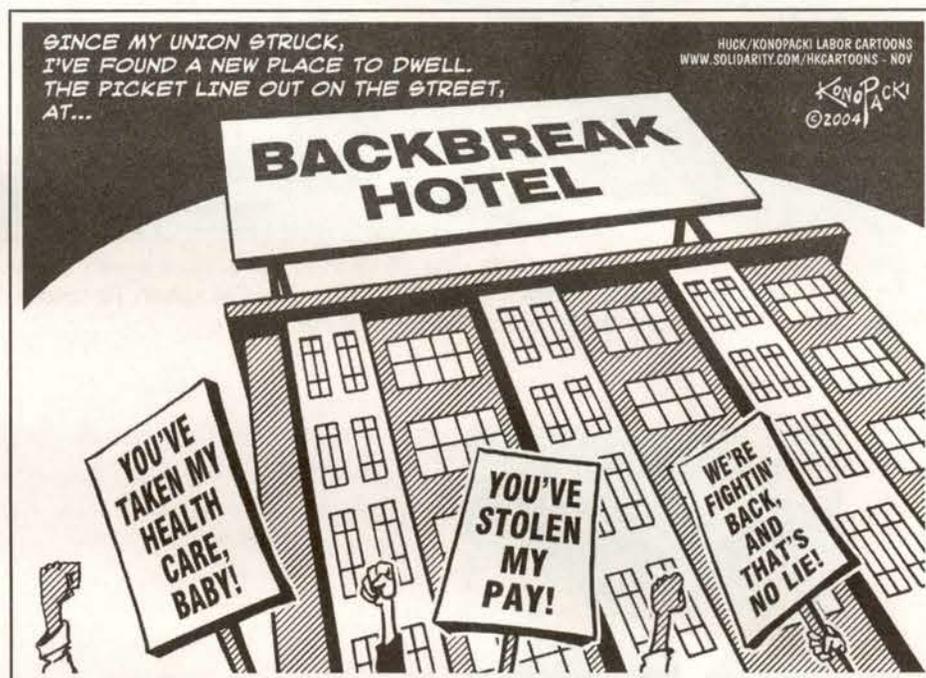
sought total paralysis of the production and distribution of petroleum products in the country.

► **Arbitration Measure Fails:** A Santa Clara County measure to allow arbitrators to set wages for county nurses, jail guards and some county attorneys (when collective bargaining fails) lost in the Nov. 2 election, *SF Gate* reported. Unions for the employees argued that Measure C would protect the public from strikes. County officials opposed it, calling it a potential budget-buster.

► **Health Act Defeated:** Proposition 72, the labor-backed health care initiative, was narrowly defeated Nov. 2, with 49.1% of the electorate voting to preserve the California Healthcare Act, and 50.9% throwing their support to Walmart and other large corporations trying to repeal the Act, which was passed by the Legislature in 2003. The law, if it had been allowed to take effect, would have required large and mid-sized companies to provide health care for their workers. The successful initiative campaign against the new law was bankrolled largely by fast-food restaurants and large retailers such as Wal-Mart.

► **Not Much Great Stuff:** The Conference Board's index of national consumer confidence, which measures attitudes toward the economy, business climate and job market, has been dropping steadily for three months, and last month dropped to its lowest point since March. "There's just not much great stuff out there for consumers to be real happy about," said Michael Bazdarich, a UCLA economist.

► **Kill Jobs, Get a Raise:** A report by the Institute for Policy Studies found that US corporate executives who sent jobs overseas received a 46% pay hike in 2003, five times higher than average CEO raises. The top 50 outsourcing companies included Citigroup and Oracle, whose



### S.F. mayor joins hotel picketline

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom joined locked-out union members on the picket line Oct. 26 after a group of San Francisco hotels rejected his proposed 90-day cooling off period.

The intransigence of management has extended a bitter labor dispute that has left 4,000 workers locked out of their jobs.

Newsom shook hands with locked-out workers while walking picket at Westin St. Francis on Powell Street and vowed the city would boycott the hotels by not sponsoring city events in any of them.

The dispute, caused by an impasse in the negotiation of a new contract, began Sept. 29 with a two-week strike at four hotels and grew to become a lockout by employers at 14 of the city's largest

hotels on Oct. 13.

The union accepted Newsom's proposal for a three-month cooling off period, but the hotels rejected it Oct. 26.

Newsom said he would bring no city business to the 14 hotels involved in the dispute.

"Why would I ever sponsor a city event in 14 hotels that are attacking, from my perspective, the city and the values of the city? I would never do that," he said.

"And I encourage others to pause and reflect. Why would we go to these hotels when we have other good hotels that are not locking out their employees and want to negotiate this (labor contract) in good faith?" he said.

Newsome's candidacy for mayor last year was strongly supported by IBEW Local 1245.

CEOs made \$54.1 million and \$40.6 million last year.

► **Child Labor—the Real Thing:** Children as young as eight are expected to cut cane with machetes for four to nine hours at a time in El

Salvador, *Labor Notes* reported. The sugar plantations they work on supply Salvadoran sugar mills, which in turn supply large companies such as Coca Cola with the base for their product.

*IBEW Local 1245 and Merrill Lynch Present*  
**Retirement Planning Seminars**

**How To Retire Successfully!**

**Topics Include:**

- Can I afford to retire?
- Prior to retirement, how should I invest my 401K?
- What is the appropriate spousal option percentage to take from my pension?
- How does an IRA Rollover work?
- Should I use my vacation or save it?
- What happens to my retirement if I go on LTD?
- How can I draw money from my IRA at any age free from penalty?

**Full Buffet breakfast, lunch or dinner at all seminars.**

**Monterey**

Thursday, January 20  
Dinner: 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Portola Plaza  
2 Portola Plaza  
Monterey, CA

**Redding**

Saturday, January 22  
Breakfast: 8:00 - 10:00 am  
Red Lion Inn  
1830 Hilltop Drive  
Redding, CA

**San Luis Obispo**

Saturday, January 22  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Madonna Inn  
100 Madonna Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA

**Chico**

Saturday, January 22  
Lunch: 12:30 - 2:30 pm  
Holiday Inn  
685 Manzanita Court  
Chico, CA

**San Mateo**

Wednesday, January 26  
Dinner: 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Marriott  
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.  
San Mateo, CA

**San Jose**

Saturday, January 29  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Hilton  
300 Almaden Blvd.  
San Jose, CA

**Stockton**

Saturday, January 29  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Radisson Hotel  
2323 Grand Canal Blvd.  
Stockton, CA

**Oakland**

Wednesday, February 2  
Dinner: 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Hilton  
1 Hegenberger Road  
Oakland, CA

**Santa Rosa**

Saturday, February 5  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Hilton  
355 Round Barn Road  
Santa Rosa, CA

**Bakersfield**

Thursday, February 10  
Dinner: 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Doubletree Hotel  
3100 Camino Del Rio Ct.  
Bakersfield, CA

**Fresno**

Saturday, February 12  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Piccadilly Inn  
4691 N. Cedar Ave.  
Fresno, CA

**Concord**

Saturday, February 12  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Concord Hotel  
45 John Glenn Drive  
Concord, CA

**Eureka**

Saturday, February 26  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Red Lion Inn  
1929 Fourth Street  
Eureka, CA

**Sacramento**

Saturday, February 26  
Breakfast: 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Hilton  
2200 Harvard Street  
Sacramento, CA

Seminars are for Local 1245 members age 50 years and older and their spouses or significant others. Free of charge. Invitations will be sent by mail. Questions? Call Jim McCauley at (707) 452-2710.

# Members ratify new agreement with Davey Tree

Members of IBEW Local 1245 at Davey Tree Surgery Company ratified a new agreement with the company in a mail ballot counted at the union's Vacaville headquarters on Oct. 29.

The agreement provides wage increases for members at Davey. (See box for amounts).

Of the 95 members returning valid ballots, 60 voted in favor (65%), while 32 members voted against. Three ballots were declared void.

The term of the agreement is Aug. 1, 2004 through Dec. 31, 2007.

"The contract was controversial in that it contained more stringent requirements for Local 1245 members at Davey Tree not only to obtain their Commercial Driver's License, but also an air brake endorsement, which is an enhancement to the Commercial Driver's License," said Senior Business Rep. Ray Thomas, who helped negotiate the agreement for the union.

"Davey Tree's intent is to upgrade its aerial lifts and other fleet to include air brakes. The union's position has been that while these licensure endorsement requirements

are demanding on the membership, it is in our best interest to be as highly qualified as we can be," said Thomas.

The contract also calls for an increase in the Commercial Driver's License reimbursement pay when an employee receives the air brake endorsement.

For years, the Redwood region wages have been behind the other areas covered by the labor agreement. Due to competition in the Redwood areas, wage concessions had been made in past negotiations, Thomas said.

"This Agreement helps bridge some of the wage inequity by increasing Redwood wages an additional 2% over the term, which will amount to an equity increase to approximately 190 members in the Redwood Region," he said.

Approximately 100 Vegetation Control members at Davey Tree will receive annual increases of 3.4%. The union was successful in negotiating a "Specialist" classification whereby a Vegetation Control member can increase his or her pay by an additional 5% with a Qualified Applicator's Certificate, which increases their education in the area of chemical application. Similar to the Line Clearance "Master Foreman" criteria, all Vegetation Control members with 5 years experience may qualify. This is another example of increasing the value of our membership through certification and licensure, with the company paying for the initial testing.

### Other Provisions

The agreement adds "Step" family to the definition of "Immediate Family" for the purposes of a paid funeral leave benefit.

