Voting for Local Union officers begins June 1

Local 1245 members will be receiving ballots in the mail the first week in June to vote for Union officers. The IBEW Constitution and Local 1245 Bylaws provide for elections every three years for the Local Union officers of Business Manager/Financial Secretary, President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Board Members, and Advisory Council Representatives.

Nominations for these offices were taken during March Unit meetings. Ballots must be returned by June 22 in order to be counted. The ballots will be verified and counted by June 23 at 3:00 p.m., and the results will be reported to all Unit Recorders immediately. The next issue of the Utility Reporter will provide a toll-free hotline which members can call to get election results following the election.

New twist in Arbor Tree saga

In May 1, nearly every worker at Arbor Tree Surgery voted in an NLRB-sponsored representation election. The good news is, Local 1245's exit polls show that a solid majority cast ballots in favor of unionizing Arbor. The bad news is, the ballots have still not been counted at press time, more than two months later. If you think this time lag between voting and counting is unusual, you're right. It results from the latest in a string of delaying tactics dreamed up by Arbor management and executed with the complicity of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the federal agency which is supposed to protect workers' rights to organize. Instead of facilitating representation elections, the organizing process under the Reagan-Bush NLRB has come to resemble General Noriega's Panamanian version of "democracy."

Roadblocks to voting

As reported last month, the NLRB took nearly nine months to issue a ruling upholding the inclusion of Crew (working) Foremen in the bargaining unit. Arbor Tree Surgery had agreed that the Foremen were eligible to vote in a 1987 election, when through intimidation and promises they provided votes for the company, but filed an objection with the NLRB when it became clear the following year that the Foremen were overwhelmingly supporting Local 1245's new representation petition. Although the Board's March 27 decision was a total victory for the union, so many months have been hard at work for more than two months to ensure that the election process is conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws and to oversee the smooth operation of the balloing process. President Howard Stiefer appointed the following members to the Election Committee: Gary Dahney, General Construction; Daniel Dennis, Collector, Sonora-Stanislaus Division; Arturo Garza Jr., Santa Cruz Customer Services; Patrick Gates, Marysville Gas & T&D; Christine Habecker, Fresno Customer Services; Robert McCormack, Bak-Field Gas Crew Foreman; Betty Newberry, Sierra Pacific Power Company; Darryl Norris, Sacramento Gas Department; Veronica Parker, Computer Operations-77 Beale Street; Jack Prosser, Concord Gas & T&D; Norma Ricker, Vallejo Customer Services; Dennis Seyer, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District; Craig Spalding, Davey Tree Santa Rosa; and Gary Surflis, Contra Costa Power Plant.

The Committee met on March 17 for a lengthy orientation. The next meeting will be May 17, where the process will begin. The next issue of Utility Reporter will report on these efforts and also include the list of nominees for the election. Nominations for these offices were taken during March Unit meetings. Ballots must be returned by June 22 in order to be counted. The ballots will be verified and counted by June 23 at 3:00 p.m., and the results will be reported to all Unit Recorders immediately.
General Voting Instructions

1. To Vote: Vote BOTH SIDES of the ballot card.

2. Remove COMPLETELY the circled cross (+) to the right of your choice. Use the following method.
   a. Put card on table top.
   b. With tip of ballpoint pen or pencil press down on the circled cross (+) opposite the candidate of your choice.
   c. While still pressing down on the circled cross (+), slowly raise the card with the other hand until the circled cross is completely detached from the card. Turn the card over and inspect for loose chips.

3. Punch out the circled cross (+) to cast your vote. Vote for only one (1) candidate for each office and advisory councilmember.

4. Mark your ballot only as instructed.

5. Write-ins or stick-ons are not permitted and will not be counted.

6. Remove and retain the stub end from the ballot card. This stub is your ballot receipt and must be removed to insure secrecy of your ballot.

7. Place the ballot card in the plain secrecy envelope and seal, insert it in the Postage Paid Business Reply envelope. DO NOT REMOVE THE ADDRESS LABEL.

