Local awaits word on PCB standard

Following an October 29 public hearing on PCB experiences and concerns, the future of a proposed PCB Standard aimed at protecting workers who are exposed to this toxic chemical is now in the hands of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards Board.

The Board's decision is expected in early February, and final adoption of a new standard would then require approval by the California Office of Administrative Law.

Local 1245 members who've had direct PCB contact, and Business Manager Jack McNally testified at the October evening meeting in San Francisco.

For almost two years Local 1245 has sought legal restrictions on PCBs that would control exposure to the chemical because of its potential cancer-causing properties. McNally supported the proposed standard and stressed the need for improvements in such areas as medical surveillance, training, protective clothing, and lowering of the permissible exposure level to trace amounts, rather than the currently proposed 50 parts per million.

Juliann Sum, Local 1245's industrial hygienist, told the Standards Board that she had sent five identical samples to four state-accredited testing laboratories and got back.

See back page

Local 1245 Business Representative Al Sandoval mourned

Business Representative Al Sandoval is dead.

He had been on sick leave since April of this year and following an extended illness, died in Sacramento on Friday, November 13, just three weeks after his 42nd birthday.

The sad news of his untimely death was announced at the beginning of a quarterly Advisory Council meeting which was being held in Sacramento the weekend of November 14 and 15.

Sandoval was widely respected among the membership, and Advisory Council members were quick to prepare a tribute to his memory. First the meeting was dedicated to the memory of Al Sandoval, and secondly, a Local 1245 educational scholarship was renamed in honor of this Unionist who had devoted much of his life to the causes of Local 1245 and its members.

A 15-year member, Sandoval first joined IBEW Local 1245 in January 1966. He had been a Lineman in the

Al Sandoval
Sacramento Division prior to joining Local 1245 staff as a Business Representative in April of 1973, and was assigned to PG&E Sacramento Division, General Construction, and Pacific Tree.

Funeral services were held in Sacramento with dozens of Local 1245 Brothers and Sisters in attendance. Burial followed there. Sandoval is survived by a daughter, Crista, 11, and his parents, Albert and Loyola Sandoval, New Mexico; two brothers and three sisters.

A unanimously passed Advisory Council motion recommended to the Executive Board:

The sudden death of Business Representative Al Sandoval has cast a deep personal sorrow over the members of the Local Union 1245's Advisory Council. The loss of this talented and dedicated Union member serves to remind us all that we are on Earth for a brief time, and that it is the record of accomplishments and the number of friends who are left behind that truly mark one's passing.

Al Sandoval has left behind a large number of friends and admirers who reach considerably beyond this Council and this organization. Each of us extends our sympathy to Al's family, and we share in their grief.

Al Sandoval has also left a record of accomplishments and dedication for all of us to remember and to emulate. However, there will be those in the future among our membership who will never have the opportunity to meet and to know Al.

Therefore, the Advisory Council believes it would be a suitable memorial to rename the Local Union's Scholarship program to "The Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W. Al Sandoval Memorial Scholarship."

IN MEMORIAM
Albert E. Sandoval
Close up: Unemployment insurance benefits

This brief review indicates that should you anticipate termination from your employer you should carefully consider your actions in order to safeguard your rights to Unemployment Insurance Benefits. If you have questions concerning your rights be sure to contact your union representative.

This article will review the few of the more common, basic problems that may arise when applying for unemployment insurance benefits in California.

Unemployment insurance is designed to provide a measure of financial support when an individual is without work due to a layoff, inability to find work, or some other form of involuntary unemployment.

Unemployment insurance is not welfare. Persons who are out of work do not have to prove that they are poor in order to receive unemployment benefits. Rather, unemployment compensation is insurance designed to protect people who regularly work but are temporarily out of a job through no fault of their own and who satisfy specific eligibility requirements.

The eligibility requirements which prove to be the most problematic for the requirements that the claimant: (1) be actively seeking suitable work; and (2) have good cause for leaving his last job.

Seeking Suitable Work

A claimant must be actively seeking "suitable" work and must accept any suitable work offered for which there is no good cause for refusing.

A claimant cannot be refused benefits for turning down a job offer unless the job offered is suitable and the claimant has no good cause to refuse it. The Unemployment Insurance Code sets out several factors which are considered in determining whether a given job is "suitable." These are:

(a) Whether the offered employment presents a substantial degree of risk to the claimant's health or morals. A claimant is usually required to accept the risks customary to the claimant's occupation where such risks are presented by the offered employment.

(b) If the offered employment offers a wage within the prevailing wage rate for similar work for persons with the claimant's experience it will be deemed suitable even though the offered wage is below the wage earned on the claimant's last job.

(c) If the offered employment entails duties that the claimant cannot physically perform, the work is not suitable employment for that claimant.

(d) The length of the claimant's unemployment and the claimant's prospects for finding local work in their usual occupation.

(e) The distance of the work from the claimant's home. There are no set rules for determining how far a claimant must be willing to travel to work in order to meet the test of "availability." If claimants limit their job search to work near their home at a time when the prospects for employment in that area are slight, to the exclusion of other localities within a reasonable distance where there is work, they may be held "unavailable" for work.

In determining what is a "reasonable" distance for a claimant to travel, the Employment Development Department (EDD) looks to the customary distance usually travelled by other people in the same locality and in the same occupation as the claimant.