The agreement also increases daily subsistence from \$17.00 per



**BARGAINING COMMITTEE FOR DAVEY TREE NEGOTIATIONS**  
Local 1245 Bargaining Committee for negotiations with Davey Tree consisted of, from left, Organizer Carl Lamers, Senior Business Rep. Ray Thomas, Matt Gilliam, Jim Gorman, Mike Myers, and Business Rep. Junior Ornelas.

day to \$25.00 per day when working more than 60 miles from employees' headquarters. For the first time in a tree agreements, this agreement mandates a sleeping room for members working more than 100 miles from their headquarters.

"In the past, tree companies did not have any sleeping room mandates, only good faith language which usually meant that the company required our members to trade their subsistence pay for a sleeping

room, if they provided a room at all," said Thomas.

Another enhancement is a negotiated option allowing members to contribute to their individual pension plan accounts. For years, the plan had allowed only employer contributions.

"While we had just increased the employer contribution to 3% in the last negotiated agreements, our mem-

Page 20 ►

## Wages

The General Wage Increases are as follows:

Redwood (Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt):

- 1-1-05: 4.06%
- 1-1-06: 4.06%
- 1-1-07: 4.06%

East Bay, North Valley, San Joaquin and Golden Gate Mission Trails areas will receive the following wage increases on their current anniversary dates:

- 2004: 3.4%
- 2005: 3.4%
- 2006: 3.4%
- 2007: 3.4%

### ATTENTION: All Line Clearance Tree Trimming members working for Asplundh Tree at PG&E, Modesto Irrigation District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and the City of Roseville, and Davey Tree Surgery members working at Turlock Irrigation District:

With Contract Negotiations starting soon, please forward any contract proposals to Business Representative Junior Ornelas. Bring your proposals to your November Unit Meeting, or send to Mr. Ornelas's attention by fax at the Union Hall: 707-452-2701.

If you were unable to obtain a proposal form at your last unit meeting, please legibly print contract proposals on a standard sheet of paper. Along with each proposal, list the Contract Article the proposal references.

- List a phone number where you can be reached.
- Sign and date your proposals.

In Solidarity,  
Raymond S. Thomas  
IBEW Local Union 1245  
Sr. Business Representative

# Miembros ratifican nuevo acuerdo con Davey Tree

Los miembros del Local 1245 del Sindicato IBEW, empleados de Davey Tree Surgery Company, ratificaron un nuevo contrato con la Compañía mediante votos enviados por correo que fueron contados en las oficinas del Sindicato en Vacaville el 29 de octubre.

El contrato incluye aumentos de salario para los miembros de Davey. (Vea las cantidades en la tabla).

De los 95 miembros que enviaron votos válidos, 60 votaron a favor (65%), mientras que 32 miembros votaron en contra. Tres votos fueron declarados nulos.

El término del contrato es desde el 1° de agosto de 2004, hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2007.

“El contrato fue algo controversial porque contiene requisitos más estrictos para los miembros del Local 1245, que trabajan para Davey Tree, los que ahora deben obtener no sólo una licencia de conductor comercial, pero también un endoso de operación con freno de aire. Este endoso realza el valor de la licencia”, dijo el Representante Principal de Negocios del Sindicato, el Sr. Ray Thomas, que ayudó al Sindicato negociar el contrato.

“La intención de Davey Tree es

incluir frenos de aire en sus elevadores aéreos y en otros vehículos de su flota. La posición del Sindicato reconoce que este endoso de la licencia requiere un mayor esfuerzo de nuestros miembros, pero siempre es en nuestro mejor interés obtener todas las calificaciones posibles”, dijo el Sr. Thomas.

El contrato también requiere un aumento en el pago de los empleados que tienen esa licencia, cuando el empleado reciba el endoso de operación con freno de aire.

Durante varios años, los salarios en la región Redwood han sido menores que en otras áreas cubiertas por el contrato laboral. Debido a la competencia en las áreas de Redwood, se han hecho concesiones de salarios en las negociaciones pasadas, dijo el Sr. Thomas.

“Este contrato ayuda a eliminar parte de esta discrepancia, porque aumenta los salarios en la región Redwood un 2% adicional durante el término del contrato, lo que equivale a un aumento de salario para los 190 miembros, aproximadamente, que trabajan en esa región”, añadió el Sr. Thomas.

Aproximadamente 100 miembros

de Control de Vegetación de Davey Tree recibirán aumentos anuales de salario de 3.4%. El Sindicato tuvo éxito en negociar una clasificación de “Especialista”, en la que un miembro de control de vegetación puede aumentar su salario en un 5% si obtiene un Certificado de Aplicador Calificado, que aumenta sus conocimientos en el área de aplicación de sustancias químicas. Al igual que para el criterio del puesto de “Capataz Maestro” de Limpieza de Líneas, todos los miembros de Control de Vegetación con 5 años de experiencia podrán calificar. Este es otro ejemplo de la forma de aumentar el valor de nuestros miembros mediante la certificación y el licenciamiento, con la Compañía pagando por los exámenes iniciales.

## Otras provisiones

El contrato también incluye a la familia “política” del miembro en la definición de “Familia Inmediata”, para los fines del beneficio de días con pago que le permitan al miembro atender los funerales de esos familiares.

El contrato también aumenta los pagos diarios de subsistencia de \$17.00 por día a \$25.00 por día, cuando los miembros trabajan a más de 60 millas de sus locales normales de trabajo. Por primera vez en un contrato laboral para trabajadores que cortan árboles, este contrato requiere una habitación para dormir para los miembros del Sindicato que trabajen a más de 100 millas de sus lugares normales de trabajo.

“Anteriormente, las compañías cortadoras de árboles no tenían obligación de suministrar habitaciones para dormir y los contratos sólo contenían algunas palabras de “buenas intenciones” que generalmente significaban que las compañías, si proporcionaban esas habitaciones para dormir, lo hacían a cambio del pago de subsistencia de sus empleados”, dijo el Sr. Thomas.

Otra mejora en este contrato es una opción negociada que permite a los miembros contribuir a las cuentas individuales de sus planes de

jubilación. Por muchos años, el plan permitía solamente las contribuciones del empleador.

“Aun cuando habíamos aumentado la contribución del empleador a 3% en los últimos contratos negociados, nuestros miembros todavía no podían participar”, dijo el Sr. Thomas. “Con este contrato, los miembros podrán participar añadiendo valor a sus pensiones mediante contribuciones que son deducidas de sus cheques de pago antes de la deducción de impuestos”.

Habrán tres clases de niveles de contribución:

- CLASE I: 3% (contribución pagada automáticamente por el empleador).
- CLASE II: Contribución del miembro de 1% o 2% (igual a una contribución del 5%, contando la contribución del empleador).
- CLASE III: Contribución del miembro de 3% o 7% (igual a una contribución de hasta 10%, contando la contribución del empleador).

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**ATENCIÓN:** A todos los miembros que trabajan cortando ramas de árboles cerca de las líneas eléctricas para Asplundh Tree en las propiedades de PG&E, del Distrito de Riego de Modesto, del Distrito Municipal de Servicios Públicos de Sacramento y de la Ciudad de Roseville, y que trabajan para Davey Tree Surgery en el Distrito de Riego de Turlock.

Las negociaciones de contrato comenzarán muy pronto, así que por favor envíen cualquier propuesta de contrato a nuestro representante de negocios, Junior Ornelas. Traigan sus propuestas a la reunión de su unidad en noviembre, o envíenlas por fax a la atención del Sr. Ornelas al número de fax del Sindicato: 707-452-2701.

Si no pudieron obtener un formulario de propuesta de contrato en la última reunión de su unidad, por favor escriban sus propuestas de contratos, en forma legible, usando una hoja normal de papel. Junto con cada propuesta, indiquen el Artículo de Contrato al que se refiere su propuesta.

Incluyan también un número de teléfono para poder llamarlos.

Firmen y muestren la fecha en sus propuestas.

En solidaridad,  
Raymond S. Thomas  
Sindicato IBEW, Local 1245  
Representante Principal de Negocios

## Sueldos

Los aumentos generales de salarios son los siguientes:

**Redwood** (Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt):

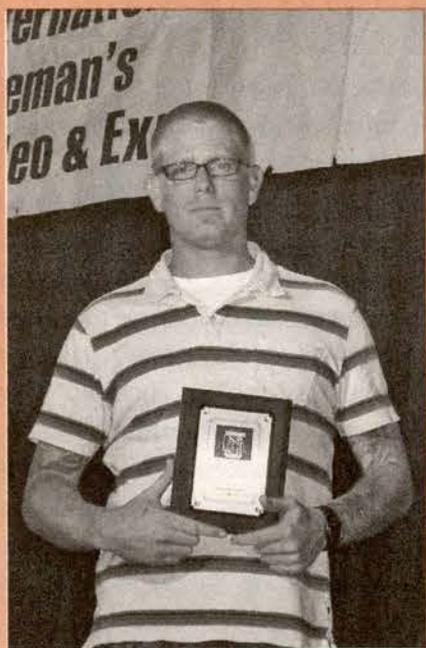
- 1-1-05: 4.06%
- 1-1-06: 4.06%
- 1-1-07: 4.06%

Los empleados en las áreas de **East Bay, North Valley, San Joaquin y Golden Gate Mission Trails** recibirán los siguientes aumentos de salarios en sus fechas de aniversario:

- 2004: 3.4%
- 2005: 3.4%
- 2006: 3.4%
- 2007: 3.4%

City of Roseville

Rodeo Winner



City of Roseville Apprentice Lineman Lucas Raley took second place in the Apprentice Egg Speed Climb at the International Lineman's Rodeo. The Sept. 11 event drew line crews from throughout the United States, and marked the first time the City of Roseville Electric Department competed. Representing the City, in addition to Raley, were Local 1245 members Terry Bakkie, Jeff Beaubier and Rob Miles.

