

**Inside:**



# Utility Reporter



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UNITY IS STRENGTH

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Opening ceremony at the Reno Apprentice Lineman Rodeo. See pages 24-25.



## Arcing and Sparking

Tom Dalzell  
BUSINESS MANAGER

### Why we survive

In my past two columns, I laid out the challenges our union faces as the power sector and the political climate evolve. But this time I want to take a minute to talk about why we've surviving these challenges, and why we've survived so many in the past. In a word – you.

Our union is only as strong as our members. It's your dedication and support that makes it possible for us to navigate and even thrive in extremely challenging environments. Not every union is like this – there are some whose members are not interested in the mission, or who very rarely participate.

You reminded me how different we are seven times over the past month.

On June 2nd in Reno, we held an NV Energy shop steward meeting full of engaged, hands-on individuals. NV Energy has been a tough environment to operate in over the past several years, and as I listened to our stewards there, I was struck by how hard they had worked and how much they had delivered. We've made real strides with the new management, our retirees' health benefits are secure and our members there have strong allies in their corner as we move forward.

The next day I was at the union hall in Vacaville for our Union New Member Experience – a first-of-its-kind program that brought together 54 PG&E workers to immerse them in what IBEW 1245 is all about. The idea of a new member orientation came from two linemen – Andrew West and Luis Sotomayor – who helped organize and lead the event. The energy of the new members, many of whom were young people, was impossible to miss. They left the meeting energized, completely in command of our goals and mission, and integrated into 1245's social fabric in a way they wouldn't have been otherwise. I left more encouraged than I have ever been about the future of our union.

On June 4th I was back in Vacaville

for a public and private sector shop steward meeting – and more than 100 people showed up. As we moved through the meeting's business I had the same feeling I had in Nevada just two days ago – I was impressed by their dedication and command of the contract, and confident that our members had strong advocates who could support them through grievances and secure the best outcome possible.

On June 8th we held our monthly TeleTownHall for PG&E shop stewards. This is a technology that we have been using for about a year, and it allows us to hold virtual meetings to update stewards on what we're working on and let them ask any questions they like. It was a beautiful June evening, and I was expecting a low turnout – but over 250 stewards joined in. The call lasted about an hour. Our senior staff updated everyone on hot-button issues, and we were able to provide answers to a number of important questions from the clerical, gas and line sides.

The next day we held another TeleTownHall – but this one was with the stewards of the seven IBEW locals who have members at Berkshire Hathaway Energy. After Berkshire bought NV Energy, we formed a coordinating council with these locals so we can share information, strategize and support each other as each local goes to the bargaining table. 175 stewards joined the call from Illinois, Iowa, Calgary, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon, and Nevada. Understanding their experiences is helping us plan for our own

bargaining, and supporting them (Local 125 in the Pacific Northwest is currently at the table) has solidified the Council's mission.

On June 11th we held our Hold the Pull safety summit in Vacaville. Hold the Pull is our Peer to Peer Safety Initiative for electric line work, and represents 1245's effort to put our members at the heart of our safety program. Some of the leaders of this group I've known for decades, and some just for a year or so, but all of them have made a difference in the lives of our members – a critical difference, in some cases. These are the men and women who watch everyone's backs, and I'm proud to work with them and learn from them at each of our summits.

The last event I'll mention was our May 20th Organizing Stewards training in Berkeley. Organizing Stewards are our campaign specialists – they are experienced operatives who earned their stripes on key labor battles in Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and more. They know how to run field operations that make politicians sit up and take notice, and are a tremendous asset to our union. A number of those present were working on Measure B in support of our Regional Transit members in Sacramento, and a large contingent was preparing for deployment in late June to push back on Marin Clean Energy's deceptive marketing practices. At the training we reviewed best practices and discussed many of the challenges I've laid out in previous columns, including how we can improve the political cli-

mate for our union and our members.

Overall, in just the past few weeks, I've witnessed hundreds of our members stepping up to make a stronger union, to exercise control over their working lives, and to improve the lot of their fellow members. And I've also seen our negotiating committees around the union sitting down, working through difficult issues and finding creative ways to make improvements.

I'm inspired by this – it tells me we have what it takes to continue to thrive, and to meet the challenges that are headed our way. The power is in our hands – and we're using it every single day.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### CITY OF LOMPOC

##### Fleet Mechanic Equity Ad Hoc Negotiating Committee

Seth Cannaday, Jaime Tinoco, Gustavo "Gus" Vargas

#### CITY OF WILLITS

##### 2015 Negotiating Committee

Gerald Campbell, Fritz, Perry

#### BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

##### Bargaining Committee

Brad Solso, Floyd Woolam

#### FRONTIER

##### COMMUNICATIONS

##### 2015 Negotiating Committee

William "Bill" Bryan, Trevor File, Kenneth Lawson, Ryan Stewart, Tyson Tipton

#### CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

##### California Labor Federation Joint Legislative Conference

Rene Cruz-Martinez, Cecelia De La Torre, Guadalupe Flores, Art Freitas, Nilda Garcia, Mike Jessen, Kevin Krummes, Miguel Pagan, Kristen Rasmussen, Porfirio J. Saenz, Pete Sandoval, Bill Wallace, Stan Zamora

##### IBEW BMT Conference

Todd Davis, Kenneth Lawson, Todd Shiels, Ryan Stewart

##### Coalition of Black Trade Unionists 44th International Convention

Cloudell Douglas, Alphonso Estes, Adrienne Franks, Clara McAfee-Evans, Michael Patterson

##### Coalition of Labor Union Women National Executive Board

Rachel Ramirez-Hill

##### IBEW RENEW Conference

Georgette Carrillo, Jason Preston, Gerald Williams

##### IBEW Utility Conference

Anna Bayless-Martinez, James Chatman, Tom Cornell, Cecelia De La Torre, Art Freitas, Chris Habecker, Chris Hahn, Chris Holdren, Mike Jessen, Kevin Krummes, Jim Lovercheck, Jeffrey Price, Pete Sandoval, Al White, Stan Zamora

##### 9th District Progress Meeting

Anna Bayless-Martinez, Georgette Carrillo, Amber Cordeiro, Tom Cornell, Cecelia De La Torre, Art Freitas, Chris Habecker, Mike Jessen, Edgar Moreno, Miguel Pagan, Rachel Ramirez-Hill, Pete Sandoval, Denver Thomas, Dan Witte, Stan Zamora

##### Women Building the Nation Conference

Elane Robbins

## Freitas, Bayless-Martinez take on new roles for 1245

IBEW 1245 Vice President Art Freitas has been sworn in as the new President of the union. (See page 34) He replaces Michael Davis, who recently resigned the position after serving for 11 years. Executive Board member Anna Bayless-Martinez replaces Freitas in the position of Vice President.

The Central-Area Executive Board seat vacated by Bayless-Martinez is now open. Any member interested in filling the position should contact Recording Secretary Chris Habecker at CAHF@ibew1245.com.

Congratulations Art and Anna on your new positions!



Art Freitas



Anna Bayless-Martinez

### UtilityReporter

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Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal1245](http://www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal1245)  
Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.

### CALENDAR

- July 11:** 2nd Annual Softball Tournament, Ceres, CA
- July 25:** Advisory Council meeting, Reno, NV
- Aug. 27-29:** National Gas Rodeo, Colorado Springs, CO
- Aug. 1:** PG&E/IBEW Lineman's Rodeo, date, Livermore.
- Oct. 17:** International Lineman's Rodeo, Bonner Springs, KS
- Oct. 24:** Advisory Council meeting, Vacaville, CA

# Great expectations for new International President

IBEW Local 1245 is expecting great things from Lonnie Stephenson, the man who becomes the new International President of the IBEW on June 1.

Stephenson is “out of the tools” and most recently has been the International Vice President for IBEW’s 6th District, serving the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He became very familiar with the work of IBEW 1245 when our local sent organizers into his district three times to help defend unions against the anti-labor policies of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

“Lonnie is a big believer in training, in organizing, and unions helping each other,” said

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. Stephenson also has been a “leading voice” for the IBEW’s Utility Coordinating Council, which has brought together several local utility unions to present a united front to Berkshire Hathaway. That company, headed by Warren Buffett, took over NV Energy in recent years, raising concerns

among IBEW 1245 members employed there.

Progress is being made to address these concerns, Dalzell said, including a recent trip to Birmingham, Alabama in which NV Energy officials joined Dalzell, Stephenson and others in visiting Alabama Power, a company known for its positive labor-management relations.

IBEW 1245 Organizer Jammi Juarez,

one of the Local 1245 members who assisted the campaign in Wisconsin, called Stephenson an amazing person, one who believes in trade unionism, who “comes out of the tools and is true to the cause.”

“In Wisconsin, all three times we were there he made it a point to come

out and express his appreciation for us being in his district and helping his members,” said Juarez.

Along with IBEW 1245 member Casey Salkauskas, Juarez returned to Stephenson’s district in 2013 to assist the organizing campaign at Greenlee tools in Rockford, Ill. Stephenson not only took time to come out and meet

with the visiting organizers, Juarez said, “he spent a day with us on a house blitz,” working to convince Greenlee workers to vote for IBEW representation. The IBEW won that election by a better than 2-1 margin.

“The membership respects him and loves him. I’m very excited he’s been

appointed International President—he’s going to do a phenomenal job,” Juarez said.

Stephenson succeeds Ed Hill, another strong supporter of IBEW Local 1245, who is retiring after 15 years of distinguished service as the union’s top officer.



Lonnie Stephenson, left, meets with IBEW 1245 members Casey Salkauskas and Jammi Juarez during the organizing drive at Greenlee in Illinois in 2013.



President Hill visits an Outside Line job site in 2011 with IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

## President Ed Hill delivered for 1245

Edwin Hill, who resigned in June as International President of the IBEW, took a keen interest in our local and visited our members at several job sites during a visit in 2011.

“Any time we’ve asked for something, Ed Hill has done it,” said Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “We could not have asked for a better friend. He held up our local as a model and offered encouragement every chance he got.”

Hill was a second-generation journeyman electrician from Pennsylvania, rose within the Third District of the IBEW, and was appointed international secretary in 1997. Hill assumed the

newly-created position of secretary-treasurer one year later, and became international president in 2001.

Although he made sure that IBEW’s interests were represented in the halls of power in Washington DC, he never lost sight of the union’s true source of strength. Upon his appointment as president in 2001 he said: “I know that any power we wield comes from our strength in numbers and our solidarity as working people.”

IBEW 1245 is deeply grateful to President Hill for his years of service and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.



Business Manager Tom Dalzell shakes hands with Vice President Joe Biden in Oakland.

## Vice President Biden Meets with Tom Dalzell and Tony Earley to Highlight Job Training for Vets

Vice President Joe Biden joined IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell, PG&E CEO Tony Earley, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and 15 students in PG&E’s job training program, PowerPathway, on April 10 to highlight the importance of training and hiring America’s veterans. The event, held at the Oakport Service Center in Oakland, included a roundtable where Biden spoke with the 15 students, who between them represented all five branches of service.

“Vice President Biden did a great job underlining the value in hiring America’s vets,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “We’ve been working on these issues for years, and it’s great to see the Administration acknowledging how important it is to provide education and workplace training for our returning heroes. Vice President Biden has long been a champion of both the labor movement and our nation’s veterans, and I think he appreciated seeing the work we’re doing to bring those two groups together.”

IBEW 1245’s Vets program, which connects 1245 veterans with those who are returning home and looking for work, aims to be a “band of Union brothers and sisters”—veterans who support each other and vets outside IBEW. You can learn more about their work here.

## Unit meeting changes

**Unit 2211, Oakland**, has a new meeting location: Rooster’s Roadhouse, 1700 Clement Ave, Alameda, CA. Meetings will continue to be on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 4:00 p.m.

*Al Fortier, Business Rep.*

**Unit 4017, City of Gridley**, has a new meeting date beginning in May: the first Wednesday of each month. The time and place remain the same: 5:15 pm at Round Table Pizza in Gridley. The address is 1516 Hwy. 99 in Gridley.

*Arlene Edwards, Business Rep.*

**Unit 3712, Santa Rosa**, has a new meeting location effective in July: the Union Hotel Pizza Restaurant, 1007 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa (in the G&G Market Center).

*Ralph Kenyon, Business Rep.*

**Unit 4911, Outside Line/General Membership**, has a new meeting date: the first Tuesday of the month. Dates for remainder of the year are: July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1. Meetings still begin at 7 p.m. The location remains Weakley Hall, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA.

*Ralph Armstrong, Senior ABM*



From left: Jorge Hernandez, Mike Courts and Jason Hageman from City of Healdsburg.



Branden Carter, Greg Baird and Chris Fukui from SMUD.



Josh Klikna, Dustin Krieger and Raphael Battig from Turlock Irrigation District.



Greg Farnsworth, Paul Duncan, and Brent Black from SMUD.



Breck Smith, Alman Kerste, and Rich Hall from SMUD.



Jacob Kremenliff, Shawn Murphy, and Phil Harriet from City of Roseville.



# IBEW 1245 shows deep bench at APPA Rodeo

Members of this Modesto Irrigation District team (at left) took first place in the overall journeyman competition. From left: Matt McCurdy, Sean Coulson, Brian Szuggar and James Boere.



Donald Myers, Ben Goehring, and Rob Baber from the City of Redding.



Elton Lamborn, Brent Sirkel, Rich Willett and Alvaro Ramirez from City of Lodi.



Roby Higgins, Victor Madrigal, Randy Lofing and Doug Cameron from Modesto Irrigation District.

IBEW 1245 showed its deep bench at the Power Lineworkers Rodeo when multiple teams and apprentices from Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Modesto Irrigation District, and the City of Roseville took top awards. IBEW 1245 was also represented by teams from Turlock Irrigation District, City of Lodi and City of Healdsburg.

The rodeo, held on May 16, was sponsored by the American Public Power Association and hosted by SMUD in Sacramento. Fifty-eight teams and 86 apprentices from not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities across the nation participated.

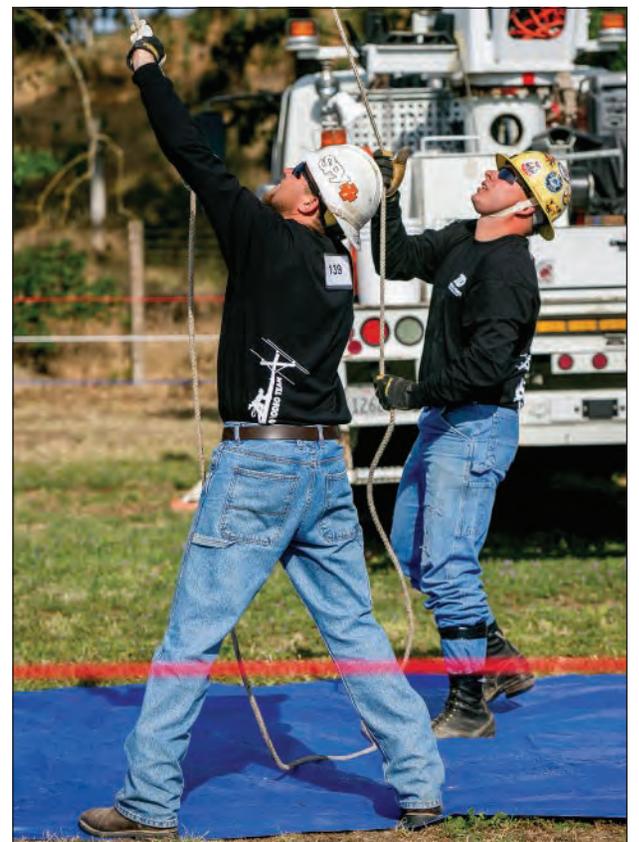
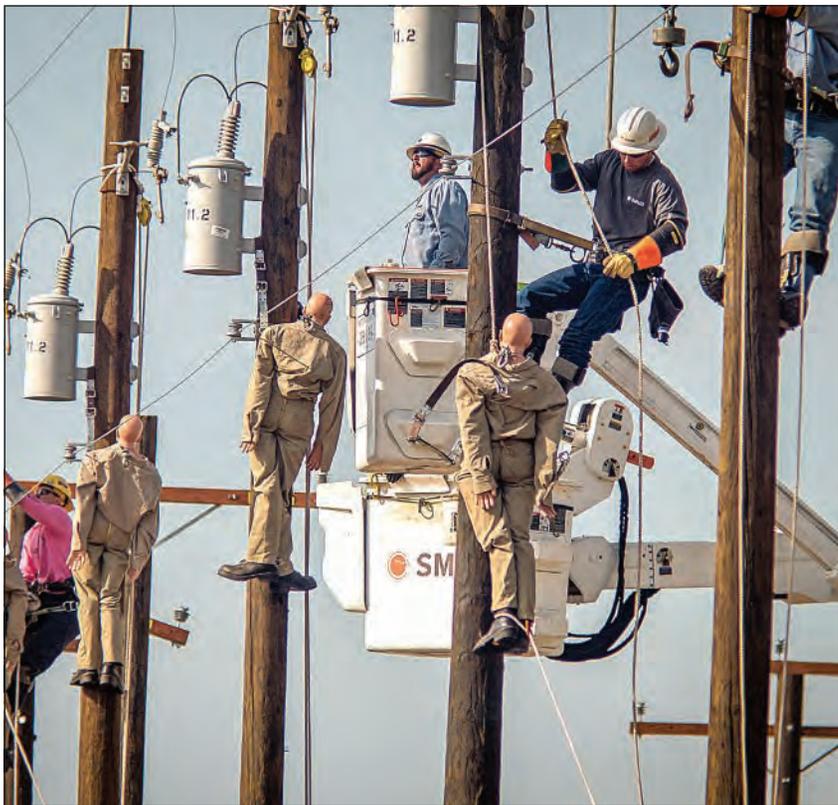
Taking first place overall in the Journeyman com-

petition was the Modesto Irrigation District team of Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, Brian Szuggar and Matt McCurdy. All but Szuggar were on the MID team that placed fourth in last year's rodeo, showing that persistence pays off. This year's team, in addition to first overall, showed consistent excellence by taking third place in 4kV crossarm changeout, 12kV deadend insulator replacement, and deadend transfer.

First place overall in the Apprentice competition went to William Baker, a 3-year IBEW 1245 member at Roseville Electric (City of Roseville). Along the way to this impressive victory, Baker also took second place in the written test.

The rodeo consists of competitive events demonstrating lineworker skills and safe work practices. There are two categories of competition: journeyman and apprentice. The events are judged on safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. All safety rules established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the APPA Safety Manual were observed during events.

Close behind the MID journeymen's overall first place finish, the SMUD team of Cayleb Bowman, Matthew Wilson and Todd Prangley took third place overall. Along the way, they racked up first place finishes



in four events: hurtman rescue, 4kV crossarm change-out, obstacle course, and deadend transfer. In fact, the only event in which they didn't place first was the 12kv deadend insulator replacement.

The SMUD journeyman team of Alman Kerste, Richard Hall and Breck Smith also got on the awards wagon with a fifth-place finish in the overall competition, while nabbing a second-place finish in the obstacle course event.

First-place apprentice Baker got a run for his money from several other IBEW 1245 apprentices. Gregory Frizzell, SMUD, placed fourth overall while capturing second in the double deadend bell. Bryan Herdal, SMUD, took first in the hurtman rescue and second in the single-phase conductor tie-in. Michael McGee, also of SMUD, took third in the double deadend bell.

Tyler Dewitt, SMUD, took first in the single-phase conductor tie-in and third in the crossarm relocation.

As a matter of fact, IBEW 1245 apprentices took all three of the top awards in the crossarm relocation: Garrett Mcghehey of SMUD took first while Kyle Giesser of Roseville Electric took second.

The rodeo was sponsored by APPA, and was co-hosted by SMUD and IBEW 1245.

Families enjoyed watching their loved ones demonstrate their extraordinary abilities. Dennis Seyfer, Senior Assistant Business Manager who oversees IBEW 1245's public sector work, led a team of 16 Organizing Stewards/volunteers who donated their Saturday to facilitate the IBEW 1245-sponsored lunch for the 1,000 participants, judges and volunteers.

Congratulations to the winners, and to all IBEW 1245 journeymen and apprentices who represented their union in this year's APPA rodeo. You done us proud!

**See more photos online at:**  
<http://bit.ly/1JA55ru>



A high-voltage demo (7,200 volts) was conducted outside.  
Una demostración de alta tensión (7200 voltios) se llevó a cabo al aire libre.

## Keep the Clearance

# High Voltage Demonstration

On April 30 the Keep the Clearance peer initiative had their 3rd annual safety stewards conference at the Vacaville union hall. There were 52 participants, including 8 prospective safety stewards. The companies represented were Davey Tree Service, Trees Inc., Utility Tree Service, City of Lompoc, Family Tree and Synergy Tree. The summit agenda included a review of the previous and current year's activities which included visits to and recruitment of Family Tree Service workers, a review of the tree trimmer intervention program, the IBEW/PG&E/Tree Supervision Roundtable and a survey breakout on worksite lighting and safety. The new Close Call hazard recognition program was reviewed in the afternoon.

The highlight of the summit was a high voltage demonstration performed by Truckee Donner PUD linemen Bob Springer and Ed Adkins. Many tree trimmers had never witnessed the true power of high voltage and they were able to see close up the danger and learn the principles behind how high voltage contacts occur and the potential to injure and kill workers. The demonstration board was energized to 7200 volts and the set up simulated a common high voltage circuit with real equipment mounted on a portable trailer. Training also involved other dangers from being trapped in a car with wires down to protecting children from electrical hazards around the home. The demonstration was well rounded, interesting and fun.

## Reunión Anual "Mantenga la Distancia"

# Demostración de Alta Tensión

Los podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas celebraron su tercera conferencia anual de seguridad "Mantenga la Distancia" en Weakley Hall en Vacaville, el 30 de abril.

"Mantenga la Distancia" es la iniciativa de seguridad entre iguales del IBEW 1245 para podadores de árboles. Hubo 52 participantes, entre ellos 8 potenciales delegados de seguridad. Las compañías representadas fueron Davey Tree Service, Trees Inc., Utility Tree Service, la ciudad de Lompoc, Family Tree y Synergy Tree.

Lo más destacado de la conferencia fue una demostración de alta tensión realizada por Bob Springer y Ed Adkins, linieros de Truckee Donner PUD. Muchos podadores de árboles nunca habían presenciado el verdadero poder de la alta tensión. Aprendieron cómo se pueden producir contactos con líneas de alta tensión, y a entender mejor las posibilidades de ocasionar lesiones y la muerte. El tablero de demostración fue energizado a 7200 voltios y se simuló un circuito de alta tensión común, con

continúa en la página siguiente



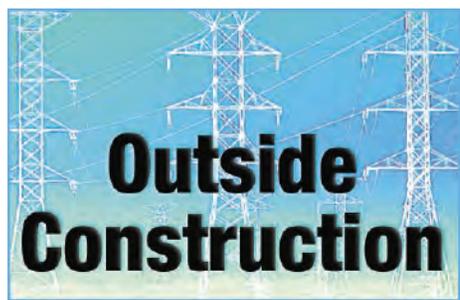
Keep the Clearance/Mantenga la Distancia

**Demostración**, de la página 6 equipos reales colocados sobre un remolque portátil.

En la conferencia también se discutieron las actividades del año anterior y del año en curso. Incluidas visitas y contratación de trabajadores de Family Tree Service, y revisiones del programa de intervención de los podadores de árboles y la Mesa Redonda del IBEW/PG&E/Supervisores. Por la tarde se discutió el nuevo programa de reconocimiento de riesgos Accidentes Potenciales (Close Call).