While there is no bright line setting off what is a reasonable distance from what is an unreasonable distance, the EDD has held that one hour's travel time to get to work in most areas was unreasonable.

The Unemployment Insurance Code also specifically states that no work is suitable if: (a) the vacancy exists because of a strike or lock out; or (b) the wages, hours, or working conditions of the job offered are substantially less favorable than those prevailing for similar work in a locality; or (c) if, as a condition of being employed, the claimant would be required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any union. In other words, no one ordinarily has to scam, stay out of a union, or work for substandard pay at the risk of losing unemployment benefits.

However, while a claimant cannot be disqualified from Unemployment Insurance for failing to cross the picket line to accept new work, a claimant on lay-off who is recalled by a former employer in an effort to break a strike may have benefits cut off if they refuse to cross the picket line to return to work.

Unless a job is plainly unsuitable, claimants should be sure to investigate any jobs to which the EDD refers them. To avoid the likelihood of disqualification, claimants should not argue that they did not investigate certain jobs because they thought the jobs were probably unsuitable. Rather, a claimant should interview for the job, and, if they find it unsuitable, obtain sufficient information about it during the interview to explain its unsuitability to the EDD.

If recall rights exist, a claimant who has been laid off must keep the former employer informed of their address. Failure to do so subjects the claimant to the risk of disqualification for refusing suitable work without good cause. Moreover, a claimant may not refuse an offer of suitable work merely because of the hope of being recalled to their former job in the foreseeable future.

If, however, in interviews for prospective jobs, claimants honestly answer that they would return to their former job if recalled, claimants generally will not be disqualified for refusing unless the old job offered better wages or working conditions than the prospective employment.

Next month issues surrounding leaving work for good cause will be detailed.

PG&E Retirement Plan buy back' deadline nears

Costs for buying back credited service toward retirement at PG&E, Standard Pacific Gas Line, Inc. and PGE will increase after December 31, 1981, but members have until the end of April 1982 to make a decision on the one-time buy back offer.
CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have just moved, or are about to move, please complete this form to insure your continued receipt of all Union mail. Send completed form and your mailing label from the front page to:

UTILITY REPORTER
P.O. Box 4790
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596

Old label: ____________________________

Name: ______________________________

New Address: (Street and Number) ______

(City and Zip Code) ______

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Business Representative Wayne Greer, right, presents certificate honoring retired member Herman H. Buickeroed, center, for his 60-year membership in IBEW. Shirley Buickeroed proudly looks on as her husband is congratulated for his many years of union activity. Buickeroed, who will be 89 years old this December was first initiated into IBEW Local 343 in Taft, California where he worked as an Apprentice Lineman. He joined PG&E in 1923 and worked as a Lineman in the San Jose Division for 35 years, retiring as a foreman in 1958. Asked why he'd first joined the union he said, “It wasn't easy getting people into the union back then; we had quite a problem. I believed joining a union was the right thing to do. I figured since the corporations were all well organized that the workers should get organized too.” He said he regularly attended all union meetings. He and his wife did plenty of traveling after his retirement, coupled with lots of fishing and hunting. They still reside in Local 1245 jurisdiction, just outside San Jose in Sunnyvale.

'Do as I say' attitude prevails

President Reagan now plans to appoint a panel to study ways in which private volunteer efforts could take care of minority groups. Everyone knows that Mr. Reagan has already asked the wealthy to support arts and charity. The AFL-CIO Legislative Alert noted that "A respected technical weekly called Tax Notes points out Mr. Reagan's own charitable contributions have been "kept under careful control." The New York Times (10/8/81) picked up on Tax Notes quote - 'At least such is the conclusion some might draw from the tax returns showing that the Reagan's contributions to tax deductible causes last year amounted to only $3,089, or less than 1.4 percent of their $227,968 of adjusted gross income." The journal adds that while the Reagans' "Marginal propensity to give, as reflected by their 1980 tax return, may appear to be on the careful side, still, their giving record is not far from the median performance of all taxpayers who have a similar income standing." Legislative Alert also notes - "The IRS reports the average middle-income taxpayer makes charitable contributions at a rate of about three percent, more than twice as high as rich niks.'

Giving, sensitive, dedicated;
Al Sandoval will be missed

Business Representative Al Sandoval passed away on Friday, November 13, 1981. He had been seriously ill for over five months with complications arising from a serious case of hepatitis. Sandy, as he was known to his friends, had served almost eight years as a Business Representative for Local 1245. He was assigned to the Sacramento Division of PG&E and had the overall responsibility for members employed by Pacific Tree Company. During his tenure as a Business Representative he also served members at Sacramento Regional Transit District and Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Sandy was born on October 22, 1919, in Tularosa, New Mexico. He grew up there and in July 1940 joined the United States Air Force, serving in Korea. He received an honorable discharge from the Air Force in July 1964 and shortly thereafter went to work for Pacific Gas and Electric Company in the Gas Department. He later transferred to the Electric Department and eventually became a Lineman in the Sacramento Division of PG&E.

Sandy joined Local 1245 in January 1966 and became active as a shop steward and a member of the Sacramento Division Joint Grievance Committee.