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PG&E 'Campaign for the Community': an opportunity to give something back

Over the past 10 years, PG&E employees and retirees have contributed more than \$20 million to nonprofit agencies through the company's Campaign for the Community.

For agencies like San Francisco Suicide Prevention, donations from

employee-giving campaigns are essential.

"We're a small, volunteer-driven agency and most of the funding we receive is non-discretionary, which means it is earmarked for established programs," said Eve Meyer, executive director. "But if a computer, a

copier or a phone breaks down, or if they raise our health insurance, we rely on discretionary money, which are the funds we receive from employee campaigns. It's a tremendous boost."

PG&E's 2005 employee-giving campaign, which kicked off Oct. 11, allows employees to pledge online at [www.easygive.com/pge](http://www.easygive.com/pge) or return their pledge forms to their respective donor reps by Nov. 19.

Employees may give to any nonprofit organization—including the scholarship funds of PG&E's employee associations—through a one-time gift or a monthly payroll deduction.

As was the case last year, PG&E is paying all administrative costs for the campaign, which means 100% of employees' donations go to the designated agencies.

John Dillon, support services lead in Area 1, is the campaign co-chair for his organization. He has been involved with the campaign for 20 of his 25 years with the company.

"I'm fortunate to have a good job, and doing this small thing is very satisfying," he said. "I like the campaigning, encouraging others to contribute and giving back to the community."

Visit the campaign intranet site at

<http://www/PageOne/business/campaign.html>

Questions can be addressed online to [pge@easygive.com](mailto:pge@easygive.com) or by phone at 1-888-973-GIFT.

Members ratify Paradise ID pact

Members have ratified a new agreement with Paradise Irrigation District. The one-year agreement provides a 3% wage increase retroactive to July 1, 2004.

The agreement also provides progressive buy-back of sick-leave upon retirement: the more years of service you have, the greater percentage of buy-back.

The union succeeded in preserving medical insurance premiums that are fully-paid by the employer.

Martin Luther King Jr. birthday

was added as a holiday.

Business Rep. Kit Stice said the union was still interested in exploring the PERS retirement benefit, and that the issue would probably come up when the next round of bargaining resumes in early 2005.



Stice

Negotiating for the union, in addition to Stice, were Gerald Linville, Keith O'Brien, Laura Capra.

Tri-Dam agreement hikes wages

Local 1245 members approved a new agreement with Tri-Dam that increases wages and improves the retirement formula.

The four-year pact provides a 5% wage increase retroactive to March 1, 2004, and 5% wage increases in each succeeding year, according to Business Rep. Gary Hughes.



Hughes

Effective March 1, 2006, employees will be entitled to a retirement formula of 2% at age 55, a five-year improvement over the current 2% at age 60. The employer will pay 1% of that in 2006, and the full 2% in 2007.

Employees will pay a higher portion of their medical premiums under

the new pact. Effective at ratification, the employee share of medical premiums will increase from 10% to 20%.

The agreement was ratified with only one dissenting vote.

Representing the union on the committee, in addition to Hughes, were John Kennedy and Barbara Cuevas.

Unit Changes in Nevada

Please note the changes in meeting dates for these two Nevada units:

**Unit 3318, Elko:** The Nov. 17 meeting has been changed to Dec. 1.

**Unit 3319, Wells:** The Nov. 18 meeting has been changed to Dec. 2.

These are temporary changes to the normal unit meeting schedule.

Sal Salazar,  
Business Rep.

# Local 1245 members offer views on union communications

► **From Page 1**

Nearly a quarter of the 452 respondents took time to suggest additional topics they'd like to see covered in the Utility Reporter. Many respondents requested more detailed coverage of people and events in their particular geographic area or their particular line of work.

Some respondents asked for more detailed coverage of grievances and arbitrations. Other respondents proposed regular columns to help members better understand union structure and the labor agreements.

**Plugged Into Internet**

Survey results indicate that Local 1245 members are plugged into the

Internet. Among PG&E respondents, 86% report having access to a Local 1245 website via the Internet at home or via the PG&E Intranet. Among non-PG&E respondents, 57% say they have access to the Internet.

Among those who do have access, nearly 83% of PG&E respondents say they have visited the Local 1245 website at PG&E or at home, while 40% of non-PG&E respondents have visited the union's Internet site.

Three-quarters of respondents find the Local 1245 website "very useful" or "somewhat useful," 3% find it "not useful," and 20% say they have never seen it.

While three respondents expressed displeasure with the union's perceived "liberal" tilt on issues, an

astonishing 80% of respondents said they would "definitely" or "possibly" send e-mails to their legislators via the Local 1245 website on issues identified by the union, if given the means to do so.

In other areas of union communication, the survey found:

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents look at worksite union bulletin boards at least once a month, and nearly all find the information "very useful" or "somewhat useful."
- More than 80% of respondents report having "frequent" or "occasional" discussions with union stewards about workplace issues, and 57% viewed their steward's performance favorably.
- Over two-thirds of respondents

(68%) report having frequent or occasional contact with their Advisory Council member.

- Three-quarters of respondents report having contacted their union business representative for information or assistance.

Cost considerations prevented the union from surveying its entire membership, so the survey was conducted at unit meetings. Survey results reflect the attitudes of the union's more active members, and do not necessarily reflect the attitudes of the overall membership.

The survey was created by Communications Director Eric Wolfe, and tabulated with assistance from Local 1245 Administrative Associate Nancy Kendrick.

## Replacing PVC in Sparks

On assignment in Nevada last spring, the Utility Reporter came across this Sierra Pacific Power crew on Spragia Road in Sparks, Nev.

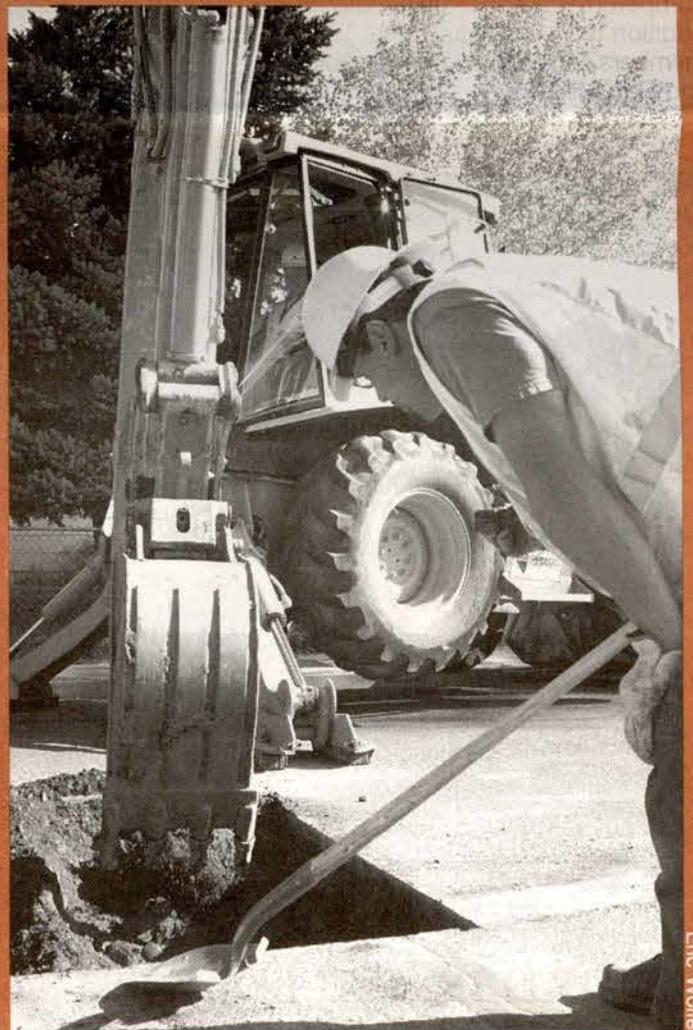
The crew, consisting of Eric Culp, Equipment Operator II, and Adam Weber, Apprentice Fitter, was replacing a PVC pipe with a polyethelyn pipe known as PE 3408.

The new pipe is less prone to brittleness, making it more likely to stand up to the test of time.



Eric Culp, Equipment Operator II

Eric Wolfe



Eric Wolfe

Eric Culp, in his rig, and Apprentice Fitter Adam Weber replacing PVC.

