

Inside:



All-Day Electric	6
Dalzell: Being Open to Change	2
Letters from Members and Retirees	3
USBR donates to troops	4
Outside Line report	5
Retirees Corner	8
Emeryville Service Awards	9
Sacramento Service Awards	10
Petaluma Service Awards	11
Diablo Canyon Fire Fighters	12

News briefs

Iraqi electrical workers conducted a one-day strike at the Taza Electricity Plant in Kirkuk on March 13. They called on local authorities to improve their security from extremist attacks which have taken the lives of workers. The strikers also called on the management of the plant to increase their pay. On the same day workers at Baghdad's main electricity plant protested a decision by the Minister of Electricity to abolish their allowances, according to the website of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers.

The California Public Utilities Commission last month adopted the multi-party settlement reached by PG&E and consumer groups that allows the utility to receive an increase of approximately \$213 million in 2007 to fund the upkeep, improvement and growth of its electric and gas distribution systems and electric generation facilities.

The California Nurses Association, and its national arm, the National Nurses Organizing Committee, was granted a charter last month to join the AFL-CIO, two days after the Federation adopted a sweeping new healthcare policy statement endorsing a single-payer type system premised on "updating and expanding Medicare benefits" to all Americans.

Utility Reporter

GCU 869-M

Volume 56 No.3 • April 2007



UNITY IS STRENGTH

For up-to-the-minute news, see our website: www.ibew1245.com

THERE IS DESTINY WHICH MAKES US BROTHERS:
NONE GOES HIS WAY ALONE.

Edwin Markham, "A Creed" (1900)

BROTHERS BY DESTINY

By Eric Wolfe

When your own body fails you, it's good to know that your friends won't.

Al Etchison knows. He was just 26 when Alport syndrome attacked his kidneys. The Mechanic-Rigger at PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant knew then that his fate was tied to other people in the most profound way possible.

A kidney donated by his uncle about 17 years ago gave Etchison a new lease on life, but the donated kidney, he says, "started going south on me in early 2005."

Etchison began Constant Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis, which allowed him to remain mobile and continue working. Then peritonitis set in, forcing him to go to hemodialysis, once every other

day for 2 to 4 hours at a stretch.

Hemodialysis can keep you alive, but it's no walk in the park. Because it removes extra fluid from the blood, the procedure can bring on low blood pressure, fatigue, chest pains, leg-cramps and headaches.

This is the life Etchison was facing when Rick Laguna learned of his plight.

"Rick came to me and said he wanted to be tested."

Etchison sounds casual when he says this, but you can tell it's still a source of wonder to him. The strange thing is, it's a source of wonder to Laguna, too.

A Lead Building Mechanic at Diablo Canyon and fellow member of IBEW Local 1245, Laguna already knew all about kidney failure when he approached



Al Etchison, left, and Rick Laguna are back on the job after a medical journey together

Etchison. In the 1990s he volunteered to be a kidney donor for Ron "Buzzard" Garcia, another Diablo Canyon co-worker.

"They told me I could live off one and that was good enough for me," Laguna recalls.

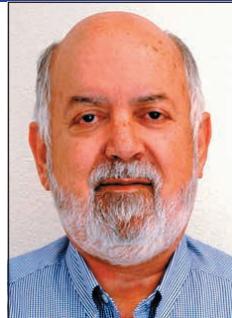
To Laguna's great disappointment, he turned out to be an incompatible donor. It hit him hard when Garcia died.

Continued on page 11.

Senior

Sam Tamimi is Local 1245's "go-to" guy

When Tom Dalzell became Local 1245 business manager last August, one of his first decisions was to name Sam Tamimi as his "Senior." Officially, the position is Senior Assistant Business Manager, and Tamimi now has major responsibilities for running the organization. But Tamimi is still the "go-to" guy for members who have issues and want to hear a voice they've trusted for



Sam Tamimi, "Senior"

years. This month, Tamimi talks with the Utility Reporter about his new job.

Utility Reporter: You seem to spend a lot of time on the phone.

Tamimi: I get a lot of calls. From the business reps and from the members. I get calls about grievance settlements.

If they want to get improvements in their job classification, someone tells them to call Tamimi. I just got a call from a group that wants an ad hoc committee because they think they should get more money. I get calls any time there is a question about shift workers because I was a shift worker myself. And then Tom said if there are any problems with SAP, send them to Tamimi.

UR: I know there were a lot of calls about SAP. What brought that on?

Tamimi: PG&E's old programming system was obsolete. They had to change. We worked with them from 2003 to 2005 to try to make sure that the essential functions stayed the same or were better. But on Aug. 25—how do I say this?—the sugar hit the fan, when the first paychecks came out of SAP. That afternoon, we got 42 calls from all over the system. People did not get their check. People got the incorrect amount.

People got overpaid. I got over 1,000 calls and e-mails the next few months. In some cases, the e-mails had to do with 50 or 60 people. Taxes were wrong. 401k. Vacation accrual. Sick leave accrual. Overtime. You name it.

UR: How did the company respond?

Tamimi: The company realized they had more problems than they could deal with and they assigned a special person for SAP issues. When we tell them about problems, there are people at the company who will listen and want to get it fixed. But for a while the problems were overwhelming. If somebody's pay is impacted, they don't care how many people are working on it. They want it fixed now. Anybody would feel that way.

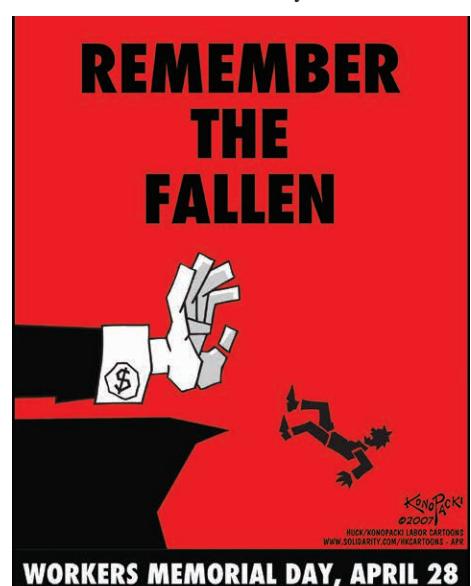
UR: How has your job changed since becoming Senior?

Tamimi: I still take the calls. But it's not just PG&E. Now it's expanded to the

Continued on page 11.

Candidate bios in May

Candidates for Local 1245 officer, Executive Board, and Advisory Council will be featured in the May issue of the Utility Reporter. Be sure to look for this important section of the paper to learn about each candidate's experience.



Arcing and Sparking

Tom Dalzell
BUSINESS MANAGER



Open to change

Those who know me know that I am a bit on the cynical side. When I encounter people all worked up over some idea for making things better, I usually take it with a good-sized grain of salt. In doing so, I probably have missed some good ideas just because somebody else is trying to foist them on me. I don't usually try to convince others that my beliefs should be theirs, and I tend to resist ideas that are "in fashion."

Over the past few months, I know that I have shut down to several good ideas. But I caught myself doing this, and tried to give the ideas a second look—this time with an open mind.

First was the idea of safety. Of course I believe in safety. But I found that I have not always walked the walk, and I mean that literally. In the past,

when I walked with people who refused to jaywalk with me, I became annoyed. I had always been a proud and rampant jaywalker. But I found myself forced on a couple of occasions to actually cross a city street with the light and in a crosswalk. Something clicked inside me—and I changed. I instantly gave up a lifetime of jaywalking because I finally "got it"—why take a risk that you don't have to? I became a convert—despite my continuing desire to resist those who try to convert me.

Then there's the issue of home energy conservation, another area where I have suddenly found I must agree with an idea I had long resisted. I have recently embraced compact fluorescent lamps—CFL's—for my home lighting.

A CFL, as many of you know, is a type of fluorescent light that fits into a standard light bulb socket or lighting fixture. CFL's use about 20% of the power that incandescent bulbs use, meaning they can in theory reduce the amount of energy we use for lighting by 80%, with a corresponding reduction in the environmental impact of generating that electricity.