In April 1973 Sandy came to work for Local 1245 as a Business Representative, first assigned to East Bay Division of PG&E and then later reassigned to the Sacramento Division. Sandy was a dedicated, hardworking Representative who was sensitive to the problems and needs of people. Those who were his friends knew he was willing to give the shirt off his back to help those who needed it.

The Local Union's competitive scholarship that is awarded annually to a graduating senior child of a member has been renamed, appropriately so, the Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship to honor Sandy for his dedication to Local Union 1245.

We will miss him.

In Unity—

Jack McNally

IBEW 1245 Business Manager

IBEW 1245 UTILITY REPORTER/NOVEMBER 1981
NIOSH, high voltage studies detailed

By Michael Bader MPH, U.C. Medical School, San Francisco

American studies in this area are hardly better than the Soviet Unions which were highlighted last month. Starting in 1982, 10 Line-men who served 345 and 755 kv transmission lines were given detailed medical exams after a period of nine years. Four of the workers were combustive gloves only while working and six worked with "hot sticks" which placed them about 10 feet from the line. All results, including levels of radiation, EKGs, hearing tests, and chest X-rays showed no problems.

Like the Soviet studies, this study suffers from having a control group and having studied so few people that it would be impossible to detect relatively rare diseases, such as cancer.

Although it is not well known, even the most common cancer among men—lung cancer—strikes only 70 out of 100,000 men each year. Thus, to detect one case of lung cancer, a study would have to include at least 1000 men followed for 10 years. Clearly, studying ten men is inadequate.

A second U.S. study looked at personnel working near Project Sanguine, the U.S. Navy's system of communicating with submarines via low frequency electromagnetic waves generated by hundreds of miles of buried cable in Wisconsin. In this two year study, 24 personnel working near the Sanguine cable were compared to 24 others of similar age and sex who worked in another Navy facility. All estimates were made of the amount of field exposure, based on the distance from the cable to the area of employment, the year of employment, and only nine pairs of subjects remained, the rest having moved away or refusing to participate.

Out of a complex of lab tests, there were three minor differences: low cholesterol, high triglycerides (a kind of fat), and low tests of liver function. No evidence of the kind of problems reported by the Soviets was found, even though complete psychological personality tests were given.

Clearly, the major weakness of the Project Sanguine study is the small sample size, but also the investigators never checked the exposure of the control group to high voltage fields, even though they worked in the Midwest Naval Systems Command, where presumably there was a lot of electronic equipment.

Since the control group may have been exposed as much as the Sanguine personnel, no significant differences in health may have been apparent. In epidemiology, this is known as diluting the results.

NIOSH Study

A third U.S. study was conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 1976. NIOSH is the research arm of the federal occupational health establishment, and conducts basic epidemiological studies on which the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standards are based.

This study analyzed the deaths of all workers in Washington State during the 1960s by using proportion mortality ratios (PMRs) for each job classification. PMRs compare the proportion of deaths due to a cause in one job category versus the proportion of deaths due to that cause in the general population. For example, if 25% of deaths among electrical workers are due to cancer and only 10% of deaths in the general population are due to cancer, then the PMR is 2.5. By convention this is multiplied by 10, or 25. By this convention, the PMR due to cancer is 250.

Within the category "Linemen and Servicemen: Telegraph, Telephone, Power," NIOSH found a PMR of 3200 for deaths due to electrocution, 440 for deaths due to accidental falls, and 175 for cancers of the mouth, throat, large intestine, pancreas, and lung, and for death from asthma and blood clot in the lung.

These cancer findings might be shocking if it were not for another epidemiological quirk, the "healthy worker effect." In general, the working population is healthier than the national population as a whole, because people with chronic diseases such as heart ailments usually retire from the workforce. Cancer, on the other hand, strikes more suddenly, and therefore a working population tends to have a higher percentage of deaths due to cancer than heart disease.

The result is that one expects elevated PMRs for cancers, and only when they are greater than 200 do epidemiologists begin to worry. Still, any elevated PMR is grounds for further investigation since workers are exposed to a variety of carcinogenic substances each day.

Swedish Study

The first study worth its price in kilowatts was conducted by the Swedish National Board of Occupational Safety and Health in 1979. Fifty-three workers with more than five years of exposure to the electric field of 400 kv substations were compared to an equal number of nonexposed workers from the same power companies. Using a field intensity meter which sums the amount of time spent in fields of different strengths, the exposure of "average" maintenance and circuit-breaker workers in several substations throughout the country was calculated.

The control group, composed of people who worked chiefly with 220/380 V, was matched, person-for-person, with high-exposure workers of similar age, location, and duration of employment.

Results of psychiatric interviews, psychological testing, electroencephalogram, which measures brain activity, and standard blood tests were equal. In fact, the only difference found was that significantly fewer children were born to exposed workers, especially few births: 38 and 65 male children among exposed and unexposed, respectively.

But the data was analyzed and found to have been a pattern before employment began, thereby suggesting that other factors might be at work, although these were not known. Unfortunately, the authors neglected to follow-up on this strange finding with more detailed analysis of the workers' sperm counts, miscarriages among workers' wives, or genetic problems.