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- double needle bottom hem
- 3 button placket w/ woodtone buttons
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- Colors: Ash, Navy, Black

Price: \$17.00



## DENIM SHIRT

- 8oz. 100% cotton garment washed denim
- Button down collar w/ full button front placket
- Left chest pocket w/ center button
- Double yoke back & hemmed shirt tails
- Embroidered Left Chest Crest
- Union made in USA
- Sizes: S-4X
- Color: Washed Blue

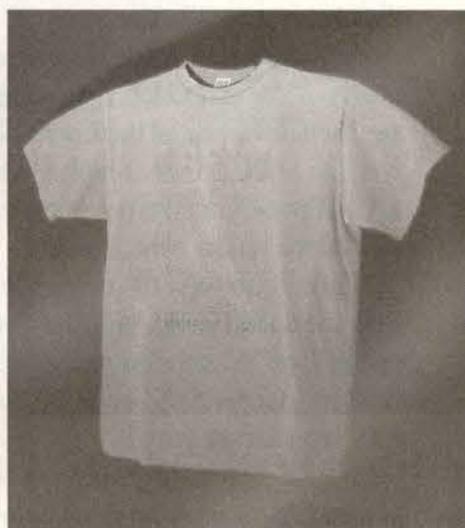
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## EMBOSSED T-SHIRT

- 100% Cotton Jersey
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- Union made in USA
- Sizes: S - 3X
- Colors: Blue, Coral, Red

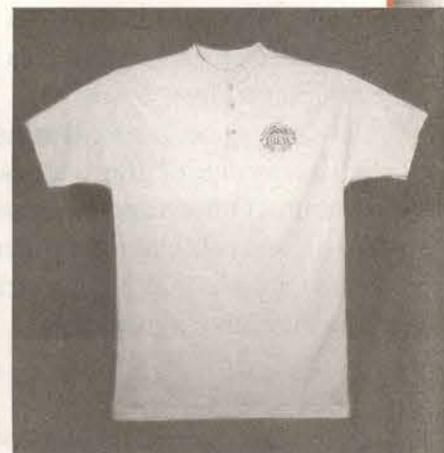
Price: \$15.00



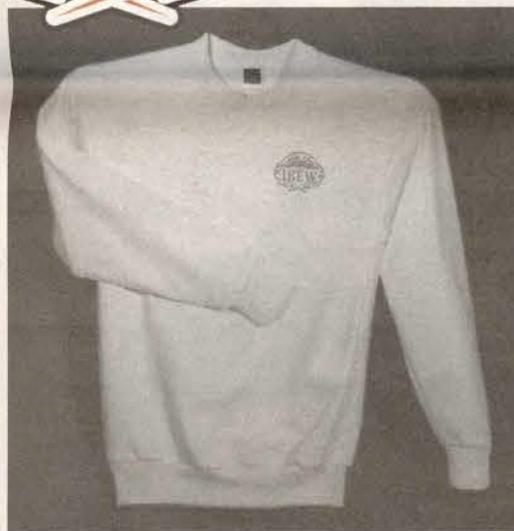
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- Union Made in USA
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- Colors: Ash

Price: \$20.00



## HOODED SWEAT SHIRT

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- Lycra Reinforced ribbed cuffs seamed waistband
- Front muff pocket
- Embroidered Left Chest Crest
- Union Made in USA
- Sizes: S - 4X
- Colors: Ash

Price: \$24.00

## FENWAY JACKET

- Poplin 65 poly/ 35cotton baseball Jacket
- Lightweight 100% Nylon Lining
- Full Zip front w/ antique brass zipper
- Knit trim at Collar, cuffs & waistband
- Embroidered Left Chest Crest
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- Sizes: S - 5X
- Color: Navy/Stone

Price: \$42.00



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  - Union Made in USA
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- Colors: Navy/Natural, Black/Natural, Spruce/Natural

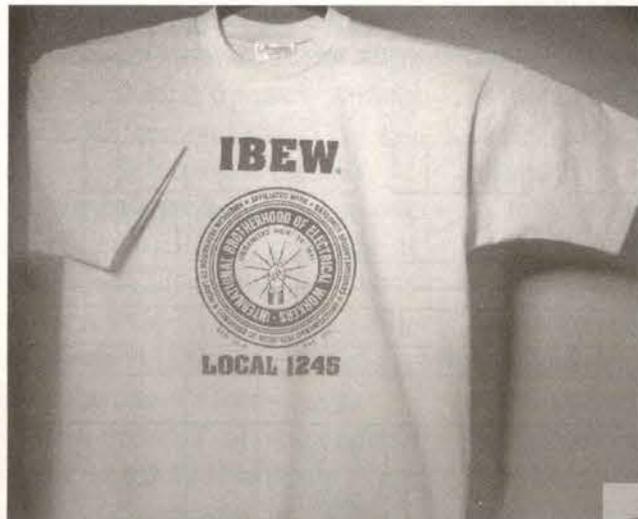
Price: \$30.00



## T-SHIRT

- 5.25 oz. 100% Cotton Jersey
- Screen print design on front
  - Union made in USA
  - Sizes: S - 3X
- Colors: Ash, Orange

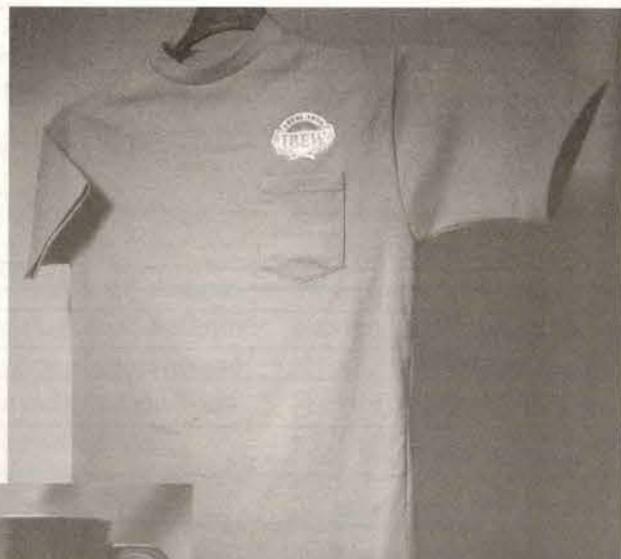
Price: \$6.50



## T-SHIRT w/Pocket

- 5.25 oz. 100% Cotton Jersey
- Screen print design on front
  - Union made in USA
  - Sizes: S - 3X
- Colors: Ash, Orange, Slate or Black

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## COFFEE MUG

- Colbalt Marble mug
- White logo crest imprint
- Union Made in USA

Price: \$2.00

## STAINLESS COOZIE

- Blue logo crest imprint
- Rubber liner
- Union Made in USA

Price: \$6.50



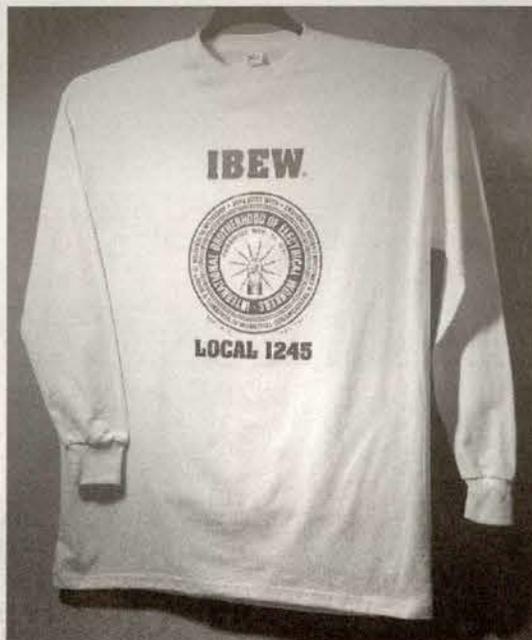
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- Full quilted nylon & batting lining
- Drawstring Hood
- Full zip & snap front w/storm flap
- Raglan sleeve
- 100% acrylic knit collar, cuffs & waistband
- Union Made in USA
- Sizes: S - 3X
- Color: Light Blue Denim, Gray/ Blue trim

Price: \$59.00



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Evening ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

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F	Denim/Sweatshirt Jacket - emb. logo			59.00		
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H	Henley - emb. logo			16.00		
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K	Long Sleeve T-Shirt - screened logo			11.00		
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N	Travel Beverage Mug - screened logo			6.50		
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# Union





**50 Years:** Fifty-year award winner Tommy Aitchison (holding plaque) is joined by his son, President Ed Mallory, Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, and Business Rep. Jack Osburn.



**Redding, CA**  
**January 23, 2004**

**Honorees**

**50 YEARS**  
Aitchison, Tommy L

**35 YEARS**  
Bargas, Louis  
Brownson, Barry L  
Hafner, Richard M  
Shattuck, Chris L  
Valdiva, Alfred J  
Walker, Roger K

**30 YEARS**  
Bourdreaux, William A  
Colgate, Donald G  
Easley, William R  
Head, Donald C  
Holmquist, Timothy  
Keller, Jay B  
Luiz, Mark  
Nunes, Jack V  
Perry, Bruce  
Raglin, Robert  
Schmidt, Carl  
Shannon, Larry D  
Sheeran, Dennis L  
Spangle, William D  
Streetman, Arnold

**25 YEARS**  
Anderson, Jimmy E  
Anderson, Jimmy E  
Crandell, Earl S  
Dennis, Michael J  
Dye, Robert L  
Ferguson, Jim  
Fleenor Jr, Arthur L  
Franklin, Lonnie W  
Harman, Robert K  
Harrell, T R  
Hayes, John A  
Hibbard, Thomas K  
Howell, Dennis E  
Keith, Rodney  
Kierce, Douglas L  
Meyer, Tom W  
Morris, Diane E  
Olson, Peter R  
Penland, Monte N  
Piercy, Robert L  
Runnings, Roy  
Sanchez, Gregory C  
Schmidt, Vicki A  
Sinclair, David L  
Tatich, Steven  
Trowbridge, Daniel L  
Tuck, James M  
Tumidanski, Michael C  
Washburn, Daniel W  
Webster, Allan H



# Moving Forward

By David Crawford

**W**hile the jurisdiction split has been disappointing, IBEW Local 1245 Outside Construction is still moving forward and trying to work with Local Union 47.

In the month of October, Outside Construction had 86 Journeyman calls, 7 Equipment Specialist calls, 44 Groundman calls, 4 Apprentice calls, and 2 Underground Technician calls, for a total of 143 referrals.

There are a few open calls for Journeyman Lineman working from 5-8's to 6-10's.