8. You must deposit your ballot in the mail so that it will be received no later than 10:00 A.M., June 22, 1989 at the P.O. Box. Ballots arriving in the Post Office Box after this time and date will not be counted.

SPOILED BALLOTS

If you spoil your ballot by punching it in error, return the entire voting kit in a separate envelope at once to: Sequoia Pacific Systems Corporation, Election Services Department, 400 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. Mail your spoiled ballot immediately or there will not be sufficient time for you to receive and return the new ballot, which must be received no later than 10:00 o'clock a.m., June 22, 1989.
Message to all Local 1245 members from your 1989 Election Committee

The election of officers is the most important election Local 1245 members participate in: it will determine the leadership and direction of our Union for the next three years. Our members have the democratic right to vote—a privilege which workers in many other nations have yet to attain. Moreover, it is the responsibility of every individual Union member of Local 1245 to participate in this election.

Your vote is more than just an abstract affirmation of democratic principles. The simple act of voting is also a powerful signal of your commitment to Local 1245 and your concern for all of the Union’s affairs. Your participation in Local Union elections demonstrates the strength of our commitment to the collective bargaining process. It is especially important to display such commitment in 1989.

In the recent past, contract negotiations throughout the country have been particularly difficult. Increasingly, the labor movement is confronted with regressive bargaining over wages, benefits, working conditions, and safety matters, due to economically competitive markets. It is our continuing challenge as union members to convey the depth of our convictions on these issues: the meaningful act of voting is one effective way to express our individual involvement in setting Union goals.

The 1989 election will be conducted with the punch card voting system and electronic ballot counter. This method expedites the results of balloting and also provides maximum accuracy and security in the election process. The instructions for using the punch card voting system appear on page 2 of this issue of the Utility Reporter; they will also be included with your mail ballot. Please read and follow these instructions carefully to ensure that your vote will count.

Your Local 1245 Election Committee urges you to personally show your support for your Union by voting in the 1989 election of officers. Taken together, our thousands of votes will show that we are a workforce that is committed to preserving our rights as Union members. Your vote is more than just an abstract affirmation of democratic right to vote—a privilege which workers in many other nations have yet to attain. Moreover, it is the responsibility of every individual Union member of Local 1245 to participate in this election.