CFL's last 8 to 15 times longer than an equivalent incandescent. That means the higher initial cost is offset over time—about 500 hours of use—while making a major individual contribution

towards a better environment.

I work for a trade union, and so obviously I believe in the power of collective action. As I have written before, I also believe in the ability of individuals to make a difference, both within an organization and in their own lives. There are limits to the philosophy of changing the world by changing yourself, but there is something to be said for walking the walk.

Every utility that Local 1245 represents is exploring options to become more "green." I would hate to think that we, the members of a progressive labor

union, are lagging behind our employers in environmental responsibility.

I urge you to think about your lives and how you can make adjustments that will have an impact on the environment. I will be floating other ideas on this in the future, and would like to hear about changes that you have made in your energy use that others might make, too.

Individuals can make a difference. Individuals working together toward the same worthwhile goal—minimizing damage to our planet—can make a big difference.

APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Bargaining Committee
Matthew Macedo
Nick Fereria
Chris Whittenburg

FRONTIER

Bargaining Committee (Elko, NV)
Carmen Morley
Luiz Nunes

Bargaining Committee (Needles)
Anthony Frazier

IBEW LOCAL 1245

Pre-Election Committee
Lem Stubblefield
Letina Trowbridge
Sheila Lawton
Jesse Justus
Constance Bibbs
Alycia Gordon
Ed Dwyer
Rex Pickering
Ron Moon
Ruth Bailey
Bob Vigil
Mark Flanders

Trustee
Peggy Daniel

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) Convention
Bernard Smallwood
Clara McAfee-Evans

California Labor Federation 2007 Joint Legislative Conference
Mike Davis
David Scott
Jim Findley
Dorothy Fortier

National Safety Council Meeting & IBEW Safety Caucus
Keith Hopp
Al White
Michael Gomes
Art Torres
Robert Burkle
David Vipond
Sergio Munoz

CALENDAR

- Apr. 3: Retirees Club, Merced, CA
- Apr. 3: Retirees Club, Santa Rosa, CA
- Apr. 5: Retirees Club, San Jose, CA
- Apr. 11: Retirees Club, Vacaville, CA
- Apr. 12: Retirees Club, Dublin, CA
- Apr. 14: Service Awards, Stockton, CA
- Apr. 21: Service Awards, Salinas/Monterey, CA
- Apr. 28: Stewards Conference, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Apr. 28: Service Awards, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Apr. 28: Local 1245 Poker Tournament, Vacaville, CA
- May 1: Retirees Club, Merced, CA
- May 1: Retirees Club, Santa Rosa, CA
- May 3: Retirees Club, San Jose, CA
- May 5-6: Advisory Council, Vacaville, CA
- May 9: Retirees Club, Vacaville, CA
- May 10: Retirees Club, Dublin, CA
- May 19: Stewards Conference, Pacifica, CA
- May 19: Service Awards, Pacifica, CA
- Month of June: Local Union Elections

Utility Reporter

April 2007
Volume 56 No. 3
Circulation: 22,200



Business Manager & Executive Editor
Tom Dalzell

Communications Director & Managing Editor
Eric Wolfe

President
Mike Davis

Executive Board

Art Freitas
Chris Habecker
Dave Scott
Anna Bayless-Martinez
Tom Cornell
Mike Cottrell

Treasurer
Cecelia De La Torre

Published monthly, except for combined issues in January/February and July/August, at 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA 95687. Official publication of Local Union 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

Periodical postage paid at Vacaville and at additional mailing offices. USPS No. 654640, ISSN No. 0190-4965.

POSTMASTER: Please send Form 3579, Change of Address, and all

correspondence to Utility Reporter, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

Single copies \$1. Subscription by arrangement. Have you moved recently? Please send complete new address and your Social Security Number (by U.S. Mail) to: "Address Change" IBEW Local 1245 P.O. Box 2547 Vacaville, CA 95696.

Our Web Site can be viewed at www.IBEW1245.com.

Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.

Agreement strengthens bidding system for Com Techs

Letter Agreement 06-32R1, signed on Feb. 26 by Business Manager Tom Dalzell, establishes a beginning level classification for Title 300 at Pacific Gas & Electric and completes some omissions from 1999 General Bargaining when the Title 200 Utility Worker for ISTS was created.

Local 1245 did not previously have a "next lower" in the line of progression to Apprentice Communication Technician. As a result the company could choose who they wanted rather than

being bound by the seniority based bidding system.

LA -06-32R1 delineates the Utility Worker's job duties, limits the number of beginning level jobs to no more than one for each ten journeymen, and ensures that the beginning level classifications will be eliminated prior to any reductions in the higher journeymen classifications.

A link to the full text of the agreement can be found on the Local 1245 website at www.ibew1245.com.



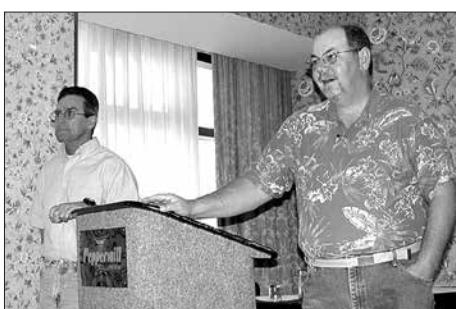
Stewards are Local 1245's "leaders in the field" at Sierra Pacific Power.

Sierra Pacific conference stresses unity and strength

"Building Unity and Strength" was the focus of a St. Patrick's Day stewards conference for Local 1245 stewards at Sierra Pacific Power, held March 17 in Reno. Leading the session were Local 1245 Business Reps. Patrick Waite, left, and Randy Osborn.

The union's strength is directly related to the strength and unity of its members, and the union steward plays a pivotal role as "leader in the field" when it comes to building that strength, Osborn said.

"The union steward must educate, organize and target issues for the members. We have to help people become unionists and not mere members," he said. "We need to be a union of people



Business Reps Pat Waite, left, and Randy Osborn.

who understand what the union is about. Our wage and benefit standards cannot survive in today's environment of corporate excess if our members don't understand the need to stand together."

USBR, SMUD and City of Lodi

The following changes have been made to unit meetings at USBR/CVO Unit, SMUD and City of Lodi for the months of April, May and June. The units' normal schedules will resume in July.

Unit 3012, USBR/CVO: April 17, May 1, June 19

Unit 3911, SMUD: April 18, May 16, June 20

Unit 2516, City of Lodi: April 19, May 17, June 21

Sam Glero, Business Representative

Kathy Maas on Memorial Wall

The name of the late Business Rep. Kathy Maas will be inscribed on the Memorial Wall at union headquarters in Vacaville.

The Memorial Wall, which appears just outside the front door of the main entrance to Ronald T. Weakley Hall, displays the names of Local 1245 members who gave outstanding service to the union. Additions to the Memorial Wall are made by the Local 1245 Executive Board.

Donations in Kathy's memory can be made to: Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 49 Stevenson St., Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Letters to the Editor



Got something to share with your fellow union members? Send letters to: Utility Reporter Letters, IBEW 1245, POB 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696. Please note that we cannot print personal attacks or letters dealing with union politics. Opinions expressed in "Letters" are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IBEW Local 1245.

Thorough and persuasive

Thank you for your recent "Map Flap" article. It was the most thorough and persuasive defense of wall maps I've seen. The first ten years of my service with PG&E were as an electric mapper. I was the primary mapper for the DO office. The next six years were spent as a DO in Merced & Fresno. For the last six years I've been a Grid System Operator at the Fresno Operating Center (FOC). I would add that wall maps are essential to Transmission Operators, especially in assessing the "big picture."

I am in favor of switching center consolidation. I'm in favor of technology. I was involved in the roll-out of CTAS, DEDSA & OIS. (Great-grandparents to ILIS). Operating without wall maps, and the bin maps, will be a disaster. I pity the DO trouble-shooting an underground outage in a congested area. Please continue to preach this message to the company.