There are currently a total of 120 contractor crews working in Northern California.

At our next Joint Safety Meeting we will be discussing procedures for working off a helicopter. Our accident record has been excellent this year. A



Local 1245 members working for Norman E. Kendal Construction on a Cal-Pine project, building a switch yard for Turlock Irrigation District Power Plant, are: Foreman Bill Phillips, Lineman John Anderson and Equipment Specialist Ed Webb. Not pictured: Russell Rabel.



Local 1245 members at Superior Electric Northwest, Inc. working on a 115 KV double circuit from Walnut Sub to Patterson Sub for Turlock Irrigation District are, from left: Foreman Kevin Lyons, Jim Francis, Eric Whitney and Mick Kiger.

brother twisted his back while shoveling and is on light duty.

Our Northern Cal-Nev JATC is doing great. Our instructors have moved into the new building and they have set the new poles.

We are starting up the Light Rail negotiations with San Francisco NECA.

In organizing, our campaign with All Day Electric has gone well. We will be meeting with them to go over the Outside Line Agreement. Also, working with Local Union 180, we are helping with organizing Aspen Timpco, which does a lot of Outside Line work in the refineries.

Business Rep. Veodis Stamps and I have been visiting crews and having them sign Authorization for Representation cards for the I.O. under our Outside Line, Pole Test & Treat, and Underground agreements.

Dave Crawford is Local 1245 Business Representative for Outside Construction.

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[www.unionplus.org/goodyear](http://www.unionplus.org/goodyear)



## Control black widow habitat

**B**e very careful when working around areas where Black Widow spiders may be established. Take proper precautions—wear gloves and pay attention to where you are working.

To control the black widow, carefully remove all materials where they might hide. They can be cleaned out of an area simply by knocking down the webs, spiders, and round tan egg sacs with a stick and crushing them underfoot.

The Black Widow spider inhabit most warmer regions of the world, making it a common species in this area. The female Black Widow is shiny black, usually with a reddish hourglass shape on the underside of her spherical abdomen.

The Black Widow is considered the most venomous spider in North America. The venom of the Black Widow spider is 15 times as toxic as the venom of the rattlesnake.

The female Black Widow hangs

belly upward and rarely leaves the web. Their webs can be found in many different places—on the underside of ledges, rocks, plants and debris, wherever a web can be strung.

Cold weather and drought may drive these spiders into or under buildings.

The bite itself is often not painful and may go unnoticed. But the poison can produce symptoms that include: alternating salivation and dry-mouth, paralysis of the diaphragm, profuse sweating and swollen eyelids.

A physician can give specific antivenin or calcium gluconate to relieve pain. Healthy people recover rapidly in two to five days.

It is very important to clean the site well with soap and water. Apply a cool compress over the bite location and keep the affected limb elevated to about heart level. Aspirin or Tylenol may be used to relieve minor symptoms.

## Be safe in autumn chores

**F**all brings spectacular colors. But the beauty of fall is short-lived as the leaves start piling up on the ground.

The endless raking and bagging of those once beautiful leaves can lead to a sore back. Take care when twisting and lifting.

Care should also be taken when using electric leaf blowers. Check your extension cord for damage. Make sure your exterior receptacle is GFCI protected.

Another chore that we might tackle is the pruning of the trees that gave us the wonderful shade during

the hot summer months. Be careful when climbing those trees. A fall could lead to a serious injury that will put a major damper on the holidays.

Be careful using ladders around overhead service drops, especially those aluminum ladders that most of us have. The colors from an aluminum ladder coming into contact with an energized conductor is definitely something we don't need to experience.

Let's be safe this fall so that next spring we can enjoy the shade from those trees.

*Art Torres*

### Safety Tailboard

Receive an IBEW cup and cap for submitting a safety question selected for publication in the Utility Reporter's Safety Tailboard. Safety Tailboard is an open forum for discussion and learning about safety issues. Submit your question, along with your name and phone number, to:

**Safety Tailboard,**

c/o Jim McCauley, IBEW 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696

By the Local 1245  
Safety Committee



## A happy healthy holiday

As the holiday season approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to our families ... and eating. Here are some things for our families to keep in mind.

We Americans normally have an abundance of food on the table, along including many desserts. There are between-meal snacks, many of which contain excess fats, sugars, and sodium.

Usually plenty of drinks are available for every taste, which means more sugar, and possibly alcohol as well.

Most of us spend holidays with family and friends, and the atmosphere of celebration encourages eating and drinking. There is a temp-

tation to try everything on the table.

Let's face it—on holidays people like me often end up waddling away totally stuffed.

But overindulgence has health consequences, especially when we're consuming large quantities of sugars, fats and sodium.

So don't be a pig like me. Make an effort to get exercise during the holidays to burn off those extra holiday calories.

It is easier to put extra weight on than it is to take it off. A little moderation can make the holiday season more fulfilling, instead of just filling.

This holiday season, practice safe eating as well as safe driving.

*Stoney Burk*

## Be aware of noise levels

We need to be aware of noise levels that we are around on the jobsite ... and at home.

Noise is measured in decibels. At higher decibel levels, noise can cause hearing loss.

A ticking watch is about 20 decibels. Normal conversation is about 60 decibels, as is your dishwasher or microwave. A garbage disposal, vacuum cleaner, or outboard motor

is about 80 decibels.

A blow dryer, helicopter or chainsaw is about 100 decibels. Rock concerts can hit 120 decibels or higher. A shotgun blast is about 140 decibels.

Noise at these higher levels cause hearing loss. And hearing loss is forever. It's not something you recover. So be safe around noise!

*David Vipond*

## Work Safe!

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee: Stoney Burk, Alameda Power & Telecomm.; Keith Hopp, Pacific Gas & Electric; Al White, Pacific Gas & Electric; David Vipond, Citizens Communications; Rich Lane, Turlock Irrigation District; Art Torres, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Gil Suarez, Davey Tree; Bob Burkle, City of Santa Clara; and Assistant Business Manager Jim McCauley.

# Mission: Florida

► From Page 1

The journey no doubt gave crew members an opportunity to think about all the local flora and fauna mentioned in one of the morning tailboards. Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac, for example. Not to mention a half dozen or so different kinds of rattlesnake.

"We saw some alligators," Barker acknowledged. "I almost stepped on a water moccasin."

"They said the cotton mouth and the rattlesnake were pretty prevalent. They told us to be aware of brush areas," said Maiuro. The only trouble was, "There was brush everywhere."

And then there was the airborne threat.

"The mosquitos were horrendous. They were huge," said Maiuro. "They weren't lying about the mosquitos."

One evening as the mosquitos were coming out to dine, an area woman stopped by with a gift.

"She said, 'Here's Florida bug spray—it's better,'" Maiuro recalled.

"It was excellent. The only problem was, once you started to perspire, the mosquitos were right back on you. They were setting on your shoulder waiting for it to sweat away."

The crews thought they were going to be setting a lot of poles, but ended up straightening a lot of poles instead. In the marshy ground, poles tended to fall over rather than snap.

Although PG&E crews came farther than just about anyone else, they had plenty of company. In all, some 16,000 workers from 38 states participated in the restoration effort in the wake of Hurricane Jeanne, including crews from 66 contractors and 43 utility companies, utilizing 7,700 trucks and rental vehicles, as well as 300 buses to shuttle crews to and from overnight lodging.

In most cases, crews didn't get back to their hotel rooms until about 10:00 each night.

"We worked 16 hours a day," said Maiuro. "By the time you got back and cleaned up you were pretty well done for the night."

The buses were waiting for the crews at 6:00 the next morning to take them back to the staging area for a group breakfast and a quick return to work.

The overwhelming response to Florida's plea for help allowed the utility to restore service in just eight days to the 1.7 million customers left without power by Hurricane Jeanne.

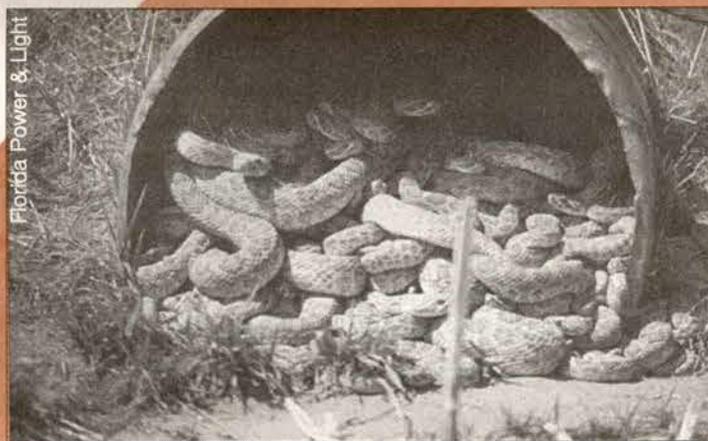
Although the PG&E crews had been prepared for a month-long stay, the rapid and overwhelming response to Florida's natural disaster cut that job down to just 10 days. The crews were flown back to Sacramento on Oct. 7, bussed to Davis and provided rental cars to get back to their home areas.

Maiuro said he went back to work on Oct. 8 and worked straight through the weekend, adding with a laugh: "Is that dedication or what?"



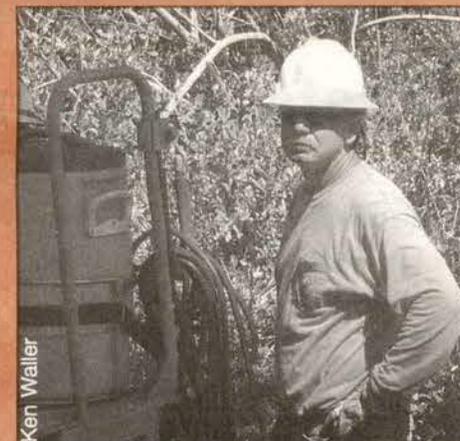
Ken Waller

PG&E GC joined thousands of other out-of-state linemen to help Florida power back up.



