Members choose officers, Advisory Council members

McNally, Stiefer re-elected to lead union

Local 1245 members re-elected Business Manager Jack McNally to a new three-year term as the union’s leader in a mail-ballet election concluded on June 22. Re-elected to a fifth term as President was Howard Stiefer. Other officers re-elected were Vice President Jim McCauley, Recording Secretary Barbara Simons, and Executive Council members Mike Davis (Southern Area), Ron Blakemore (Central Area), Tube Dudley (Member At-Large), and Kathy Tindall (Northern Area).

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Rancho Seco workers maintain vigilance

When Sacramento residents voted June 6, 1989 to shut down the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant, the public seemed ready to put the whole enterprise behind them.

But nuclear plants don’t just disappear. Spent fuel, which remains dangerously radioactive for centuries, is not disposed of by popular vote. Fortunately for all of us, members of Local 1245 keep watch over this radioactive legacy 24 hours a day.

It’s a scaled-back crew, just a shadow of the 1600-2000 workers employed during Rancho Seco’s heyday, when the plant provided electric power to thousands of residential, commercial and industrial customers in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Scaled-back, but no less vigilant.

"Those of us who stayed on just continue to do the job to keep the plant safe," said John Walls, a control room operator and 11-year union member. "There’s a job out here to be done—a big one and an important one."

The control room remains the nerve center of the plant. When Rancho Seco was up and running, about a dozen operators were needed in the control room each shift. Today there are just five per shift.

The nuclear fuel they once tended in the reactor core is now kept in a spent-fuel pool. In the old days, the heat produced from nuclear fission converted water to steam, which in turn generated 917 megawatts of electricity. Now that heat is a waste product, kept under control by cooling water systems managed by the control room operators.

Despite its dormant status, SMUD Control Room Operators (from left) Anthony Zwierzynski, Bill Uphoff (steward), and John Walls.

Members ratify new Davey Tree agreement

Members of Local 1245 employed by Davey Tree Surgery Co. ratified a new 3-year contract that provides wage hikes averaging about 4% in the contract’s first year.

Members approved the agreement by a wide margin in a mail-ballet election concluded on June 2.

The contract is the first Davey contract to include former employees of Asplundh Tree Expert Co. who went on strike earlier this year to protest wage cuts imposed by Asplundh management. Most of the strikers were hired by Davey after the strike’s successful conclusion.

The union’s negotiating team was led by Assistant Business Manager Orville McNally as Treasurer.

"We faced a lot of challenges during the last three years. I thank the membership for their vote of confidence and will do my best to keep this union strong," said McNally, who was first elected Business Manager in 1980. Advisory Council members elected were Jim McCauley, Recording Secretary Barbara Simons, and Executive Council members Mike Davis (Southern Area), Ron Blakemore (Central Area), Tube Dudley (Member At-Large), and Kathy Tindall (Northern Area).

See PAGE SIX

See PAGE SEVEN

See PAGE TWELVE

Unions rally in support of Summit strike

California labor unions, including Local 1245, have called on their members to support 1700 striking workers at Summit Medical Center in Oakland.

In addition to honoring the picket lines, Local 1245 members can show their support by boycotting Chlorox, whose chief financial officer is an influential member of the Summit Medical Center’s Board of Directors.

The strike was provoked when Summit adopted a hardline position during recent contract negotiations.
Rolling the union on...

We care, sort of: In an effort to boost sales during the recession, Volkswagen of America said it would make car payments for up to 12 months for anyone who was laid off after buying a VW during February and March. But Labor Notes reports that 300 of Volkswagen's own employees slated to be laid off in May were excluded from the program.

Wages transformed, too: A British disk jockey got first-hand experience at gender discrimination in wages, Labor Notes reported. When he returned to work after a leave of absence to have a sex change operation, he was offered his old job back at lower pay because he had become a woman.


Miserly Leaves: Nearly 40% of 4,000 working mothers polled by Working Mother magazine described maternity-leave policies of employers as "miserly" or "nonexistent". Only 16% called their employers’ policies "generous". About half said that they were treated worse after leaves and that their careers suffered. Despite his supposed support of "family values", President Bush opposes federal legislation to guarantee a period of unpaid leave for new parents.

MEMORIAL FUND
A memorial fund has been established to assist the widow and six children of apprentice lineman Robert White, 33, who died recently. White worked in the North Valley Division and previously in the San Jose Division. Contributions payable to "Margaret Sue White" can be sent to: John Harper, steward PG&E Red Bluff Service Center P.O. Box 340 Red Bluff, Ca. 96080
PROTECT STRIKER'S RIGHTS...