Rick A. Evans, Fresno, CA

United we stand

"United We Stand" is an old saying, but it works today. Recently the campaign by IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club scored a major success, when PG&E agreed to an additional \$25 million offset to retiree medical costs. Many thanks to those retirees who stood up to be counted and to the union officers for supporting us.

Now is the time for all PG&E retirees who are not members of the IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club to join giving the Retirees Club more power to fight for our benefits. Dues are just \$36 yearly, and include a life insurance policy of

\$1,000 (\$500 for spouse). There are chapters of the Retirees Club meeting in Dublin, San Jose, Vacaville, Santa Rosa and Merced. For membership application, contact Local 1245 Office Manager Tonya Alston at 707-452-2718.

Join us and make a difference. Your future benefits are at stake.

Tom D. S. Young, Reno, Nevada Member, IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club

RPOA increase

As a member of the Vacaville Chapter of the Local 1245 Retirees Club, I would like to thank Tom Dalzell, Business Manager, for reaching a letter of agreement for an increase to the Retiree Premium Offset Account for the retirees. Union staff members and the active Retirees Club members should be congratulated for all the time and effort spent to help make this agreement occur.

Russ Jackson, Senior Vice President, his staff and senior management must also be commended for addressing the needs of retirees. Not only did PG&E management listen to the plight of the retirees, they actually heard what they had to say.

On a disappointing note: Within two hours after the company's decision to increase the RPOA was announced, Retiree Club chapter presidents were emailed by an Alumni Advocate member, explaining this agreement. In this letter, the Alumni Advocates program was also mentioned for the part they played in this "historical agreement." Many members, including myself, would like to know what part the salaried Alumni Advocate program members played in this agreement? In the past couple of years, when the issue of medical premium relief or COLA was presented to Alumni Advocate members, retirees were given nothing but negative responses regarding this issue.

In the future, retirees would hope that Alumni Advocate members would accept statements and suggestions positively. In the past, the retirees were told under no circumstances is the company in any position to address the plight of retirees with respect to medical premiums. With less than two years remaining on the current agreement, attendance at unit meetings, Retiree Club meetings, and educating younger employees must be a priority. This is no longer just a retired employee issue!

Ed Lenoir, Vacaville Chapter, Local 1245 Retirees Club

UNION PLUS EDUCATION SERVICES

Reach your dreams of higher education



WEB-03/05

Union Plus Education Services help you build upon your education and job skills training. Invest in your future. Find out how we can help you and your family plan and pay for higher education.

Call 1-877-881-1022 or visit www.unionplus.org/education



AFL-CIO calls for end to US involvement in Iraq

Editor's note: The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest and oldest federation of working people, last month called for an end to the US occupation of Iraq. The full statement appears below.

No U.S. foreign policy can be sustained without the informed consent of the American people. Last November, the people spoke clearly, calling on the president and Congress to change course in Iraq. Rather than heed the will of the citizenry or listen to the military leaders speaking out against the current policy in Iraq, the president has chosen to escalate military action. This blind pursuit of the war now undermines the very war on terror that was its justification.

More than 3,100 U.S. men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, with nearly 30,000 wounded, many of them severely. Estimates of Iraqi lives lost range from 60,000 to many hundreds of thousands.

We should not be asking our young men and women who serve this nation in its armed forces to remain in Iraq on extended tours without proper armor or equipment, caught in an endless occupation in the midst of a civil war. The men and women risking their lives in Iraq come from America's working families. They are our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, our husbands and wives. They have answered their call to duty with the utmost courage and dedication. And the best way now to recognize and honor their service is to take them out of harm's way.

It is time to bring our military

involvement in Iraq to an end. Admittedly, there are no good options now in that country. It has descended into a sectarian civil struggle, with American troops caught in the crossfire. The latest National Intelligence Estimate reports that the greatest violence comes not from al Qaeda and foreign terrorists, but from sectarian militias caught up in their own internal conflict.

The president insists we must succeed

We should not be asking our young men and women who serve this nation in its armed forces to remain in Iraq on extended tours without proper armor or equipment, caught in an endless occupation in the midst of a civil war... The best way now to recognize and honor their service is to take them out of harm's way. It is time to bring our military involvement in Iraq to an end.

militarily to establish the conditions for a political settlement. In fact, the reverse is true: Unless there is the political will to stop the violence, there can be no military solution. As such, the U.S. presence only encourages the factions to continue their warfare and serves as a magnet for foreign interference. What is needed is courageous political leadership from the Iraqi government and from the governments of neighboring countries, in a concerted effort to surmount their own considerable differences and to avoid a growing, destructive war which threatens lives and interests across the region. America should be strongly encouraging

that kind of diplomatic solution, together with our allies and the United Nations. Redeploying U.S. troops should help force Iraq's political leaders, its neighbors and our allies to reconsider their course.

The AFL-CIO continues to strongly support initiatives and programs to promote democracy, workers' rights and economic development in the Middle East. We believe the bipartisan Iraq Study Group (the Baker-Hamilton Commission) provides the president and Congress with a broad range of recommendations to address the wider regional conflict as well as economic and reconstruction assistance while charting a path for reducing the U.S.

We should not be asking our young men and women who serve this nation in its armed forces to remain in Iraq on extended tours without proper armor or equipment, caught in an endless occupation in the midst of a civil war... The best way now to recognize and honor their service is to take them out of harm's way. It is time to bring our military involvement in Iraq to an end.

presence in Iraq.

We, therefore, call on President Bush to reconsider the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. Specifically, the administration should open up a diplomatic offensive with allies and Iraq's neighbors. This should include a new initiative to revive a peace process in the Middle East and it should include a timetable for redeploying U.S. troops out of Iraq's civil strife. We also call on Congress to support these actions and insist on a timetable for disengagement. If the president refuses to act, Congress must use its powers under the Constitution and act.

AFL-CIO backs Medicare for all

Armed with universal denunciation of the failing, creaky, expensive present employer-based insurance-company-run health care system, the AFL-CIO Executive Council unanimously voted March 6 to campaign for a massive change: Expanding Medicare to the entire country.

Union leaders ranging from AFSCME President Gerald McEntee to Steel Workers President Leo Gerard to leaders of building trades unions—even those with multi-employer health care plans jointly run by unions and management—blasted the present setup. "We're getting killed by this stuff," one said.

The vote puts the federation on record with a specific universal health care plan that would involve payments from individuals, government and business. Government would run it to cut administrative costs and bargain

prices down, just as it now runs Medicare.

It also marks a notable break from the past, as unions helped construct the present system, but watched it become increasingly and overly expensive for workers and companies—even while 47 million people are uninsured and millions more are underinsured. Companies have dropped health care for workers and retirees, and health care is the #1 battle in bargaining.

And the AFL-CIO's statement marks a new factor in the national debate about health care, as the nation's leading labor federation has now weighed in with a specific proposal, insisting that health care cover all, and rejecting the present system.

This story was made available by Press Associations Inc. via the International Labor Communications Association.

USBR unit assists military families

In keeping with its tradition of making charitable gifts at the end of the year, Unit 3012 of IBEW Local 1245 voted this past holiday season to contribute \$200 to Operation Homefront.

Operation Homefront is a service organization that assists the families of deployed military personnel. Founded after the attacks of September 11, Operation Homefront leads more than 2,500 volunteers in 26 chapters nationwide, providing assistance to more than 40,000 military families in need.

"We try to make a charitable contribution each December," said Unit Chair Mike McKay. "The previous year we contributed to the Union Community Fund, which is the AFL-CIO's Hurricane Relief Fund."

Unit 3012 is the unit for Local 1245 members at the United States Bureau of Reclamation in the Sacramento area.