La capacitación también abordó la situación de estar atrapado en un coche con los cables caídos, y la necesidad de proteger a los niños de los peligros eléctricos en el hogar. La demostración fue muy completa, interesante y divertida.

Helping lead the discussion, from left: Pete Ely, Tanny Hurtado (sitting), Ray Banfill and John Kent. Cómo ayudar a dirigir la discusión, desde la izquierda: Pete Ely, Tanny Hurtado (sentado), Ray Banfill y John Kent.



## Aiming for PLA on CalTrain project

By Ralph Armstrong

The work picture remains steady with various projects taking place all over California and Nevada. We continue in our efforts to finalize and secure a Project Labor Agreement for the CalTrain project, which is the 54-mile electrification of CalTrain through San Francisco, San Mateo and San Jose. This PLA model will most likely be used for the remainder of the high speed rail project, which will also include several other work projects that will require the relocation or modifications to existing facilities.



Ralph Armstrong

In the month of May, I have logged over 5,800 miles while making crew visits and judging Lineman Rodeos. I have also filled in for Mike Cottrell while he was in Executive Board meetings and on vacation. I have visited 35 jobsites and substations.

### Unit Meeting Date Change

Beginning July, the meeting date will change for Unit 4911 (Outside Line/General Membership). The date will change from the second Wednesday of the month to the first Tuesday. Dates for remainder of the year are: July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6,

Utility Reporter

November 3, and December 1.

### JATC

We currently have 319 Outside Line apprentices registered in our JATC program and 1 traveling apprentice in our jurisdiction.

- 60 apprentices are working out of Local 1245
- 232 are working out of Local 47
- 1 is working out of Local 396
- 6 are unemployed

We have graduated 48 apprentices to journeyman lineman and have indentured 23 Outside Line apprentices in 2015.

### Apprentice Interviews

As has been the case over the last couple of months, two more days of interviews were scheduled for the week of June 15. There have been apprentice interviews going on every month since February in an effort to get caught up on the backlog of applications that were accepted during the last open application period, which lasted just 10 days. Anyone who submitted an application and met all the requirements will get an opportunity to interview in the coming months.

### Vote Ratification

The final inspection agreement we had with Tulsa Inspection Resources was ratified recently by 100% of the members who voted. This was the final group and the agreement they work under is the Gas Inspector Agreement. The agreement was for five years. The agreement was for wages only, which included wage increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all Urban Wage Earners in the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose area. This is an annual average with April's posting used for the increase. There is also a 1% minimum and 3% maximum on these increases. No other changes were made to the agreement. Increases for these members for June 1, 2015 based on this formula were 2.4%

### Pay Increases

Over 90% of the Outside Line construction agreements expired on May 31. We have been working diligently to get all expiring contracts ratified or extended. The largest of the agreements are the California Outside Line Construction Agreement and our Inspection Agreements, outlined above. On June 1 anyone working under these agreements should have seen an increase in pay.

The Outside Line Agreement was a two-year extension of the existing agreement that included an across the board wage increase of 2% plus a new HRA account. The contractors began paying \$.50 an hour to the new HRA account for every hour worked. This \$.50 an hour coupled with the 2% wage increase has about a 3.5% value for 2015.

Beginning January of 2016, Lineco will also have a general increase of \$.25 an hour that the contractors will also pick up, and on June 1, 2016 there will be a general increase of 3% for all workers working under this agreement.

### Postings

With the construction industry it is important to work with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to make sure all increases are filed to accurately reflect these wage increases in the prevailing wage postings. These postings

are only updated twice a year and are an important part of making sure on Public Works projects that the correct wage rates are paid. The second posting is the Federal Davis-Bacon Posting which needs to be updated as well.

In addition to the prevailing wage and Davis-Bacon posting the IBEW International Office requires us to update their data base on every agreement when it is ratified. A lot of work has gone into getting this information updated and correct.

### Organizing

In the month of May we signed the following Contractors to the California Outside Line Construction Agreement:

- D.C. Electric Group, Inc.
- Stoles Tri-Services
- J. Cloud, Inc.

### Injured Workers Fund

The balance of the fund as of April 30, 2015 was \$785,079.98. In the month of May the fund paid out one claim for disability.

### Training and Special Events

- First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at JATC Riverside and Sacramento facility.
- International Lineman's Rodeo, Kansas – Oct. 17 – sign-up at ibew1245.com

### DISPATCH

	May 2015	Total Calls YTD – 2015
Lineman	112	406
Apprentice Lineman	10	68
Equipment Man	13	83
Groundman	38	313
Substation Tech	4	65
Fabricator Tech	10	117
Cable Splicer	2	18
	<b>189</b>	<b>1070</b>

### OUT OF WORK BOOKS

As of May 29, 2015

BOOK #			
L-1	13	CS-1	5
L-2	34	CS-2	9
L-3	0	CS-3	3
L-4	22		
		GM-1	29
ES-1	8	GM-2	27
ES-2	11	GM-3	182
ES-3	19	GM-4	250
		F-1	12
		F-2	0
		F-3	25
		Sub-1	0
		Sub-2	2
		Sub-3	76
		Sub-4	0



The winning four-person team, Los Jefes, from left: Miguel Loza, Adam Kotko, Sam Barraza and Eman.



The Yosemite and South Dozer teams compete head-to-head in the pipe cut.



Cutting pipe is the North Valley #1 team of Mike Silveria and Greg Haggard.



The winning two-person team, Potrero #1, from left: Junior Umaleav, Marcus Pineda, and Tahmal Fleming (alternate).

## Crews give it their all at IBEW/PG&E Gas Rodeo

Gas crews sent the dirt flying in a spirited competition to see which PG&E employees will represent IBEW 1245 at the National Gas Rodeo in Colorado Springs this August.

The First Annual IBEW-PG&E rodeo, held May 30 in Livermore, featured 10 two-person teams and 6 four-person teams competing in four events: digging, meter building, pipe cutting, and service run. General Construction crews from around the PG&E system responded to the opportunity to show how proficient—and how fast—they are.

Placing first in the four-person competition was the team performing under the name Los Jefes: Miguel Loza, Adam Kotko, Sam Barraza, and Eman. Placing first in the two-person competition was the Potrero-1 team of Junior Umaleav, Marcus Pineda and Tahmal Fleming (alternate).

Shaun Mahanay, part of the North Valley Team #2, called the events a little more fast-paced than what you'd ordinarily find on the job. "Out in the field it's not a com-

petition," he noted.

At the rodeo, some of the typical job-site hazards are not a factor—like cars and trucks.

"Traffic is a big issue for us. We're always in the roadways," said Jayson Visinoni, the other part of the North Valley Team #2. The absence of traffic on the rodeo grounds allowed the competitors to focus a little more closely on the tasks at hand.

The rodeo featured entertainment for the whole family. Besides all the competitive action for the teams, there was face-painting and rock-climbing for the kids and a barbecue lunch for all.

Several members of the Power Pathways training program were on hand to observe the competition.

Business Rep. Lou Mennel, who helped organize the event and served as a judge, said the local rodeo will help prepare IBEW 1245 members for the national competition in Colorado Springs.

Congratulations to all the gas workers for your competitive spirit at the rodeo!



Marcus Pineda of the Potrero #1 team competes in the service run.



The Los Patrones team from San Francisco consisted of, from left, Charity K-Aloha, Horacio Ortega, Juan Perez, Armando Cedano and James Jimenez.



IBEW 1245 and family members promoting the union's peer safety program. Back row, from left: Angela Robertson, Trevor Robertson, and Keith Hopp; front row, from left: Ernie Pena, Makaila Robertson, Roy Cabral, and Matt Davis.



Sarah Defenbaugh and Marcus Barbosa launch themselves into the pipe cut event.



Digging up a storm: the North Valley #2 team of Shaun Mahanay and Jayson Visinoni.



Wild Hogs make the dirt fly.



Face painting was a special part of the day for these guys.



Let's break for lunch!



Kids got a chance to test their skills, safely, in the rock climb.

**“W**hen you think of Union, what three words come to mind?”

That was the question that opened the Union New Member Experience (UNME), a new program launched on June 4 at Weakley Hall to introduce new members to IBEW 1245.

In their responses to this opening question, the new members showed they'd already given the matter some thought. They mentioned protection, job security, representation, and equality. They pointed to strength-in-numbers, the power of collective bargaining. Others mentioned “brotherhood and sisterhood.”

This pilot program brought together 54 PG&E workers hired in early 2014 to immerse them for a few hours in what IBEW 1245 is all about. They met union leaders and stewards. They learned a bit of IBEW history. And they found out that they themselves are in fact the union.

“We need to have the union understood by our newer, younger members, because the union is a way for you to exercise control over your working lives,” said Business Manager Dalzell at the top of the meeting. “We really believed the best way to make that happen is not just

# New members get a close look at what it means to belong to IBEW 1245

us sitting in our offices here in Vacaville making decisions, but getting ideas and decisions coming up from you, the members.”

He noted that the idea for an in-depth orientation for new members did not come from the old hands on staff, but was hatched at a unit meeting by journeymen linemen Andrew West and Luis Sotomayor, both of whom were in attendance. West, who is a shop steward, took the floor to explain some of the ways the contract protects the rights of members.

“Sometimes supervisors will be doing shady things, or sometimes they’re just mistaken and not doing things correctly. Sometimes it comes even from higher levels of management that see an opportunity to work around the contract or subvert it in some way,” he said.

West told the new members that shop stewards are ordinary workers, just like them, but they’ve been trained to moni-

tor working conditions to make sure that management follows the union contract. If management violates the contract—by not paying proper wages or not following time-off provisions, for example—members can bring it to the attention of their shop steward, who investigates and starts the grievance procedure rolling, when necessary.

The new members included many employees from PG&E Call Centers. Some of their issues were addressed specifically by IBEW 1245 Staff Attorney Jenny Marston, whose responsibilities include making sure that the rights of Clerical members are enforced.

“Since the Clerical were organized into Local 1245 in 1952, our organizing principles have been the same—living wages, job protections driven by fairness (seniority), and pensions. We are the standard bearer in the call center industry and we will continue to do that,”

Marston said.

Each member in attendance received a hard copy of their contracts. IBEW 1245 Business Representative Anthony Brown showed them how to access the contract on the IBEW 1245 website, and then divided the members into two groups to address specific questions on the Physical and Clerical contracts.

The PG&E bargaining committee—which was in the hall preparing for contract negotiations—joined the group for a while. Dalzell noted the powerful cross section of job classifications, geography, youth and experience on the committee, and he emphasized the important role this committee has.

“The payroll for the bargaining unit is \$1 billion. Your bargaining committee is moving as much money as they can from one side of the table to the other side—your side,” said Dalzell, who heads the committee.



Participants in first-ever Union New Member Experience gathering at Weakley Hall.



Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean discusses how to access the PG&E contract and other key documents on [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)



Staff Attorney Jenny Marston, who coordinates representation of Clerical members, speaks about Call Center issues.



Business Manager Tom Dalzell exchanges views with new members.

*“The payroll for the bargaining unit is \$1 billion. Your bargaining committee is moving as much money as they can from one side of the table to the other side—your side.”*



There was lots of information and new members give it some careful thought.

Donna Ambeau, a bargaining committee member and a 47-year member of IBEW 1245 took the microphone to lay it on the line:

“You are the union. You should know your contract. Know your rights! If someone says something that is wrong, you should know it! Know what you’re supposed to get. I hear it in the call center all the time—know your rights. This is your contract,” said Ambeau, who called IBEW 1245 “one of the best unions out there.”

IBEW 1245 Communications Director Eric Wolfe led the group through IBEW 1245’s early history with vintage photos, film and interviews with two of the union’s founding members, Ron Weakley and L.L. Mitchell. He underscored that it took 50 years of struggle to win the first system-wide labor agreement at PG&E, an agreement made possible by the power of a workforce united into one union.

Organizing Steward Rachael Hill-Ramirez shared an array of ways to get involved in the union and noted that IBEW 1245 is the only IBEW local union

to have an Advisory Council, which provides members an additional forum for making their ideas known. Organizing steward Ivan Pereda shared how to stay informed, saying, “You hold the power to keep our union strong. Keep informed.”

Organizer Jammi Juarez moderated the gathering and offered an overview of the union’s structure. Brief presentations were made by several other members of the union’s staff. Also in attendance were Executive Board member Mike Cottrell, union Vice President Anna Bayless-Martinez, and union President Art Freitas. At the end of the day Freitas swore in the group, a formality that completed their induction into the union.

Members left the meeting energized and committed to share what they learned with co-workers, and to take a selfie with their Shop Steward and post it on the IBEW 1245 Facebook page.

And so concluded the first-ever Union New Member Experience, UNME. We

look forward to seeing more new members out at Weakley Hall as future UNME sessions are scheduled.

**Our First UNME  
(Union New Member Experience)  
was met with enthusiasm**

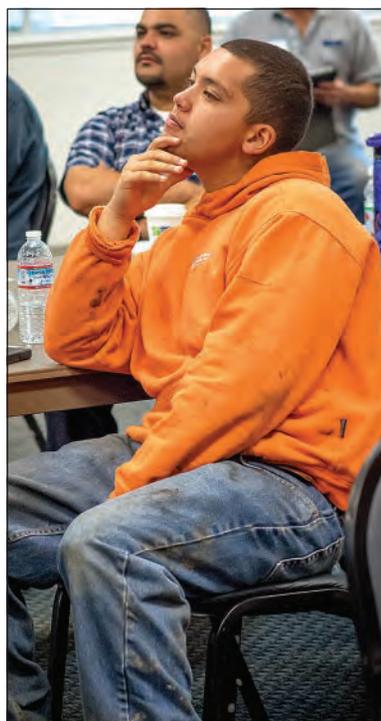


Small groups report back on their discussions.



Organizing Steward Ivan Pereda talks about how working on campaigns energizes him.

Utility Reporter



Taking it in.

New members get a crash course on what the union means. At right is Lou Sotomayor, one of the organizers of the Union New Member event.



Shop steward Andrew West, who helped organize the event, discusses how the contract protects members’ rights.

Photos by John Storey



Organizer Jammi Juarez explains the union’s structure.



Small groups report back.



# Sacramento Charity Bowl Raises \$3,100 for Families in Need

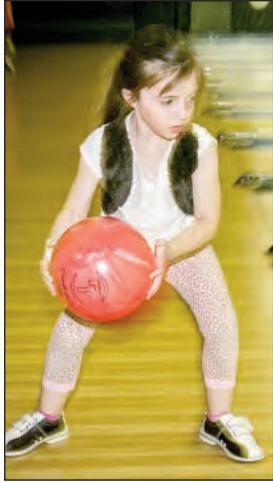
**109** bowlers descended on the Country Club Lanes at this year's Sacramento Charity Bowl on May 9. Participants raised \$3,100 for the Moral Values Program (MVP) of Sacramento. MVP gives to local families who are in need – and one former recipient, 1245 Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia, had this to say about how MVP contributes to the community:

“I was extremely excited to help give back to The Moral Values Program of Sacramento as part of the Sacramento Regional Committee this year for IBEW 1245. You see, before I had a good Union job, I was in need of assistance – I was a single mother of four and had just been laid off.

“One Christmas I heard that the Moral Values Program was hosting a FREE event at my kids’ elementary school. My kids and I were given Christmas gifts, clothing and food. I will never forget the line of families waiting to be helped. This is something I never forgot so when I had the chance to pick a non-profit, I pitched it to the Committee.

“The Organizing Committee did an amazing job putting this event together, selling tickets and donating 36 raffle prizes. We had a total of 109 bowlers and we took up 29 lanes – 75% of the total lanes at the venue! The grand prize, a Dell laptop, was won by Bob Dean, Senior Assistant Business Manager,” Garcia said.

Congrats to the winning bowling team and to everyone who participated. And thank you to everyone who came out to make the event a success!



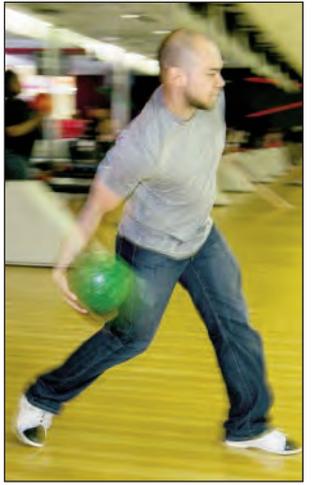
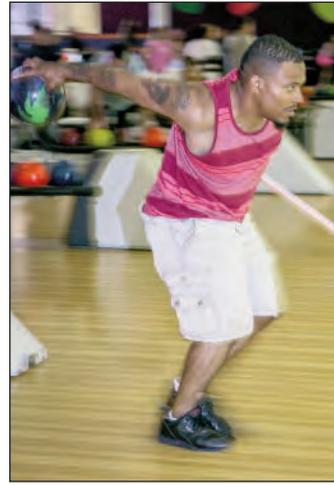
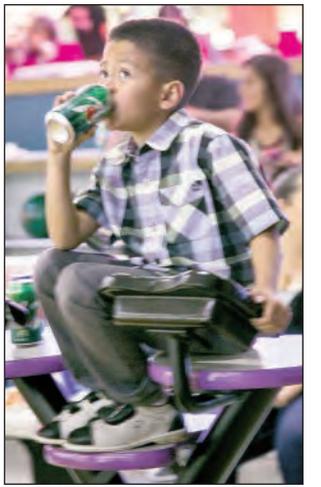
A check is presented by IBEW 1245 to the Moral Values Program.



Sacramento Charity Bowl gets better every year!

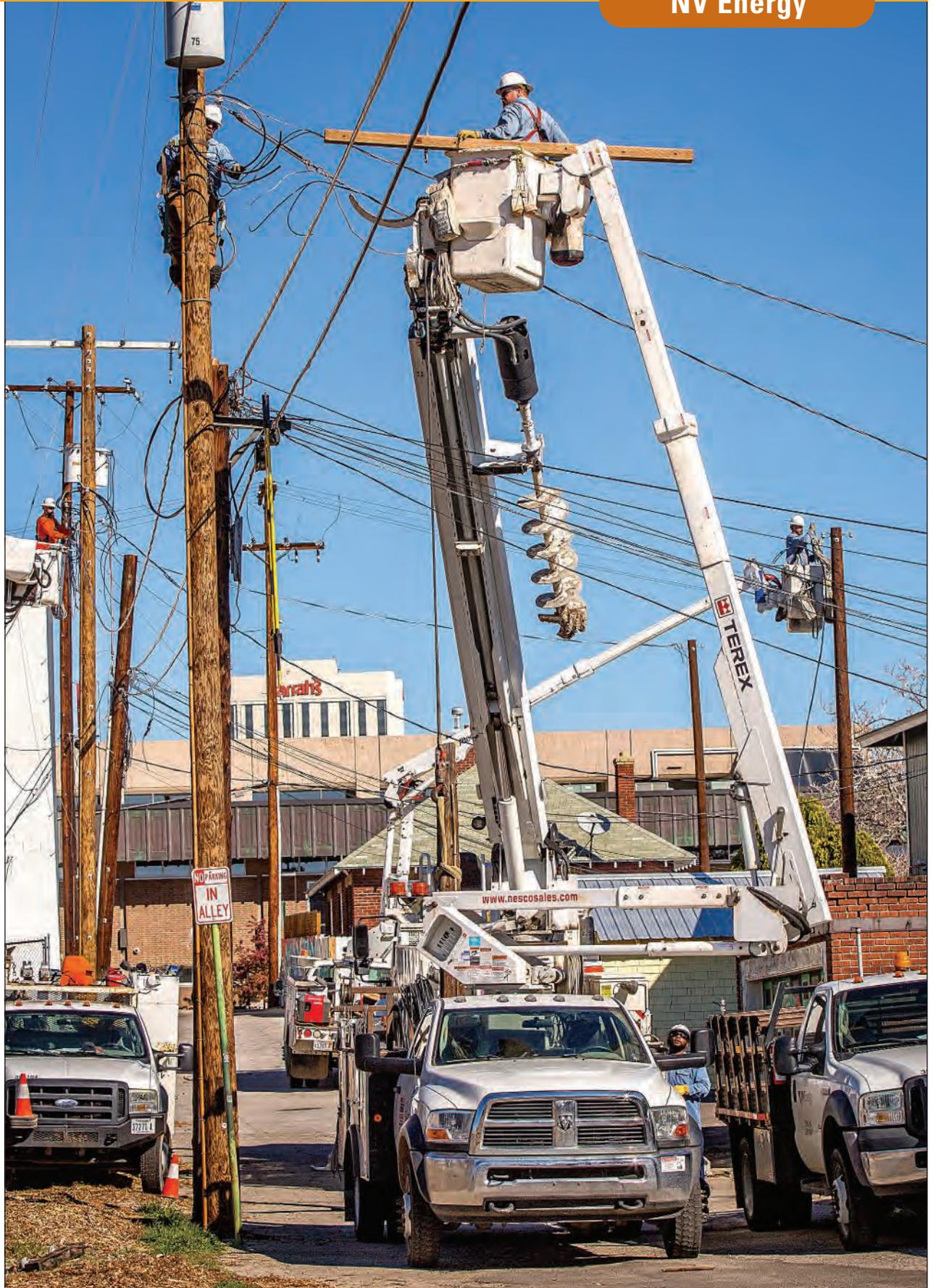


The Winning Team! Renee Trujillo-Buie, Harold Blackshire Jr, Andre Buie and Shawn Buie in the back.





Mike Gill works from the upper bucket, and Kasey Johnson from the lower.



The crew at work.



Foreman Bob Hettan keeps both eyes on his crew.



Samson Wilson works from the bucket.



Handoff between Samson Wilson, left, and Kyle Johnson.



Kyle Johnson, working from the bucket.



Mike Gill works from the bucket.

Photos by John Storey

# UPGRADE IN RENO

An NV Energy crew upgraded electric lines recently in midtown Reno, replacing 4KV with 25KV. Working the job were Foreman Bob Hettan, Linemen Samson Wilson, Kasey Johnson and Mike Gill, and Apprentice Larry Brook.



Larry Brook working on the ground.



From left: Foreman Bob Hettan, Lineman Samson Wilson, Lineman Kasey Johnson, Lineman Mike Gill and on the truck, Apprentice Larry Brook.

# Defending workers in Nevada

By Rita Weisshaar

I never really understood the consequences of not voting, or voting for the wrong state legislators. But my recent experience at the state legislature opened my eyes. Our action, or inaction, in the political realm affects the working families of Nevada, as well as our children and grandchildren.

Voter turnout was low in Nevada's last election, just 45% as compared to the last presidential election in 2012 when it was 80%. The result was to put Republicans in control of both the Nevada Assembly and Senate, giving them the votes to easily pass many bills.

Some legislators came prepared to attack the middle class families of Nevada—our wages, benefits and retirement. There were attacks on public employees' pensions and collective bargaining rights, and also on schools.

One bill would give school districts and the higher education system a shorter time frame to raise funds to build and repair schools. It would also eliminate prevailing wages to be paid on construction and repair projects. Those for the bill were given unlimited time to give their testimony. Those opposed were given 3 minutes only, and many were not allowed to speak at all. This bill was ramrodded through both houses and signed by Governor Brian Sandoval on March 6.

Then the flood was on and there were additional bills introduced in both houses that would affect workers in both the public and private sectors in negative ways.

SB 183 was nicknamed the "Christmas" bill because there were so many "presents" for anti-labor forces. The bill would prohibit deducting union dues from local government employees' paychecks. It would exclude certain employees from the bargaining unit, stop "evergreen" clauses in certain agreements, and eliminate arbitration



Rita Weisshaar, left, trains with Liz Sorenson of CWA on organizing events and processing walk data.

for firefighters, police officers, teachers and educational support personnel when there is an impasse in bargaining.