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JACK McNALLY

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in October 1960. Was employed as a Lineman and a Line Subforeman for PG&E in the San Joaquin Division. Served as Business Representative and an Assistant Business Manager from 1968 to 1978. Was elected as Business Manager/Financial Secretary in 1980, 1983, and 1986 and is responsible for the daily operations of the Local Union, including supervision of staff and clerical personnel. While employed by PG&E, served as a Shop Steward and Unit Vice-Chairman of Unit #1223, Merced. In 1965, served as a member of the Local Union Job Protection Committee for the line Department. Served as Advisory Council member for San Joaquin Division from 1965 to 1968 and was delegated to the Merced-Mariaposa Counties Central Labor Council. As a Business Representative, was assigned to the West Bay Division and later to East Bay Division. Also served as Director of Research and Education. Served as a delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council and is currently a delegate. Also served as a delegate and Executive Board Member of Contra Costa County Central Labor Council and was its representative on the Board of Directors of HEALS, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in Berkeley. Was a member of the 1972 and 1976 PG&E General Negotiating Committees and member and spokesperson of the 1973-1974 PG&E Pension and Benefit Negotiating Committee. Was a member and spokesperson of the 1974 Health and Dental Negotiating Committee and served as a member and spokesperson on Pension and Benefit since 1977. PG&E General Negotiations, served on Pacific Gas Transmission (PGT) Negotiating Committee in 1972, 1974, 1976, and 1977 and on the PGT Grievance Review Committee. Served as spokesperson for the California 500 in the 1972 strike settlement. Also served as spokesperson for the Central California Communication Corporation Negotiating Committee in the 1974 strike settlement. As a Business Manager, has responsibility for and directed PG&E Pension, Health and Dental Negotiations and PG&E General Negotiations since 1980. In addition, as Business Manager, had overall supervision and responsibility for all negotiations with 64 employers under contract with the Local Union. Currently serves as Vice President of California Labor Federation AFL-CIO; Executive Board member of the California Labor Federation Standing Committees on Worker Health and Safety; member of the California Labor Federation Committee on Women in the Work Force; member of the California Labor Federation Committee on Public Utilities Employed; served as Vice President and 1984 President of the California State Association of Electrical Workers; currently serves on the Executive Board of the California State Association of Electrical Workers (CCUW); organized the Coalition of California Utility Workers (CCUW) and currently serves as Chair of the CCUW Committee. Is a member of the Board of Directors for the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance; and is a member of the Executive Committee for the Center for Labor Research and Education at the University of California, Berkeley. Attended Unit Officers Training Conferences in 1969 and in 1971. Planned and conducted the Unit Officers’ Training Conference at Concord in 1974 and the Clerical Conference at Concord in 1975. Attended the 1982 and 1984 Inter-Union Gas Conferences and the 1981, 1983, and 1984 Nevada State AFL-CIO Conventions. Attended Labor Management Public Affairs Conferences in 1980 through 1988, and all California State Association of Electrical Workers meetings since 1980. Attended and was elected Vice President at the California Labor Federation’s Biennial Convention in 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, and 1988 and attended all the legislative conferences since 1981. Elected and attended as a Delegate at the 1982 and 1986 IBEW Conventions where he also served on the Resolutions Committee. Attended the 1983 Symposium on Regulatory Issues sponsored by the California Public Utilities Commission. Attended courses through the AFL-CIO Labor Studies Center at the University of California, Berkeley, Labor Law, Labor Arbitration, Collective Bargaining Techniques, Negotiated Fringe Benefits, and Pension Insurance for Labor Trustees. Attended Labor Management School on Unfair Labor Practices for Unions and Employers, University of San Francisco. A member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and has attended the International Foundation conferences. Served as a Trustee on the California-Nevada Joint Training Trust and is currently serving as Trustee on the Local Union 1245 Pension Plan. A standing delegate of the IBEW Government Council Number 1, and serves as member of the Steering Committee to the Inter-Union Gas Conferences. Served on the National IBEW Teledata Industry Negotiating committee. Currently serves on the IBEW 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th District Organizing Committee for Outside Construction. Also a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), and serves as a member of the Executive Steering Committee of the Statewide Coalition for the Superconducting Collider. Has testified and developed arguments presented before the California Public Utilities Commission, defending the right of free collective bargaining. HOWARD STIEFER