Stop Job-Robbing By Scabs!

Help elect candidates who will make it illegal for your employer to permanently replace you with a scab.

It's time for working people to take a stand!

Together We Can Do It...

Check Off for Local 1245 POWER PAC
(For Local 1245 Members at PG&E)

Win a cruise!

POWER PAC gives union members a voice

A seven-day Carribean cruise will soon be awarded by random drawing to a Local 1245 member at PG&E who has signed up for the POWER PAC dues checkoff.

To be eligible for the cruise, which departs Dec. 6, members must sign up for POWER PAC by July 15. Just notify your steward that you want to join POWER PAC.

In addition to being eligible to win the cruise, POWER PAC members will be helping their union provide important financial support to political candidates who care about working people and our issues.

"POWER PAC is a way to get involved," said Local 1245 Vice President Jim McCauley, who chairs the POWER PAC committee. "This is the best opportunity we've had in the last 20 years to make some real changes in Washington DC and Sacramento that will benefit our members."

If you want health care reform, a national family leave policy, and better health and safety laws, you now have a way to do something about it: Join POWER PAC! Do it by July 15 and you may soon be visiting the Carribean!

To sign up, contact your steward or call Jim McCauley or Phil Carter at (510) 933-6060.

LABOR PRESS AWARDS
Local 1245 Communications Director Eric Wolfe (left) and Business Manager Jack McNally display awards received from the Western Labor Press Association. The Utility Reporter won Best Feature Story and Best Photograph for its coverage of the East Bay fire. The paper also received the Best Overall Newspaper award among labor papers of 8 pages or more. (Photo: Ed Caruso)

PO VINT OF VIEW

Structural problems underlie current economic mess

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

The United States economy is in a shambles. The recession rages on. California is one of the states hardest hit by the recession. Close to 600,000 jobs have been lost, most of them in the aerospace, construction, and retailing industries.

While some economists say the economy shows some signs of recovery, some indicators show continued stagnation. In California, there is no recovery evident at all.

Politicians and news media personalities focus a lot of attention on economic statistics. But they're wasting our time. The fact is, our economy is drifting. Each month some statistics go up, others go down.

We won't get anywhere by watching statistics as if they were some kind of crystal ball in which we can read our future. It is up to us to work for the kind of future we want. And that means coming to grips with some of the major structural changes taking place in the economy that are influencing our ability to recover.

The end of the cold war means the end of thousands of high-wage jobs, many of them high-tech. The loss of these jobs will hurt our economy tremendously unless we take positive action toward "economic conversion", which means helping laid-off workers and businesses retrained and re-established in the civilian sector.

By asserting leadership in this area, our elected officials could be laying the groundwork for genuine economic growth in the future.

De-regulation is another structural issue we need to address. The "free market" people say that deregulation frees up businesses to compete, producing lower prices for products.

Unfortunately, deregulation isn't working out that way. In the airline industry, for example, deregulation threatens to weed out the smaller carriers, meaning that two or three airlines may soon be able to dictate prices.

De-regulation in the utility industry will have a direct effect on most of the members of Local 1245 as more competition is introduced. We need to understand these forces and make sure our leaders don't let utility deregulation turn into a fiasco of lost jobs and falling wages.

The national debt is perhaps the greatest structural problem of all. It is interesting to note how de-regulation can affect the national debt.

The de-regulation of the Savings and Loan Industry allowed affluent investors, financial gamblers and out-right swindlers to rip off billions of dollars. With government-backed insurance, very few depositors lost money. But the national debt could be increased by as much as one trillion dollars.

Until we elect leaders who will deal with the structural problems of the economy, there won't be any long-term recovery. And the indicators will continue to go up and down, up and down.
Handling materials at the Sturgeon yard are Viliami Nau, (above, left), a 7-year member, and Lewis Suit, a Local 569 member who's been in the IBEW since 1954. Nau hails from the Tonga Islands (about 500 miles south of Samoa in the western Pacific), where he worked as a fisherman for about 7 years.

At right, from left: J.R. Vasquez, 25 years; Genie(b(g)), Barrett Smith, 12 years; Kirk LaPlace, 3 years; Harold J. Guyton, 20 years; Don Snyder, 32 years; Scott England, 20 years; John Hill, 20 years; and Dave Arvila, 25 years.