Probably most destructive of all was SB 193, a bill that would destroy daily overtime protections, requiring overtime premiums only after 40 hours of work in a week.

## The Campaign

I was asked to work on a statewide campaign organized by the AFL-CIO to protect working families. The campaign included walking the districts of legislators who sponsored these bills, holding rallies, and running radio and TV spots.

During the walks each Saturday we circulated "petition postcards" to be delivered to legislators. Each week, from February to the end of May, there were 40 to 100 volunteers from many different unions, and from the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans. In April, we were joined by additional paid walkers. In northern Nevada IBEW 1245 sponsored four walkers: Vicki Borst, Jesse Hoch, Judy Hoch and Ben Weisshaar. CWA and the AFL-CIO also sponsored paid walkers.

All walkers both volunteer and paid covered districts in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Fallon, Elko and Ely. They were collecting hundreds of signed petition cards on each walk. At the same time unions and other concerned groups gathered cards from their members and friends. The number of cards collected totaled over 16,000. Apparently legislators and their staffs

were very disturbed when the labor lobbyists delivered stacks of cards to their offices on numerous occasions.

I was trained to help organize the events, process the walk data, and get petition cards ready for delivery.

We had two major rallies in front of the legislature. After the speakers were done, we marched over to Governor Sandoval's office and used loud chants to urge him to stop these bills. We attracted a lot of attention. You could see people on every floor of the Legislature building peering out the

windows and taking photos. At the last rally on April 23, there were 600 or more in attendance in Carson City and an equal number in Las Vegas.

## Results

The Legislature ended at midnight on June 1. I believe our campaign made an impact and was successful. Of the 35 bills that would impact workers in some way, only 10 passed. One of these was SB 158, which will limit the coverage for industrial insurance claims of occupa-

*continued on page 23*

## Dealing with Warren Buffett: IBEW locals coordinate strategy

Business managers from seven IBEW locals met via teleconference on June 9 to share information and strategy on dealing with Berkshire Hathaway, the company headed by Warren Buffett.

One of the utilities owned by Buffett's company is NV Energy, where employees are represented by IBEW 1245 in the northern part of Nevada and by IBEW 396 in the south. Five other IBEW locals at various Berkshire Hathaway utilities joined with the two Nevada locals last year to form the Utility Coordinating Council (UCC). The goal: create a united front in dealing with Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell, who serves as secretary-treasurer of the UCC, hosted the call. Almost 200 stewards from the seven unions were also on the line.

"We're trying to show Berkshire Hathaway there is a better way to do things than just trying to run over us," Dalzell said, referring to Buffett's past reputation as being hard on unions. Dalzell recapped how the IBEW business managers, along with CEOs from their respective utilities, recently visited Alabama Power to look at its successful approach to labor-management relations.

Brent Donohue, business manager of IBEW 57 in Salt Lake City and president of the UCC, reported that he hopes to extend his local's current agreements

with Berkshire Hathaway utilities to 2020, noting that "Extension gives us some stability."

IBEW 1245 Business Rep. Pat Waite reported on recent developments at NV Energy. He noted that the utility's CEO, Paul Caudill, had attended the May 30 Lineman's Rodeo in Reno and made an effort to "mingle with the troops." Waite said relations with mid-level managers had improved since Berkshire Hathaway took over NV Energy and that grievances over work rules were getting settled more quickly than under the old regime.

Waite noted that IBEW 1245 had maintained a hiring hall for temporary work at NV Energy and that the new management had made all hiring hall workers permanent employees, a move welcomed by the union. In another positive development, the company now allows the union to attend employee orientation sessions and talk to new employees about the benefits of having a union.

Jesse Newman, business manager of IBEW 396 in southern Nevada, said his local had another year-and-a-half on its contract with NV Energy and hoped to extend it by an additional three years. He noted that Caudill was one of the executives participating in the trip to Alabama Power, and had recently agreed to have Alabama Power representatives—both management and stewards—visit NV Energy.

But the reports were not all sweetness and light. Several business managers reported on staffing issues, including workforce reductions and "unsustainable" levels of overtime at their utilities.

One of the utilities with staffing shortages is Pacific Power, reported Travis Eri, the business manager of IBEW 125 in Portland, OR. On the plus side, he said, the utility has been supportive of the local's new safety steward program. Eri, who is vice president of the UCC, thanked the nearly 200 shop stewards who sat in on the call, saying "We appreciate your support and we appreciate your involvement."

Dalzell said he believed the joint effort by the IBEW locals was achieving results. "We have moved the needle in convincing Berkshire Hathaway there's a better way to do things," he said.

The unions in the Council are Locals 57, 109, 125, 396, 499, 659, and 1245.



Union members rally at the legislature in Carson City.

# Hold the Pull comes of age

At its annual meeting on June 11, one thing was very apparent: Hold the Pull has come of age.

IBEW 1245's peer safety program for lineworkers began in 2009 when Business Manager Tom Dalzell decided the union needed to do more to reduce jobsite injuries and fatalities. In the six years since, IBEW 1245's Hold the Pull program has challenged members to adopt higher standards of safety awareness, created a system of safety stewards to promote safe work practices, and created a traveling education program that is more in demand today than ever before.

Evidence of the program's success was the presence at the annual meeting of Julius Mathews, a "lineman's representative" at IBEW 1547 in Alaska. Mathews spoke about his local's ongoing effort to create its own peer safety program. Other IBEW locals have also shown interest, raising the possibility of a network of peer safety programs that learn from and reinforce each other's efforts.

In fact, IBEW 1245's Hold the Pull is beginning to go international. Brady Hansen of IBEW Local 77 in Seattle

attended the June 11 meeting to share his experiences trying to improve line safety in the South American nation of Suriname. This fall, a handful of IBEW 1245 members will join Hansen in a visit there to exchange ideas and information with linemen who work under far different conditions than U.S. linemen.

Dalzell offered a historical overview of how the program initially got off the ground, noting that he simply gave the linemen a mandate to improve safety and that the members themselves took it from there. They succeed beyond any-



Business Manager Tom Dalzell gives historical overview of Hold the Pull.

body's wildest expectations.

"We've had several locals visit to look at the program," said Business Rep Rich Lane. "We've become a model for similar programs."

Among the other speakers of the day were Fred Aboud, representing mem-

bers at NV Energy, who spoke about rubber-glove training, and Dane Moore, who discussed current issues at PG&E. Casey Kelly of Liberty Energy is chair of the committee.

With Mike van Egmond serving as moderator for the day, there was widespread participation by the members, including small group activities.

"They're an active group and they take everything to heart," said Lane.



Fred Aboud discusses safety issues at NV Energy.



Rob Baber, left, and Ben Goehring, attended from City of Redding.



Julius Mathews, IBEW 1547, discusses the program being developed in Alaska.



Jesse Murrill attended from Silicon Valley Power



Phil Pointer attended from City Light and Power.



Brady Hansen discusses the on-going program to help linemen in Suriname.



Hold the Pull, 2015 annual gathering.

Utility Reporter

Photos by John Storey



From left: PG&E members Ron Jones, Travis Glock, John Marshall, and Josh Ramos at the Hilmar Clay Shoot.

# Shooting Clays. Having Fun. Helping Out.



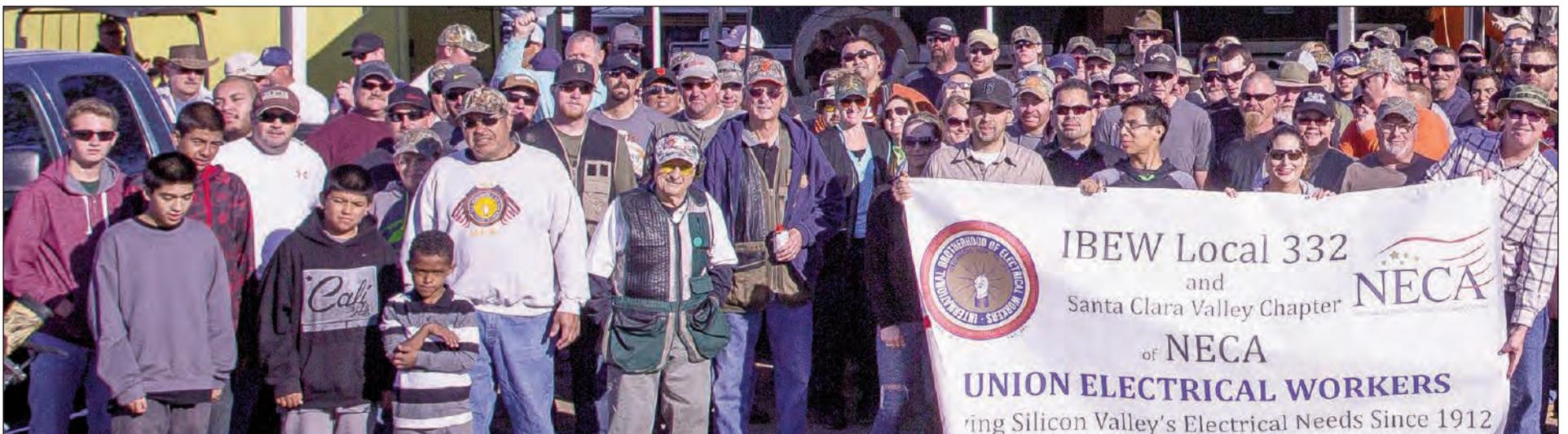
From left: PG&E members Claudia Douglass, Claudell Douglass III, Claudell Douglass, Cameron Douglass (9), Anthony Brown, Eric Wright and W.F. Lewis at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.



Jeff Colin with his son Colin Wolford who won a rifle at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.

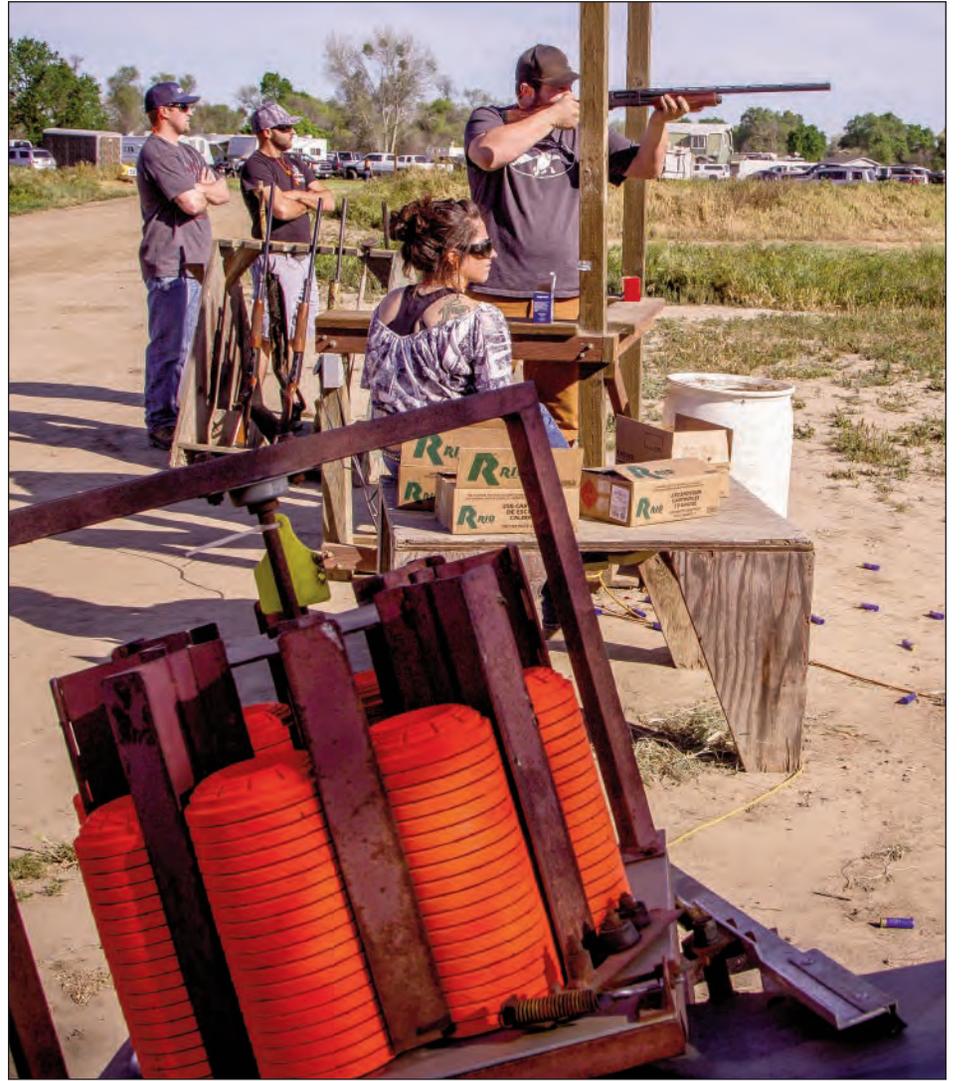


Called Douglass with daughter, Claudia, who won a rifle at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.



IBEW 1245 Clay Shoot in Hilmar, Calif. on Saturday, March 28th, 2015.

IBEW 1245 joined with other IBEW locals from northern California to host two Clay Shoots on March 28. IBEW members gathered in Dunnigan and Hilmar to test their marksmanship and their ability to have fun. Very few failed the fun test. With plenty of eats afterward and raffle prizes galore, the two events provided members, families, and friends a chance to be together under gloriously clear skies. Proceeds from the event, after expenses were paid, totaled \$13,316.28 and were donated to The Pathway Home in Yountville.



From left: Business Rep Carl Lamers, Nathan Ornelas and Business Rep Junior Ornelas.





# SERVICE AWARDS

## East Bay

February 6, 2015



**40 Years**  
From left:  
Richard Van  
Noy, Denyu  
Tom, and  
Gene Wong.



**40 Years** Front row, from left: Josephine Isidro, Dorothy Fortier, and Ella Porep. Back row, from left: Maria Martinez, and Elaine Consiglio.



**35 years** Front row, from left: Ben Hernandez, Dean Wilson, and Al Estes. Back row, from left: Michael Harris, Linda Wilson, and Ron Huey.



**30 years** Front row, from left: William Dockery Jr., Richard Anderson, and Kevin Conley. Back row, from left: John Lawrence, Federico Gomez, and Ezzard Carney.



**50 years** From left: Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean, Ronald Robertson, and Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



**35 years**  
From left: Scott Luer,  
(Dalzell), and Steven  
Lydon.

Photos by  
John Storey



**35 years** Front row, from left: Emma Jones, Shery Burton, and Loretta Smith. Back row, from left: Patricia Lewis, Joyce McGee, and Linnie Ton.



**35 years**  
Front row,  
from left:  
Cornelio  
Javier, Randy  
Tancioco, and  
Michael  
Chong. Back  
row, from left:  
William  
Arnold, Arthur  
Cortez, and  
Neil Ridgway.



**30 years**  
Front row,  
from left:  
Virginia  
Delgadillo,  
Cynthia  
McDonald,  
and Laarni  
Reye-Eichorn.  
Back row, from  
left: Ernest  
Owens, Vern  
Dunham, and  
Michael  
Sanchez.



## 25 years

From left: Daniel Seamen, Ralph Kenyon, and Jose Perez.



**25 years** Front row, from left: Glenn Wong, Sonia Quinones, and Richard Mohr. Back row, from left: Norman O'Brien, Fernando Hernandez, and Gary Cabrera.

*Congratulations on your service!*

# HONOREES

## 50 Years

Robertson, Ronald

## 45 Years

Alvarez, John  
Chan, Valerie  
Hall, Richard  
Lewis, Virginia  
Mozen, Herb  
Padron, Kenneth  
Price, Roy  
Tyler, Jack

## 40 Years

Annastas, Harold  
Armbruster, Dori  
Consiglio, Elaine  
Cooley, Margaret  
Drew, Steven  
Fortier, Dorothy  
Isidro, Josephine  
Martinez, Maria  
Monroe, Edgar  
Porep, Ella  
Tom, Denyu  
Van Noy, Richard  
Whitefield, Mary Ann  
Wilcox, David  
Wong, Gene  
Yuhre, Frank

## 35 Years

Abney, Pat  
Arnold Jr., William  
Brown, Shanda  
Burt, Sharon  
Burton, Shery  
Butler, Ronald  
Caires, Timothy  
Carr, Michael  
Cederquist, Jerry  
Chong, Michael  
Clifton, Jerome  
Contaxis, Mary  
Cortez, Arthur  
Costa, Daniel  
Cravanas, Emma  
Dea, Galen  
Decarlo, Frank  
Dodson, Ron  
Dolay, Lino  
Douglas, William  
Estes III, Alfonso  
Franck, Alan  
Garcia, Mauricio  
Garcia, Ruth  
Grisby, Rosalind  
Guzman, Joseph  
Halsell-Burton, Diane  
Harness, Richard  
Harris, Michael  
Hernandez, Benjamin  
Hines, Keith  
Huey, Ronald  
Isaac, Josephine  
Javier, Cornelio  
Jones, Phyllis  
Joven, Patricia  
Kimberlin, Anita  
Kiyomura, Glenn  
Lassus, Randall

## 30 Years

Lewis, Patricia  
Luer, Scott  
Lydon, Stephen  
Marymee, Brian  
McGee, Joyce  
Mendoza, Fernando  
Montgomery, Diana  
Nomellini, Cynthia  
Olsen, Darryl  
Ong, Kevin  
Phillips, David  
Polen, James  
Rabello, David  
Ramil, Liwayway  
Rayos, Karen  
Ridgway, Neil  
Rinear, Clifford  
Rutland, Jesse  
Ryles, Harry  
Schecher, Michael  
Smith, Loretta  
Sonneborn, Richard  
Sot, John  
Stage Jr., William  
Sullivan, John  
Tambunting Jr., Idefonso  
Tancioco, Randolph  
Tom, Linnie  
Vera, Jaime  
Walker, Stephen  
Washington, Melvin  
Welch, Douglas  
White, Sheryl  
Wilson, Dean  
Wilson, Linda  
Wong, Kirk  
Wong, Steven  
Zermenio, Eduardo

## 30 Years

Achterberg, Douglas  
Anderson, Richard  
Baxter, Jeffrey  
Berumen, Anthony  
Biczo, Steve  
Biggs, J'earl  
Bolf, Scotty  
Bracamonte, Richard  
Byars, Kenneth  
Carney, Ezzard  
Carscadden, Todd  
Chauvin, Kathleen  
Clark, Thomas  
Conley, Kevin  
Davis, Milton  
Delgado, Virginia  
Dockery Jr., William  
Dunham, Vern  
England, Kevin  
Estebez, Nancy  
Forbes, Gregory  
Gerhart, Michael  
Gomez, Federico  
Greenwood, Guy  
Gritsch, Joseph  
Gutierrez, Ronald  
Hess, Rodney  
Jimenez, Mike  
Karp, Paul  
Kemp, Floyd  
Lallian, Balbir  
Lawrence, John  
Leabo, Karl  
Martin, Jose  
Maylon, Victor  
McDonald, Cynthia

## 25 Years

Mitchell, Patrick  
Moore, Arlene  
Morgan, Thomas  
Munoz, Tracy  
Nagy, George  
Noleroth, Toni  
Obayashi, Benjamin  
Owens, Ernest  
Pena, Ricardo  
Phillips, Norman  
Ramirez, Cristy  
Reyes-Eichhorn, Laarni  
Sanchez, Michael  
Saner, Michael  
Sheredy, Kenneth  
Smith, Lowell  
Smoot, John  
Snell, David  
Stamps, Tarbill, Bruce  
Venzon, Fernando  
Vincent, Jack  
Washington, George  
Washington, James  
Wilson, Doris  
Wright, Eric  
Wyatt, Glen

## 25 Years

Becerra, Alonzo  
Beesley, Todd  
Bergeron, Donald  
Boschee, Jeffrey  
Boydston, Keith  
Burk, Eric  
Cabrera, Gary  
Casuga, Suzanne  
Cohl, Wayne  
Combs, David  
Darden, Mike  
Dela Cruz, Elmanuel  
Dorthick, Darrell  
Duvauchelle, James  
Ebert Jr., Forrest  
Gravelle, Allen  
Greene, Joseph  
Haya, David  
Hernandez, Fernando  
Hong, Phat  
Jackson, Eric  
Kenyon III, Ralph  
Kramer, David  
Melgoza, Fernando  
Mohr, Richard  
Morettini, Suzette  
Obrien, Norman  
Pangelina, Suzi  
Perez, Jose  
Pongasi, Gina  
Quinones, Sonia  
Rose, Tamra  
Sanchez, Charles  
Seaman, Daniel  
Storer, Richard  
Walker Jr., Timothy  
Walker, Andre  
Webb, Steve  
Wong, Glenn

## 25 Years

Becerra, Alonzo  
Beesley, Todd  
Bergeron, Donald  
Boschee, Jeffrey

## 20 Years

Boydston, Keith  
Burk, Eric  
Cabrera, Gary  
Casuga, Suzanne  
Cohl, Wayne  
Combs, David  
Darden, Mike  
Dela Cruz, Elmanuel  
Dorthick, Darrell  
Duvauchelle, James  
Ebert Jr., Forrest  
Gravelle, Allen  
Greene, Joseph  
Haya, David  
Hernandez, Fernando  
Hong, Phat  
Jackson, Eric  
Kenyon III, Ralph  
Kramer, David  
Melgoza, Fernando  
Mohr, Richard  
Morettini, Suzette  
Obrien, Norman  
Pangelina, Suzi  
Perez, Jose  
Pongasi, Gina  
Quinones, Sonia  
Rose, Tamra  
Sanchez, Charles  
Seaman, Daniel  
Storer, Richard  
Walker Jr., Timothy  
Walker, Andre  
Webb, Steve  
Wong, Glenn

## 20 Years

Carpio, Louis  
Collins, Michael  
Feliciano, Stephen  
Ferrell, Vincint  
Herrera, Lauro  
Hunter, Michael  
Langlois, Jay  
Long, James  
Long, Nathan  
Markos, Basil  
McCoy II, Kenneth  
McLaughlin, Michael  
Noh, Kerry  
Ortega, Horacio  
Powell, Bryan  
Pritchard, Robert  
Pugh, Rivers  
Ramirez, J.Luis  
Reese, Christopher  
Scott, Keith  
Sharp, Deann  
Thomas, Byron  
Waldron, Troy  
Whatley, Jason

## 15 Years

Alston, Tonya  
Belenson, Arnold  
Cajucom, Efen  
Cardenas, Edward  
Czander, Andrew  
Fountain, Kerry  
Gonzalez, Miguel  
Gregorich, Scott  
Hurtado, Antonio  
Kress, Phil  
Lacy, Chris  
Lammon, David

Lopez, Heidi  
Mcinnis, Elizabeth  
Moran, Noe  
Villarreal, Lucio  
Yang, Xiaoling

## 10 Years

Alberti, Charles  
Alexander, Charlene  
Asher, Leslie  
Aung, San  
Bradley, Zanedra  
Brooks, Nicol  
Brooks-Nelson, Alexander  
Brown, Kenneth  
Campos, Juan  
Capell, Ray  
Cardoza, Genaro  
Carter, David  
Chana, Marlene  
Corbin, Jeffrey  
Coronel, Jose  
Kramer, David  
Melgoza, Fernando  
Mohr, Richard  
Morettini, Suzette  
Obrien, Norman  
Pangelina, Suzi  
Perez, Jose  
Pongasi, Gina  
Quinones, Sonia  
Rose, Tamra  
Sanchez, Charles  
Seaman, Daniel  
Storer, Richard  
Walker Jr., Timothy  
Walker, Andre  
Webb, Steve  
Wong, Glenn

Roberts, Justin  
Rodens, Steve  
Rodgers, Carlos  
Rude, Jeff  
Ruiz, Daniel  
Sartorio, Anthony  
Saunders, Rick  
Scheiding, Bret  
Schmidt III, Johann  
Sinisi, Erik  
Souza Jr, John  
Steinwand, Myron  
Stephens, Kevin  
Stoker, Michael  
Strathkoetter, Jasen  
Swain Sr, Kenneth  
Terrazas, Leo  
Tomasello, Scot  
Urrutia, Dennis  
Valdez, Joshua  
Vasquez, Javier  
Vaughan, Drew  
Wolfenbarger, Bryan  
Yadao, Lisa-Marie  
Zapien, Juan

## 5 Years

Acala, Eugenio V.  
Aguilar, Angel  
Alfaro, Christopher  
Andelin, Heather  
Arceneaux, Analida  
Ayala, Omar  
Bottom, Andrea  
Brown, Craig  
Bruce, Carson  
Cardoso, Ann-Marie  
Carey, Michael  
Chan, Chapman  
Chow, Andy  
Dupire, Monty  
Edmund, John  
Enrile, Troy  
Escarreola, Isidro  
Fontejon, Richard  
Gibbons, Christopher  
Griffiths, Morgan  
Hardy, Japheth  
Harvey, Steven  
Hunziker, Nicholas  
Jacobs, Sean E.  
Languren, Salvador  
Lau, Kalvin  
Leone, Diana  
Musick, Justin  
Natoli, Cara  
Nava, Juan  
Noriega, Nicholas  
Norwood, James  
Olsen, Timothy  
Parrott, Benjamin  
Piva, David  
Remick, Dustin  
Sabian-Cuffman, Christina  
Smith, Matthew  
Stake, Michael  
Sutter, Douglas  
Taunton, Jordan  
Tula, Juan  
Tweedy, Jason  
Vazquez, Guilleimo  
Watchers, Michael  
Weiman, John  
Wilkins, Miles  
Wolff, Reiner  
Wong, Kevin  
Wright, Stephen



## 20 years

Front row, from left: Byron Thomas and Luis Ramirez. Back row, from left: Rivers Pugh and Louis Carpio.