Existing Homefront programs include, among others:

- Emergency aid, including items such as food, baby care products, and vehicle donations.
- Computer program that allows children and spouses to stay in touch with their loved one.
- Financial assistance in crises such as illness, homelessness and death.
- Donations of household and baby furniture.
- Providing physical labor for families when a service member is deployed.

In response to the donation by Unit 3012, the unit recently received a letter from Operation Homefront acknowledging the gift.

"Please know that your gift has brought peace of mind to those who proudly serve our nation. At any given time, nearly 500,000 United States Armed Forces personnel are deployed in over 140 countries," wrote Stephen Harrington, president of the organization.

For more information on Operation Homefront, or to make a contribution, go to: www.operationhomefront.net/



Supporting our troops and helping the families they leave behind

Union Plus Credit Counseling

Having Problems with Debt?

Stop the collection calls.
Lower your interest rates.
Avoid repossession or
foreclosure.

Call 1-877-833-1745 today
for your free financial
analysis or visit
www.unionplus.org/
creditcounseling



1-877-833-1745

WEB-03/05

Outside Construction

By Ron Cochran

A new business representative is expected to start April 2, helping the team with:

- Outside Line contract (NECA & Henkels and McCoy)
- Osmose contract
- Davey pole test contract
- Canus contract
- Republic contract
- Wellington contract
- Utility pole test contract
- Good Cent contract
- H&M teledata contract
- NECA underground agreement
- PG&E hiring hall agreement
- SMUD hiring hall agreement



Ron Cochran,
Senior Business
Rep.

Other News

The First Annual Local 1245 Poker Tournament will be held April 28 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville. The deadline to register is April 14.

Crane certification will be March 26-30 in Vacaville. The deadline to register has passed.

The Unit Examining Committee met March 14. Six Policy 22 applications were reviewed. Pole top rescue tests given since last meeting went very well.

Member Down Fund

Attorney Shawn Groff is constructing the trust for us. A draft will be ready soon. Some of the features we are looking at include: five cent an hour contribution, three member trust board, one fund or account to draft from.

The final trust document will be completed in April and be out for discussion in April and May, with a special election in May. If passed, we will proceed to IRS application and payroll deduction forms to be signed by all members and nonmembers working in Local 1245's jurisdictions. Deductions would take effect on June 1, 2007.

Cal-Nev JATC

We currently have 364 apprentices registered in our JATC program. We have 27 apprentices traveling out of our jurisdiction for work. 61 apprentices are working out of Local 1245; 206 are working out of Local 47; 15 are working out of Local 396; 55 are off of work—46 due to lack of work and nine due to various personal reasons.

We have graduated 14 apprentices this year to journeyman lineman. We have indentured 11 apprentices into the program.

First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month in Riverside and Sacramento.

We have 36 Traffic Signal Maintenance Apprentices registered. 8 are working for Republic Electric in Local 1245's jurisdiction. 28 are working for Republic Electric in Local 47's jurisdiction.

Pending Grievances

Two grievances related to storm work in the northwest. There will be a labor-management hearing on April 13.

Work Report

Black and Veatch started a job in San Francisco: 6-10's for 3 to 6 weeks, warranty work. Two other subs being built.

All Day has three overhead crews and one underground crew in San Francisco.

H&M unit pricing—40 weeks of transmission work, Metcalf Sub- South, Moss Landing Sub- South. Starting mid-April.

Michels Power starting underground

work in San Francisco—the same work All Day Electric has been doing.

Pacheco utility has one crew. Railway Electric has one crew. TTR has 3 crews.

Par pulled their line crews and sent six of them to Nebraska for six weeks to work on transmission rebuild project—related to ice storms. Substation crews are working in Ravenwood and Hunters Point.

Diversified transferred all employees to Local 47 (Riverside).

ILB is very slow—one crew in the Hayward area.

Wilson is working in Sacramento, Livermore and Palo Alto. Mountain Power is working in Sacramento. Abbott has one crew in San Francisco.

Contra Costa has three crews. Refinery work looks really good this year.

California Splicing & Testing has one crew. Grace Associates has one crew. Henkels & McCoy has 4-5 crews.

We hear reports that pole replacement work will be much slower this year

from PG&E. Transmission and substation work will increase.

Out of Work Books as of March 14

Lineman 1: 14

Lineman 2: 20

Lineman 3: 2

Lineman 4: 2

Cable Splicer 1: 2

Cable Splicer 2: 2

Cable Splicer 3: 2

LEM 1: 6

LEM 2: 7

LEM 3: 5

Groundman 1: 26

Groundman 2: 13

Groundman 3: 17

Groundman 4: 57

Locals Needing Help

• Alaska: Local 1547, 5 open calls

• Kansas: Local 304, 31 open calls

• Nebraska: more storm work

• Wisconsin: Local 2150, 15 open calls

Ron Cochran is Senior Business Representative for Local 1245.



So take a chance!



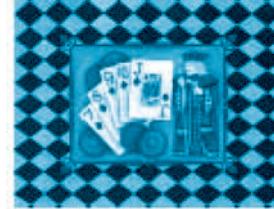
Get together with fellow IBEW members for fun and cards at the:

First Annual IBEW Local 1245 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

Saturday, April 28, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA



We're talking about a friendly game of cards, a chance to see old friends and maybe make some new ones.

First Come, First Served

Only 100 spaces

Reserve space now!



**\$100 buy-in
\$ 40 re-buy**

**100% payback
in prizes**

Beer: \$1 donation

Bloody Marys: \$1 donation (until 11:00 a.m.)

Free Food & Sodas!

Brotherhood and cards – don't miss out! Get your name and money in now!

Make check payable to IBEW Local 1245 and mail with this form by April 14th to:
Local 1245 Poker Tournament, attn: Gail Varner, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Cochran (707) 452-2738 or Liz McInnis (707) 452-2705



Packing fill around the base of the pole are, from left: Casey Kelly and Marshall Free, shoveling dirt, and Donald Mathews running hydraulic tap.



Casey Kelly uses a plumb line to make sure the new pole is level.

(RIGHT) Marshall Free guides a bucket of fill into position.

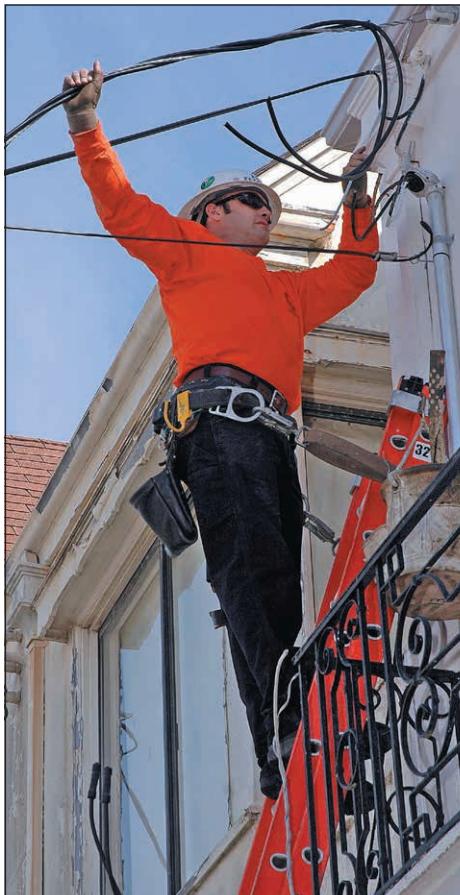


Marshall Free removing rigging after setting the pole.

All Day Electric's union crews put the wire underground

Bury it!

Jason Clause attaching new service to a house and making the weatherhead connections.