CANDIDATE LIST

Vice President

JIM “Mac” McCauley

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in March, 1960. Currently Executive Board Member representing Central Area. Member of Unit #2311, Oakland, East Bay Division. Employed by PG&E, Oakland, as a Light Crew Foreman. Served as Shop Steward in East Bay Division; Advisory Council member, East Bay Division, 1974-1977; East Bay Division Committee member of East Bay Unit #2311, 1979-1977, member of East Bay Division Joint Grievance Committee; and member of the Local Union Political Education Committee. Served on Local Union Joint Wage and Contract Committee, 1972; Local Union PG&E Wage and Contract Committee, 1973; Local Union PG&E Wage Committees, 1974-1975. Attended Unit Officer Training Conferences, 1971, 1974 and 1977; Long Island Fact Finding Meeting, New York, 1973; Clerical Conferences, 1974; Inter-Union Gas Conferences, 1975, 1977-1979, 1987-1988; and California AFL-CIO Legislative Conferences, 1978-1979, 1986-1988; IBEW Utility Conferences, 1978-1979, 1988-1989; IBEW Progress Meetings; seminars and conferences dealing with Health and Safety in the workplace: OSHA, Cal/OSHA, EEOC and FEPC. Delegate to the Administrative Law Judge Conference, 1976; delegate to 1982 IBEW International Convention, Los Angeles and 1986 International Convention, Toronto, Canada; delegate to California State AFL-CIO Convention, Los Angeles, 1988. As a Business Representative was assigned to East Bay Division, Fremont Gas Meter Shop, Material Control, Emeryville, CATV and X-Ray Engineering. Served as member and spokesperson of the following: Local Union Tele-Vue Systems Negotiating Committee, 1972; Local Union Bay Cablevision Negotiating Committee, 1978; Local Union Concord TV Cable Negotiating Committee, 1978; PG&E Gas Meter Shop Representative Committee, 1979; PG&E Gas Department Negotiating Committee, 1980; East Bay Division Joint Grievance Committee; Materials Distribution Joint Grievance Committee; Gas Meter Shop Labor-Management meetings; member and Co-spokesperson of Local Union Teleprompter Properties Negotiating Committee, 1980. Served as delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council; delegate and Executive Board Member of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council. Organized and presented the East Bay Shop Stewards program. Completed Labor Committee in COLA, Health and Safety, Labor Law, Labor Negotiation and Psychology of Union Leaders, courses from Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley; Organizing and Communications for Labor Leaders course from Merritt College; and Collective Bargaining, Labor Economics and Labor History courses from Los Medanos College. Guest Speaker on behalf of Local Union 1245 at Chabot College, Diablo Valley College, Merritt College and High Schools in the Bay Area, and a certified union Counselor from Alameda County Central Labor Council. Participated on behalf of the Local Union 1245 at career night at Bay Area High Schools.

JACK NOBLE


LELAND “Lee” THOMAS, JR.


Recording Secretary

BARBARA SYMONS


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Treasurer

HENRY L. DURAN
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in March 1979.

JOHN GRAHAM
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in November 1974.

LARRY HOPE

ED MALLORY
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in May 1964. Member of Unit #1112, Bakersfield. Employed by PG&E as Electrical Technician. Shop Steward, Bakersfield, 1970 to present.

GEORGE McCLENDON
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in November 1971.

Central Area — Executive Board

RON BLAKEMORE
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in June 1967. Member of Unit #2511, Stockton. Employed by PG&E as a Lineman in Manteca, (Stockton Division). Currently serves as Vice President of the Executive Board, served as Executive Board Member Central Area 1985-1986; Stockton Unit Vice-Chairman, 1984; has been Shop Steward since 1966; currently serves on Stockton Joint Grievance Committee 1981 to present; Chairman Energy Testing Committee, 1981 to present.

Central Area continued


BERNARD SMALLWOOD

Northern Area — Executive Board

MICHAEL CRONIN
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in September 1974. Is employed by Sierra Pacific Power Company as a Sanitation/Leadman. Is a member of Unit #3212, Redding. Currently serves as Shop Steward in City of Redding from 1978 to present.

Teresa Dory
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in October 1982.

CHRISTINE LAY
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in February 1977.

PATRICIA THOMAS
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July 1977.

KATHY F. TINDALL
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in September 1967.

HENRY HOUSE, JR.
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in September 1967.

LARRY LYNCH
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in November 1956.

BOBBIE G. NIMMO
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July 1983.


Continued NEXT PAGE
**Southern Area — Executive Board**

**MICHAEL DAVIS**


**BILLY ARTHUR WELAGE**


**Member-at-Large Southern Area — Executive Board**

**ANDREW "Tube" DUDLEY**


**BARRY HUMPHREY**


**Candidates for the Advisory Council**

**San Joaquin**

**MIKE "Bro" BROCCINI**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December, 1979. Member of Unit #1122, Merced. Employed by PG&E as Lineman. Shop Steward, Merced, 1987 to present. Attended Shop Steward Training Conferences; Local Labor Management Meetings; Alternate to the San Joaquin Advisory Council.