## 15 years

Front row, from left: Ed Cardenas and Kerry Fountaine. Back row, from left: Liz McInnis and Tonya Alston.



**5 years** Front row, from left: Douglas Sutter, Matthew Smith, and Steve Harvey. Back row, from left: Kevin Wong, Japheth Hardy, Michael Cary, Andy Chow, and Salvador Languren.

## PG&E negotiations

# Getting ready to bargain

The IBEW 1245 bargaining committee has been busy preparing an opening proposal for general negotiations with PG&E.

The full committee (Physical, Clerical and Benefits) met together the week of April 6, for four days in May, and on June 3. The full committee was also scheduled to meet June 22-26, as the Utility Reporter was going to press. The Benefits subcommittee met separately on May 5 and 15.

After the company and union have completed and exchanged opening proposals, full-scale negotiations will begin, probably around labor day. When a tentative agreement is reached it will be submitted to all IBEW members at PG&E for a ratification vote. The current agreements—Physical, Clerical, Benefits—term out on Dec. 31.

## Recent Letter Agreements

Business Manager Tom Dalzell recently has signed several letter agreements with PG&E on the following topics:

- LA 15-12, PG&E Call Centers, covering Unanticipated Vacation threshold, flextime procedures and time off with permission and without pay. Subject to ratification by affected members. Approved.
- LA 15-10, PG&E Gas Operations, compliance
- LA 15-13, dealing with Electrical Technician classification and line of progression
- LA 15-08, updating of Contact Center Overtime Guidelines
- LA 15-09, FR Clothing

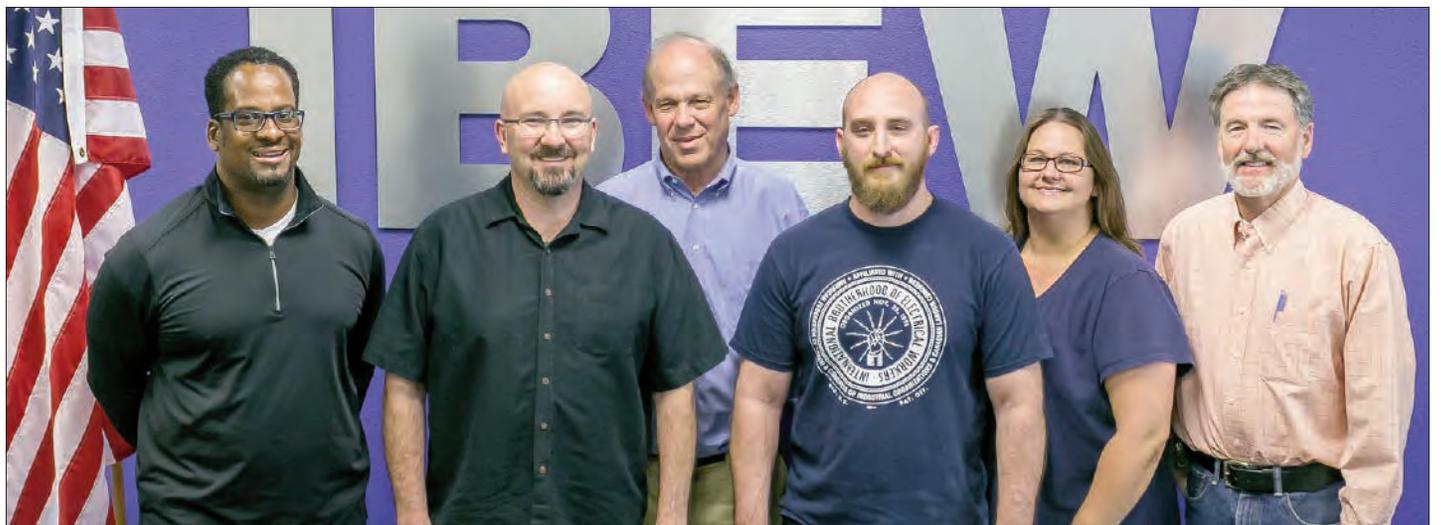
Virtually all new IBEW-PG&E Letter Agreements are posted on the union's website, in the PG&E section. Find them here: [ibew1245.com/news/pg-e-news/](http://ibew1245.com/news/pg-e-news/). You can find most Letter Agreements and PG&E grievance decisions (PreReview Committee, Review Committee, Arbitration) in the PG&E documents library on the IBEW 1245 website at [ibew1245.com/library/pg-e-documents/](http://ibew1245.com/library/pg-e-documents/).



Physical bargaining committee



Clerical bargaining committee



Benefits bargaining committee

## Mark McCrea hired as business rep

Mark McCrea has been hired as a business representative by Local 1245.

McCrea is a 31-year member of the IBEW. He's been a shop steward for the past 20 years and has worked as a troubleman at PG&E for about the same period of time.



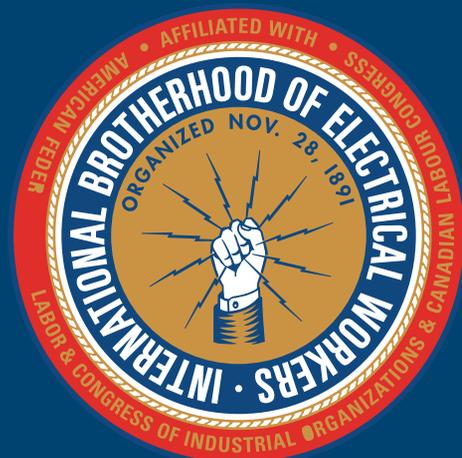
Mark McCrea

McCrea, who began his new job on April 6, will be working the assignment area previously held by Sonny Hollesen, who has opted to return to work at PG&E. They will work together during a brief transition period.

Welcome aboard, Brother McCrea!

# Unity is Strength.

## Support your IBEW 1245 Bargaining Team!



## Lompoc improvements

Members of IBEW 1245 ratified a successor Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Lompoc that provides wage increases and other improvements. The vote to approve was 71 to 1.

Bargaining lasted for approximately 4-1/2 months before agreement was reached. The Lompoc City Council approved the agreement at its April 7 meeting.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- An 8% net increase to all salary ranges by June 11, 2016, which includes 1% COLA retroactive to January 10, 2015, 2% COLA effective June 13, 2015, and 5% (new step "F") effective June 11, 2016.
- 2% to 10% equity increases and certification pay, in addition to COLAs, for our members employed within six separate classifications. The agreement also provides for "meet and confer" over potential equity enhancements for Fleet Mechanics.
- Enhanced provisions for overtime, holiday, sick leave, and shop steward

time-off.

"Local 1245's success in negotiating this tentative agreement reflects the work of the great employee representatives we had on our negotiating committee, and is also a direct result of the November 2014 Lompoc City Council election," said 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

"Led by Chief Shop Steward Jaime Tinoco, Local 1245 members at the City of Lompoc walked precincts, set up information booths, and worked tirelessly to educate the electorate that the City needed a Mayor who would protect core City services in the best interest of the citizens. We were proud to support Mayoral candidate Bob Lingl, and he was successful," Dalzell said.

IBEW 1245's negotiating committee employee representatives were Jaime Tinoco, Karen Niemi, Theresa Hernandez, Gary Silbaugh, Travis Kalin, John Daniels, Leo Ramirez and Ko Sumarayadi, along with IBEW 1245 Representatives Mark Taylor, Pat Duffy, and Ray Thomas.



During the Lompoc ratification vote, from left: Gary Silbaugh, Unit 1218 recorder, shop steward and negotiating committee member), Fernando DeLosReyes, teller; Bobby Garcia, judge and shop steward; Seth Cannaday, teller; and Jaime Tinoco, Unit 1218 Chair, chief shop steward and negotiating committee member.



## One-year pact at Fernley

IBEW 1245 members on June 15 ratified a new one-year agreement with the City of Fernley.

The agreement, which is effective July 1, provides a 4% wage/step increase for employees who have satisfactory performance. The increase starts on anniversary date of each individual.

The agreement also:

- Tightens up language on City moving an employee's anniversary date. It now can only be changed on promotion which includes at least a 5% wage increase.
- Cleans up and better defines overtime language and what overtime is subject to NV PERS.
- Increases payout for employees achieving training or certifications not required in their Job description.
- Changes probation for new hires from 90 days to 1 year.
- Allows new employees to promote after 90 days (previously it was 1 year).

Serving on the bargaining committee for the union were Wayne Vanassche, Barry Williams and Julie Torres, along with Business Rep. Randy Osborn.

## Pact approved at LMUD

Members of IBEW 1245 ratified a new agreement with Lassen Municipal Utility District. The District's Board has approved the agreement.

The five-year agreement provides wage increases of 2.5% on July 1, 2015. In each of the following four years it provides wage increases based on the Consumer Price Index (Urban) plus 1%, up to a maximum of 3%. The agreement increases vacation by 40 hours between years 20 and 25.



Randy Osborn

In other provisions, the agreement:

- Increases standby pay to \$800 per week.
- Improves rest period language.
- Improves upgrade language.
- Allows employees with excess of 500 hours of accrued sick leave to convert some sick leave to vacation.
- District will pay 100% of employee only MDV premium, employees with dependents will contribute a flat \$25 per month to cover all their dependents.

Serving on the bargaining committee for IBEW 1245 were Jim Lovercheck, Joanne Villalovos, Lisa Hay, and Patrick "Sean" Norvell, along with Business Rep. Randy Osborn.

## Nevada, from page 16

tional related diseases for police officers and firefighters to those diagnosed while the person is still actively employed.

SB 183, the "Christmas" bill, did not reach the governor's desk. Nor did several other truly bad bills. But one of the worst—the bill that would gut the 8-hour day—looked impossible to stop. It had passed both houses, with amendments. It looked like thousands of Nevada workers would be the losers. But then a miracle occurred.

On the last day of the session, late in the evening, Gov. Sandoval sent word that if SB 193 came to him, he would veto it. The bill died in the Assembly that night. I don't know how Gov. Sandoval made his decision. Perhaps he did it on principle. Perhaps he heard about our petition cards being delivered to his party members. Or maybe he did listen to us as we stood with our brothers and sisters chanting outside his office to stop the attacks on the working families in Nevada.

It was through hard work and dedication that working people prevented most of these bills from becoming laws in our state. We got lucky this time. To prevent these attacks in the future, all of us need to take seriously our responsibility as citizens to vote, and we need to be very careful about who we elect to office.

# MIDDLE-CLASS

According to Census Bureau data, the middle 60% of the population (the middle class), got 53% of the national income in the late 1960s. Today the middle 60% gets just 45% of the national income. That lost income is going to the rich and the super-rich.

© 2014 Huck



Opening Ceremony



Brian Cooper, NVE, 1-year member



Opening ceremony



Bird's-eye view of the rodeo grounds



Stephen Solario, PGE, 2-year member



Logan Schaffer, PG&E, 3-year member



Jared Wilson, NVE, 11-year member



Wesley Clay, IBEW 1245, 1-year member

# Reno Rodeo show

Apprentice linemen put on a spectacular show at the NV Energy 2015 Lineman's Rodeo in Reno on May 30—while raising over \$12,000 for charity. Co-sponsored by IBEW 1245, the rodeo featured apprentices from NV Energy, PG&E and IBEW Outside Line Construction competing in five events: Hurt Man Rescue, Pole Climb, Arrestor Change Out, Knots Around the Clock and a "Mystery Event." Friends and families were on hand to watch the appren-



Brandon Dance, PG&E, 3-year member



Photos by John Storey



Nick Smith, IBEW 1245



Karl Heidelberg, NVE, 9-year member



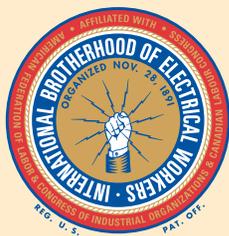
Judges at work

# cases apprentices

Apprentices strut their stuff, and there was entertainment for the little tykes, too—including bucket rides and face-painting.

The event demonstrated the extensive technical and physical capabilities of Nevada and California apprentice linemen. The \$12,000 raised by the event will benefit the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra.

Congratulations to all the competitors!



Nickolas Michalak, PG&E, 2-year member



David Diaz, NVE, 7-year member



Anthony Holguin, IBEW 1245, 7-year member  
Utility Reporter



All geared up!



Samson Wilson, NVE, helped organize the event



# SERVICE AWARDS

**San Jose**  
February 27, 2015

*Congratulations on your service!*



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Gwendolyn Lalone and Judy Castellanos. Back row, from left: Everett Knapp, (Freitas), and Peter Narlesky.

**15 Years**  
From left: Diana Plumlee, (Freitas), and Stacey Francine.



Photos by John Storey

**10 Years**  
Front row, from left: (Freitas) and Jason Creel. Back row, from left: Jaunte Darden, Lisa Brown-Anderson, and Brian Prince.



**5 Years**  
Front row, from left: Jose Tinajero and Richard Fontejon. Back row, from left: (Dean) and (Dalzell).



**40 Years** From left: Executive Board Vice President, Art Freitas, with 40 year member Edward Hernandez and Executive Board President, Mike Davis.



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Gary Zuniga, Minerva Tomka, and Valerie Humphrey. Back row, from left: Michael Carr, Janice Bergh, Suzy Oka, and Richard Davis.



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Ruben Suniga, Sharon Clifford, and Charles Korman II. Back row, from left: (Freitas), Rebecca Lau, and Ernest Orepeza.

## HONOREES

### 40 Years

Garrett, Dawn  
Hernandez, Edward  
Langone, Jan  
Oclassen, Frank  
Vetter, Barry

Carruthers, Elisabeth  
Clifford, Sharon  
Cox, Donald  
Evans, Jane  
Ferguson, Shawn  
Gurley, Cory  
Haro, Tracy  
Jaques, Gillian  
Korman II, Charles  
Lau, Rebecca  
Moore, Sean  
Nash, Bret  
Orepeza, Ernest  
Redman, Randy  
Suniga, Ruben  
Van Waardenber, David

Lalone, Gwendolyn  
Lopez, Paul  
McCall, Marc  
Moore, Michael  
Narlesky, Peter  
Patterson Jr., Norrell  
Pedro, Frank  
Pollock, Camae  
Rock, Charles  
Talaugon, Jonathan  
Turano III, Salvatore

Guerrero, Christoph  
McClue, Christoph  
Nguyen, Ruong  
Plumlee, Diana  
Price, Adam  
Stephenson, Janice  
Tucker, James  
Vargas, Mauro  
Yamada, Payton

### 10 Years

Aguilar, Delia  
Alcazar, Marta  
Banfield, Joshua  
Becker, Joanne  
Brown, Lisa  
Candelaria, Robert  
Chace, Ricardo  
Coetzee, Dawid  
Cortez, Aaron  
Creel, Jason  
Cueva, Mariano  
Darden, Jaunte'  
Davallou, Perry  
Eckhoff, Perry  
Flores, Abel  
Gentry, Debrina  
Gonzales, Rosalie  
Gonzalez, Ulices

### 20 Years

Espinoza, Pablo  
Fralely, Kevin  
Gonzalez, Leonardo  
Martin, Jimmie  
Russell, John

### 25 Years

Aguayo, Aurelyo  
Arreola, Michael  
Campedel, Gene  
Castellanos, Judy  
Charlton, Jeffrey  
Dean, John  
Guillen, David  
Itanen, Allen  
Knapp, Everett

### 30 Years

Caldwell, Fred

Griffin, Jaymar  
Gustamantes, Jennifer  
Gutherie, Kathy  
Hernandez, Deborah  
Hernandez, Isidro  
Herrera, Arturo  
Juarez-Ruiz, Isidro  
Kiles, Janet  
Leyva, Aaron  
Leyva, Judah  
Lopez, Armando  
Macadangang, Mark

Arvizu, Arturo  
Arvizu, Francisco  
Arvizu, Guillermo  
Arvizu, Jose Carmen  
Arvizu, Jose  
Bribescas, Antonio  
Chavez, Matias  
Chernenko, Evgeny  
Garcia, Jesus  
Garcia, Jesus  
Haskins Jr., Larry  
Leung, Lin  
Lundtvedt, Gary  
Manuleleua, Malia  
Matuu, Vincent  
Mendieta, Noe  
Ngo, Truong  
Olvera, Pedro  
Osuna Sr, David  
Padilla, Luis  
Paixao, Jose  
Peterson, Edward  
Puente, Maria  
Rivera, David  
Rivera, Joel  
Rivera, Sacramento  
Rodriguez, Clemente  
Tinajero, Jose  
Torrez, Roberto  
Tovar, Gerardo  
Velasquez, Jose

### 5 Years

Arroyo, Jaime  
Arvizu, Antonio

# Stress, PPE and chicken switches

Frontier Communications employees attended a SMUD class on high voltage and protection for telecommunications workers installing equipment in SMUD substations. The training included grounding at substations, recognizing live parts, arc flash and hazards in the workplace. It was a two-day course. Supervisors want employees to have one set of FR clothing for work around energized areas. Employees have been advised to stay clear of areas during switching of breakers.

Frontier has received approval to purchase a battery acid tester that uses a drop instead of putting a larger amount of acid into a hydrometer that increases the chance of the technician coming in contact with battery acid. Questions arose surrounding testing of battery acid in switching facilities and eye protection regulations in the event

of an explosion or splash.

Technicians at a SMUD substation had an incident hooking up a string of batteries that shorted and caused a fire. The cause was improper hook-up that shorted out the string. SMUD has started to use a remote switching "chicken switch" that allows the operator to be away from the breaker while being switched in or out. Operators say it works well and reduced the hazard compared to doing the operation by hand inside the arc flash boundary area.

At Modesto Irrigation District a cement truck vs. pole that involving a 30-foot service pole caused an unusual event for a line crew who worked to do repairs. What looked like an easy job brought a surprise when the pole would not pull despite using the largest digger derrick and backhoe. When the pole split in two it was revealed that an AT&T bore crew had bored through the middle of the pole butt. There were no injuries involved and it was unknown if the fiber optic cable was damaged. This event calls into question the danger of crews boring into energized areas.

A PG&E gas operations PPE matrix advises employees about the type of protection required for a given job task. In gas operations the company has

informed employees that the tool and PPE budget for 2015 has been exhausted by 180%. The total budget expense amount was not known.

At PG&E it was reported there are signs that some employees are exhibiting higher levels of stress. The roll out of new policies and procedures cannot be followed because the equipment is not available for training. Automotive accident policy was rolled out but there is no implementation in place. Workload is increasing and volume of duties increasing. Employees are being asked to work extra hours and the pace is getting hurried. An employee reported building a gas manifold and the cap blew almost hitting him on the head. It's not just the workforce but first line supervision and above who are suffering from stress also. The company has ergonomic plans, stretch and flex, dynamic warm up but nothing for dealing with stress. There needs to be a study of stress, the environment that produces stress and how it can be mitigated.

An employee using poly set expanding foam shook up the compound and put the cap back on causing it to explode in his face. He had a minor injury but the potential to cause injury was recognized.



A crew installing a three-phase service put the hot leg in the wrong position and closed in the circuit. A grounded hot leg was identified but did not explode because there was not a good ground. The crew made the change without incident.

Tree Trimming crews have reported that pine trees are showing signs of weakness because of the drought. Limbs being cut are snapping off causing employees to lose control of branches. In the future high winds may cause more damage than normal in storms because of this effect.

## Accident Reports

There have been no additional follow up reports from PG&E to the accidents that took place on March 25 in which a PG&E lineman was burned on his face in an arc flash incident in Fresno and an incident on May 6 in which a PG&E lineman broke both legs while pulling a pole during a re-conductor job in Fresno.

### Union Plus interstate moving discount

## Moving?

Your first move should be to check out the **Union Plus Moving Discount** program.

### Allied and North American Van Lines

We have partnered with two nationally trusted, full-service van lines, Allied and North American to provide you with easy access to comparison moving estimates, free in-home surveys, and special discounts on long distance moving and in-transit storage.

### Free Moving Estimate

Get a free estimate courtesy of Allied and North American Van Lines. Along with your free moving estimate, you are qualified to get special discounts for your moving day. Visit [www.UnionPlus.org/Moving](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Moving) to get your free moving estimate or call **1-800-234-1159** today to speak to a knowledgeable representative.



[UnionPlus.org/Moving](http://UnionPlus.org/Moving)

## Requests double for peer group presentations

Due to the increased level of requests for peer groups to attend and make presentations at safety kick-offs and other events it has become necessary to require a minimum two-week lead time. Requests have almost doubled from times past and now that the word is out that committee members and safety stewards are involved what was once a request for approximately 25 presentations per group per year are expected to be close to 50.

Safety stewards and committee members attended a peer communications class last February and the 14 additional speakers has alleviated some of the workload; however, time off requests have become an issue and employer needs have become an important consideration. The peer groups have had to turn down approximately 10 requests this year due to schedule conflicts or short notice requests. Any staff members who wish to have a Hold the Pull, Control the Pressure or Keep the Clearance safety talk at their stewards training or other event, contact John Kent (jdk7) or Rich Lane (rvl5).

**Hold the Pull Stewards Summit:** The Hold the Pull annual meeting on June 11 featured presentations by Julius Mathews from IBEW Local 1547, which is forming a peer safety program modeled on our's, and by Brady Hansen, the IBEW Local 77 lineman who has been organizing material and technical assistance for linemen in Suriname. For additional reporting on this event, please see page 17.