Story and photos by Eric Wolfe

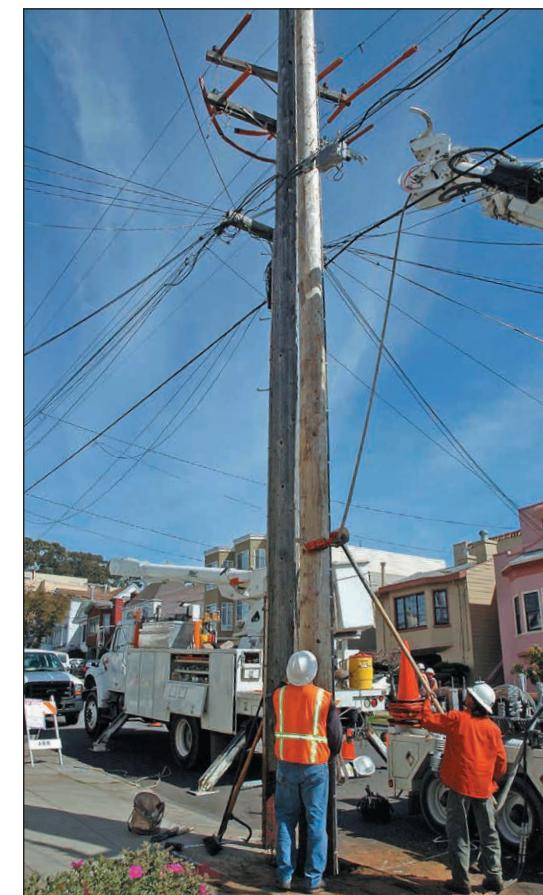
Local 1245 members working for All Day Electric are helping PG&E bury 45 miles of overhead distribution lines in San Francisco.

Last month a crew consisting of Linemen Marshall Free, Donald Matthews, Casey Kelley and Apprentice Lineman Jason Clause were building the structures needed to bring a line underground on 23rd Avenue in the city's Sunset District.

The overhead-to-underground conversion, called "Rule 20" work after the CPUC rules that govern it, is part of a PG&E agreement with the City and County of San Francisco dating back to the late 1990s, with an expected completion date later this year.

Undergrounding isn't limited to San Francisco. Systemwide, PG&E allocates a portion of ratepayer money to various undergrounding projects.

The program is clearly popular in San Fran-



Working the 23rd Avenue job are, from left, Marshall Free, Donald Matthews, Casey Kelley, Jason Clause. All are journeyman linemen, except Clause, who is a 5th step apprentice.

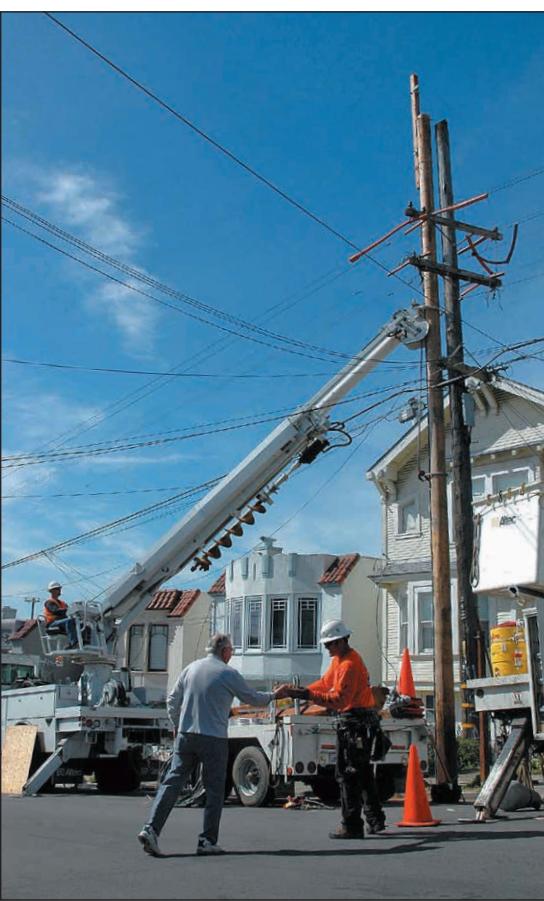


cisco. Citizens indicated in a recent survey that they'd like to see more of the city's wires put underground and would be willing to pay more on their electric bill to get it done.

One citizen found a more direct way to show his appreciation, bringing a plate of cookies to the Local 1245 members performing the work.



All Day Electric Safety Manager Patrick Wynkoop; All Day Electric General Foreman Bubba Avery; Canus Inspector Keith Darling at the PG&E Martin Service Center in San Francisco.



Jason Clause accepts a plate of cookies from a resident. People like linemen, that's all there is to it.

Local 1245 Senior Business Rep. Ron Cochran, right, sells another union hat.



Retirees' Corner



Jack Hill, Clerk B in the San Jose Division, and Stan Stensrud, General Construction Working Foreman "C", were among those representing Local 1245 on the 1973 General Bargaining Committee at PG&E. The photo from the IBEW Local 1245 archive is courtesy of former Executive Board member James Wilburn, who also served on the committee.

Recruiting letter coming soon

In the next few weeks thousands of retirees who once belonged to IBEW Local 1245 will receive a letter inviting them to join the union's Retirees Club.

If you're one of those people, or you know some of those people, encourage them to take action.

Why is it important for the Retirees Club to grow? Simple. Numbers matter.

Here's a number for you: \$25 million. That's the amount of additional money that PG&E will use to offset retiree medical premiums in coming years. That agreement, negotiated in February by Business Manager Tom Dalzell, was a direct result of a year-long Retiree Club campaign to lobby the company for relief.

The \$25 million will be a huge help to retirees, but it doesn't put an end to the financial squeeze that many retirees are feeling. Pension checks have failed to keep up with general inflation, and medical costs will continue to be a major problem.

The recent agreement shows it is possible for retirees to have an impact. But only if we try!

In coming weeks, ask any former co-

workers you're still in touch with if they've received a letter from the Retirees Club. Encourage them to join.

Even if the letter gets misplaced, any former IBEW member can join the club by contacting Tonya Alston, Office Manager, at 707-452-2718.

Retiree Club Meeting Schedule

East Bay Chapter: 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA

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

Vacaville/Sacramento Chapter: 2nd Wednesday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 1245, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA.

Santa Rosa Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 551, 2525 Cleveland Ave., Suite B, Santa Rosa.

Merced Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., Merced Senior Community, 755 W. 15th Street., Merced.

Congratulations newly-retired members

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in a Retiree Club chapter in Dublin, San Jose, Vacaville, Santa Rosa, or Merced. If you don't have a chapter nearby, call the union at 707-452-2718 and find out how you can help start one!