Florida Power & Light

Snakes? You want snakes? Florida Power & Light counted 87 snakes in this culvert while putting in lines for an addition to the Orlando International Airport.



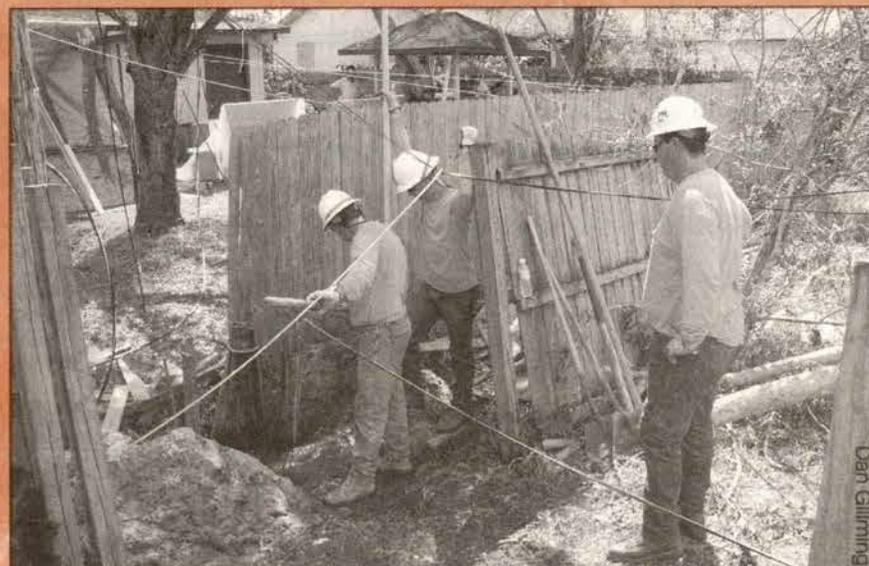
Ken Waller

Mitch Willey at the water cooler. The hot, humid weather made for thirsty work.



Dan Gillingham

In the swampy ground, trees and poles tended to fall over rather than snap.



Dan Gillingham

Restoring service.



Florida Power & Light

Florida Power and Light crews have learned to co-exist with the local wildlife. This gator measured over 18-feet long.



Dan Gillming

PG&E GC crews disembark at night after the long flight from California to Florida.



Ken Waller

Al Wolf



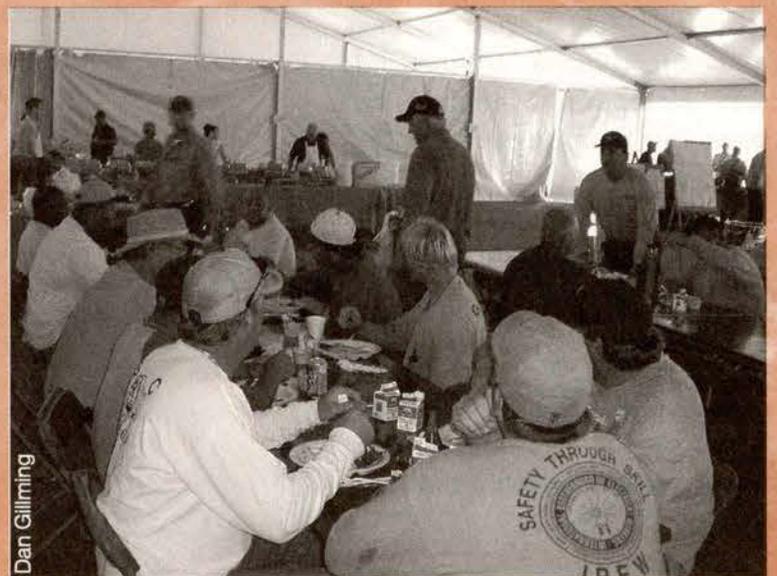
Dan Gillming

Frank Hlebacos and Jeremy Woodruff (partially hidden) traipse through an exotic and battered landscape.



Dan Gillming

Unidentified PG&E lineman at work.



Dan Gillming

Safety briefing during breakfast. Sixteen-hour workdays left time for little else except sleep.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC  
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION  
FLORIDA HURRICANES  
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2004

Background: Satellite Image of hurricane.

# Members ratify new agreement with Davey Tree

► From Page 8

bership could still not participate,” said Thomas. “With this contract, the members will be able to participate in contributing to their pensions, by pre-tax payroll contribution.”

There will be three classes of contribution levels:

- CLASS I: 3% (automatically paid by employer)
- CLASS II: Member contribution of 1% or 2% (bringing total contribution of up to 5% with employer contribution).
- CLASS III: Member contribu-

tion of 3 to 7% (bringing total contribution of up to 10% with employer contribution).

Medical was a major concern for members in these negotiations.

“While the company ultimately would not agree to move to the prior Principal Medical plan coverage, agreement was reached for meetings between the company, union and medical plan administration in order to remedy any outstanding issues,” said Thomas. “With medical premiums skyrocketing, the union’s concern was to minimize members’ premium co-pays.”

The monthly co-pays currently in effect have been:

- Employee: \$10.00
- Spouse: \$10.00
- Dependents: \$5.00 (maximum monthly contribution in any combination shall not exceed \$25.)

Effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2007 the new monthly member contribution schedule:

- Employee: \$20.00
- Employee and Spouse: \$30.00
- Family: \$35.00

“While these new rates increase member contributions a maximum of \$10.00 per month effective January 2005, they represent just 4.5% (approximately) of the actual total monthly premiums for the majority

of our membership at today’s premium rates,” said Thomas. “Locking these contributions in for the term of the agreement represents a stronger value as premiums increase into 2007.”

Serving on the union bargaining committee, in addition to Thomas, were: Business Rep. Junior Ornelas, Organizer Carl Lamers, Davey Tree North Valley Foreman Matthew Gilliam, Davey Tree Redwood Foreman James Gorman, and Vegetation Control Foreman Michael Myers.

Austin Lea was Judge of the Ballot Committee, while North Valley Davey Tree Foreman John Shepherd served as Teller.

# Miembros ratifican nuevo acuerdo con Davey Tree

► From Page 9

El seguro médico fue una de las principales preocupaciones de los miembros en estas negociaciones.

“Aun cuando la Compañía no aceptó regresar a la cobertura del plan médico principal anterior, se llegó a un acuerdo de llevar a cabo reuniones de la Compañía con el Sindicato y la administración del plan médico para tratar de remediar cualquier problema existente”, dijo el Sr. Thomas. “Con el costo de las primas de seguros médicos aumentando actualmente en una forma extraordinaria, el Sindicato tratará de reducir al mínimo los copagos que tendrían que hacer los miembros”.

Los copagos mensuales que están en efecto actualmente son los siguientes:

- Empleado: \$10.00
- Cónyuge: \$10.00
- Dependientes: \$5.00 (la máxima contribución mensual en cualquier combinación no puede exceder de \$25.00).

A partir del 1° de enero de 2005 y hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2007,

la nueva contribución mensual de los miembros será:

- Empleado: \$20.00
- Empleado y cónyuge: \$30.00
- Familia: \$35.00

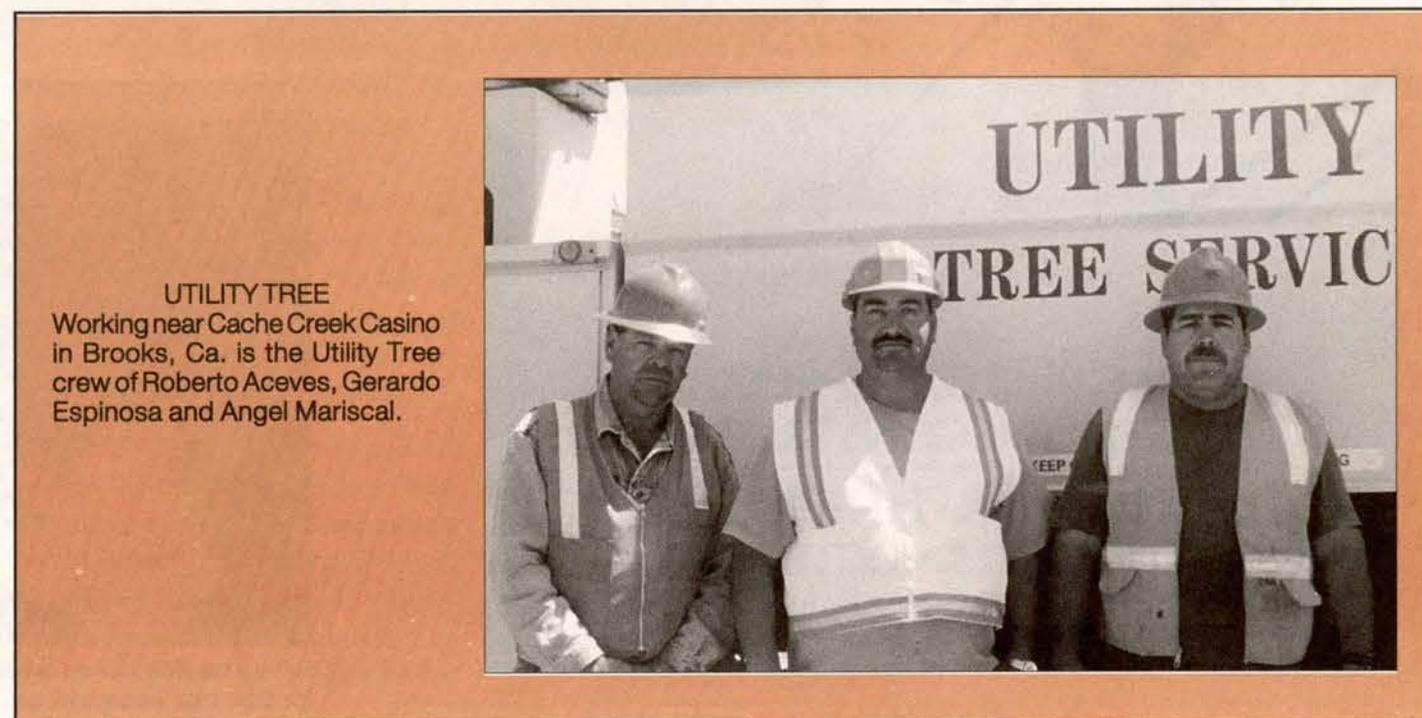
“Aun cuando estas nuevas contribuciones aumentan las contribuciones de los miembros en un total máximo de \$10.00 por mes, a partir del 1° de enero de 2005, ellas representan solamente 4.5% (aproximadamente) del total actual