**Control the Pressure:** The CTP group is now planning their safety stewards summit, scheduled for August 12th. Cut-off date for attendance confirmation is August 5.

On May 30, four members of the CTP committee and two safety stewards attended the second annual gas rodeo at the Livermore Training Academy. The CTP crew manned an information booth that had set up a monitor showing the peer groups video, passed out stickers, literature and talked with the crowd about gas safety. PG&E invited CTP to attend through Business Representative Lou Mennel.

CTP attendees were committee chairman Ernie Pena, Keith Hopp, Roy Cabral and safety stewards Trevor Robertson and Matt Davis.

**Keep the Clearance:** The Keep the Clearance committee was requested to perform a job safety interview with two Davey Tree trimmers who were seen to violate the keys to life policy of their employer by not wearing the proper personal protective equipment. At the regular May 6 meeting, both the tree trimmers did not feel that the violations were very serious, however the committee members did not accept their explanation and pointed out that what seems minor is a sign of more serious future risks if not addressed. They further pointed out that the company is taking a new and different approach with the Keep the Clearance committee and the desired result of the interview is a safer workplace. Disciplinary action is held in abeyance for six months and if there are no additional violations they are dropped. Both men faced a maximum of three days off without pay.

**Mantenga la distancia:** Se le solicitó al comité Mantenga la distancia que realizara una entrevista de seguridad en el trabajo a dos podadores de Davey Tree que fueron vistos incumpliendo la política de llaves de la vida de su empleador por no llevar el equipo de protección personal adecuado. En la reunión regular del 6 de mayo, ambos podadores de árboles no sintieron que las violaciones a la política eran muy graves, sin embargo, los miembros del comité no aceptaron su explicación y señalaron que lo que parece no tener mucha importancia es un signo de riesgos más graves en el futuro si no se corrige. Señalaron además que la compañía está tomando un enfoque nuevo y diferente con el comité Mantenga la distancia y que el resultado deseado de la entrevista es un lugar de trabajo más seguro. La acción disciplinaria se mantiene en suspenso temporal por seis meses y si no hay violaciones adicionales se eliminará la acción disciplinaria. Las dos personas estaban sujetas a un máximo de tres días libres sin pago.



## Friendship, Unity, Solidarity *Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad*

MORE PHOTOS of the Rippon Tournament are online here:  
<http://bit.ly/1yLz8sm>



RIPPON, CA  
Saturday  
April 18th



Clear blue skies and mild weather prevailed at IBEW 1245's two soccer tournaments for Line Clearance Tree Trimmers this spring. The tournaments were held on April 18 at Mistlin Sports Center in Ripon and on May 9 at Alan Witt Community Park in Fairfield.

Eight teams at each location took to the fields in brightly colored jerseys of green, blue, orange, gold, red, maroon, white and navy blue, while families and friends cheered them on. Both tournaments featured activities with kids, including junior soccer competition and spirited whacking of the piñatas, which eventually yielded their treats.

Un cielo despejado y un agradable clima prevalecieron en los dos torneos de fútbol de los Podadores de Árboles para el Despeje de Líneas del IBEW 1245 esta primavera. Los torneos se celebraron el 18 de abril en el Centro Deportivo Mistlin en Ripon y el 9 de mayo en el parque comunitario Alan Witt en Fairfield.

Ocho equipos en cada localidad tomaron los campos de fútbol con sus coloridas camisetas verdes, azules, anaranjadas, doradas, rojas, rojas granate, blancas y azules marino, mientras los familiares y amigos los animaban. En ambos torneos se llevaron a cabo actividades infantiles, incluidas competencias de fútbol juvenil y unas buenas palizas a las piñatas, que finalmente dejaron caer su botín.

¡Y, naturalmente, hubo una deliciosa





MORE PHOTOS of the Fairfield Tournament are online here: <http://bit.ly/IQGCsrt>

Photos by John Storey

And naturally, there was a delicious barbecue!

The 12-man rosters were developed by team captains from both localities, who helped preserve and promote the spirit of the day: *Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad* (Friendship, Unity, Solidarity).

Tree Trimmer Business Reps Junior Ornelas, Abel Sanchez and Carl Lamers assisted with game-day logistics at both locations, with plenty of help from other IBEW 1245 staff. Lou Minnel and Al Fortier manned the 1245 BBQ in Fairfield, while Mike Saner and John Mendoza did chef duty in Ripon. Volunteer Jose Artiga oversaw kids' activities.

Hope to see you all again next year!



barbacoa!

Los capitanes de los equipos de cada localidad estuvieron a cargo de desarrollar sus plantillas de 12 jugadores y ayudaron a preservar y promover el espíritu de la jornada: *Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad*.

Los Representantes de Negocios de los Podadores de Árboles Junior Ornelas, Abel Sanchez y Carl Lamers colaboraron con la logística del día del torneo en ambas localidades, con mucha ayuda del personal del IBEW 1245. Lou Minnel y Al Fortier estuvieron a cargo de la barbacoa 1245 en Fairfield, mientras Mike Saner y John Mendoza cumplieron con el deber de chef en Ripon. El voluntario Jose Artiga supervisó las actividades infantiles.

¡Esperamos verlos a todos de nuevo el año que viene!





### Arbitration is a success

## Fired member gets job back

**W**e are pleased to report that we prevailed in arbitration over a termination at Wright Tree Service of the West. The union brother was accused of challenging a coworker to fight by two General Foremen. The alleged threat was allegedly witnessed by the two General Foremen whose testimony was a no sale with the arbiter. Our brother supposedly challenged his very good friend who also testified that there was no challenge. Importantly, our fine Staff Attorney Alex Pacheco found that sworn testimony from an unemployment appeal hearing could be used in the arbitration. The General Foremen's testimony differed in the unemployment appeal hearing and the arbitration, causing credibility issues for both. Our union brother was ordered to be made whole, less one week suspension, and get his job back.

A couple of contractors are holding up employee wage progressions over the lack of Commercial Drivers Licenses. We have made some headway and expect to prevail on this issue.

Our biggest contractor continues to drop people from the union rolls when they are off work for Workers Compensation or Disability and in a few cases when they go on vacation. The problem is made worse because the employees don't look at their pay stubs closely and in some cases this has led to the employees having to start all over in terms of their union seniority dates. We continue trying to get members to watch their stubs for this reason and many others.

The Fairfield Soccer tournament was a great success, Eileen Purcell and Liz McInnis were indispensable, as they have been in past tournaments, in keeping the event on track. The tournaments were smoothest yet.

### Asplundh Tree Expert

We recently had our first Tree unit meeting in Sparks, NV. The company is currently running with 32 employees covering NV Energy's northern system. We had a good turnout at our meeting in April. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at Garibaldi's Pizza Oven, 1180 Scheels Drive, Sparks, NV 89434.

The company has agreed to adhere to the agreement when a crew member fails to show up for work. The less senior employee shall be sent home for the day.

### Davey Tree Surgery

Central Coast has sent a three-man crew to the state of Washington for a special project. They asked the union for help with travel letters.

There are still some issues with vacation hours not being paid. Over Memorial Day everyone worked five 8-hour days because of the holiday. The following week crews returned to their alternative schedules.

The recently filed grievance concerning 10-hour shifts continues to progress as we gather more information regarding claims of past practice.

We had an employee terminated for not reporting damage to a cable line. Employees must report all incidents in the system; this is company policy. Most importantly, when PG&E gets involved with the situation, there is no room for error here. Honesty is the best policy.

### Mario Tree Service

Mario crews are working in the north part of the state in areas represented by Business Rep. Carl Lamers. We are having issues with the company not paying employee union dues. We are working with the company to fix this issue.

### Synergy Tree

Some weeks ago the company was put on "stand down" by PG&E for an incident that happened in the San Jose Division. They did not work for two weeks. They tore down a primary line and then put it up themselves; they did not tell anyone. A PG&E lineman saw the lines tied with a piece of rope on both poles' insulators. The employees were so lucky that they were not electrocuted.

### Trees Inc.

We met up with Vegetation Control crews in Los Padres Division. They asked for more money as they are the lowest paid on PG&E property. They also asked about Obama's proposal to require employers to provide paid sick leave. His proposal has not yet been passed by Congress.

The contract covering San Joaquin—Stockton, SMUD, Angels Camp, and Pine Grove—has been awarded to Wright Tree Service of the West. The company is interested in keeping as many of the employees as possible. Notices have been issued to allow for transfers to PG&E, South Dakota, Salt Lake City, Arizona, and any other state where the company is performing work.

### Utility Tree Service

Utility Tree has a lot of work in the San Jose Division. We have a few issues with promotions and are trying to fix them. The company is not giving vacations because they are behind schedule.

The Grievance Review Committee (GRC) has four open termination cases pending, with one more coming on line. Several new grievances are also coming down the line. We expect to discuss these matters at the next GRC, in June, with the possibility of moving them to the Arbitration Committee.

The SMUD contract has been awarded to The Original Mowbray in the North. UTS is allowing transfers system-wide. We expect several members to change headquarters to the North Valley, Solano, Yolo, and San Joaquin Division.

### El arbitraje es un éxito

## Miembro que había sido despedido regresa al trabajo

**N**os complace informar que hemos prevalecido en el arbitraje de un despido en Wright Tree Service of the West. Dos capataces generales acusaron a un hermano sindicalista de desafiar a un compañero de trabajo a una pelea. La presunta amenaza fue supuestamente presenciada por dos Capataces Generales cuyo testimonio el árbitro no aceptó como válido. Nuestro hermano supuestamente desafió a su muy buen amigo, quien también testificó que no hubo ningún desafío. Es importante destacar que el excelente abogado de nuestro equipo, Alex Pacheco, encontró que el testimonio jurado de una audiencia de apelación de desempleo podría ser utilizado en el arbitraje. Los testimonios de los Capataces Generales diferían en la audiencia de apelación de desempleo y durante el arbitraje, causando problemas de credibilidad en ambos. Nuestro hermano sindicalista recibió la orden de reintegrarse, menos una suspensión de una semana y de recuperar su empleo.

Algunos contratistas han detenido los ascensos salariales de los empleados en base a la falta de licencias de conducir comerciales. Hemos logrado algunos avances y esperamos prevalecer sobre este asunto.

Nuestro mayor contratista sigue sacando gente de las listas sindicales cuando están ausentes del trabajo por indemnización por accidente laboral o incapacidad, y en algunos pocos casos cuando toman vacaciones. El problema se agrava porque los empleados no revisan con cuidado sus talonarios de pago y en algunos casos esto ha llevado a que los empleados tengan que empezar desde el principio en términos de sus fechas de antigüedad sindical. Seguimos tratando que los miembros revisen sus talonarios por esta razón y muchas otras.

El torneo de fútbol en Fairfield fue un gran éxito. Eileen Purcell y Liz McInnis fueron indispensables, tal como lo han sido en torneos pasados para lograr que el evento se llevará a cabo siguiendo los planes. Estos han sido hasta ahora los torneos mejor organizados.

### Asplundh Tree Expert

Recientemente tuvimos nuestra primera reunión de la unidad de podadores de árboles en Sparks, NV. Actualmente la compañía trabaja con 32 empleados que cubren el sistema del norte de NV Energy. Tuvimos una buena participación en nuestra reunión en abril. Nuestras reuniones se celebran el segundo martes de cada mes en Garibaldi Pizza Oven, 1180 Scheels Drive, Sparks, NV 89434.

La compañía se ha comprometido a cumplir con el acuerdo cuando un miembro de la cuadrilla no se presenta para el trabajo. El empleado con menor antigüedad será enviado a su casa por el día.

### Davey Tree Surgery

Central Coast ha enviado una cuadrilla de tres personas al estado de Washington para un proyecto especial. Solicitaron la ayuda del sindicato para las cartas de viaje.

Persisten algunos problemas con las horas de vacaciones que no están siendo pagadas. Durante el Día de Remembranza todos trabajaron cinco días de 8 horas debido al día feriado. La semana siguiente las cuadrillas regresaron a sus horarios alternativos.

La queja presentada recientemente en relación a los turnos de 10 horas sigue avanzando a medida que recabamos más información sobre reclamos de prácticas anteriores.

Un empleado fue despedido por no informar un daño al cable de una línea. Los empleados deben reportar todos los incidentes en el sistema; esto es política de la empresa. Más importante aún, cuando PG&E se involucra con la situación, no hay margen para errores. La honestidad es la mejor política.

### Mario Tree Service

Las cuadrillas de Mario están trabajando en la parte norte del estado en áreas representadas por el Representante de Negocios Carl Lamers. Estamos teniendo problemas con la compañía por no pagar las cuotas sindicales de los empleados. Estamos trabajando con la empresa para solucionar este problema.

### Synergy Tree

Algunas semanas atrás PG&E suspendió a la compañía por un incidente que ocurrió en la División de San José. No trabajaron durante dos semanas. Derribaron una línea principal y luego la volvieron a instalar ellos mismos; no se lo dijeron a nadie. Un linero de PG&E vio que las líneas estaban atadas con un trozo de cuerda en los dos aisladores del poste. Los empleados tuvieron mucha suerte de no ser electrocutados.

### Trees Inc.

Nos reunimos con cuadrillas de control de la vegetación en la División de Los Padres. Ellos pidieron más dinero, ya que son los que reciben los más bajos salarios en las instalaciones de PG&E. También preguntaron sobre la propuesta de Obama para exigir a los empleadores a proporcionar permisos con pago por enfermedad. Su propuesta aún no ha sido aprobada por el Congreso.

El contrato que cubre San Joaquín—Stockton, SMUD, Angels Camp y Pine Grove ha sido otorgado a Tree Service Wright of the West. La compañía está interesada en mantener la mayor cantidad de empleados posible. Se han emitido las notificaciones para permitir transferencias a PG&E, Dakota del Sur, Salt Lake City, Arizona, y cualquier otro estado donde la compañía está realizando trabajos.

# Fight for Fifteen

**I**BEW 1245 members rallied at events across the state on April 15 to support the Fight for \$15 movement.

At an event in Berkeley, IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross inspired the crowd with a bilingual address and introduced Robert Reich, the former United States Secretary of Labor. IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Logan Jonas joined the rally just after finishing his night shift at PG&E.

In Fresno, IBEW 1245 members and Organizing Stewards stood shoulder to shoulder with other protesters outside a McDonald's to call attention to the company's low wages and unfair scheduling practices. Representing IBEW 1245 were Lupe Flores, Angel Herrera, Sonia Shepherd, Stan Zamora, Magdalena Gomez, Cesar Gonzales, Ashley Boles, Georgett Carrillo, P.J. Saenz and Miguel Pagan.

After more than two years of pressure from the labor movement, McDonald's recently raised its pay by one dollar an hour at some of its non-franchised stores – a move that workers there say is too small to make a real impact on their lives.

Meaningful progress has been made in other areas, however. Seattle will raise its minimum wage to \$15 an hour – the highest in the country – this month.

In Sacramento 1245 members joined with hundreds of others for a march on the Capitol.

Organizing Steward Rene Cruz-Martinez, who began the day picketing at the Pocket McDonald's in Sacramento, said two workers bravely came out and

joined the strike.

"Both of these young girls are students and one of them has to work two jobs to afford school and also help her parents with money," said Cruz-Martinez.

"The thing that stood out for me the most here in Sacramento was the unity of all the workers and affiliated unions. This is definitely what a union is about: working people standing together, supporting all brothers and sisters in their time of need," she said.

"This has been one of the most exciting actions I have been to... We shut down McDonald's and took over Sacramento City Hall," she added.



IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross Jr. and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich fire up \$15/hour protest at McDonald's.



No, we don't want fries with that. We want \$15/hour!

## Miembro, de la página 30

### Utility Tree Service

Utility Tree tiene mucho trabajo en la División de San José. Tenemos algunos problemas con los ascensos y estamos tratando de solucionarlos. La compañía no está dando las vacaciones, ya que tienen trabajo atrasado.

El Comité de Revisión de Quejas (GRC) tiene cuatro casos de despido pendientes, y uno más en camino. También se están procesando nuevas quejas. Esperamos discutir estos asuntos en la próxima reunión del GRC en junio y existe la posibilidad de pasarlos al Comité de Arbitraje.

El contrato de SMUD ha sido otorgado a The Original Mowbray en el norte. UTS está permitiendo transferencias a lo largo de todo el sistema. Esperamos que varios miembros cambien de sede para North Valley, Solano, Yolo y la División de San Joaquín.



IBEW 1245 members were prominent in the Sacramento march for a \$15 minimum wage.

Get the latest news at

[www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

## 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, Santa Rosa, Merced, Reno, Yerington, Carson City or Winnemucca. If you don't have a chapter nearby, call the union at 707-452-2718 and find out how you can help start one!

Kelly Ackerson 37 years San Luis Obispo, CA	Joe Cisneros 19 years Durham, CA	Philip Fanoni 38 years Auburn, CA	Jim Hernandez 36 years Stockton, CA	Jon Lyter 31 years Pioneer, CA	Carol Noonan 7 years Windsor, CA
Danny Aguayo 16 years Fresno, CA	Ralph Citti 30 years San Jose, CA	Tim Feldstein 42 years Bakersfield, CA	Teresita Hernandez 37 years Daly City, CA	Brenda Martin 29 years Rodeo, CA	Michael O'Neill 33 years Rancho Mirage, CA
David Ahart 16 years Coarsegold, CA	Kathleen Clark 11 years Stockton, CA	Steven Fernandes 37 years Oakdale, CA	Fred Herr 31 years Orcutt, CA	Anna Martinez 34 years Manteca, CA	Edward Otten 19 years Gridley, CA
James Albright 30 years Colfax, CA	Vicki Clift 31 years Somerset, CA	Gai Fernelius 30 years San Carlos, CA	Darrel Hicok 25 years Salinas, CA	Lupe Martinez 40 years Gilroy, CA	Donald Owen 34 years Carmichael, CA
Kenneth Amaral 43 years Diamond Springs, CA	Steven Cole 34 years Nevada City, CA	Randy Fisher 31 years Salinas, CA	Michael Jackson 32 years San Luis Obispo, CA	Peter Martinez 15 years Vacaville, CA	Alan Parker 31 years Fresno, CA
Robert Aranda 8 years San Francisco, CA	Charles Combs Jr. 19 years Stockton, CA	Ralph Flak 31 years Santa Rosa, CA	Sandy Jay 38 years Clovis, CA	Richard Martinez 37 years Fresno, CA	Steve Parks 30 years Paso Robles, CA
Virginia Armijo 43 years Nipomo, CA	Berry Conner 35 years Elk Grove, CA	Rafael Fontanilla 37 years Daly City, CA	Darrell Jelley 33 years Stockton, CA	William Matsuyama 33 years Seaside, CA	Donald Parrish 37 years Brady, TX
Robert Bailey 35 years Pacifica, CA	John Cottonham 32 years Oakland, CA	Ralph Flak 31 years Santa Rosa, CA	Michael Johns 35 years Fort Bragg, CA	Donald Mayes 37 years Penn Valley, CA	Michael Parsons 44 years Paradise, CA
Kenneth Ball 35 years Salinas, CA	Lee Covington 30 years Redding, CA	Rafael Fontanilla 37 years Daly City, CA	Colin Kawano 23 years Selma, CA	Beverly McArthur 36 years Sebastopol, CA	James Peddie 35 years Santa Maria, CA
Robert Ballinger 13 years Chico, CA	John Cottonham 32 years Oakland, CA	Casey Gilroy 34 years Petaluma, CA	Janet Keele 35 years Concord, CA	Nadine McDaniel-Allen 38 years Stockton, CA	Frederick Pedersen 32 years Pollack Pines, CA
Anna Bates 30 years Bakersfield, CA	Lee Covington 30 years Redding, CA	Harold Gleason 38 years Kelseyville, CA	Margarita Khavul 29 years San Francisco, CA	Robert McFarling III 41 years Willits, CA	William Peter 34 years Yuba City, CA
Robert Beeson 40 years Stockton, CA	Barney Curtice 14 years Eureka, CA	Jeffrey Goettig 19 years Atascadero, CA	Lilia King 35 years San Francisco, CA	Diane McManus 31 years Redding, CA	Margaret Pimentel 40 years Bakersfield, CA
Steve Benson 35 years Atascadero, CA	Charles Damon 24 years Eureka, CA	Rosendo Gonzales 35 years Salinas, CA	Vickie King 30 years Santa Cruz, CA	Eduardo Mercado 31 years Daly City, CA	Jimmy Preckwinkle 16 years Martinez, CA
Robert Bishop 14 years Sacramento, CA	Corrine Dauer 41 years Ukiah, CA	Virginia Gonzales 14 years Watsonville, CA	Terry Kingsley 36 years Elk Grove, CA	John Meurer 42 years Auberry, CA	Roy Price 29 years Richmond, CA
Sherry Bloniak 23 years Chico, CA	Noel De Groof 35 years Granite Bay, CA	Daniel Granahan 44 years Concord, CA	Roger Kocher 38 years Lakeport, CA	Robert Miller 30 years Manteca, CA	Tranquino Quijalvo 38 years Linden, CA
Bryan Bock 28 years Santa Margarita, CA	Kimball Deftereos 19 years Stockton, CA	Dale Graves 22 years Burney, CA	John Koehn 4 years Marysville, CA	Kyoko Mitchell 24 years San Francisco, CA	James Quinton 43 years Dayton, TN
Brent Bohannon 30 years Mckinleyville, CA	Phil Dela Calzada 36 years Daly City, CA	Russell Greene 38 years Grass Valley, CA	Patrick Krovious 29 years Arroyo Grande, CA	Charles Moresco 30 years Gilroy, CA	Kathleen Raines 21 years Vacaville, CA
Robert Bonner 21 years Chico, CA	Anna Derho 45 years Rohnert Park, CA	Jon Gross 42 years Richmond, CA	Regina Kwan 38 years Concord, CA	Mark Morris 29 years Paradise, CA	Sandra Rector 36 years Lincoln, CA
Daniel Bradley 37 years Merlin, OR	Jeffrey Dillion 11 years Hydesville, CA	Janet Haase 22 years Arroyo Grande, CA	David Langelier 40 years Pioneer, CA	Dennis Murch 45 years Hathaway Pines, CA	James Rego 30 years Brentwood, CA
Douglas Brum 35 years Durham, CA	Michael Dillon 38 years Salinas, CA	John Hackleman 29 years San Luis Obispo, CA	Maureen Lannan 19 years Santa Margarita, CA	Nancy Myers 26 years Ukiah, CA	Miguel Reyes 41 years Petaluma, CA
Terry Buck 36 years Redding, CA	Rodney Dixon 37 years Friant, CA	Josie Hagen 36 years Clovis, CA	Rigoberto Lanzarin 30 years Orland, CA	Richard Nassano 24 years Linden, CA	Glenn Richards 43 years Los Banos, CA
Robert Camacho 30 years Reedley, CA	Diana Donnelly 20 years Shingle Springs, CA	Timothy Hager 18 years Pittsburg, CA	Randall Lassus 34 years Longview, WA	Donald Navarro 37 years Chico, CA	Rhonda Richards 45 years Piercy, CA
Pamala Camera 34 years Spreckels, CA	Penelope Douglas 31 years Hayward, CA	Lonnie Hakker 11 years Sanger, CA	Colleen Lavezzo 35 years San Mateo, CA	Thomas Nelson 30 years El Dorado Hills, CA	Cathy Rosenwinkel 32 years Fresno, CA
Cheryl Cardoza 35 years Fresno, CA	Richard Dubin 16 years Stockton, CA	John Hall 30 years Placerville, CA	Neil Levulett 35 years Chico, CA	Rita Nepper 31 years Auburn, CA	Elizabeth Rounds 42 years Clearwater, FL
James Carter 20 years Oakley, CA	Brian Duffy 12 years Plumas Lake, CA	Donald Hatting 37 years Burney, CA	George Licon 36 years Citrus Height, CA	Nancy Neverve 31 years Auburn, CA	Lawrence Rudick 114 years Paradise, CA
Maria Cartt 28 years Bakersfield, CA	Vern Dunham 46 years Brentwood, CA	Patrick Hazen 37 years Lodi, CA	Scott Lombardi 42 years Antioch, CA	Donna Newton 40 years Orangevale, CA	Kevin Sage 28 years Carmel, CA
Valerie Chan 42 years Albany, CA	James Dunnam 37 years Stockton, CA	Susan Henderson 43 years Lemoore, CA	Esteban Lopez Jr. 4 years Brentwood, CA	Anita Ng 34 years San Francisco, CA	David Sanders 29 years Oceanside, CA
	Jesse Espinoza 16 years Bakersfield, CA	Paula Henley 32 years Yuba City, CA	Vernon Lowe 35 years Vacaville, CA	Ron Nickell 8 years Bakersfield, CA	Louis Satariano 48 years Pioneer, CA
	Gary Esposito 36 years Fresno, CA	Benjamin Hernandez 32 years Pittsburg, CA	Helen Lumagui 35 years Pacifica, CA	Ronald Nieve 30 years San Carlos, CA	Penelope Schade 18 years San Bruno, CA