Local 1245 safety report: Carney poles, safety

by Ron Fitzsimmons, Health and Safety Representative

Climbing Restrictions on Carney Pine Poles

The restriction on climbing of Carney Pine Poles is still in effect, however, PG&E has completed testing. A meeting held on April 9, 1981, Company proposed to lift the restrictions. PG&E used a "ploddy" test for shell wood strength followed by a moisture test and a core test for density. As a result of these tests PG&E determined that it is an accurate method to test Carney Pine Poles. The Union disagreed. Local Union 1245 submitted an in-depth rebuttal so the PG&E's proposed testing procedure.

In a recent meeting between Cal-Osha and the Union both parties stated their positions on the testing procedures and Cal-Osha was expected to issue its decision during the first week in December.

Personal Safety Equipment

In May of 1980 Local Union 1245 filed a complaint for injunctive relief in the San Francisco Superior Court. The complaint was filed for the employer, PG&E, to provide all personal safety equipment, clothing, etc., to its employees at Company's expense as directed by California Labor Code Section 6401 which provides that every employer must furnish all safety devices for its employees. Cal OSHA has completed their investigations and a hearing should be scheduled in the near future.

Geyser's arsenic

The grievances filed with PG&E on their arsenic training program are still at LIC in Division. We are awaiting PG&E's response to their amendments of their draft LIC report.

Chemical Contaminants at PG&E's Martin Service Center

The Local is awaiting Federal
How Reagan's attacks on OSHA affect you

Although not immediately affecting workers covered under state occupational health and safety programs, the watering down worker health protection policies of the Reagan administration will ultimately affect the state programs. It's projected that new standards will be discouraged and that enforcement policies will be weakened.

Your health will no longer be OSHA's first concern:
The agency has been taken over by businessmen. The new director of OSHA appointed by Reagan is Thorne Auchter, previously Vice-President of his family's construction firm in Florida. His company has been cited by OSHA 48 times. He has had no professional training or substantial involvement in health and safety. This is in contrast to the two previous directors of OSHA who were occupational health scientists with respected credentials: Eula Bingham from the University of Cincinnati and Dr. Morton Corn from the University of Pittsburgh.

In a related action, the Director of NIOSH, Dr. Tony Robbins, was summarily fired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Richard Schweiker. This act followed a vicious personal attack on Robbins by the Chamber of Commerce for being too pro-worker.

You may have to wear a respirator forever:
The Reagan OSHA is promoting the use of personal protective equipment instead of engineering controls. Thorne Auchter has stated that he sees nothing wrong with using respirators as a permanent solution to health hazards.

OSHA inspectors will not necessarily be available when you need them. The Reagan Administration wants to end OSHA's so-called "policeman's role" in favor of promoting a voluntary program based on cooperation among government, business, and labor. The number of OSHA inspectors is being cut; OSHA's budget will probably also be cut.

Your right to information about hazards is being limited:
One of the reasons why there are problems with job hazards is that there are too few professionals trained in this area. NIOSH tried to rectify this by granting money to several universities to train more experts in health and safety. Reagan's budget proposes to cut these grants from $14 million (inadequate as that is) to zero. Other parts of NIOSH's proposed budget were also hard hit.

Coverage under the OSHA legislation is threatened:
Congressional action is expected which would exempt certain types of workplaces (small shops, "safe" plants, etc.), and the new administration's attempts to gut OSHA's enforcement will make it easier for employers to avoid compliance.

Help from new professionals will be limited:
OSHA inspectors are being laid off. Reagan's budget proposes to cut these grants from $14 million to zero. Other parts of NIOSH's proposed budget were also hard hit.

osha's achievements have included establishing worker health and safety standards to limit occupational hazards, developing enforcement programs for monitoring employer practices, and funding grants for health and safety training.

Reagan has proposed 1982 budget cuts of more than $40 million for OSHA and NIOSH combined. Because of anticipated layoffs in NIOSH personnel and severe slashes in OSHA training grants:
1) The ongoing NIOSH study of Local 1245 members exposed to benzene, arsenic, and creosote treated utility poles has been cancelled indefinitely.
2) The ongoing NIOSH study of PCB exposures among PG&E employees may be postponed.
3) The ongoing NIOSH study of stress at PG&E Geyers Power Plant has been postponed indefinitely.
4) Close to home at UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program, layoffs have eliminated more than two-thirds of the staff and the program is now functioning with a skeleton crew.

For your own letters of protest, write to:
Thorne G. Auchter
Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20210

Your Representative
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Your Senator
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
San Joaquin

1111  FRESNO  Cedar Lane Bowl  Chairman: Tuesday  5 2 2 6 4 1
Cedar & Shields  Tom Thomas  5:30 p.m.

1122  BAKERSFIELD  Central Labor Council  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 8 13 10
200 W. Jeffrey  Ed Malicky  7:30 p.m.

1123  MADERA  DiCicco's  Chairman: Thursday  7 4 4 8 6 3
516 So. 1st St.  John Souza  7:30 p.m.

1118  CRANE VALLEY  Wagon Wheel  Chairman: Wednesday  6 3 3 7 5 2
Oakhurst  Harold Stein  7:30 p.m.

1119  BALCH  Power House  Chairman: Tuesday  12 9 9 13 11 8
John Yews  5:30 p.m.

1121  COALINGA  Power Club  Chairman: Tuesday  12 9 9 13 11 15
Jayne & Merced  S. Gillespie  7:30 p.m.

1122  MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT  Pine Cone Coffee Shop  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 15 13 10
2000 E. Childs  John Goodson  7:30 p.m.