Corydon Abbott 34 years Danville, CA	David Dolcini 32 years Cameron Park, CA	Ronald Hamilton 42 years Grass Valley, CA	Wesley Lee 6 years Stockton, CA
Angel L Alvira 26 years Hercules, CA	Danelo Domalaog 11 years Salinas, CA	Roy Hardin 20 years Honolulu, HI	Frank Machi 35 years Lodi, CA
Ernest R Armijo 34 years Needles, CA	Mario Dominguez 35 years Merced, CA	Margaret Harris 12 years Fortuna, CA	Antonio Magtoto 40 years San Ramon, CA
Roger Augustin 35 years Stockton, CA	Roger L Elzey 34 years King City, CA	Janice Hawkins (Rutledge) 28 years Auburn, CA	Mike Mathis 34 years Forest Ranch, CA
Carol Babst 12 years San Jose, CA	Terry Ball 20 years Belmont, CA	Ronald Hensic 36 years Sonoma, CA	Warren McBride 19 years Jonesboro, AR
Thomas Barker 35 years Hollister, CA	John Engel 32 years Oakland, CA	Anthony Herrera 28 years San Jose, CA	David C Mitchell 34 years Burney, CA
Gary Barnett 29 years San Jose, CA	Kathy Ferguson 26 years Glenn, CA	Jimmie Hicks 17 years Fresno, CA	Ronald Montez 22 years Harrisburg, OR
Lawrence Barni 35 years Rohnert Park, CA	Gary Fernquist 14 years Wallace, ID	Linda Hite 38 years Riverbank, CA	John Moro 37 years Lincoln, CA
William Bendure 16 years Wheatland, CA	Terry Fleming 43 years Cottonwood, CA	Ena Figueroa 23 years San Leandro, CA	Leo Mouton 33 years Hercules, CA
Stephen Boeder 27 years Livermore, CA	Louis Flores 29 years Stockton, CA	James Hopp 29 years Centerville, TX	Anthony Natac 33 years Alameda, CA
Douglas Boucher 7 years Orangevale, CA	Henry Frasier 32 years Galt, CA	George Hurley 32 years Santa Rosa, CA	Michael Noard 38 years Concord, CA
Daniel Boyle 36 years Lathrop, CA	Malkie Freeman 31 years Citrus Heights, CA	Terrance L Husa 44 years Burney, CA	Jack O'Hearn 31 years Stockton, CA
Dean Brewster 31 years Placerville, CA	Donald Fujimoto 30 years Redwood City, CA	Kevin Huston 18 years Carmel, CA	Jerald Olguin 32 years Sunnyvale, CA
Eugene Brooks 28 years San Jose, CA	Alice Gagnon 8 years Seaside, CA	Harry E Jackman 26 years Yuba City, CA	Jack Oliver 24 years Benicia, CA
Boyd Busker 22 years Antioch, CA	Jesus Garcia 36 years San Bruno, CA	Martin Jackson 10 years Sacramento, CA	Delia Olsen 32 years Vacaville, CA
Curtis Calvin 41 years Paso Robles, CA	Robert Giannecchini 14 years Sebastopol, CA	Archie Jefferson 29 years Rio Vista, CA	Robert Olsen 41 years Middletown, CA
Paul Chollet 15 years Oroville, CA	Roberta Goodyear 21 years Cloverdale, CA	Sam Johnson 30 years Richmond, CA	Robert Olson 37 years Yuba City, CA
John Clover 35 years Crescent Mills, CA	James Gordon 20 years Nevada City, CA	Chester Johnson 37 years Stockton, CA	Bernard Ostrom 41 years Orem, UT
Allen Collier 21 years Paradise, CA	Thomas Corchero 34 years San Jose, CA	Ray Jones 9 years Santa Cruz, CA	Cheryl Pao 10 years Santa Cruz, CA
Ronald Davis 17 years Jackson, CA	Daniel M Davies 18 years Atascadero, CA	Joseph Keener 31 years Modesto, CA	Royce Parker 22 years Arroyo Grande, CA
William De Groodt 22 years Salinas, CA	Ronald Davis 17 years Jackson, CA	Alice Kelly 13 years Santa Maria, CA	John S Paulson 30 years Oceano, CA
Robert Delgado 34 years San Jose, CA	William Greaves 24 years Antioch, CA	Greg Kemble 9 years Fresno, CA	Robert Perez 44 years Sacramento, CA
John J Dietzen 34 years San Francisco, CA	Tommy Grubbs 22 years Denton, TX	Larry Kinney 10 years Fresno, CA	William Perini 43 years W Sacramento, CA
Vic Badasow, Electric Meter Crew Leader, left, is congratulated by Business Manager Tom Dalzell. Badasow retired after 41 years of service.	Dean Gurke 27 years Alameda, CA	Robert Knudsen 10 years Burlingame, CA	Charles M Porta 14 years Daly City, CA
	Robert Delgado 34 years San Jose, CA	Terry D Lambert 27 years Denair, CA	Randy Powell 9 years Bakersfield, CA
	John J Dietzen 34 years San Francisco, CA	Dennis Larsh 21 years Middletown, CA	Arlan D Presley 34 years Twain Harte, CA
	Leslie Hallman 22 years Alturas, CA	Robert Leamer 21 years Dixon, CA	

continued on page 9

SERVICE AWARDS

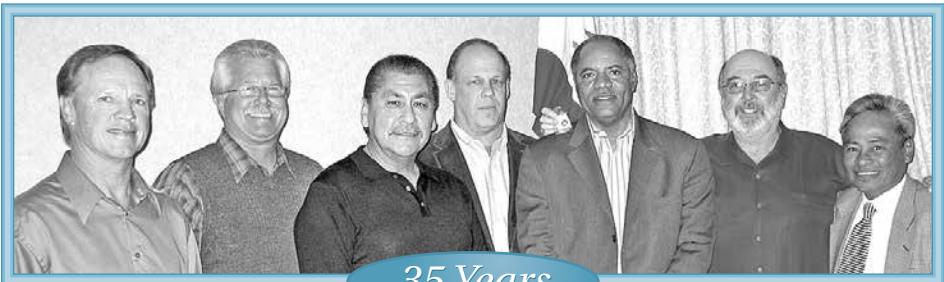


Emeryville, CA January 27, 2007



40 Years: Business Manager Tom Dalzell presents 40-year awards to (from left) Henry House Jr., Peter Coffin, Robyn Boeder, (Dalzell), and Chris Ross.

Photos by Dorothy Fortier



35 Years



30 Years



25 Years

THE HONOREES

45 Years

Ronald Sevier

40 Years

Robyn Boeder
David Breeding
W C Bryson
Peter Coffin
Donald Fischer
George Ford
Henry House, Jr
Charles Johnson
Christine Ross
D P Stevens

35 Years

Robert Bailey
Thomas L Bailey
Richard Burgess
Robert Bustamante, Jr.
Frank Carrillo
James Carter
Stephen Claxton
Charles Coleman
Andrew Contreras
John Cottonham
Wade Cunningham
Gary Feddersen
Avelino Figueiroa
Stephen Franks
Clifford Good
David Greer
David Harris
Rudolfo Herras
Kenneth Jackson
Harvey Lashon
William Malone

30 Years

Keith Nystrom
Michael Phillips
Larry D Preszler
John Pruitt
Eugene Richards
Donnie Royal
Robert Rubio
David Rust
Ralph Stilwell, Jr
Steve Thomas
David Vieira
Michael Ward
George Williams

25 Years

Julie Neira
Brenda Rigsby
Frank Simpson
Percy Stovall
Michael Vasarhely
James Wing
Amanda Yamahiro
Clifford Young

Michael Bowers
David Brown
Doreen Byndloss
Richard Chan
Nicholas Chin
Kenneth Elliott
Jack Ferguson
Kanetha Green
E M Harner
Susan Heiman
Sandra Hernandez
Susan Howe
Gail Huffman
J D Jackson
Suzie Kennedy
Janet Martin
Jerry Martinez
Greg McKinnon
Mabel Perez
Debra Reynolds
Connie Salladay
Karen Sharp
Boris Shevetoff
Gwen Simmons
Ron L Smith
Jose Solis
Barry Vandermolen
Gerald Waylett

Retirees, from page 8

William Edward Pruitt 10 years
Paso Robles, CA
Victor Pulido 30 years
San Francisco, CA
Joyce Richardson 11 years
Pinole, CA
Brenda Rigsby 29 years
Richmond, CA
Roger Rodgers 33 years
Fresno, CA
Robert Romeyn 27 years
San Rafael, CA

Dennis Roussan 34 years
Santa Rosa, CA
Michael L Rudick 39 years
Eureka, CA
Ronald A Rupert 11 years
Cobb, CA
Gregory Saffores 36 years
Cotati, CA
Dolores E Sanchez 12 years
Milpitas, CA
Tony Sandoval 26 years
Tehachapi, CA
Robert Seaman 34 years
Chico, CA
Kenneth Smith 11 years
Elk Grove, CA
Cleveland Smith 24 years
Alameda, CA
Charles Smith 35 years
Antioch, CA
Thomas Paul Smith 22 years
Hayward, CA
Lonnie Smith 31 years
Kingsburg, CA
Norman Stanbery 24 years
Orland, CA
Ronda Stanley 3 years
Grover Beach, CA
Shirley Steinbrook 9 years
San Jose, CA
Susan Stovall 8 years
Clearlake, CA
Don Stump 14 years
Mokalumne, CA
Gilberto Suarez 26 years
Union City, CA
David Summers 42 years
Sonoma, CA
Ronald D Taylor 33 years
Squaw Valley, CA