Barry Scholl  
31 years  
Eureka, CA

Jeffery Scotti  
29 years  
Coarsegold, CA

Robert Searcy  
23 years  
Fairfield, CA

Joe Serrano  
34 years  
Bakersfield, CA

David Sinclair  
32 years  
Red Bluff, CA

William Singh  
34 years  
Fresno, CA

Roger Smith  
32 years  
Fresno, CA

Steven Smith  
31 years  
Marysville, CA

Charlene Soares  
40 years  
St. James, LA

William Sparks  
28 years  
Carmichael, CA

Mike Spessard  
24 years  
Stockton, CA

J Stahl  
36 years  
Jamestown, CA

Cynthia Stewart  
49 years  
Felton, CA

Richard Stillwell  
30 years  
Fresno, CA

Richard Storamski  
37 years  
Rescue, CA

David Sutherlin  
30 years  
Magalia, CA

Marianne Swain  
38 years  
Modesto, CA

Marie Swanson  
35 years  
Antioch, CA

Susan Tachara  
36 years  
Manteca, CA

Kathleen Taylor  
14 years  
Morro Bay, CA

Marjorie Tennison  
42 years  
Roseville, CA

Lee Thomas  
36 years  
Eureka, CA

Tenola Thompson  
36 years  
Vallejo, CA

Daniel Tingley  
34 years  
Santa Rosa, CA

Johna Tolch  
39 years  
Scotts Valley, CA

Michael Tumidanski  
38 years  
Red Bluff, CA

Brent Turner  
35 years  
Novato, CA

David Vago  
30 years  
Gresham, OR

Alfred Valdivia  
42 years  
Red Bluff, CA

Sofia Valenzuela  
37 years  
Lodi, CA

William Vanderwark  
35 years  
Fortuna, CA

Rex Velasco  
31 years  
Sutter Creek, CA

Manuel Vera  
35 years  
Antioch, CA

Edward Viera  
36 years  
Antioch, CA

David Vigil  
33 years  
Hoopa, CA

Deborah Weddle  
37 years  
Yuba City, CA

Danny Wendel  
17 years  
San Jose, CA

Jerry Whalley  
43 years  
Livermore, CA

Sheryl White  
10 years  
Vallejo, CA

Richard Wiederhold  
41 years  
Fresno, CA

David Wilcox  
24 years  
Fremont, CA

Steven Wilson  
14 years  
Clearlake, CA

## TPP in trouble

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a secretive trade agreement that threatens U.S. jobs, was dealt a stunning blow on June 12 when the U.S. House refused to approve a key component of the bill.

Although Congress could still reverse itself, the vote on June 12 indicated that the bill was in deep trouble—largely due to a massive lobbying effort by trade unionists. Two IBEW 1245 members spoke eloquently against TPP on the union's website, including retiree activist William Wallace.

"Because of the secrecy surrounding it, we don't really know what it contains," Wallace said. "However, what we do know from Wikileaks is that the TPP will effectively dismantle labor, environmental, health, food safety and financial laws. It will allow corporations to challenge our laws in international tribunals rather than our own court system."



Bill Wallace

His entire analysis can be read at <http://bit.ly/1Gcd47d>.

Organizing Steward P. J. Saenz also wrote against the TPP, saying it was un-



acceptable to accept trade deals with countries that promote human and sex trafficking, keep workers' wages low, and look the other way when trade union leaders are murdered.

"The explanation that we need to accept trading with these countries under the logic that 'if we don't, China will' is ridiculous and narrow-minded. We should never accept a trade deal that hands the sovereignty of nations like ours to the biggest corporations of the world in order to delude ourselves into the idea that this will solve our trade deficit with China," Saenz said.

Saenz's entire analysis can be read at <http://bit.ly/1TreqVA>.



P. J. Saenz

## Retiree Chapter Supports Nevada's Yerington Senior Center

The IBEW Local 1245 Retiree Chapter presented \$250.00 in Community Funds to the Yerington Senior Center. The big check was made out to Older Americans Of Lyon County (OLAF) towards their food pro-

gram.

The chapter also helps by meeting monthly at the center and purchasing their lunches towards the count for total people served at the Center and in reports for the seniors in Yerington.



Members are left to right: Judy Grush, Chapter Treasurer, Pauline and Walt Plett, Yerington Chapter and NARA State President, TBird, Chapter Vice President, Jim Hill, Lyon Co. Center Director Jeanie Howard, (Catch that big smile!), Recording Secretary Alyce Resse, and behind Alyce is Bob Grush. Karen Kostenbader, Chapter Trustee had to leave early. Sue Bird provided the picture.

### Retiree Club Meeting Schedule

You can find the specific dates for each month at [www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings](http://www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings)

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

**Santa Rosa Chapter:** 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., at Coco's Restaurant, 1501 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa, CA.

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

**Reno/Sparks Chapter:** 3rd Wednesday each month, 8:30 a.m., Denny's Restaurant, 205 E. Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV.

**Yerington Chapter:** Meets 2nd Tuesday each month, 10:30 a.m. breakfast, 11 a.m. meeting, Dini's Lucky Club, 45 N. Main St., Yerington, NV.

**Carson City Chapter:** 4th Thursday each month, 9:00 a.m., Grandma Hattie's Restaurant, 2811 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV.

**Winnemucca Chapter:** 4th Wednesday each month, 11 a.m., Round Table Pizza, 1043 W. Fourth St., Winnemucca, NV.

Utility Reporter



Samantha Gerstle, daughter of IBEW 1245 member Bob Gerstle, has won the 2015 Al Sandoval Competitive Scholarship. Samantha's winning essay responded to this year's question:

*The gap between rich and poor in America is increasing, while the middle class is shrinking. Should this concern high school students? Is there anything you can do about it as you enter adult life?*

## The Wage Gap

By Sam Gerstle

In recent years America's economic gap, between the rich and the poor, has increased in a staggering manner. The United States has one of the world's biggest inequalities among income distributions. Our country is experiencing the worst income inequality since 1928, which only continues to grow with each passing year. As a high school senior preparing to attend college, I speak for many of my peers when I say this is an extreme point of concern for many reasons.

The impact of the diminishing middle class is evident in the corresponding shrinkage of average income jobs. Numerous jobs that are considered routine and once were necessity to everyday life are now disappearing. High school students should be concerned, due to the fact they will have fewer economic opportunities than their parents did. Furthermore, high school students will have more difficulty climbing the economic ladder and achieving higher financial status with every bypassing year.

In increasing numbers, individuals born into the middle class are finding themselves pushed into the lower class as the number of middle class jobs decreases. The American dream, or the foundation of American economics, is now becoming overwhelmingly out of reach.

As teens mature and become adults, there are a number of ways to stem the tide of the erosion of middle class jobs and moreover ensure oneself of being economically stable. College plays an incredibly important role in providing economic advantages; high school students who attend college and receive a degree typically make about twenty-eight thousand dollars more than individuals with solely a high school education. Additionally, high school students can promote change within the economic system by voting for political candidates. Political candidates who support the middle class can drastically transform fiscal policy to support persons of the middle class. Getting involved in organizations that focus on furthering prosperity in Middle America is another way teenagers reaching the threshold of adulthood can ensure that they are making sure the gap between classes does not continue to grow.

Many high school students do not choose the road of a four-year school. Trade schools, community colleges

and work are other options. These paths frequently lead to union jobs, which provide fair wages and benefits that are critical to maintaining the middle class.

The bottom line is, it is the middle class that fuels economic growth and prosperity in America. Without a middle class, this country cannot sustain the social programs that provide for the less fortunate. The "New World" that many politicians envision is not a country that will take care of its own—and that is not the country I desire to see in my future.



Samantha Gerstle accepts plaque from Business Manager Tom Dalzell, left, and retired Senior Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier, right, who served as contest judge.

## Council honors outgoing IBEW 1245 President Mike Davis

Members of the Executive Board and entire Advisory Council gave a standing ovation to outgoing IBEW 1245 President Mike Davis (seated), who recently resigned. Davis held the position since 2004, making him the second longest serving president in the local union's history.

"Mike served the union with great distinction and we appreciate his service more than words can say," said Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

Davis was initiated into IBEW in June of 1967, and was long active in the union's Political Education Committee. He served at various times as Executive Board member (Southern Area), Treasurer, and Vice President, before becoming president. He is a graduate of the UC Berkeley Labor Studies Program.

But if you really want to know where his heart is at, consider this: Brother Davis served as a shop steward

from 1969, two years after he joined the union, until 2010, when he retired from PG&E.

Thank you for your service, Mike. No union heart ever beat steadier or truer.



# Longshore legend Harry Bridges comes to life at Advisory Council

Harry Bridges, the legendary leader of the Longshore Workers, came to life once again in a dramatic one-man show performed by actor Ian Ruskin for the IBEW 1245 Advisory Council at Weakley Hall.

Bridges won fame, adoration, and a whole bunch of enemies when he led longshore workers in an epic strike in 1934. After police shot and killed two strike supporters, San Francisco unions rose up in a general strike that paralyzed the city and led to a settlement of the longshoreman's grievances.

That strike also set the stage for a new era of industrial organizing. Bridges himself helped the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) lead an organizing drive at Pacific Gas & Electric in 1937-38. Although it failed, it set the stage for an organizing drive in the 1940s that succeeded in organizing most PG&E employees into a single, powerful union.

Ruskin, occasionally sipping from a glass of beer, portrayed Bridges as a straight-talking union man, aware of his personal shortcomings but always steadfast in his commitment to his fellow workers. Bridges came to America from Australia, led a tumultuous life that included multiple marriages, multiple successes at the bargaining table, and multiple encounters with the federal government, which alleged he was a communist and tried to deport him.

Bridges, as portrayed by Ruskin, seemed to take special glee in thwarting the government's vendetta against him. Bridges never denied his association with communist workers, nor his admiration for the contribution that many of them made to the labor movement. But he adamantly denied that he ever belonged to the Communist Party. And the government never succeeded in deporting him.

IBEW 1245 founder Ron Weakley, who knew Bridges well, was subjected to the same sort of political slurs and red-baiting in the mid-1940s. Weakley, a leader of the CIO organizing drive at PG&E in the 1940s, became fed up with east coast CIO leaders who falsely accused him of being a communist. When it became clear that Weakley's

people and the CIO were going to part ways, "Harry Bridges offered us a home" at the Longshoreman's hall, Weakley once said.

But Weakley didn't need to take Bridges up on his offer of shelter. Weakley led 5,000 PG&E employees out of the CIO and they made a new home in the IBEW. By 1953, Weakley had organized one big union at PG&E, IBEW Local 1245, and negotiated the union's first system-wide labor agreement with the utility.

Bridges and Weakley both fought against seemingly impossible odds to organize powerful, enduring unions that have delivered top wages, benefits and working conditions to this very day. Ruskin's portrayal of Harry Bridges reminds us that ordinary people are capable of doing extraordinary things when they decide to fight back against injustice.

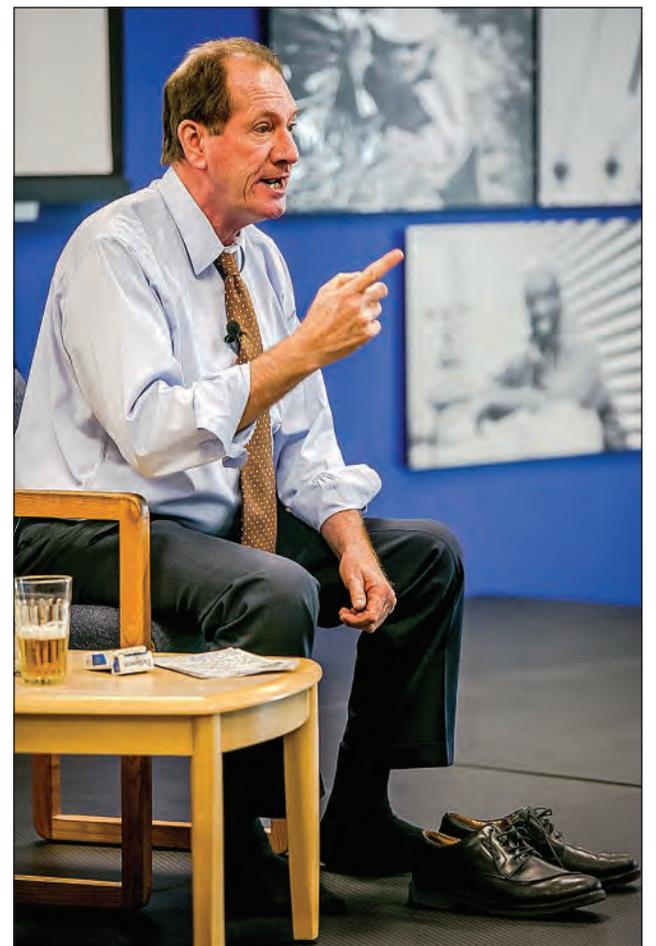
That's a lesson the Advisory Council members apparently took to heart: they gave Ruskin's performance a long standing ovation.



Actor Ian Ruskin portrays Harry Bridges at Weakley Hall on May 2.



Actor Ian Ruskin, left, discusses the life of Harry Bridges with IBEW 1245 Organizers Fred Ross Jr. and Eileen Purcell. Ross's father, Fred Ross Sr., worked with Harry Bridges after World War II to defend Japanese-Americans who had been interned during the war and faced terrible discrimination in housing and employment once they were released from the camps. Purcell's father, attorney James Purcell, was a member of Bridges' legal defense team when the government was trying to deport him.



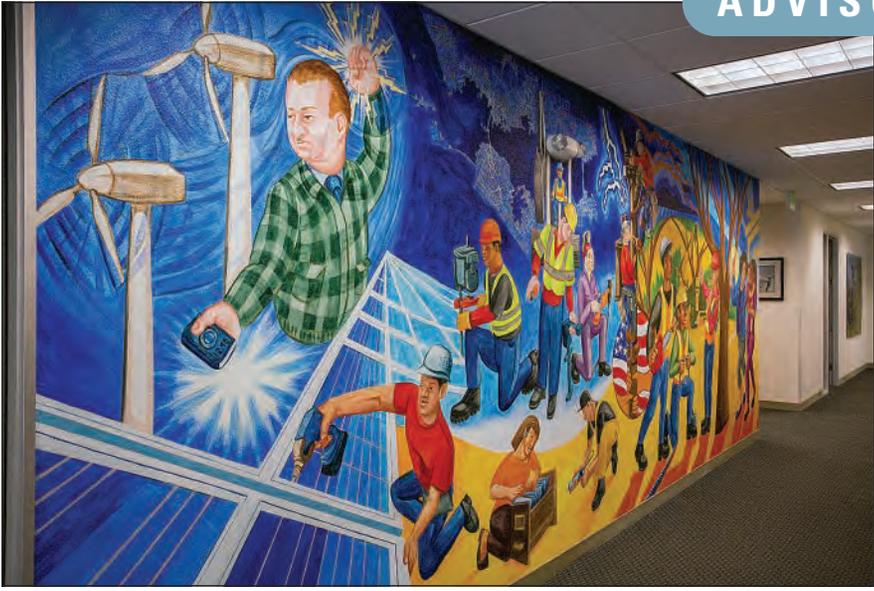
Ian Ruskin portrays labor legend Harry Bridges, with an assist from a glass of beer.



## Managing Change in the Energy Industry

### "IBEW 1245 Competitive Challenges" Video Previewed

There are a host of competitive challenges in today's utility industry, many of which could impact IBEW 1245 members. At the spring Advisory Council meeting, Business Manager Tom Dalzell premiered a new video that outlines the challenges and how the union is responding to them. See the video at: <http://bit.ly/1TcbWu6>



Photos by John Storey

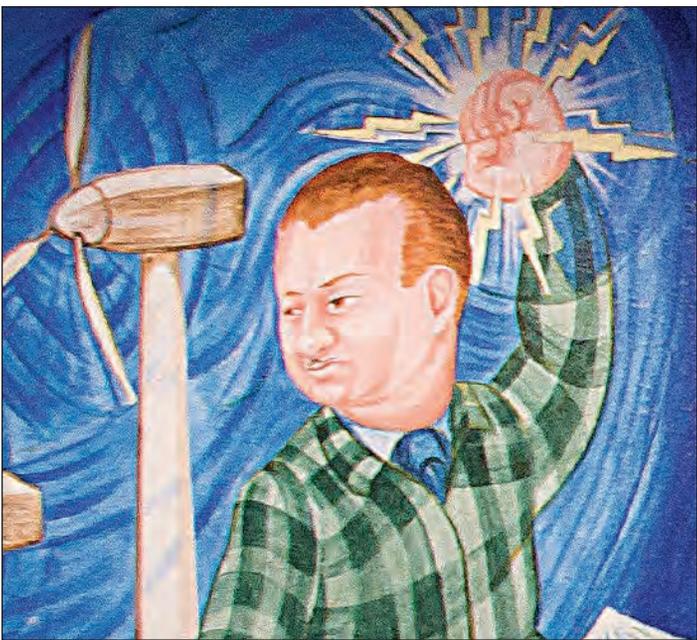
## Pineda's mural captures spirit of IBEW 1245

Muralist Eduardo Pineda was greeted warmly by the Advisory Council in April at the official unveiling of his mural depicting the life and times of IBEW 1245.

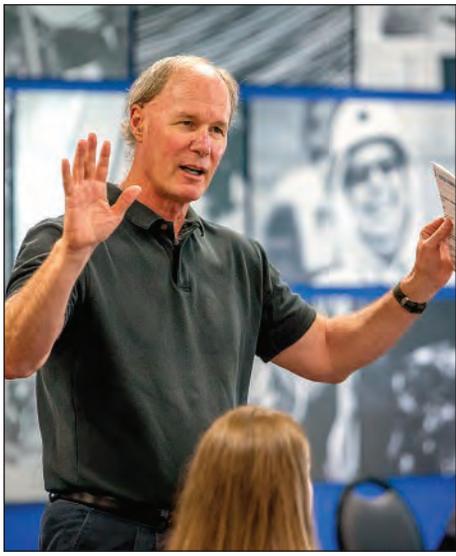
Pineda's murals are designed to help people celebrate those everyday moments that make our lives meaningful. He told the Advisory Council that he enjoyed working at Weakley Hall, which he described as a very energetic place.

He began gathering ideas for the mural in 2014, and began work at the beginning of this year. Families are a prominent feature of the mural because, after all, the union's mission is to fight for and protect quality jobs that allow IBEW 1245 members to support their families and raise their children.

Thank you, Eduardo, for sharing your artistic vision with the current and future members of IBEW 1245.



Eduardo Pineda is greeted with warm applause by the Advisory Council.



Culinary Workers' leader D. Taylor says workers can grow their power if they organize.



Congressman George Miller says union members must hold elected officials' feet to the fire.



Rosario Saenz, PG&E Fresno Call Center, rises to make a point.

## Labor champions fire up organizing stewards

**H**ow can you help members learn how to fight for their rights? One way is to put them in the same room as proven fighters!

That's a guiding principle of IBEW 1245's organizing stewards program, and it was on full view recently when 56 organizing stewards heard from two veterans of the fight for workers' rights: Congressman George Miller and Culinary Workers Union President D. Taylor.

Miller, who just retired from Congress after 40 years of defending workers' rights, reminded the organizing stewards that the middle class didn't just happen—working people fought together to create it. With the middle class under attack today, that fight continues, as does the need to find more people to carry on the fight.

D. Taylor, who has spent 34 years as an organizer and leader of the Culinary Workers Union in Las Vegas, said the way workers grow their power is by organizing. Successful organizing requires that a union's rank and file members get involved, which is the organizing model now being implemented by IBEW 1245.

"D. Taylor was an inspiration and reminder of what my own personal goals as a union member are: never give up, fight smart, recruit new minds, and listen to those new ideas," said Samson Wilson, an organizing steward at NV Energy. By establishing an organizing stewards pro-

gram, IBEW 1245 is "setting the benchmark for the future of labor," Wilson said.

When people understand the benefits of collective bargaining, they support unions, "but what holds people back is fear," said Andrew West, an organizing steward at PG&E, responding to Taylor's remarks. This makes it important to organize in a positive way, West said, "standing strong, and showing support and encouraging workers who want union representation."

There was certainly a good reason to listen to Taylor's advice on union building. During his tenure as an organizer and leader of the Culinary Workers in Las Vegas, his local union grew from 18,000 members in 1987 to over 55,000 in 2013. Taylor not only built his own union; he is a strong proponent of standing up for other unions. When IBEW 1245 retiree benefits were under attack by NV Energy, for example, Taylor turned out hundreds of his members to join IBEW 1245 members and retirees in picketing the company's headquarters in Las Vegas.

### "Turning up the heat"

Congressman Miller told the stewards that corporations can always find ways to get their message across to Members of Congress. The challenge is to make sure that representatives hear from ordinary constituents as well.

Miller didn't boast about it, but his record of supporting workers was second to none during his 40 years in Congress, according to statistics compiled by the AFL-CIO. But there was something else about Miller that impressed Rene Cruz-Martinez, a four-year IBEW 1245 member: his "awesome sense of humor." She said that organizing stewards could be counted on to implement Miller's advice to "turn up the heat" on politicians.

One politician in the union's sights, Cruz-Martinez said, is Ami Berra. The Sacramento-area congressman promised to oppose the anti-worker Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, but then switched his position. "Here in Sacramento we will continue to fight him on that," she promised.

Organizing Steward Candice Brace, a three-year member at PG&E, put it this way: "Your job is not done once the per-

son you voted for is elected into office, (you must) continue to hold them accountable."

The labor movement is an on-going battle to keep what workers won in the past, and to win additional improvements "for those who come after," said Anthony Powell, an organizing steward and 11-year IBEW member at PG&E. "D. Taylor and George Miller are examples of strong leaders" who have devoted themselves to protecting workers.

"Before this training I was skeptical of politicians, but George Miller renewed my faith and belief that there truly are politicians who say what they mean and do what they say," said Powell.

The meeting with Miller and Taylor was held April 29 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville. The organizing stewards and prospective organizing stewards in attendance should have plenty of chances

to put the lessons they learned into practice in the not-too-distant future: major local, state and national elections are coming up in 2016 and workers' rights and standard of living will be on the line.