de las primas mensuales para la mayoría de nuestros miembros basándonos en las primas requeridas hoy en día”, dijo el Sr. Thomas. “El congelar estas contribuciones por todo el término del contrato es algo realmente de mucho valor cuando se consideran los aumentos que ocurrirán hasta el año 2007”.

Además del Sr. Thomas, las siguientes personas participaron en el comité negociador: Representante

de Negocios, Junior Ornelas; Organizador, Carl Lamers; Capataz de Davey Tree North Valley, Matthew Gilliam; Capataz de la sección Redwood de Davey Tree, James Gorman; y Capataz de Control de Vegetación, Michael Myers.

Austin Lea fue el Juez del Comité de Balotas, mientras que el Capataz de North Valley de Davey Tree, John Shepherd, fue el Escrutador de votos.



UTILITY TREE  
Working near Cache Creek Casino in Brooks, Ca. is the Utility Tree crew of Roberto Aceves, Gerardo Espinosa and Angel Mariscal.

# Big Ed

Story by Eric Wolfe



Big Ed: Today

You may not have noticed Ed Caruso's size.

If you're blind.

The man known as "Big Ed" has been a character around the union hall since the early 1980s.

Still, you may not have noticed his voice.

If you're deaf.

His deep voice and commanding size have always set Big Ed apart. They've been inescapable facts at every grievance he's investigated, every meeting he's attended and every union social function he's organized.

But you won't have Big Ed to kick around anymore (not that you would ever have even considered trying). On Nov. 1, Business Rep. Ed Caruso finally delivered on a long-standing threat to retire and leave union work to persons of, well, normal stature.

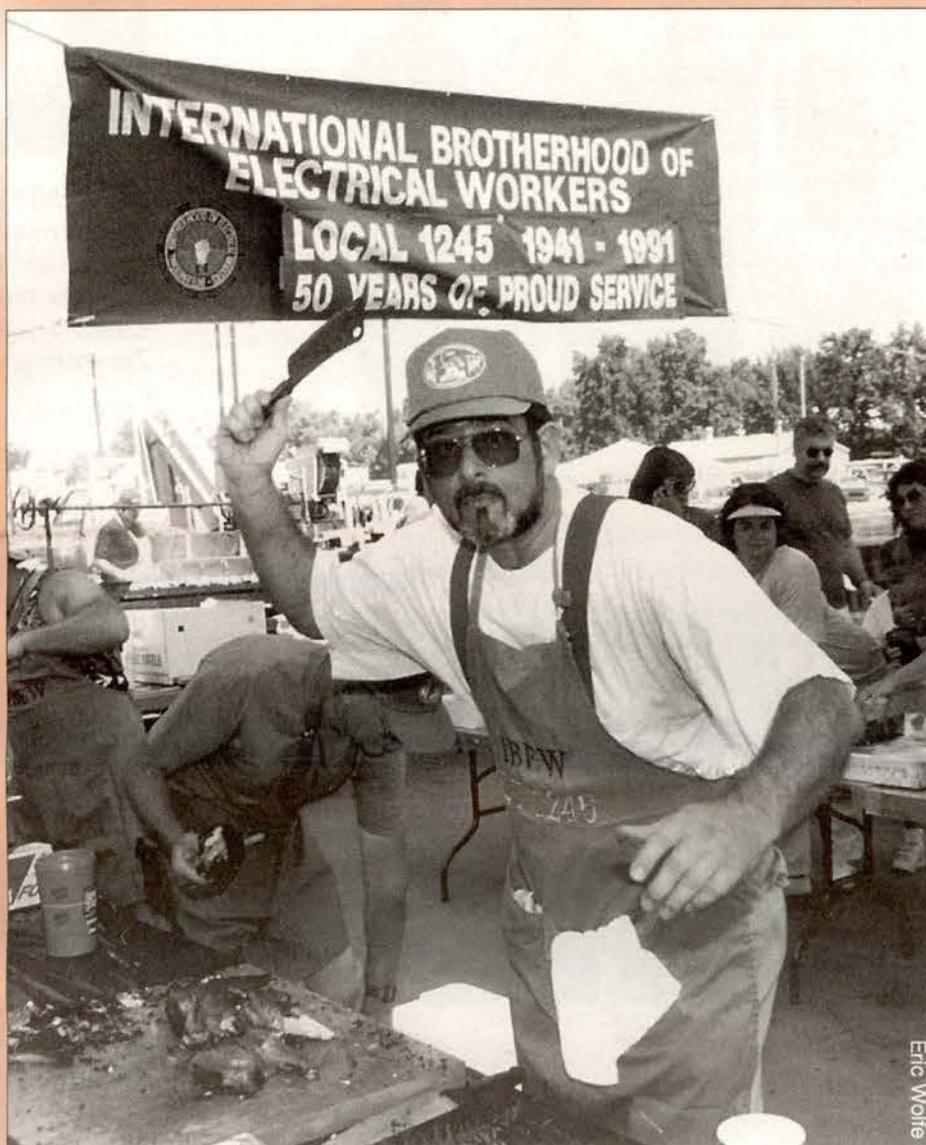
He is remembered by his friends and co-workers as somebody who hacked a lot of meat at union barbecues, but never ever minced his words.

"He's straight-forward. He tells you the way it is," said Business Rep. Bob Martin. "He's a very fair business rep, but he doesn't sugar coat it. If (a grievance) is not going your way, he's going to tell you it's not going to go your way."

Straight-forward, without a doubt. But there's more to Ed Caruso than just bone-chilling



Big Ed: 1980s



Big Ed expresses himself at a Lineman Rodeo barbecue in the mid-1990s.

bluntness.

"He eats well. He finishes everything on the table."

So says Assistant Business Manager Sam Tamimi, who first brought Caruso into the union fold by making him a steward at the Contra Costa Power Plant in the early 1980s.

"He likes food. He eats it but doesn't show it on his body," said Tamimi, a bit wistfully.

With his interests being what they are, Big Ed became the go-to guy for one of the union's most challenging assignments: the barbecue. When the union's giant grills were hauled out for parties, conferences, lineman rodeos, or you name it—Big Ed was the man with the apron around his

waist, the cleaver in his hand and the scary look in his eye.

But don't ever give him free rein over these events.

"He once ordered 700 chickens for 70 people," Tamimi noted. "Did I mention he likes food?"

Tamimi remembers trying to sell a ticket to the late Larry Foss for a staff picnic in the 1980s. Before forking over his \$10 for the ticket, Foss asked: "Wait a minute, how much is Caruso paying? I'll pay half of what Caruso's paying because I'll only eat a quarter as much."

Martin, who served on a PG&E general bargaining committee with Caruso when they were both operators at the power plant, said Big Ed's

size has been a big asset.

"I always liked to have him with me when I needed a back-up," said Martin. "When you saw a person of his size, it was someone you didn't want to say 'no' to. Ed's stature was an advantage to him—and to other people like me who needed support from someone who is, let's just say, vertically unchallenged."

Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, who followed Big Ed as a business rep in the North Bay, described Caruso as a dedicated business rep, a hard worker who always speaks his mind.

"He didn't beat around the bush," Zimmerman noted.

Caruso, hired in 1983, served at various times as a business rep for PG&E's San Francisco, Diablo, Central Valley, Central Coast and Mission Divisions. He also had assignments in General Construction, Pipeline Operations, Davey Tree, Arbor Tree, Foster Wheeler and various cable TV venues.

In later years, his work as a relief rep took him to meetings throughout the union's jurisdiction.

Lot's of new places to eat.

It's hard to find members with bad things to say about Big Ed. Maybe that's just his size, but more likely it's because people sense something solid and honest beneath the bluff exterior.

"He's probably the most loyal friend anybody can have," said Tamimi, who should know. Big Ed was at his side at the doctor's when Tamimi was advised to have surgery for blocked arteries.

"I was refusing (surgery)," Tamimi recalled. "Ed said, 'We'll do it.'" Tamimi had surgery the next day.