Lendar C Tharpe 21 years
Chico, CA
Michael Thayer 37 years
Chico, CA
Steven Thomas 33 years
Pleasanton, CA
Ralph Thomson 37 years
Orem, UT
John Thorn 34 years
Palo Cedro, CA
Stephen Thrasher 40 years
Shafter, CA
Leroy Travis 34 years
Fresno, CA

Denise Troutman 3 years
San Mateo, CA
Johnny Villanueva 28 years
Moss Landing, CA
Elnona Walker 30 years
Oakland, CA
Ted Wallace 22 years
Oakley, CA
John Waltman 6 years
Salinas, CA
Waymon L White 22 years
Sacramento, CA
Ken White 33 years
Bakersfield, CA
James Williams 32 years
Hollister, CA
Michael Wilson 36 years
Oakley, CA
Mark Wix 26 years
Loda, IL
Michael Woodward 36 years
Clovis, CA
Philip J Woody 26 years
Salinas, CA
Timothy Wren 8 years
Antioch, CA
Leeland Wright 14 years
Stockton, CA

Pablo Ybarra 33 years
San Jose, CA
David Young 35 years
Lincoln, CA
David Zarasua 23 years
North Fork, CA
Dale Zerlang 25 years
Fortuna, CA

Congratulations Retirees!
We want you to stay connected
to IBEW 1245.

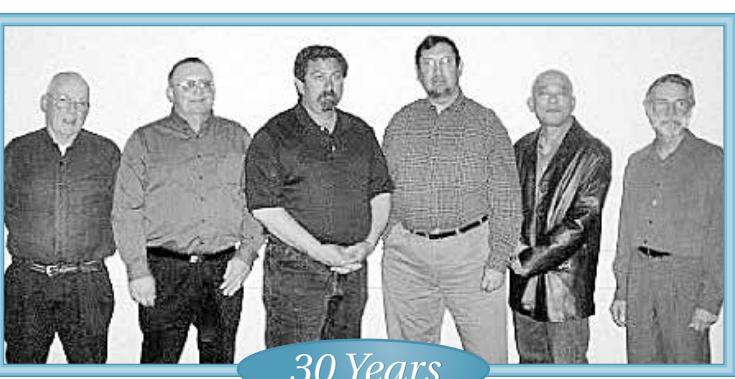
SERVICE AWARDS



Sacramento, CA March 10, 2007



Sixty-year member William Shultz is joined by his wife in receiving his award from Business Manager Tom Dalzell, left, and former Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, right.



THE HONOREES

60 Years

Arless Bonham
Robert Calzascia
Max Davenport
David Dawson
Hoyt Elmore
John Osborne
Wilbert Penfold
William Shultz
Andrew Snodgrass
Douglas Wakefield
Harold Withrow

55 Years

Eugene Hatch
Francis Hayes
Frank Munn

50 Years

Darrell Abbott

Jerry Dillow
Walter Edwards
Robert Kunz
David Putman
Donald Smith
Herbert Webb
Elmer Whitaker

45 Years

Robert Perez

40 Years

Victor Badasow
Allen Baker
Arthur Cruickshank
Gary Delbono
Samlin Eiri
Kenneth Hook
Carl Ingvoldsen
Harland Kenyon
L.F. Starnes
Gerald Whitmire
Randall Williams

35 Years

William Banish
Jeff Braden
Walter Brown, Jr.
Charles Carmona
Allan Fanoni
Robert Favilla
Robert Fuentes
Paul Gallon
Thomas Gatten

30 Years

Steve Gearhart

Todd Gibson
Jim Hattrup
Danny Jackson
Louie Kiser
David Lawton
Dennis Leahy
Anthony Longueria
David Meier
Philip Mosle
Ramiro Ortiz
Delores Paulsen
Charles Peabody
Rexiford Pickering
Richard Prater
Paul Randll
Kurt Runge
Thomas Ryan
Frank Sammartino
Mike Sigman
Brent Steele
Kathleen Warwick
Nicholas Whittlesey
Mary Wise

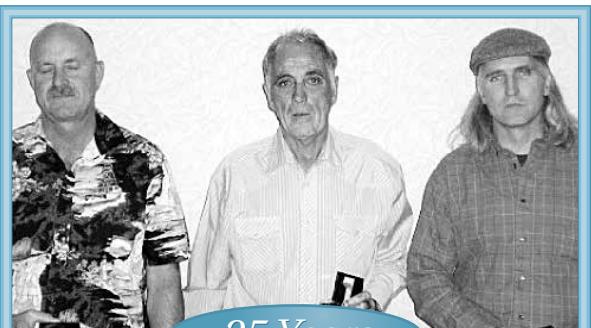
30 Years

Kenneth Amaral
Terrance Andreucci
Roni Bowli Ng-Amarelo
Daryl Boyce
James Brabec
Don Cantrell
Charles Caudle
Damien Cresci
Michael Davis
Mark Deweese
Saniata Dialogo
Jennifer Donovan
William Donovan
Kenneth Doran
Wallace Douglass, Jr
Margaret Duvall
John Freeman
Bert Fulwider, Jr
Randy Galles
Lawrence Gouveia
Russell Greene
Eric Guice
Eric Guzman
David Hairfield
Allen Hamel
Frank Hernandez
Rob Huntington, Jr.
Don Jackura
Maryann Jacobson
Richard Johnson
Teddy Jones
Judy Keifer
Donald Kreuter, Jr.

25 Years

Richard Blasquez
Stephen Bowen
Delbert Cibart
Julie Cosgrove
Kevin De Ryk
Dean Evans
Paul Feeley
Corazon Felix
Andres Garcia, Jr.
Debbie Hicks
Richard Laform
Roy Marciel
Denise Newman
Robert Oftedal
Darla Pence
Jack Price
David Reed
Lance Rose
Cynthia Sheely
Gregory Steed
Alton Seyford
Lucy Venegas
William Wasil
Roy Wright

25 Years



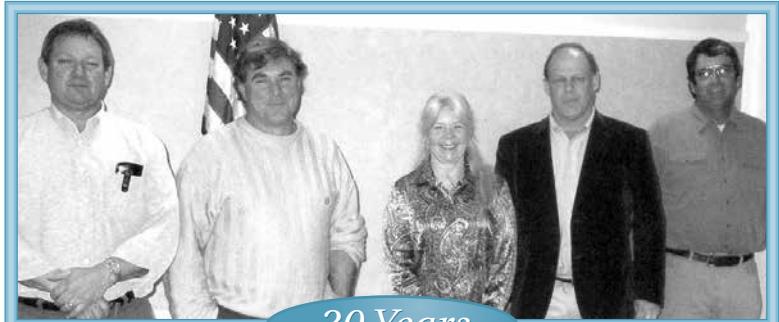
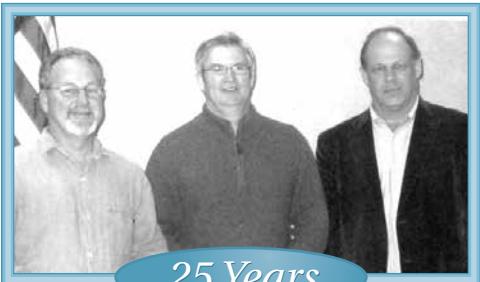
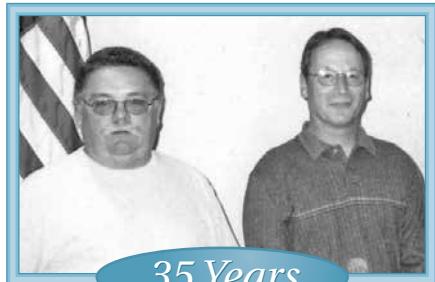
SERVICE AWARDS



Petaluma, CA February 9, 2007



Presenting Assistant Business Manager Howard Stiefer, second from left, with his 40-year award are, from left, Business Manager Tom Dalzell, (Stiefer), former Recording Secretary Barbara Symons, and Senior Business Rep. Larry Pierce.