It didn't take Organizing Steward Logan Jonas many words to sum up the day, and the challenges ahead: "Don't wait, get up, get out, organize or die."



Listening closely is Ashley Boles, PG&E San Jose Call Center. At right is Walter Carmier, Frontier.



Robert Garcia, City of Lompoc, speaks up. Utility Reporter



Organizing stewards and prospective organizing stewards at Weakley Hall to learn from George Miller and D. Taylor. Photos by John Storey

# Former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich salutes IBEW

By Eileen Purcell

Photos by John Storey

On Wednesday, May 20, more than 60 IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards and prospective Organizing Stewards filled the largest banquet room at the Bancroft Hotel in Berkeley for the Third Annual Robert Reich Seminar. In addition to Reich, representatives of the Fight for 15, UFCW's El Super Contract fight, and IBEW Local 77 gave presentations. Special guests Bob King, the former president of the United Auto Workers (UAW), Margo Feinberg, legal counsel for UFCW, labor attorney Bill Carder, and the UC Berkeley Labor Center also joined us.

Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia (PG&E, Sacramento Call Center) kicked off the day, welcoming 1245's members who hailed from Auburn, Bishop Ranch, Concord, Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Sacramento, Stockton, and San Jose.

IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Eric Sunderland (SMUD, Sacramento) introduced the first panel which was led by Erika Lenhart, the northern California Coordinator of the East Bay Organizing Committee (EBOC) and organizer of the "Fight for Fifteen." Shonda Roberts, an EBOC member and fast food worker from KFC and Patricia Contreas, a community organizer from EBASE joined Lenhart to paint the picture of the campaign.

The question: how to leverage enough power to force a \$5 billion corporation to raise wages and recognize their workers as people. The answer: by zeroing in on McDonalds, the largest retailer of fast food in the world, acting like a union and building coalitions and solidarity. Roberts described the range of issues fast food workers face, including low wages, irregular hours, and a host of safety violations, such as grease burns, broken tiles and windows, and a chronic lack of security.

Contreas shared the story of building a broad, labor, interfaith community and student coalition that came together on April 15 – tax day – to support 150 workers on strike in northern California. Some 20,000 people took to the streets in northern California alone while 60,000 people occupied McDonalds and other fast food vendors in virtually every major city in the US. In Oakland,

protestors successfully shut down every McDonalds at 8 a.m., the height of the breakfast hour. The net result: extensive national media coverage, heightened awareness about the issues and tangible results in New York City and Los Angeles. Lenhart thanked IBEW 1245 for our solidarity and leadership role in Fresno, Sacramento and the East Bay.

Stewards and prospective stewards delivered field reports on an array of activities over the last two months:

- Donchele Soper (PG&E Sacramento Contact Center) and Rene Cruz Martinez (PG&E Concord RMC) celebrated the 4th annual Sacramento Charity Bowl which mobilized 110 bowlers and raised over \$3,000 for the MVP program.
- Nilda Garcia detailed the TPP Campaign in which stewards have mobilized thousands of phone calls, post cards and visits to congressional representatives urging them to vote no on this anti-worker trade bill; she also pointed out postcards available on each table and called upon everyone in the room to fill them out and send them to their representative.
- Rachel Ramirez-Hill (PG&E Stockton Local Office) and Kristen Rasmussen (PG&E Stockton Contact Center) reported on the Susan Bonilla Campaign in District 7.
- Steve Marcotte (PG&E Sacramento Contact Center) detailed the Measure B Campaign in Sacramento, which will generate jobs for our Sacramento Regional Transit Workers.
- Anthony Seemster (PG&E Concord RMC) and prospective Organizing Steward Sandi Busse (PG&E Sacramento Contact Center) reported on the APPA Rodeo at which 16 stewards and family members hosted the 1245-sponsored lunch and watched in awe as 1,000 linemen from across the US demonstrated their skill.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell took the stage to thank the stewards for infusing new life and energy into the Local and the labor movement at large, and introduced IBEW Local 77 Business Manager Lou Walters.



*"...inequality has risen to levels not seen since the 'Gilded Age' of the robber barons."*

Walters and his staff have dedicated time and resources toward building an organizing culture and young worker movement in Washington State. Matt Reese, a journeyman tree trimmer and staff organizer, detailed the Local's approach to young members. The first step: have fun and meet co-workers. The second step: engage in beneficial activities under the union umbrella. The third step: educate and mobilize by participating in the Renew program, in legislative



Shaunie Wheeler, Political Action Director of Local 77 spoke about political engagement.

conferences, new organizing blitzes, meet and greets, trainings, phone banks and next up meetings. Shaunie Wheeler, Local 77's political action director, addressed the importance of political engagement. Walters thanked Dalzell and Local 1245 for providing such a rich model of organizing and solidarity.

Rigo Valdez, UFCW 770 Director of Organizing rallied the group with the refrain "organize or die" and sketched the compelling story of the contract



Rigo Valdez, Director of Organizing for UFCW 770.



Robert Reich: Action is the best remedy for cynicism.

# 1245's leadership in the fight to reclaim democracy



Left to right; Margo Feinberg, Robert Reich and Rigo Valdez at the IBEW 1245 Annual Robert Reich Seminar at the Bancroft Hotel in Berkeley, Calif., on May 20th, 2015.



Left to right; Erika Lenhart, Shonda Roberts and Patricia Contreras of the "The Fight for Fifteen" Campaign speak of their experiences.

fight for 600 workers at El Super markets in seven southern California stores and the subsequent boycott. Fighting against the third largest, multi-billion dollar retailer in Mexico, Chedraui, Valdez spelled out how to build power and break through fear by worker organizing and unity, creating strong community coalitions, doing quality research, creating pressure through federal and state agency filings, and even cross-border shareholder resolutions and litigation.

US Labor Secretary and Berkeley professor Robert Reich closed the day. He gave a quick history of unions, the shift from shared prosperity when unions represented 35% of the private sector to now, when union density has dropped

to less than 7% in the private sector and inequality has risen to levels not seen since the "Gilded Age" of the robber barons. Reich reminded us that as grim as the times sometimes seem, there have been other times in our history equally grim and worse. He commended IBEW 1245 for the commitment to organizing workers, for holding politicians accountable, and for the drive to fight for economic and social justice for all. He reminded all present that solidarity and action are the best remedies against cynicism, saying:

"Organizing, mobilizing, and energizing takes patience and courage."

*Eileen Purcell is a staff organizer for IBEW 1245.*



Local 77 members with 1245 members.



IBEW 1245 Annual Robert Reich Seminar May 20th, 2015



**SERVICE AWARDS**

# San Luis Obispo

February 13, 2015



**35 Years**

Front row, from left: Elane Robbins, James Ramsey, and Carlos Bedia. Back row, from left: Kris Ramirez, Daniel Mitchell.



**30 Years**

Front row, from left: Steve Parks, David Ballard, and Kevin Webb. Back row, from left: Dan Jones, Sal Valenti, and Bryan Bock.



**25 Years** Front row, from left: Renelle Hayes, Fidela Barrios, and Holly Barber. Back row, from left: Patricia Persky, Kevin Konzem, and Scott Tremper.



**20 Years**

From left: Business Rep Pat Duffy and Darren Lessi.



**35 Years**

Front row, from left: Jesse Gutierrez, Gary Hackett, and Mike Jacobson. Back row, from left: Brian Leader, Mark Buscher, and Danny Davis.

Photos by John Storey



**30 Years**

Front row, from left: Daniel Grogg, Jeff Conner, and Bernard Buzzelli. Back row, from left: Michael Jackson, Roger Kelling, and Todd Osborne.



**30 Years**

Front row, from left: Mark McDermott, Gloria Lima-Calderone, and Jim Layugan. Back row, from left: Richard Muscio, Jerry Camacho, and Patrick Boyle.



**25 Years** Front row, from left: Duane Baker, Ken Wilson, and William Saiki. Back row, from left: Duane Andrade, George McCrum, and Dennis Marshall.



**15 Years**

From left: (Duffy) with Bryan Anderson.

*continued on next page*



# Bakersfield

March 6, 2015



**35 years**

From left: David Grundhofer, Jennifer Clayton, and Marshall Elijah.

Photos by John Storey



**30 years** Front row, from left: Vincent Lane, Rex Shoulet. Back row, from left: Jon Wilhelm, Steven Lace, Kara Arter, and Margaret Pimentel.



**25/30 years** From left: 25 year member Ronnie Hashim with 30 year member Steven Lace.



**20 years** From left: Cynthia Choate with Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean.



**15 years** From left: Jorge Uribe with (Dean).

*Congratulations on your service!*

## HONOREES

**60 Years**  
Conrad, Thomas

**45 Years**  
Blevins, Wm

**40 Years**  
Silva, Joe  
Taylor Jr., Jerry  
Trappen, Joseph

**35 Years**  
Carter, Gary  
Clayton, Jennifer  
Davis, David  
Elijah, Marshall  
Evans, Timothy  
Grundhofer, David  
Iaconis, Timothy  
Jones, Angelica  
Kunz, Jeff  
Morris, Steve  
Rollins, Jeannine

**30 Years**  
Arter, Kara  
Cota, Ralph  
Engle, Todd  
Fackler, Jeff  
German, Christine  
Hill, Michael  
Lace, Steven  
Layne, Vincent

**25 Years**  
Broom, Maxine  
Crawford, David

**20 Years**  
Avalos, Maryellen  
Choate, Cynthia  
Foy, Robert  
Ginn, Phillip  
Johnstone, Jeffrey  
Kobler, Jason  
McGaw, Dennis  
Nichols, Mark  
Troester, Douglas

**15 Years**  
Barnes, Rodney  
Bibian, Antonio  
Brenton, Beau  
Gomez, Abel  
Gonzalez, Adriana  
Loney, Ronald  
Longoria, Joel  
Soler, David  
Uribe, Jorge  
Van De Hey, Todd  
Witherspoon, Mark

**10 Years**  
Alter, Troy  
Arevalo, Ezequiel

**5 Years**  
Beliveau, Lucas  
Black, Haven  
Braun, Kevin  
Cobb III, Joseph

**3 Years**  
Bain, Myco  
Bauman, Matthew  
Clark, Eric  
Edwards, Ronnie  
Flamand, Joseph  
Griego, Raylee  
Gutierrez, Armando  
Herrera, Jesus  
Hill, Dustin  
Hilliard III, Richard  
Iriart, Russ  
Jones, Lemuel  
Koble, Michael  
Kraus, Garrett  
Krippner, Joseph  
Loya, Gilbert  
Monsibais Jr,

**2 Years**  
Manuel Morelos, Jesus  
Nakamura, Scott  
Race, Paul  
Robinson, Richard  
Sherman, Erick  
Spears, Travis  
Stubblefield, David  
Thomas, Landrum  
Trevino, Noemi

**1 Year**  
Espinosa - Reveles, Jose  
Hodges, Michael  
Hurley, Leo  
Jacobs, Lloyd  
Knutson, Michael  
Luera, Chris  
Mendieta, Ezequiel  
Mosqueda Sr, Frank  
Ochoa Olea, Luis  
Palermo, Mike  
Papion, Christopher  
Ruesga, Maricruz  
Shaw, Jesse  
Spears, Brent  
Vail, Gary

**San Luis Obispo, from page 40**



**10 Years**

From left: Michael Brown, Jason Bohanan, and Adam Lyman.

*Congratulations on your service!*



**5 Years**

From left: Michael Clough and Business Rep Abel Sanchez.

## HONOREES

**40 Years**

Haderman, Michael  
Mason, Karen

**35 Years**

Bedia Jr., Carlos  
Buscher, Mark  
Davis, Danny  
Davis, Jim  
Dodd, Lula  
Gutierrez, Jesse  
Hackett, Gary  
Jacobson, John  
Krovios, Patrick  
Landeros, Mario  
Leader, Brian  
Mitchell, Daniel  
Ramirez, Kris  
Ramsey, James  
Robbins, Elane  
Scherer, Paul  
Weeks, Matthew  
White, Roy  
Worrell, Donald

**30 Years**

Ballard, David  
Bock, Bryan  
Boyle, Patrick  
Buzzelli, Bernard  
Camacho, Jerry  
Cappelluti, Anthony

Coito, Scott  
Conner, Jeff  
Darington, Howard  
Duracher, Herbert  
Gripp, Sharon  
Grogg, Daniel  
Jackson, Michael  
Jones, Daniel  
Kehres, Daryl  
Kelling, Roger  
Kern, Paul  
Layugan, Jim  
Leih, Bryan  
Lima-Calderone, Gloria  
Lykes III, Joseph  
Lynch, Bill  
Martinez, Oscar  
McDermott, Mark  
Mcswain, Susan  
Muscio, Richard  
Normile, Mike  
Osborne, Todd  
Parks, Steve  
Peddie, James  
Polewczak, John  
Ragan, Timothy  
Riley, Gregory  
Silva, Stephen  
Sisemore III, Marion  
Smith, James  
Teague, Susan

Trygg, Jack  
Turner, Mark  
Tyler, Robert  
Valenti, Sal  
Walker, Kathleen  
Webb, Kevin  
Wood, Charles

**25 Years**

Anderson, James  
Andrade, Duane  
Baker, Duane  
Barber, Holly  
Barrios, Fidela  
Bennett, Kenneth  
Chapman, Steven  
Gabriel, Jack  
Grzincic, Thomas  
Gurney, Greg  
Hansen, Kenneth  
Hayes, Renelle  
Heaps, Heather  
Hubbard, James  
Johnson, James  
Konzem, Kevin  
Lindquist, Phillip  
Marshall, Dennis  
McCrum Jr., George  
Persky, Patricia  
Porte, Gregory  
Ryan, Shawn  
Saiki, William

Savard, Donald  
Tremper, Scott  
Vanderlick, Arthur  
Wilson, Kenneth  
Wimberly, Ivan

**20 Years**

Bennett, Kyle  
Grennan, Thomas  
Lafuente, Alvino  
Lessi, Darren

**15 Years**

Anderson, Bryan  
Declue, Chris  
Ettestad, Todd  
Faber III, Richard  
Gustason, James  
Iliif, Joel

**10 Years**

Anderson, Karl  
Angeloni, Ronald  
Banta, Eric  
Bohanon, Jason  
Borba, Ryan  
Brown, Michael  
Ceja, John  
Clipperton, John  
Dye, Brandon  
Fillmore, Janet  
Fritz, Mark  
Garcia, Jose  
Gilson, David  
Gray, Derek  
Kasarjian, Brian  
Kelsey, Richard

Lyman, Adam  
Maldonado, Omar  
Motta, Joshua  
Muro, Brian  
Nancolas, Kristopher  
Perry, Daniel  
Railsback, Mark  
Reynoso III, Frank  
Sumabat, Richard  
Tarango, Marc  
Tolley, Matt  
Wilson, Andrew

**5 Years**

Clough, Michael  
Collins, Matthew  
Derosier, Chanel  
Griffin, John  
Hanley, Joseph  
Hansen, Andrew  
Hartwig, Adriana  
Herman, Matt  
Hernandez, Richard  
Maldonado, Crisogono  
Navarro, Samuel  
Palomino, Ignacio  
Partida, Adrian  
Ros, Sanit  
Ruiz, Cesar  
Sheffield, Chad

# Manufacturing Membership Receives Code of Excellence Training

During March and April the IBEW presented IBEW Code of Excellence training to our Manufacturing membership.

IBEW 9th District International Representative Charlie Randall opened the training sessions by welcoming our members and stressing the importance of the covenants of the IBEW Manufacturing Code of Excellence.

Education Department International

Representative Tracy Prezeau did an excellent job in teaching each of the three 2-hour training sessions she put on.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell requested the IBEW Code of Excellence training for 1245's manufacturing membership.

"Preserving and recruiting good, unionized, manufacturing jobs in California is a priority for IBEW Local

Union 1245, and so the Manufacturing Code of Excellence training was an easy decision," Dalzell said. "We are appreciative to International Representatives Charlie Randall and Tracy Prezeau for their efforts, and for the participation of our manufacturing membership as well."

IBEW Education Department International Representative Tracy Prezeau training COE at Sunoptics in Sacra-

mento on March 26, 2015.

IBEW Manufacturing Code of Excellence (COE) Training sessions completed to date for Local 1245 are listed below.

- March 26 and 27, 2015: Sunoptics in Sacramento
- March 27, 2015 (p.m.): Ansaldobreda, Inc. in Pittsburg
- April 22, 2015: Eaton's Cooper Lighting in Hayward



IBEW Education Department International Representative Tracy Prezeau training COE at Sunoptics in Sacramento on March 26, 2015.



IBEW Education Department International Representative Tracy Prezeau training COE at Eaton's Cooper Lighting in Hayward on April 22, 2015.



## IBEW 1245 joins Cesar Chavez Day celebrations

Eleven IBEW 1245 members and their families turned out in high spirits in Sacramento on Saturday, March 28 to march to commemorate the legacy of Cesar Chavez. They walked alongside the Grant High School drum line and several other unions and organizations.

Said 1245 member Nilda Garcia, "It was a beautiful Saturday morning, birds were chirping, pollen was heavy in the air, eyes itching, runny nose but it didn't stop us from joining this great march!"

Some of the signs they carried read "#VIVA LA CAUSA", "Proud IBEW 1245 Union Members," and, perhaps the best of all, "I support my mom and because of the Union, my Mom can support me!"

IBEW 1245 members in attendance were Nilda Garcia, Julie Gonzalez, Eric Sunderland, Rene Cruz-Martinez, Candice Brace, Kevin Krummes, Ivan Pereda, Ricardo Hernandez, Steve Marcotte, Lupe Johnson and Treva Harrison.



IBEW 1245 Nevada members attended a celebration of Cesar Chavez's life and legacy on March 31 at the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino. The celebration highlighted the events of March 17, 1966, when farm workers led by Cesar Chavez began a march from Delano, California to the state's capitol in Sacramento to underline the plight the workers faced and to call for stronger labor protections and better working conditions.

Pictured left to right are Business Rep Pat Waite, Kelly and David Thieme, Ron Borst, Bob Vieira, Rita and Ben Weisshaar.

Photo by Vickie Borst.



# Units lend a helping hand

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from March through May were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

**Carson City Retirees Chapter** donated \$250 to the Minden Rotary Foundation of Douglas County for the Backpack Buddies program and \$250 to the Western Nevada Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**Unit 1220, San Luis Obispo/DCPP**, donated \$500 to the Arroyo Grande High School Relay for Life Event (on Aug. 1) through the American Cancer Society.

**Unit 2314, Fremont/Hayward**, donated \$500 to the East Bay Bandits Baseball Club.

**Unit 2315, Livermore**, donated \$300 to the Granada Little League T-Ball team in Livermore.

**Unit 2515, Modesto**, donated \$250 to

the Central Valley Organizing Stewards to help with their 2nd Annual Softball Tournament on July II, 2015.

**Unit 3217, City of Redding**, donated \$250 to the Veterans Resource Center of America.

**Unit 3309, Truckee Donner PUD**, donated \$500 to the Truckee High School softball team.

**Unit 3310, Truckee Meadow Water Authority**, donated \$250 to the Reno Comet Girls softball team.

**Unit 3712, Santa Rosa**, donated \$250 to the Trinidad & Tobago Cultural Association of California, to assist with the San Francisco International Arts and Cultural Carnival parade.

**Unit 3912, SMUD/Fresh Pond**, donated \$500 as follows: \$200 to the Gold Rush Little League 2015 sponsorship program, \$200 to the SMUD Employee Association to provide raffle prizes for the Red Cloud Fishing Derby on June

27, 2015, and \$100 to the Knotty Pines Youth Bowling League.

**Unit 4718, Stockton/Trees**, donated \$500 to the Stockton Junior Soccer League.

**Yerington Retirees Chapter** donated \$250 to the Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program.

**Unit 2317, Antioch**, donated \$250 to the East County Meals on Wheels program.

**Unit 3111, Eureka**, donated \$500 to Redwood Empire BMX.

**Unit 3217, City of Redding**, donated \$250 to the Happy Valley Little League.

**Unit 3217, City of Redding**, donated \$350 to the Redding Vipers Baseball Club.

**Unit 3218, USBR/Keswick**, donated \$500 to the Redding Vipers Baseball Club.

**Unit 3315, Mt. Wheeler Power**, donated \$500 to the American Cancer Society's



Ely, NV Relay for Life Event on June 10, 2015.

**Unit 4718, Stockton**, donated \$200 to the Central Valley Organizing Stewards, to help with their 2nd annual softball tournament on July 1.

**Unit 1112, Bakersfield**, donated \$500 to Honor Flight Kern County, a non-profit organization for Veterans.

**Unit 3801, Sacramento Clerical**, donated \$100 to the Sacramento Region's 4th Annual Charity Bowl.



## Community Service in Vallejo

IBEW 1245 Advisory Council members lent a helping hand at the Veterans Memorial Building in Vallejo the day before the April Advisory Council meeting, performing work on lighting fixtures.

Utility Reporter



The IBEW 1245 unity team: linemen from 4 different employers.

## IBEW 1245 Journeyman Linemen go the distance

Call it a unity team.

Journeyman linemen from four different IBEW 1245 employers joined forces to go the distance in the 11th annual Reno Tahoe Odyssey (RTO), a 178-mile relay race to benefit the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation and other charities.

Teams consisted of 12 members who run a course around Lake Tahoe. It begins in Reno, runs through Truckee, CA, then down to Carson City, up to Virginia City, and back to Reno. The course is split into 36 sections or legs that vary in mileage from 2.5 miles to 8 miles. Each team member runs 3 legs for a total mileage of about 15 miles (give or take a couple of miles).

Three linemen competed from Liberty Utilities: Nick Rains, Sun Sa, and Justin Pinochi. They were joined by Linemen Breck Smith of SMUD, Scott Lawlor of NV Energy, and Damon Evenson from IBEW 1245 Outside Line. Wives, family and friends joined in to make it a 12-person team.

"We had quite a representation of IBEW 1245," said Pinochi, who provided the photo and information for this story.

Liberty Utilities was a sponsor of the team, and IBEW 1245 donated directly to the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

"The donation was unexpected and they announced it at the starting line and again at the finish—26 hours and 32 minutes later," said Pinochi. A photo of the linemen with the IBEW 1245 banner was posted on the RTO facebook page.

# THE TOKEN BEARERS

By Mike Cottrell

*The next installment in the lineman's novel by Local 1245 Executive Board member Mike Cottrell.*

## Chapter 17

DEV RUN OUT OF MEDFORD. LOGGERS AND LINEMEN DON'T MIX! SPRING OF '49

When Dev went before the judge his service as a marine was considered and since it looked like at the time Shan would live he was given a year in the Jefferson county jail. Good behavior got him out in three months. He was summoned before the judge again upon his release and given three days to clear up any business he had in Medford and get the hell out and don't ever be caught there again with any kind of knife or weapon that might cause any harm to any being. Dev gladly accepted the judge's extraction from town and said he would be gone by night fall. He was taken back to county where he was relieved of his wardrobe and given his clothes he hit the slammer with-money clip with a few dollars missing--and showed to the street by a big block headed Swedish cop that warned him, 'De duge said three days now and I see you in town afer dat, I skin your woman cuttin' noggin down a long brick wall in some alley I know.' Dev went to the bar where it happened and got his tools from the bartender. Dirty Mac had sent word his grip would be there when he got out of the can. He ordered a whiskey and threw the dollar on the bar. "Not in here mate, you ain't drinkin' in my saloon no more. Take your grip and move to another place. Don't ever darken this doorway again."