1123  MERCED  Teamsters Hall  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 15 13 10
740 9th 19th St.  Don Manning  7:30 p.m.

1124  LCS BANOS  Fireman's Hall  Chairman: Wednesday  13 10 10 14 12 9
520 "J" Street  Tom Hunt  7:30 p.m.

Coast Valleys

1211  SALINAS  American Legion Hall  Chairman: Tuesday  5 2 2 6 4 8
14 W Laurel Dr.  J. Collenback  7:00 p.m.

1212  MONTEREY  Two Guys From Italy  Chairman: Wednesday  20 17 17 21 19 23
2030 Fremont St.  R. Barb  5:00 p.m.

1213  KING CITY  Pozzi's Stampede  Chairman: Thursday  21 18 18 22 20 24
207 Broadway  Dick Manley  5:00 p.m.

1214  MOSS LANDING  Teamsters Hall  Chairman: Thursday  7 4 4 8 6 10
17A East Beach  Harold Walker  5:00 p.m.

1215  SAN LUIS OBISPO  Motel Inn  Chairman: Wednesday  13 17 17 14 12 16
2223 Monterey St.  R. Hernandez  7:00 p.m.

1216  SANTA MARIA  Vanderberg Inn  Chairman: Thursday  14 18 18 15 13 17
1316 So. Broadway  Donald Woods  8:00 p.m.

1217  PASO ROBLES  Paso Robles Inn  Chairman: Tuesday  12 16 16 13 11 15
11 & Spring St.  T. Tweedy  7:00 p.m.

1219  HOLLISTER  Paine's Restaurant  Chairman: Wednesday  6 3 3 7 5 9
421 East  J. Johnson  5:00 p.m.

1220  DIABLO CANYON  San Luis Bay Inn  Chairman: Monday  11 22* 15 12 10 14
Avila Beach  D. Cannon  5:00 p.m.

*Rescheduled due to Holiday.

Pipeline

1311  BARSTOW  V.F.W. Club Rm.  Chairman: Wednesday  6 3 3 7 5 2
25214 W. Main St.  Vern Cooke  5:00 p.m.

Santa Clara

1411  CITY OF SANTA CLARA  Fiorillo's Pizza1  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 8 13 10
2200 E El Camino  B. Blankenship  5:30 p.m.

San Jose

1511  SAN JOSE  Clover Hall  Chairman: Tuesday  5 2 2 6 4 1
99 N. Bascom  R. Fitzpatrick  8:00 p.m.

1512  BELMONT  Good Shepherd Hall  Chairman: Wednesday  13 10 10 14 12 9
1336 5th Ave.  Robert Barre  5:15 p.m.

1513  SANTA CRUZ  Arion Hall  Chairman: Tuesday  12 9 9 13 11 8
230 Plymouth St.  Don Skinner  6:00 p.m.

City of Oakland

2211  OAKLAND GENERAL  Edgewater-Hyatt House  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 8 13 10
455 Hegenberger Rd.  Ralph Murphy  5:00 p.m.

East Bay

2311  OAKLAND  Edgewater-Hyatt House  Chairman: Tuesday  5 2 2 6 4 1
455 Hegenberger Rd.  Robert Rochel  7:00 p.m.

2312  EAST BAY GENERAL CONSTRUCTION  Edgewater-Hyatt House  Chairman: Wednesday  6 3 3 7 5 2
455 Hegenberger Rd.  A. Washington  6:00 p.m.

2315  LIVERMORE  Eagles Hall  Chairman: Thursday  7 4 4 1 6 3
527 N. Livermore Ave.  Gary Asbe  7:00 p.m.

2316  CONCORD J.B.E.W. Local 1245  Walnut Creek  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 8 13 10
3060 Civic Dr.  Dick Hoyer  7:30 p.m.

2317  ANTOCH  Fiberboard Club  Chairman: Tuesday  12 9 9 13 11 8
2nd & L Street  Phil Brooks  7:00 p.m.

2301  EAST BAY CLERICAL  Holiday Inn  Chairman: Wednesday  13 10 16 14 12 9
1800 Powell St.  C. Saunders  6:00 p.m.

San Francisco

2401  SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL  Sheraton Palace Hotel  Chairman: Wednesday  13 10 10 14 12 9
Market & New Montgomery

2412  SAN FRANCISCO  War Memorial Center  Chairman: Wednesday  6 3 3 7 5 2
6655 Mission St.  S. Lee  7:30 p.m.

Daly City

Stockton

2511  STOCKTON  Jesters Club  Chairman: Thursday  14 11 11 8 13 10
601 N. West Ln.  Paul Gomez  7:30 p.m.

2512  ANGELS CAMP  Veterans Hall  Chairman: Thursday  7 4 4 1 6 3
Main Street  Harold Foley  5:00 p.m.

2513  JACKSON  Native Sons Hall  Chairman: Wednesday  6 3 3 7 5 2
3024 Redmond  D. Armstrong  7:30 p.m.

2514  TRACY  Norms Pizza Parlor  Chairman: Wednesday  2227 Tracy Blvd.  William Miller  5:00 p.m.

2515  MODESTO  Sundial Lodge  Chairman: Wednesday  808 McHenry, Rm. #138  David Pittman  7:30 p.m.
-Sundial Lodge  William Pittman  7:30 p.m.