**THOMAS GARCIA**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in October 1967.

**LEE "Leebo" HARING**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in January 1979.

**Coast Valleys**

**TERRY JONES**


**KEN RICHARDS**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in January 1973.

**STEVEN WORDEN**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in April 1979.

**Pipe Line Operation**

**PAT EARL**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in January 1979.

**J. MANUEL GUZMAN**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in January, 1975. Member of Unit #1112, Bakersfield. Employed by PG&E, as an Electrical Crew Foreman. Served as Shop Steward, Kern Division, San Joaquin Region since 1981 to present. Served on Kern Division Labor Management Committee, Safety Committee, and Unit #1122 Executive Committee. Delegate to Kern/Imperial Central Labor Council and attended Shop Steward Training Conferences.

**CALVIN MOSS**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December 1977.

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CANDIDATE LIST

Advisory Council continued

JIM LYNN

LEROY S. ADAMS
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July 1965.

San Jose/City of Santa Clara

RICHARD “Rich” BIDINOST

Alameda/C.C. Transit and East Bay Municipal

J. WILLIE DENNINGER
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in November 1983

San Francisco and General Office

LANDIS MARTTILA
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July 1978.

Stockton and City of Lodi

GROVER DAY

Humboldt

CLARK FLEMING
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in April, 1955. Member of Unit #3113, Willow Creek. Employed by PG&E, as Troublemaker. Served as Shop Steward, East Bay and Humboldt Division since 1963 to present. Unit Chairman, Advisory Council Humboldt Division. Attended Shop Stewart Conferences.

Pacific Gas Transmission

PAUL HATHAWAY

Frank “Shorty” LOCATI
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in August, 1978. Member of Unit #2314, Fremont, Hayward. Employed by PGT, as Field Clerk. Currently Shop Steward in Hayward. Serves on Safety Committee, 1988 to present; and Joint Grievance Committee and Labor Management Committee.

Shasta

HARVEY INESS
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in September 1967.

RUSSELL RYLEE
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December 1979.

Sierra Pacific Power Company

ROBERT “Bob” VIEIRA

De Sabla

WARREN “Skip” HARRIS
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July 1972.

Drum

STANLEY JUSTIS
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in January, 1947. Member of Unit #3511, Auburn. Employed by PG&E, Auburn, as Troublemaker. Shop Steward, Drum Division, Auburn, since 1954. Local Union offices held: Policy Committee and Advisory Council Member, 1956-1959, Auburn Union #3511 Chairman (3 terms); Vice-Chairman (3 terms); and, Recorder (4

Continued NEXT PAGE
### Sacramento Municipal Utility District

**WILLIAM DEMERRITT**


**Clerical-At-Large**

**GEORGE ALLAN**

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in June, 1976. Member of Unit #3711, San Rafael. Employed by PG&E as Credit Representative. Served as Shop Steward in Redwood Region, 1977 to present. Served as Unit Recording Secretary and Unit Vice Chairman. Member of Unit #3912, Fresh Pond, 1979 to present. Served as Shop Steward in Redwood Region, 1977 to present. Served as Unit Recording Secretary and Unit Vice Chairman. Served on Grievance Committee, 1981-1988; Grievance Review Committee, Fact Finding Committee and Election Committee, 1987; Contra Costa/Mason Division, 1985 to present. Curator, Unit #2514, 1977-1983; Engineer, Unit #2514, 1984 to present. Attended Inter-Union Meetings, 1987-1988; present. Attended Inter-Union Educational Conferences; local educational conferences. Attended State of California G.O. 95/128 General Management Labor/Management Committee, 1988-1989; present; Golden Gate Division, 1967 to present. Curator, Unit #2514, 1977-1983; Engineer, Unit #2514, 1984 to present. Attended Inter-Union Gas Conference.

### Cleryal-At-Large

**OLIVIA MERCADO**


### Colgate

#### AL “Knute” KNUDSEN

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in June 1974.

### General Construction

**RANDY ABBOTT**


### San Francisco - VP & Controller Office

**SHIRLEY ROBERTS**

CANDIDATE LIST

Advisory Council continued

Irrigation Districts

E. DUANE BARTLOW


CATV - Operating Companies

TERRY LINEBARGER

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July 1975.

North Bay

JIM FINDLEY


TOM JACOBSON


JOHN SCOTT II


Sacramento Regional Transit

No nominations.