THE HONOREES

60 Years

Kenneth Brant

55 Years

Bernie Tanksley

40 Years

P A Cook
Ralph Flak
Randy Mc Cullough
Howard Stiefer, Jr.

35 Years

Susan Bell
Gary Burrafato

Lawrence Dickinson
Dennis Dunn
Kenneth Giannini
David Gibson
Larry Givannoni
Ronald Glorgi
Norman Hollman
Michael Labao
James Lowers
Chang McKoon
Lawrence Murtha

Tom O'Brien, Jr.
Chris Pratt
Dunn Reneger
John Sobelman
Steven Walsh

30 Years
Thomas Beckman

Elaine F Brown
Lesa Foster
Steven Frediani
James Hamilton
Chris Jacka
Gary Lathrop
Larry O'Brien
Thomas Payne
Gary Saverien

25 Years
Erick Gonzalez
Karel "Ray" Hoogen-
doorn
Scott Silva
Amelia Torio

Destiny, from page 1

When he learned about Etchison's condition, it was like a second chance to make good on a promise he had already made.

To put Laguna's magnificent gift in perspective it helps to know this:

"I have a sick daughter and physically there's nothing I can offer my daughter to make her healthy," he says. "It was a blessing for me to have the opportunity (to help Etchison)."

Laguna didn't let the tragic death of Ron Garcia dampen his enthusiasm for this new opportunity to help someone.

"I dove in with a positive attitude—we never had anything to slow us down. It was great."

The surgery was performed successfully at St. Vincent Medical Center in southern California by Robert Mendez and Rafael Mendez, identical twin doctor with decades of experience in transplant operations.

"You wouldn't believe what it's like when food tastes good and you have energy again," says Etchison.

But the most amazing thing of all, he says, is the support he got from his fellow workers at Diablo Canyon throughout his ordeal.

"I was off work for damn near eight-and-a-half months. I'd get phone calls from people while I was sitting in dialysis. People would drop by."

Besides the moral support, his union brothers and sisters donated vacation time to give a boost to both men during their recuperation, Etchison says. "The people out here were absolutely fantastic. They saved my bacon."

"They saved mine, too," says Laguna. "These people out here at Diablo Canyon Power Plant—they have the biggest hearts."

Does destiny make us brothers? No need to debate that proposition. Etchison and Laguna are the living proof.

Senior, from page 1

system—Outside Line, the public sector. I also check expenses, keep an eye on the payroll, deal with staff assignments. The administrative staff—Dorothy, Roger, Bob, Howard and Dennis among others—make this job easier. I help Tom with staff meetings and fill in for him with the Executive Board if he's not available. If we have issues coming in from employers or from the field, I try to organize all the information for Tom because he's a very busy man. I review all the Letter Agreements, I assign them to the proper people for review, and present them to Tom with a recommendation to sign or send back to the company. Tom can read five pages in one second.

UR: You've been on the job for 8 months. How would you assess things so far?

Tamimi: Tom is the most experienced business manager we ever had. He was staff attorney for 21 years and then five years as Senior. That's a lot of experience. He deals with the companies, he negotiates with the companies—he's a hands-on business manager. The thing I'm proudest of is Letter Agreement 07-07, giving help to the retirees on their medical premiums. But also the other Letter Agreements—for the front counter jobs at PG&E, the severance package, the Clerical agreement. This is Tom in action for you. He believes in getting things done through bargaining and he wants them done yesterday.

UR: He's said that bargaining is a big priority.

Tamimi: He loves bargaining—it's a challenge to him. He can have two, three committees going the same day, and he knows about everyone of them more than anyone involved. Even with arbitrations, which he doesn't handle anymore, he still knows about every



Sam Tamimi leads a discussion at a recent staff meeting at Weakley Hall in Vacaville.

grievance that goes to arbitration and knows as much about them as the business reps involved.

UR: I know Larry Foss was a big influence on you.

Tamimi: Larry—along with Jack McNally—interviewed me and hired me in 1981, when he was Senior. Larry went to the Harvard School of Life. He was very articulate; he had an adage for every situation. And he really knew about handling grievances because he was the first fact finder for IBEW and he had been secretary of the Review Committee. If you took a problem to him, he always asked, "Tell me first—where did you look in the agreement to find the answer?" He wanted to make sure you tried.

UR: Now that you've become Senior yourself, do you actually like the job?

Tamimi: Yes. There is no way I can come close to Larry's charm and openness. But I've been doing parts of this job since 1995 when I became an ABM and now I have added duties. It's a challenge. I like it. But sometimes I get tired, at my age. I was born 4-12-45, the same day Franklin Roosevelt died. (*He repeats it slowly.*) I was born "for 1245."

Ready

Vigilance is a 24/7 job for Diablo Canyon firefighters

For Local 1245 firefighters at PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, vigilance isn't just the name of the game—it's the whole game.

The plants are a witch's brew of deadly radioactive substances that could irradiate a large swath of California if "containment" failed. Fire is a significant threat because it has the potential to deactivate critical systems that are needed to maintain and shutdown the reactor.

Be glad that PG&E has a full-time fire department stationed at the plant around the clock, with a minimum of five firefighters on duty at any time.

"Our duties are to respond to safety problems and mitigate the situation," says Eric Carter, a shift captain and member of Local 1245. "We're defense in depth."

Don't think that defense means waiting around for the worst to happen. If containment is breached, it's pretty much too late for defense. For Diablo Canyon firefighters, defense is upfront and takes the form of vigilance and training.

Firefighters are trained to standards



established by the National Fire Protection Association. They also meet state standards for Emergency Medical Technicians. Then there's the training for hazardous materials and confined spaces to maintain the necessary certifications.

When they're not training, Diablo Canyon firefighters can be found servicing extinguishers, hydrostatically testing fire hoses, and performing "fire penetration seal and barrier inspections", among other duties.

Diablo firefighters also attend trainings hosted by the California Department of Forestry. It's training that can have real world applications at any time, like January of this year when a 300 acre wild fire swept across PG&E property. While it never got close to the plant, it engaged the attention of 200 firefighters and 40-50 engines in what Carter called "three heavy days of fire fighting."

(Fire departments in surrounding communities, which helped fight that fire, come to the plant periodically for training and drills. But it's a one-way relationship—Diablo Canyon firefighter

ers cannot leave their posts to help fight fires in neighboring communities.)

With wildfires, the main concern is the possibility of fire getting under the 500 kv lines coming out of plant, or the 230 kv line coming into the plant that provide power when the plant isn't generating any.

In-plant protection systems include 18 hose-reel stations fed by a 7.5 ton CO₂ extinguisher, as well as hose-reel stations for delivering water.

While the possibility of a catastrophic nuclear release is the underlying reason for all the vigilance and training, Fire Captain and Local 1245 member Dan Beile is more concerned about something else.

"The biggest problem isn't radiation, it's hazardous materials. We have tanks with thousands of gallons of caustics."

Huge transformers, for example, contain thousands of gallons of oil. The transformers have a "one in four chance of catastrophically failing" during their 25-year lifespans.

"We've already had one that blew up," Beile says.

In this case the explosion ruptured

the casing of the transformer. Firefighters quickly put their training to good use. They contained the fire to the transformer, extinguishing it with foam. A hazardous material team cleaned up the spilled oil.

Another small fire was extinguished last December when a three-phase capacitor failed in a circulator water pump.

This spring, Diablo Canyon firefighters are looking forward to the arrival of a new engine, the "Dash 2000"—a 2007 model with 455 horsepower and 1550 foot-pounds of torque.



On duty March 7 are, from left, Gustavo Felix, Firefighter; Eric Carter, Captain; Greg Porte, Firefighter; Daniel Beile, Captain; and Tony Cappelletti, Firefighter.