2516  MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  Sundial Lodge  Chairman: Tuesday  13 10 10 14 12 9
808 McHenry, Rm. #138  David Pittman  7:30 p.m.

Pacific Gas Transmission

3023  WALLA WALLA  Touchet Fire Station  Chairman: Wednesday  13 10 10 14 12 9
140 9th & E Streets  Larry Thomas  7:00 p.m.

3024  REDMOND  Grizzly Bear Pizza  Chairman: Thursday  413 W. Glacier St.  Odie Walters  7:00 p.m.

Humboldt

3111  EUREKA  Labor Temple  Chairman: Tuesday  12 9 9 13 11 8
9th & E Streets  Barry Jensen  5:00 p.m.
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**General Construction**

- **1514 under San Jose**: 2312 under East Bay
- **3815 under Sacramento**:

**Public Agencies**

- **Sacramento**: 3811 SACRAMENTO
- **3911 S.M.U.D.**: 3912 Fresh Pond (S.M.U.D.)

**Cross Reference**

- *Meeting place changed*
- *Note time change*
- *Note day and date change*
- *New Unit*

I.E.W. 1245 UTILITY REPORTER/NCEMBER 1981 7
BARGAINING REPORT
PUBLIC AGENCIES

By Tom Dalzell, IBEW 1245 Staff Counsel

SMUD

Hank Lucas, Local 1245 Business Representative assigned to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, has recently begun bargaining with the utility, whose current two-year memorandum of understanding with Local 1245 is set to expire on December 31, 1981. With the help of Assistant Business Manager Manny Mederos on nuclear issues and Business Representative Ron Fitzsimmons on safety issues, Lucas and the IBEW bargaining committee, consisting of Ken Meyer, John Callahan, Ruben Ware, Jack Noble, Robert Harper, and James Loy, have prepared a comprehensive bargaining proposal for the District's consideration, and as this issue of the Utility Reporter went to press Lucas and the Committee were still in the process of explaining the intent and justification of each proposal to the District's bargaining representatives.

At a Shop Steward's training session held on Saturday, November 14, Lucas outlined to the assembled stewards the communications and reporting procedure which he hopes will keep the almost 700 IBEW members employed by SMUD up-to-date on progress of bargaining with the District.

Once the District's initial response to the Local 1245 bargaining proposal is known, the Utility Reporter will carry a detailed report on both the IBEW's proposal and the District's response. High on the list of Local 1245 priorities is an agency-wide wage cap which would require the handful of "free-riders" at the District to pay their fair share of the cost of negotiating and administering the agreement with SMUD.

City of Berkeley

Business Representative Veedis Stamps and Negotiating Committee members Tom Hanson and Harold Seppanen, recently negotiated a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Berkeley, which was ratified by Local 1245 members on October 19, 1981. After several frustrating months of bargaining which was initially hampered by political changes in the make-up of the Berkeley City Council and his bargaining committee emerged with a 10 percent first year wage increase retroactive to July 1, 1981, a 9.1 percent increase for 1982, a COLA clause for 1983, improved dental insurance benefits covering dependents, increased tool allowances, and additional benefits. Effective January 1, 1982, the MOU will include an agency shop provision, the first negotiated by Local 1245 since passage of the agency shop bill by the California legislature this September.

Nevada Irrigation District

Bargaining on a new one-year agreement with the Nevada Irrigation District continues, with the District offering a 9.5 percent general wage increase as this issue of the Utility Reporter went to press. The Local 1245 bargaining committee, headed by Business Representative Gary V. Hall, and consisting of Paul Blocher, Bill Baum, not Unit Chairman Bill Weber as was erroneously reported in the last issue of the Utility Reporter, Tom Santos, and Terry Mayfield has been working closely with the Local 1245 membership and the membership and leaders of the Nevada Irrigation District Employees Association in order to present a united front in bargaining with the District. Hall reports that while the first three sessions with the District went slowly, the fourth meeting produced some progress, and that he is hopeful that a fifth meeting will result in an agreement. Medical and life insurance for retired District employees is chief among the remaining issues in the minds of IBEW members.

Truckee-Donner

Public Utility District

The meet-and-confer process between Local 1245 and the Truckee-Donner Public Utility District is moving slowly. Business Representative Darrel Mitchell, head negotiator for Local 1245, reports that the District is attempting to deviate from its past practice of maintaining close parity to wages paid by Sierra Pacific Power, and that this year it has offered only a 6.8 percent wage increase.

Shasta Dam Area

Public Utility District

Local 1245 members at the Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District are feeling the brunt of the new wave of anti-public employee, anti-worker sentiment generated across the country. Current bargaining with the District for a new agreement has evidenced the depth of anti-worker sentiment prevalent in some communities, with the District so far offering only a 4.6 percent wage increase, and this in the face of a September-to-September inflation rate of 10.9 percent.