He went to the union hall on Grape Street and went upstairs. The old agent was sitting behind the counter having an afternoon coffee. Dev told him he was there for the rest of his storm money. They walked down Grape and turned up at the next block and went into the bank. The agent withdrew the cash and gave him the money. "I put it all in the bank two hundred and forty six dollars. Here, it drew a little interest."

"Got any work around here?"

"Better get out of this part of the country Dev, lot of the men are pissed off. Dirty Mac went back to Mount Shasta and got his car from the Flying A. He's on his way up to get ya'. I had him on a time job in Yreka working on Cop co property. He drug up this morning when I got word to him they sprung ya'. He's been workin' seven days a week pretty much ever since you been in jail. You're damn lucky you got off so cheap. You need to think about staying off the whiskey and just sippin' a few beers here and there. You never did do very well on the stuff."

"Yeah, Yeah. I didn't mean to slash the chick man; she got in the way of Jesse and me. Where is Mac going to meet up with me?"

He pointed at the bar down the street.

"That's his car. He's been in there all morning. I told the cops you'd be leavin' before the judge threw you out of town Dev, got me?"

"Yeah, Yeah." The two parted ways and Mac was drunk when Dev walked in and sat down next to him. They were run out of that bar too when a local cop let the tender know who Dev was so they headed south and all the while the drunken Mac explained to his recently released friend how much money he made while he was sitting in the can. Mac stared out at the stars and finally started to snore. When he woke, the car was parked across the street from the Wagon Wheel Bar in Mount Shasta City. He was shivering and cold and curled up in the seat to sleep while Dev filled up on whiskey in a bar in a town that did not care who he was and his money was green enough.

The old ninety-nine swept through the small railroad town of Dunsmuir and Buddy's Dodge roared on toward Medford pulling the grade with ease without the trailer attached. Kenny slept on the other side. They had taken the families down to Black Rock and set the trailers up in the Sierra's hitting a time job out of local 100 in Fresno. They had left the mountain right after work and took a drunken notion to go up and see Pep and Fancy to bring money and lighten their hearts somewhat if possible. Too bad there was no phone service at Black Rock to call Aileen and Hazel to let them know where they would be going. They had convinced themselves after a certain amount of whiskey Medford would be worth the drive to be good Samaritans. The women would be hot and hard to settle when they returned, but whiskey has no good sense and linemen stay wound tight on the stuff payday night. They were dough heavy and tired of the grind of seven days a week. Kenny was starting to stir and had been asleep for a good while. Buddy was getting heavy eyed and the long drive from Herb's joint on Shaw Avenue halfway

between Clovis and Fresno all the way to Mount Shasta city, about three hundred and twenty miles was starting to drag him and his drunk down. He needed to get the big red headed Kenny on the wheel while he slept and as they rolled into Mount Shasta on the south end of town he started inquiring to his friend the nature of the trip they had suddenly taken on and why they were so stupid as to start on such a spur of the moment venture without even informing the spouses, certain this would scare Kenny awake with the knowledge that upon his arrival back to Black Rock he would stand before the raving Hazel and be charged with every crime a man can possibly commit on his wife and family. Kenny concurred with the head scratcher's view point immediately and came wide awake asking where they were while lighting the Lucky and staring out upon the little town and recognizing where they were before Buddy could proclaim it.

"So, Mt. Shasta," he said and rubbed his eyes ambitiously wondering why he was there in the car with his friend when they had been at Herbs Joint a little while ago it seemed to him laughing and having a good time on payday night.

"Yeah," said Buddy and kept tooling along slowly in the Dodge. "Let's get a cup of coffee in the Wagon Wheel and then you drive awhile." Buddy slid the car to a smooth stop and jumped out and left Kenny sitting still mostly asleep and not able yet to remember why they were nearly four hundred miles from where they had been drinking after work. My mind just ain't working right yet, but I got an idea that Buddy is pulling something on me and I need to get in there and find out what it is. He tried to remember, but was just in one of those mental black out things one has when first waking and having had too much to drink just can't remember shit. So he finished his smoke and tried to pull himself together enough to remember what it was that led them here. He looked at his watch. It was three a.m. He decided he would act nonchalant about the whole thing and it would come back to him, for he was almost certain Buddy would not tell him and never let him live it down if he caught on to his mental lapse. He would of course ride him about it forever and tell every Line hand in the country in laughing glee how they had gone north on a good drunk to see the Pep and Fancy and Kenny couldn't remember why after sleeping his off for four hundred miles.

Kenny, being a very intelligent man who would later prove his ability in arenas not yet even imagined came from salt of the earth people who had clung to the Line trade from the beginning. He had been plunged into the craft by his Father Barney and would climb to the heights of it in both labor and management, but right now he was just a thirty year old stouter than hell man sitting in Buddy's Dodge with goose bumps from the cold air and the thought of facing Hazel when this was over and having no idea yet what it was about. "Christ, so what's it about?" he mumbled and left the car giving it a big roll when he slammed the door and started in the bar.

Since the time Kenny and Buddy had met in Eureka and worked for Barney they had been the best of friends and this friendship would last for forty years, through thick and thin, good and bad times it would endure. It wasn't just that Kenny had escaped death in the fall when the pole went down and saw his life flash before his eyes right before the more seasoned and smaller Buddy had put his life in peril by turning into the falling pole, swinging around and catching his friend, that it would always be an enduring friendship, it was just about two good linemen who would do for each other as needed throughout their lives.

Buddy was at the bar with Dev and dirty Mac. Several loggers were sitting right in line with the linemen and as soon as Kenny came through the door and saw Dev he remembered why he and his friend were headed north. Kenny sat down nearest the door and Buddy then Dev, Dirty Mac and the three big loggers. Kenny told Dev he shouldn't have pulled the knife in Medford and asked him how long he'd been out of jail. A silence fell and Dev who was now pretty drunk on the beer fell to crying and explained he was sorry about Shan and ordered everyone a drink and changed his to whisky. It was Jesse he was after he announced and sobbed a little more while taking the money from Mac's pile and paying the bartender. Mac summoned the courage to move the pile away from Dev and changed the subject

*continued on next page*

bragging about the big double time he had made in Yreka all winter, seven days a week and all while waiting for Dev to get release. He was sort of sorry for seeing Dev get out because he still could ride the overtime for a couple more weeks till the job would end but needed to get Dev out of the jurisdiction of the local as per the business agent's demand. Dev took the shot of Early Times and Kenny took a sip of his now frosty cocktail of Early Times and water. Buddy and Mac both drinking Seven-Seven raised their glasses, found a sort of toast to Pep, and wished him well. All lifted their glasses and the sentiment of Pep's condition passed, Dev ordered another one and took the money from Mac's pile and figured he was so damned dough heavy from overtime he could afford a few especially since he himself had been locked up. This time Mac pocketed the wad up to his shirt pocket and scolded Dev for stealing his roll.

The biggest logger sitting right next to Mac chirped in he would whip a man's ass for fiddling with his money like that and called Mac a coward for not defending his funds any better. Buddy made a quiet remark to Kenny and giggled, the logger demanded to know what he said, and Dev said none of your business. Kenny spoke up louder and declared the phrase was "Why don't you big Gorillas go back out in the woods for the night and climb a tree and hang around up there for awhile." Mac being of good nature and not a fighter at all pulled the wad of money out of his pocket and ordered another round for the house and the

bartender getting a little worried sat the ball bat back down next to the sawed off shot gun and got busy making the drinks. It was turning into a pretty good night for him and he hoped he didn't have to beat anybody's brains out or worse yet have to resort to the scatter gun to bring down an uprising that seemed to be brewing. He proceeded to stock the chest with beer from the back room in preparation for the next shift and came

back to pour more and wash glasses all the while keeping one eye on the strange four he had never seen and the loggers he knew for years, knowing they were tough and ready for a good fight every Friday night after hitting the pay line. Things would get hot and then cool down, get a little hot again and then cool down. The tender

warned one of the loggers to take it outside when it started for he was tired of replacing broken shit and last time he ran a man's head through the juke box it flat ruined "Move It On Over" by Hank Williams and damn if when they pulled the unconscious man's head from the machine it didn't crank up on it's own and start in blasting Frank Sinatra's "It Only Happens When I Dance with You," and by God he didn't intend on the decent customers to be without their tunes just because of a bunch of drunk jackasses that can't handle their booze. The linemen and loggers didn't fight. They drank on a few more hours and Kenny and Buddy went north to see the Pep and Fancy. Dev and Dirty Mac headed south for warmer weather like snowbirds.

*Kenny, being a very intelligent man who would later prove his ability in arenas not yet even imagined, came from salt of the earth people who had clung to the Line trade from the beginning.*

## Roaring Twenties!

IBEW members broke into Weakley Hall in Vacaville for an evening of gambling, drinking, hustling and other activities too shady to mention. They were definitely dressed to kill, but it was all for a good cause: to raise money for the Solano County Chapter of the Electrical Worker Minority Caucus (EWMC).

"I've always wanted to dress up as a flapper and I got an opportunity to do that," said IBEW 1245 Office Manager Tonya Alston, who helped organize the event, held April 11.

There were rumors the place might be raided by J. Edgar Hoover, but the feds never showed so nobody got pinched or ended the night in bracelets or the caboose. The event raised a lot of cabbage, about \$2000 before expenses, which will allow the EWMC to send some new members to the national EWMC convention next January in New York.



Photos by John Storey

See more photos at: <http://bit.ly/1GtsBCQ>



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Officers and Members and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 Vacaville, California

**Report on the Financial Statements.** We have audited the accompanying statements of Financial Position arising from cash transactions as of December 31, 2014 and the related Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements.** Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis: this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether from fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility.** Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

As described in Note 1, these financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, the accompanying statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

**Opinion.** In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash basis transactions of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local

1245 for the year ended December 31, 2014 and its financial position (cash basis) at December 31, 2014 in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the statements.

**Report on Supplementary Information.** Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information (shown on pages 12 to 25) is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounts and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

San Bruno, California

March 30, 2015

DALMAS ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS December 31, 2014

<b>Assets</b>					
<b>General Fund:</b>		Contributions refunded- USW	10,000	Secretary of State-fees	640
Bank of the West - checking accounts	1,153,525	Contributions refund- others	5,963	Gilmore for Mayor 2014	1,000
Bank of the West - money market	1,394,032	Total receipts and balance	<u>247,852</u>	Sherley O'Brien Campaign	500
Cash funds	5,350			Pacheco for Supervisor 2014	1,000
				No on Measure B-Revolt	2,000
				Alameda Firefighters PAC	500
				USW District	10,000
				Jim Oddie for City Council	500
				Young for AC Transit Board	500
				Willims for AC Transit Board	500
				Bob Wieckowski Campaign	2,500
				Phil Ting for Assembly	2,500
				Dave Cortese for Mayor 2014	500
				Tim S. Branti for Assembly 2014	2,500
				Cope So. Labor	5,000
				Unity PAC to Elect Guillen & Campbell	3,000
				Washington for City Council	
				Abel Guillen for Oakland City Council 2014	500
				Tony Thurmond for Assembly 2014	3,000
				Annie Campbell-Washington Oakland	500
				City Council 2014	
				Kewal Singh for AC Transit Board	500
				Friends of Caserta for City Council 2014	500
				Toni Atkins for Assembly	8,200
				Kristen Schreder for City Council 2014	500
				Stewart Chen for Alameda City Council	500
				Dr. Richard Pan Senate 2014	8,200
				Adam Gray for Assembly	8,200
				Marilyn Dondero Loop Campaign	1,500
				Betty Yee for Controller 2014	5,000
				David Glass for Mayor	250
				Committee for Better Wages	5,000
				Progressive Coalition of Santa Cruz Co.	500
				No. Bay COPE	1,050
				Debra Brown Secretary of State- annual fee	50
				Ed Behart -member refund	5
				Total disbursements	<u>203,896</u>
				Cash balance, December 31, 2014	<u>43,956</u>
				Cash and investments balance,	
				beginning December 31, 2013	<u>17,627,288</u>
				<b>Receipts:</b>	
				Local Union portion of receipts:	
				"A" members' dues	755,602
				"BA" members' dues	17,962,346
				Initiation fees	51,796
				Reinstatement fees	8,679
				Agency fees	90,619
				Working dues	4,466,791
				Hiring hall dues	615,720
				Retiree's club dues	<u>20,751</u> <u>23,972,304</u>
					July – September 2015

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>Liabilities:</b>	
IBEW per capita portion of December receipts to forward	310,003
Vacation payable	<u>1,485,189</u>
Current Liabilities	1,795,192
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Unrestricted	14,678,681
Temporarily restricted- Political Donation Fund	<u>43,956</u> <u>14,722,637</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 16,517,829</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245. STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS. POLITICAL DONATION FUND. TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED. For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Cash balance, December 31, 2013	140,344
Receipts: Portion of Local Union dues directly deposited to this fund	91,545

<b>Reimbursements to General Fund:</b>		
Interest and investment income	378,897	

<b>Refunds and reimbursements:</b>		
Union Shopper	23,628	
Other receipts	1,546	

<b>Energy Workers Inc. improvement loan payments:</b>		
Principal	170,993	
Interest	6,694	
Merger of Local 2131	33,005	
Automobile sales	<u>34,891</u>	<u>649,654</u>

<b>International portion of receipts:</b>		
"A" members' per capita	834,830	
"BA" members' per capita	2,723,951	
Initiation fees	59,188	
D.B.A.F. fees	1,455	
Reinstatement fees	12,393	
Agency fees	<u>27,169</u>	<u>3,658,986</u>
Total receipts		<u>28,280,944</u>
Total balance and receipts		45,908,232
Disbursements, per Page 18 of Schedule of Disbursements		<u>30,357,233</u>

Cash and investments balance, December 31, 2014, Details in Statement of Financial Position arising from cash transactions		<u>15,550,999</u>
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<b>Affiliation fees:</b>		
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	4,355,377	
SSanta Clara C.L.C.	10,140	
Alameda C.L.C.	12,714	
Kern / Inyo / Mono	1,350	
Nevada State Electrical Association	2,164	
Sacramento C.L.C.	13,200	
San Francisco C.L.C.	18,102	
Contra Costa C.L.C.	11,700	
Marin County C.L.C.	7,164	
San Joaquin and Calaveras C.L.C.	5,238	
Butte-Glenn C.L.C.	1,500	
Napa-Solano C.L.C.	3,210	
Fresno-Madera C.L.C.	5,400	
Merced-Mariposa C.L.C.	2,250	
Stanislaus-Tuolumne C.L.C.	1,860	
Marysville C.L.C.	1,200	
Humboldt-Del Norte C.L.C.	844	
Five Counties C.L.C.	2,556	
Monterey County C.L.C.	3,630	
Government Coordinating Council	600	
San Mateo C.L.C.	5,016	
Joint Executive Conference-N.C. Electrical Workers	100	
Tri Counties C.L.C.	5,808	
Maritime Trades Post Council	600	
Northern Nevada C.L.C.	1,650	
Forum - Alameda Retired Members	60	
NV Alliance Retired Americans	200	
California State Association of Electrical Workers	878,912	
CARA	100	
Congress of Ca - Seniors	125	
TCC-4	383	
		<u>5,353,153</u>

<b>Staff expenses:</b>		
Salaries	10,433,133	
Expenses	681,023	
Automobile expenses	121,946	
Auto Purchases	215,595	
Fitness plan	690	
		<u>11,452,387</u>

<b>Research and Education:</b>		
Subscriptions and publications	30,509	
Scholarship fund	2,000	
		<u>32,509</u>

<b>Office salaries:</b>		
Administration office salaries	384,254	
Bargaining unit salaries	<u>821,956</u>	<u>1,206,210</u>

<b>Office expenses:</b>		
Rent	480,000	
Telephone	220,069	
Postage mail service and meter expense	87,032	
Print room/printing	172,623	
Supplies	27,595	
Equipment maintenance	5,889	
Data processing	18,604	
Equipment rental	30,741	
Utility reporter	129,148	
Miscellaneous	29,623	
Bank charges	33,755	

Utility Reporter

Furniture and equipment purchases		346,121	
Storage		<u>5,234</u>	
		<u>1,586,434</u>	

	<b>Salaries Paid</b>		
	<b>or Reimbursed</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Committee salaries and expenses:</b>			
Executive Board meetings	51,940	42,955	94,895
Advisory Council	37,826	78,476	116,302
Trustee Committee	10,335	6,139	16,474
Safety Summit		13,254	13,254
Review Committee	21,577	6,868	28,445
Safety Committee	32,523	9,859	42,382
Shop Steward expenses	164,968	171,674	336,642
Other conferences	64,550	254,216	318,766
Labor Management		14,735	14,735
Organizing	1,516	12,634	14,150
Grievance/FF/LIC	3,139	8,870	12,009
	<u>388,374</u>	<u>619,680</u>	<u>1,008,054</u>

<b>Various Other Committees:</b>			
Outside Line	171,484	3,193	174,677
Davey Tree	2,380	572	2,952
Retirees		11,938	11,938
Central Labor		671	671
City of Healdsburg		845	845
Outside conference		995	995
Membership development	140,038	143,285	283,323
Eaton Cooper	504	625	1,129
Peer to peer	8,434	4,554	12,988
Utility Trees		142	142
Frontier committee	9,908	2,188	12,096
Paradise ID		529	529
Joint Apprenticeship		49	49
City of Willits		166	166
Mt. Wheeler	1,401	87	1,488
Wells Rural Elect.		900	900
Sunoptics	11,471	13,049	24,520
City of Lodi		392	392
City of Lompoc	5,033	1,362	6,395
Dynegy	34,008	6,468	40,476
Plumas-Sierra Rural	2,678	88	2,766
Ansaldobreda		132	132
Borden Lighting		74	74
Jacobs Technology		198	198
Leadership	87,540	64	87,604
Lockheed Martin	4,957	723	5,680
Local Union Election		33	33
City of Gridley		317	317
Trees Inc.	340	509	849
Merced ID		512	512
NRG		34	34
NV Energy	25,794	61,195	86,989
A.C. Transit		40	40
Truckee Meadows	6,320	48	6,368
Modesto I.D.	16,567	543	17,110
City of Berkeley		557	557
Turlock I.D.	5,994	2,599	8,593
City of Redding		959	959
City of Ukiah		37	37
Trans Canada		889	889
Synergy		55	55
Members training / education		13,920	13,920
Mid American		254,897	254,897
Hold The Pull	180,614	75,665	256,279
Foster Wheeler		350	350
Regional Transit gen neg		1,812	1,812
City of Santa Clara	4,082	3,673	7,755
Nevada ID		133	133
Liberty / Calpeco	9,771	20,463	30,234
USBR		204	204
WAPA		84	84
SF Shell Shock		9,688	9,688
Wright Tree		72	72
Veterans Club	5,701	22,862	28,563
PUC		243	243
	<u>735,019</u>	<u>665,682</u>	<u>1,400,701</u>

<b>PG&amp;E Negotiation Committees:</b>			
<b>Departmental:</b>			
Arbitration	731	64,569	65,300
Misc. physical		30	30
Negotiations	62,826	656,946	719,772
Ad Hoc	9,064	1,937	11,001
Meal Committee		398	398
Exhibit XVI	20,951	7,877	28,828
Benefits negotiations		8,290	8,290
T & R	2,699	3,109	5,808
Sysop		10,317	10,317
Scada		3,295	3,295
GRS		3,260	3,260
Misc. Clerical Mtg	3,573	1,621	5,194
Lines of Progression		2,203	2,203
Diablo Canyon	1,249	60	1,309
Employee orientation	18,252	3,697	21,949
Call Center		642	642

Gas Operations	2,586	2,586
Benefits	213	213
T-Men	128	128
212 Committee	22,261	3,967
Helicopter		599
Clerical Focus Group		1,503
Job Bidding		6,277
T & D	10,466	1,181
TSO	29,555	6,688
Tech		712
Rubber Glove		108
Hydro/SYS op.		109
	<u>181,627</u>	<u>792,322</u>
		<u>973,949</u>

<b>Membership expenses:</b>		
Supplies - Intl.		4,397
Supplies - Local		17,872
Membership fees		41,420
Labor Day Picnic		800
Union Shopper		55,070
Lineman Rodeo		94,985
Clay Shoot EB		28,981
Soccer tournament		18,178
Motorcycle Rally		197
Translation to Spanish		5,127
Softball Tournament		(531)
Fishing trip		350
Golf tournament		(387)
		<u>266,459</u>

<b>Membership benefits:</b>		
Group life insurance		93,322
Unit drawing award		600
Individual drawing award		600
Service award dinners		114,093
Flowers/donations/bibles		117
Social fund		39,893
		<u>248,625</u>

<b>Payroll taxes:</b>		
<b>Employee portion:</b>		
U.S. income tax withheld		(2,454,787)
FICA withheld		(676,556)
California income tax withheld		(711,633)
SDI withheld		(71,526)
U.S. income tax forward		2,454,787
FICA forward		676,556
California income tax forward		711,633
SDI forward		71,526
<b>Local Union's portion:</b>		
FICA		676,556
California Unemployment		24,075
U.S. Unemployment		9,728
		<u>710,359</u>

<b>Employee benefits:</b>		
Health and Welfare plans		2,759,603
Group life insurance		120,298
Pension plan		1,761,533
Other costs, pension plans		35,783
		<u>4,677,217</u>

<b>Other disbursements:</b>		
Legal fees		263,041
Hall rentals		113,298
Workmen's compensation insurance		148,649
Refunds		7,472
PRD fees		24,733
Law clerk		5,987
CCA Works		19,218
Miscellaneous taxes		371
Insurance - auto		51,366
Insurance - Bonds		48,948
Insurance - professional liability		30,051
Audit fees		36,100
Charitable donations		16,345
Miscellaneous fees		2,500
Sales tax		7,023
UCC-7		4,714
Community Unit Fund		37,650
Injured Workers Fund		657
Sponsorships		6,050
Consulting fees		617,003
		<u>1,441,176</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<u>30,357,233</u>





I'M IN LINE FOR \$500 OF ARMCHAIR MONEY. THEY BYPASSED ME FOR EMERGENCY CALL OUT LAST NIGHT.

HUH?

THEY CALLED THE WRONG GUY.

I WAS WAITING FOR THE CALL, SO THEY GOTTA PAY ME.

YOU'RE DREAMING.

NOPE, I'M GRIEVING. THE COMPANY VIOLATED THE CONTRACT, AND THERE'S A REMEDY. THAT'S THE KEY TO A GRIEVANCE.

# WHAT IS A GRIEVANCE?



WELL, I GOT A BEEF OR TWO...

NOT EVERY COMPLAINT IS A GRIEVANCE, BUT IF YOU WERE TREATED WRONGLY OR DIFFERENTLY, SEE YOUR STEWARD.

WHAT CAN HE DO?



HE'LL TALK TO EVERYONE INVOLVED, INCLUDING THE BOSS. JUST BE HONEST, THERE'S PAPERWORK AND DEADLINES, BUT THE UNION WILL HAVE YOUR BACK.



REMEMBER, MANAGEMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU YOUR RIGHTS. THAT'S WHY WE NEED THE UNION...AND THE CONTRACT.

WHAT IF THE BOSS WANTS ME TO DO SOME WORK THAT VIOLATES THE CONTRACT?

DO THE WORK --AS LONG AS IT'S SAFE-- AND TALK TO A STEWARD LATER TO SEE IF THE ISSUE CAN BE GRIEVED.



MANAGEMENT MAY TRY TO DRAG ITS FEET, BUT YOUR STEWARD WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON ANY VALID GRIEVANCE. THAT'S HOW THE UNION PROTECTS YOUR RIGHTS.