Manufacturing

No nominations.

Government Coordinating Council

RICHARD M. HAFNER

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in June, 1969.

Outside Construction

NORMAN STOUT

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in November, 1967.

M.N. "Curly" WIMBERLY


North Bay members celebrate

The pin award dinner honoring long-time Local 1245 members in the North Bay Region was held in Santa Rosa on April 1. Dozens of members with twenty or more years of service attended the event, along with their spouses and guests, where they were recognized for the length of their affiliation with Local 1245.


Continued NEXT PAGE
ANNOUNCEMENT

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA JOINT APPRENTICE TRAINING TRUST FUND
11752 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite 219
Garden Grove, CA 92843
(714) 636-6133

POWER LINEMAN APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

California-Nevada Training Trust offers a complete apprenticeship program comprised of home study, classroom instruction, and on-the-job training. During your apprenticeship, you will learn all aspects of the power lineman craft, making you eligible for Journeyman Lineman status.

Applications are accepted on a continual basis from January 1 to December 31 of each year. The application period will close promptly at 5:00 p.m. on December 31 of each calendar year. In order to be considered, you may submit a written request to the above address, or applications may be picked up in person between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You will be considered only if you meet the following minimum requirements and have included copies of the documents listed below with your application. All documentation must be returned with your application—there are no exceptions. If complete documentation is not included, your application will be returned.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Legal proof of age—must be a minimum of 18 at close of application period. Please do not send original document—readable copy only (Driver's license not considered legal proof of age).

2. High school diploma or G.E.D. diploma—submit a readable copy.

3. One year (two semesters) of algebra with a passing grade. Submit a transcript for verification. Algebra must be completed and verified at the time your application is submitted. There will be no exceptions.

4. Copy of DD-214 if you served in the military.

Ours is a unique occupation, with factors that are uncommon to most other industries. Our jurisdiction covers the states of California and Nevada. To make application, you are required to be a resident of one of the two states. Many of our jobs are in areas which require extended status away from your principal residence, at your own expense. There is a great deal of physical and sometimes hazardous work. Therefore, all selected applicants will be subject to a physical and must be proven physically fit to perform the work. Due to an on-the-job requirement, you are required to possess and maintain a valid driver's license.

All applicants are required to take the approved aptitude test. You will be advised of the date and time. You must therefore keep your address and phone number current with us at all times. Please notify this office should you relocate after submitting your application.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices is without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

We welcome your interest in our program.

WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

North Bay Pin Awards

CONTINUED


30 years: David Bunyard, J.B. Corna, George Heasly, D.C. Hooper, Henry Mazzucateill, Orville Stovall.


40 years: Howard Arrasmith, G.R. Farisworth.
**Scholarship winner**

*From PAGE ONE*

Wayne plans to attend California State University at Bakersfield in the fall, where he hopes to study psychology. Business Manager Jack McNally said that Wayne represents the hope for the future for the labor movement. Local 1245's scholarship program is one of the oldest and most generous of such labor awards, and it is in place because of the Union's lasting commitment to opportunity for our young people.

The Al Sandoval Memorial Scholarship provides $500 per year for up to four years for children of Local 1245 members attending accredited colleges or universities. The contest is open only to graduating seniors and is conducted annually in the spring.

**Arbor Tree saga**

*From PAGE ONE*

had passed since the original petition was submitted that there had been a huge turnover in Arbor's workforce. But Local 1245 organizer Jim Travis took on the challenge of keeping the "tree men" of Arbor solid, strong, and patient during the waiting ordeal.

Following the NLRB ruling, Arbor Tree tried to delay the election date by refusing to agree to reasonable polling places and times for balloting to take place. But the Union persevered, and the election was set for May 1, 1989.

The plot thickens

Take a high-priced union-busting consultant like the one hired by Arbor Tree Surgery. Add an incredibly slow and ineffective, if not blatantly biased, National Labor Relations Board. The concoction is bound to produce unlimited frustrations for workers who simply want to exercise the right to decide whether or not to be represented by a union.