Sacramento Regional Transit

Faced with a February 28, 1982 expiration date for Local 1245's current agreement with the Sacramento Regional Transit District, Business Representative Gary V. Hall has begun the time consuming process of gathering and analyzing membership demands for the new agreement. Aided by Bargaining Committee members Wesley Duvall, Ned Fox, David Skog, and Lewis Guthrie, Hall hopes to have a final bargaining proposal developed and presented to the District by early December so that serious bargaining can get under way before the end of the year.

Oroville-Wyandote

Irrigation District

Business Representative Ed Fortier has conducted several initial meet-and-confer sessions with the Oroville-Wyandote Irrigation District, whose current memorandum of understanding with Local 1245 provides for a reopener on Water Division wages and one additional item to be selected by the Union. Full details of the bargaining will be reported in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.
Sparks elected new chairman

Outside Construction members met in Sacramento last month for their first official Unit Meeting and elected Ray Sparks chairman.

On hand to get this new unit off to a good start were Local 1245’s Business Manager Jack McNally; Bill Brockmann, Joint Apprentice-ship Director, California-Nevada Joint Apprentice Training Program; and Jerry Robinson, Outside Construction Business Representative.

Reports were given on current and impending work which now includes a new contractor, G&D Electrical in Eastern Nevada. We’re looking forward to a good working relationship on this job which should start up this month.

Other new officers elected at the meeting included Bill Paynter, vice chairman; Steve Ables, recorder; Tommy Heyl and Norm Burks, Executive Committee.

Discussed during the evening were Article 3.1 which states, “at the completion of a job, the employer will transfer the employees to another job within seventy two (72) hours or he shall terminate them.”

And Article 2.16 which states, “an applicant who becomes employed in the electrical industry shall have his name removed from the out-of-work list.”

It was pointed out that infractions of these or other Articles call for Executive Board referral, and disciplinary action. It was stressed that our members must abide by our contract first.

...John Valena, severely injured in an accident last April, recently had surgery. Valena, who is now home, and his wife Beverly would like to thank all the members who showed overwhelming support by responding quickly to a request for blood donations.

...Another brother, Ken Myers, Outside Construction Lineman, was burned when he contacted an energized conductor while working on a 4kv line near Oak Knoll Hospital in Oakland recently.

Myers, from San Bernardino, was knocked unconscious and was pushed free by a quick response from co-worker Bobbie L. Cross, Lineman.

Art O’Keefe, Operator, working nearby, phoned for an ambulance. Cross’ father, Robert D. Cross, Lineman, on a pole in the area, also assisted in the rescue.

Myers, grateful for the quick reaction of fellow members, underwent grafting for third degree burns.

Back to work after a short stay in the hospital, Myers added that it was the first time in 24 years he had ever felt any jolt of electricity.
Hassled?
Holidays are coming

By Marion Wells,
Research Director
American Physical Fitness
Research Institute

Look out, friends! No sooner have Halloween spooks turned back into kids carrying school books than it’s time to “talk turkey” and start planning the Thanksgiving menu. By the time you finish clearing the table from this late fall feast, you’re frantically finishing your greeting cards to be given in the mail so they’ll “get there” on time. Meanwhile, your holiday gift list is haunting you. And judging from the traffic and the lines in the stores, the whole world is doing the same chore you are at exactly the same moment.

No wonder 'tis the season to be hurried and harried as well as jolly. Chances are you’ll run less because of the traffic less and spending less time in one store or one part of town at any one moment. That also means fighting the traffic and the lines in the stores, the whole world is doing the same chore you are at exactly the same moment.

By yourself before facing the rest of the family if you come home with nerves frayed and frazzled. On the positive side, a psychologist has said we can often bear temporary trouble sleeping afterwards. Experienced travelers often prefer to reach their destination in the evening, so their new surroundings encourage sleep and they can ease into the new time zone more rested.

1. Don't let the turkeys get you down! People pressures can be a big source of stress, but you have some options. One way to let off steam between people is to “let go with laughter.” Share a joke with others. Look for something humorous in a tense situation. Recall a funny incident from a similar episode.

2. Don't let the turkeys get you down! People pressures can be a big source of stress, but you have some options. One way to let off steam between people is to “let go with laughter.” Share a joke with others. Look for something humorous in a tense situation. Recall a funny incident from a similar episode.

3. Don’t let the turkeys get you down! People pressures can be a big source of stress, but you have some options. One way to let off steam between people is to “let go with laughter.” Share a joke with others. Look for something humorous in a tense situation. Recall a funny incident from a similar episode.

A friend has a job where she can’t possibly do everything everyone asks all of the time. It’s not her fault. One day while working on a special project, people kept coming over and wanting her to do other things. She said, “I’m sorry. I’ve been given this project.” If they persisted, she said, “’See my boss.”

Try taking a few minutes to relax by yourself before facing the rest of the family if you come home with nerves frayed and frazzled. On the positive side, a psychologist has said we can often bear stress better if at least one other person knows what we’re going through.

Finally, though it’s tough, try to keep your holiday spending and your New Year’s resolutions within realistic means. You may find you have less stress and guilt to cope with in the coming year!

Stress workshop set for Jan. 16

All Bay Area union members and their families are invited to attend a free workshop on occupational stress, sponsored by the Institute for Labor and Mental Health.

The workshop is an introduction to the concept of stress, its effects and what can be done about it by unions. The workshop will be on Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Institute.