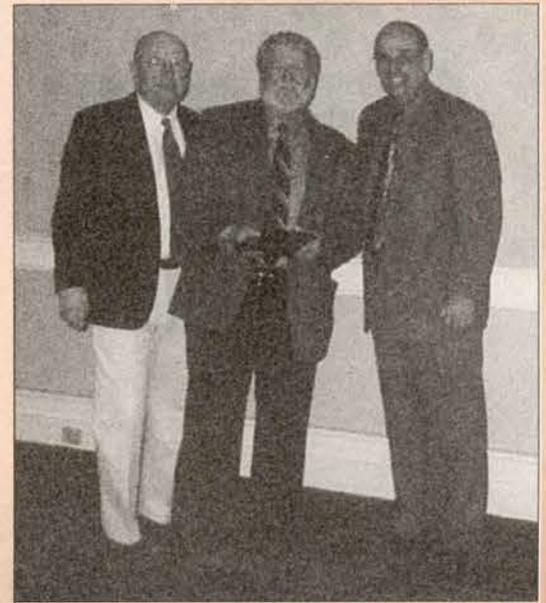
"President Truman once said if you want a friend in Washington, DC, find a dog. Well, if you want a friend in IBEW, find Ed Caruso," said Tamimi.



**Rohnert Park, CA**  
**March 6, 2004**



**40 Years**



**45 Years:** Senior Business Rep. Frank Saxsenmeier, center, more commonly known as "Father Time" or simply "Dad", receives his 45-year award from President Ed Mallory, left, and Business Manager Perry Zimmerman.



**35 Years**



**30 Years**



**25 Years**

**The Honorees**

**55 YEARS**  
 Arrasmith, Howard W

**45 YEARS**  
 Saxsenmeier, Frank

**40 YEARS**  
 Donlan, Patrick  
 Silveira, David  
 Sullivan, W J  
 Summers, David  
 Zimmerman, Gary

**35 YEARS**  
 Belieu, Mark J  
 Bellmer, Michael G.  
 Cox Jr, Herman E  
 Fritz, David P  
 Hinke Jr, Charles M  
 Martelle, Robert T  
 McAdon, Dennis F  
 McMasters, Joedon  
 Meyers, Jerry  
 Ostrander, Philip E  
 Pendleton, Melvin C  
 Petschke, Bruce  
 Pierce, Larry  
 Puckett, Robert J  
 Vitorelo, David E

**30 YEARS**  
 Avilla, Barney  
 Beavers, Richard M  
 Beck, Michael L  
 Beckham III, George  
 Booker, Chester W  
 Boydston, Donald P  
 Cincera, Steve  
 Coit, Charles J  
 Cole, Robert  
 Fairbanks, Mark  
 Fechter, Richard  
 Ferretti, Leonard

Galvez, Ruben  
 Gibson, Larry  
 Jenner, Jerry  
 Joerger, Mark P  
 Knust, Patricia  
 Macaluso, Richard T  
 Mazzotti, Paul M  
 Murphy, Leon  
 Quesada, Joe M  
 Roederer, William  
 Saunders, Robert E  
 Sheets, Bruce  
 Silva, Michael  
 Valenzuela, Steven  
 Zepponi, Gary A

**25 YEARS**  
 Barnett, David H  
 Barron, Vincent E  
 Bell, Paul  
 Bloomfield, Leslie H  
 Borries, Thomas A  
 Brower, Robert A  
 Carpiganano, Jane A  
 Deignan, Patrick H  
 Dooley, Eugene S  
 Eejima, Bruce K  
 Everett, Richard D  
 Fryer, Patrick J  
 Harbison, Darlene M  
 Jensen, James N  
 Jovovich, Robert J  
 Nardini Jr, Jack R  
 Naughton, Neil A  
 Porter, Melissa A  
 Rachel, Jeffery G  
 Roybal, Mardo J  
 Santos, J.  
 Siebert, Ken D  
 Snyder, Ione E  
 Thomas, Peter S  
 Trout, Harry A  
 Wightman, Spencer  
 Wood Jr, Harold S

## 'Foghorn' Farnsworth: lineman and teacher



**N**ot just a good lineman, but a good teacher as well. That's how Assistant Business Manager Howard Stiefer remembers Glen Farnsworth, a long time lineman in the North Bay who died Oct. 10 after a battle with cancer.

"He was a lineman's lineman. He knew how to do all the work, and he

### Congratulations!

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in — or start! — a Retirees Club chapter in your area.

Rosita Calip, 18  
American Canyon, CA

Thomas Chavez, 38  
Santa Cruz, CA

Sandra Collins, 8  
Lodi, CA

Samuel Davidson, 26  
Modesto, CA

Michael Dolcini, 31  
Sacramento, CA

Daryl Gilbert, 34  
Oroville, CA

Samuel Grgsby, 24  
Fresno, CA

Shirley Henry, 29  
Carson, CA

Louis Langie, 42  
Chico, CA

Charles Rhyne, 18  
Tracy, CA

Rose Marie Sipple, 23  
Fremont, CA

Paul Smith, 19  
Elko, NV

Lawrence Strahan, 29  
Hayward, CA

George Tinaza, 24  
Folsom, CA

was proficient at it," said Stiefer. "He could take a pickup truck and a half-inch rope sling and get more work done by himself than most crews could get done with a four-man crew and a line truck."

Stiefer was in a position to know about Farnsworth's teaching skills. Through the years he worked first as a groundman, then apprentice, and finally as a fellow lineman with Farnsworth.

"He was a good teacher. He had patience, and skill," recalled Stiefer. "He knew how to pass the trade along. He didn't just tell you how (to do something), he could show you how."

Farnsworth first went to work for PG&E in 1964. Although he quit several times to try other things, he always came back to line work.

"Even up to the end of his career when he was working with these young guys in GC, he could still outwork most of them," Stiefer said.

An obituary in a local newspaper noted: "He lived to work on the lines."

Farnsworth was a born storyteller, who could always tell a story "that was a little bigger and better than the story someone else had just told," Stiefer said.

To other linemen he was known as Foghorn.

"If you were working on towers and there was a thousand foot span, he could yell across that and you could hear him perfectly clearly," recalled Stiefer.

Farnsworth is survived by his wife Karen, and daughters Tamie and Sherry, as well as a sister and numerous grandchildren.



"Foghorn" Farnsworth



SAN JOAQUIN LIGHT & POWER LINE CREW

Line crew for San Joaquin Light and Power, a predecessor to Pacific Gas & Electric. The photo was taken in 1930.

IBEW 1245 Archives

### 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 IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA.

#### San Jose Chapter:

Meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose.

# IBEW LOCAL 1245 UNION SHOPPER

## Holiday Sale!

If your order is received by  
Dec. 31, 2004, you can take  
**25% off!\***

\*All items on this page, while supplies last

### Hats



**Local 1245 State Hat**  
Black, Calif. or Nev. map  
\$9.00  
+\$.75 each, shipping  
(Note: One size fits all)



**IBEW 1245 Hat!**  
Black or Teal  
\$9.00  
+\$.75 each, shipping  
(Note: One size fits all)

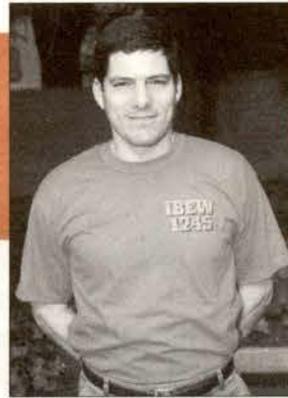
ALSO...

**Lineman Logo Hat**  
\$6.00  
+\$.75 each/shipping  
(Note: One size fits all)

### Shirts



**Long-Sleeve Shirt**  
Lineman Logo on Back  
Gray, Orange, or Black  
\$13.00 (L/XL)  
\$14.00 (2XL, 3XL)  
+\$.2.00 each/shipping



**T-Shirt**  
IBEW Logo  
Black, Gray or Orange  
\$10.00 (M/L/XL)  
\$12.00 (2XL/3XL)  
+\$.2.00 each/shipping

### Mugs



**Ceramic Mug**  
IBEW (Ceramic)  
Blue or Black  
\$7.00  
+\$.3.00 shipping

**Plastic Mug**  
"Proud To Be Union"  
White  
(Limited to stock on hand)  
\$5.00  
+\$.3.00 shipping

IBEW (Ceramic)

### Other Stuff

**Compact Disk**  
"We Do The Work"  
Songs by Jon Fromer  
\$15.00  
+\$.1.50 each/shipping

**Bucket Bags**  
Lineman Logo in Center  
\$7.00  
+\$.1.50 each/shipping

**IBEWomen Charm**  
14K Goldplated  
\$5.00  
+\$.50 each/shipping

**Lineman Pin**  
Goldtone  
\$5.00  
+\$.50 each/shipping

**IBEW Patches**  
3 inch  
\$4.00  
8 inch  
\$18.00  
+\$.50 each/shipping

**25% Off All Items On This Page (while supplies last)**

✂ Please cut here ✂

### Order Form

Quantity	Item	Color	Size	Price	Total	Shipping
1.				\$	\$	\$
2.				\$	\$	\$
3.				\$	\$	\$
4.				\$	\$	\$
				<b>SUB-TOTAL MERCHANDISE:</b>	\$	
				<b>TAKE 25% DISCOUNT!:</b>	\$	
				<b>NEW SUB-TOTAL:</b>	\$	
				<b>TOTAL SHIPPING:</b>	\$	
				<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	\$	

### Ship To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address (No P.O. Boxes!): \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form with  
check or money order  
payable to:  
"IBEW Local 1245"  
Sorry, no credit card orders!

IBEW Local 1245  
c/o Office Manager  
PO Box 2547  
Vacaville, CA 95696

See our ALL NEW Union Shopper on Pages 12-14. COMPLETELY NEW LINE OF MERCHANDISE!