Even as the election date was being set, the NLRB granted two extensions of the original ten-day deadline for the company to request a re-review of the March 27 decision issued by the regional hearing officer. Local 1245 objected strenuously to this abuse of the Board's discretion to grant such extensions—but to no avail.

Despite these tactics, there was some reason for hope on the part of the Union. Normally, the NLRB in Washington makes a decision within a few days as to whether they'll agree to grant a requested review. Why, just weeks earlier they were impressively speedy in denying the Union's petition for review in another case.

Ballots impounded

But May 1 arrived, and still there was silence in Washington. The hours passed, the workers cast their votes—and the NLRB impounded the ballots. The count would be delayed, explained regional officials, pending the Board's decision on Arbor's request for reviewing the bargaining unit ruling (sounds more like Panama all the time, doesn't it?).

The staff member in charge of elections in the NLRB's San Francisco office told the *Utility Reporter* on May 1 that the Board would probably decide whether or not to grant the review "in the next three or four days" (by May 4 or 5). Perhaps the time zones are much farther apart than is commonly thought: by May 16, there was still no word.

One of two scenarios can unfold from here. If the NLRB denies Arbor's request to review its March 27 decision, then the ballots cast by Arbor workers on May 1 will be impounded. If, on the other hand, the NLRB grants a review, the workers could be subjected to many more months of delays as the case is re-argued and re-decided. Organizing Representative Jim Travis says all of the Arbor guys—pro or anti-union—are furious with the continuing interference in their democratic rights.

Whatever the outcome, the Arbor Tree saga has become a classic example of the way in which the bureaucratic failings of the NLRB are used as weapons against workers and their unions. Local 1245 members are standing firm behind their brothers at Arbor, hoping for a happy outcome.

**Voting begins June 1**

*From PAGE ONE*

The new generation of Union Members — Democrat or Republican?

*By Wayne Chappelle*

My research into the political affiliation of the new generation of union members involved the study of publications and interviews of young union members and fellow high school seniors. I determined the political strength of unions was with the Democratic party.

A significant number of my peers who favor the Republican party are influenced by international politics and associate a Republican administration in Washington with military strength and global security, while young Democrats expressed an interest in social and economic politics. They were concerned about inflation and the national debt. The concern about the loss of American jobs to foreign imports continues. Recent news that foreign nations might be the manufacturers of the new high-definition television is an example of American labor not benefiting from new technology. This example and many others reveal American labor is directed toward services and not production.

The new generation of union members is well informed on the issues of economy and politics. They realize that housing costs, health care, job security, and other such issues will affect them. Most young women associate the Democratic party with their interests in equal rights in the work force.

Prior to the 1988 presidential election, a mock election was held at my high school. The result was 65% in favor of the Democratic ticket. The mock election and my research concur with a recent AFL-CIO national survey. Those results showed that 68% of those living in union households voted for Dukakis and 67% of AFL-CIO-endorsed congressional and gubernatorial candidates were elected. Local union newsletters and national union publications support a high percentage of Democratic candidates because of their favorable response to union labor rights and protection. This has a high degree of influence on young union members.

Reflecting on my school years, I feel it is unfortunate that very little is written in text books on the history of the labor movement in America. Organized labor has played a major role in the benefits working Americans receive. Many Americans do not realize that paid vacations, overtime pay, safety laws, labor laws, paid holidays, and many other benefits were a result of hard work and sacrifice by union members. The history of organized labor is important and should be a significant part of history and sociology courses in high school and college.

Most of what I have learned about labor is a result of conversations with my father and my own research. I have learned about OSHA, strikes, boycotts, open shop states, and the grievance process. My father has been a union member for 21 years, and a shop steward for 16. Many times in my home I have heard union talk among my father and his fellow workers. This has helped me understand media news concerning labor. For me, the best example of the benefits of organized labor is the comfortable standard of living my family and I have enjoyed. I have benefited from organized labor and for this I am grateful.