For more information call (415) 654-9750 or (415) 653-6166.

PEOPLE

20-year members are, front row, l-r: Pete Dutton, Local 1245 Business Representative; Asa McKenzie; and Walt Sanborn, Stockton Electric. Back row, l-r: are: Ron Furlong, Lodi Electric; Robert Bird, Lodi Gas Service; John Metrovich, Stockton Electric; and Don Ding, Stockton Electric.

25-year members, l-r: are: Business Manager Jack McNally; Joe LaFrank, Jackson; Melvin Burghkuhl, Building Maintenance; and Chauncy Treadwell, Stockton Overhead Electric Sub-Foreman.

30-year members include, l-r: Merle Brooks, Tracy Troublemak; Muzzy Kliest, Manteca Electric; W. McPherson, Stockton Electric; Dudley Miller, Stockton Electric; Manuel Grijalva; Ken Higdon, Tesla Relief Operator; and Ray Nylen, Manteca Electric.

35-year members of the Stockton area are I-r front row: John DeAmicis, Ray Munoz, and Dudley Smith. Back row, l-r: are: Angelo Plecardo, Homer Hamilton, Gene Newman, Business Manager Jack McNally, and Oliver Pelgrine.
**APPLICATION**

In order to be a candidate, you must be a son or daughter natural, legally adopted or a legal ward of a member of Local 1245. You can use this form or request one from the Local Union office at (415) 933-6060.

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION:**

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For Trade School Grant applicants:

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<td>Why this particular skill?</td>
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**STATEMENT OF MEMBER/PARENT:**

Name of Member/Parent

Employer

Location

I certify that I am a member in good standing of IBEW Local Union 1245, that the Candidate named above, is my, and that the Candidate will graduate from high school during the term ending.

Signature of Member/Parent

Union Card No

**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION ALONG WITH EVIDENCE OF GRADUATION TO:**

IBEW Local Union 1245
P. O. Box 4790
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**ESSAY TOPIC**

'What does Solidarity in American Labor Movement mean?'

The topic of the 1982, 500-word essay is "What does Solidarity in the American Labor Movement mean to you?"

Winner will receive $500 per year for up to four years, as long as a minimum 2.0 grade-point average is maintained.

Entry rules are simple: candidate must be a child of a Local 1245 member and a high school student who is graduating in the year of the contest. A verification letter from the high school of attendance stating graduation date, (or a diploma) in addition to the signed certification of a school official on the application form, must accompany the application.

Additional applications may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of the Local Union 1245 or by calling the local union office.

Additionally the college the student plans to attend must be certified by the State Department of Education and accredited by the Local Accrediting Association.

The award will be presented to the recipient and parents, at the Monthly Advisory Council meeting in May.

The essays must be typed, double-spaced, on one side, with the applicant's signature at the end of the essay. It must be postmarked to Local Union headquarters no later than February 2, 1982, and sent by either certified or registered mail.

IBEW 1245 UTILITY REPORTER/NOVEMBER 1981
PCB hearing

From page one

different results from each lab.
The tests were sent to Firemen's Fund Risk Management Services in San Francisco; to EAL Corporation in Richmond; to California Analytical Laboratories of Sacramento; and to Stoner Laboratories in Santa Clara.

Not once, she said, did the results of the tests of identical samples show the same degree of PCB contamination.

In fact, she said, comparing the results from one lab with another sometimes resulted in the same sample being found to have four times as much PCB contamination by a different lab.

This indicates, Sum said, how companies could "shop around for test results indicating so-called safe levels of PCBs."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned the manufacture and sale of equipment containing PCBs in 1976 and required employers to label any existing equipment in stock containing the substance.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) refer to a clear or sometimes amber colored fluid used commonly as an insulating oil in electric capacitors, transformers, and heat transfer and hydraulic systems.

Local 1245 members said that they had worked with the chemical for years without being warned that the chemical has been linked to reproductive problems, liver damage and cancer in laboratory animals.

"I have worked unknowingly covered with PCB oil and have come home to sit my infant son on my lap," Steve Lee, a Lineman and member of Local 1245 Health and Safety Committee, said.

Nearly a year and a hall ago, in June 1980, six members of Local 1245 in San Jose were suspended by PG&E for refusing to clean up a toxic spill because they maintained they had not been trained in the task and had not been provided with any protective clothing.

The current EPA standard was set to protect groundwater supplies from PCB spills. But that standard has also been applied to human exposure.

The hazards of PCB exposure were broadly publicized last August when thousands of workers in the financial district of San Francisco were potentially exposed to PCB after the rupture of a PG&E high-pressure gas main led to the evacuation of more than 9,000 workers from downtown San Francisco.

Following that incident, PG&E warned anyone in the area at the time not to wear any clothing that was exposed and also sent crews to homes to pick up PCB-contaminated articles.

PG&E, as well as other companies whose equipment carries PCBs, had already presented representatives at other hearings to oppose the new standard.

"We feel that the existing standards are adequate," PG&E attorney Mike Jonas said.

Dozens of Local 1245 members were in attendance at the October hearing and included among the members who testified before the Standards Board were Dick Madden, Don McKinley, Allen Simontacchi, Dave Smith, Steve Lee, and Business Representative Joel Elliott.