Below, from left: Mel Holow, 39 years; Frank Pritchard, 42 years; Dave Meyers, 8 years; Kenny Lautsch, 16 years; Wayne Jones, 27 years; and Norman Wax, 26 years. (Photos: Eric Wolfe)

Rock legend Jimi Hendrix wouldn't have had to ask "Are You Experienced" if he had ever visited the Sturgeon Electric yard in Los Angeles at quitting time. The union crews featured here total 342 man-years on the job. That kind of experience is not a quality you can hire off the street. But you can find it at the Local 1245 hiring hall in Riverside, Ca.

Local 1245
Outside Line Construction

Experience you can count on
Redding Pin Dinner honors long-time union members

March 13, 1992

35 years

30 years

25 years

20 years

Business Manager Jack McNally greets members at the Pin Dinner in Redding. (Photos: Rich Hafner)
From PAGE ONE

the plant is still a high-tech operation, requiring vigilance and skill on the part of the remaining workforce.

"You're dealing with liquids and materials that are dangerous," said Walls. "You can't have [untrained] people who could inadvertently cause a fiasco."

Maintaining the computerized monitoring system is the job of instrument and control technicians like Bill Lentz, a 14-year union member who got his early training as a reactor operator on a nuclear submarine in the US Navy.

"They took most of the trailers away, but we still have the permanent buildings to maintain," said Stella Poole, an 8-year union member. Poole, who is a union steward, seemed to express the views of many Rancho Seco employees when she said she'd like to see a closer relationship between Rancho Seco employees and the rest of SMUD.

"We'd like to feel like we're in the same company, at least," said Lela Patterson, a custodian with 13 years in the union. For the most part, however, Rancho Seco workers are not inclined to complain about their employer.

"As a whole, it's a decent company to work for," said Poole.

Indeed, in the wake of the shut-down, SMUD has made a big effort to relocate Rancho Seco employees within the District rather than lay them off. Nonetheless, some workers express resentment toward SMUD's president for advocating the plant's closure, and toward the union, which some employees claim did not work hard enough to prevent the closure.

Adapting to change is seldom a pleasant experience, and the shutdown of Rancho Seco is especially hard for workers who felt pride and empowerment through the generation of electricity for their community.

Anthony Zwierzynski, a seven-year union member, remembers what it was like to drive to work when the plant was still a 917-megawatt behemoth.

"From miles away you could see steam coming out of those [cooling] towers and know you were making power. Now they're just hollow tubes waving at you from 20 miles away. It's a pretty sad feeling," said Zwierzynski.

In the national energy bill now under consideration by the US Congress, nuclear advocates hope to streamline the licensing process for nuclear power plants in an effort to revive the nuclear option. However, no new nuclear plants have been ordered by US utilities in nearly two de-
Members keep watch over radioactive legacy at Rancho Seco n-plant

Carrying out custodial tasks at Rancho Seco are (from left) Stella Poole and Lela Patterson.

Credit for that contribution rightfully belongs to the workers who met the challenge of delivering that power safely. Their contribution, and their vigilance, continues.

Adapting to change is seldom a pleasant experience, and the shutdown of Rancho Seco is especially hard for workers who felt pride and empowerment through the generation of electricity for their community.

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In the national energy bill now under consideration by the US Congress, nuclear advocates hope to streamline the licensing process for nuclear power plants in an effort to revive the nuclear option. Whatever the outcome of that debate, nuclear power has played a significant role in providing power to customers served by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Credit for that contribution belongs to the workers who met the challenge of delivering that power safely. Their contribution, and their vigilance, continues.
Davey Tree pact ratified

From PAGE ONE
Owen. The Davey contract was the last to be negotiated by Owen, who retired in June after 30 years on the Local 1245 staff.

Bargaining hit a rough spot when Davey insisted on drug-testing language. In its original proposal, Davey wanted the authority to test an entire crew anytime there was an accident where safety was compromised.

"That proposal translated into a capricious drug testing program," said Business Representative Landis Marttila, who also participated in the contract talks.

"Our members have a job cutting trees and dropping them to the ground. That's dangerous work. They do it safely, but there are going to be accidents," said Marttila. "The company's initial proposal would have exposed essentially everyone to drug testing, and that's something we strongly oppose."

Originally the company wanted to conduct blood testing for drugs, but backed away in face of strong union opposition.

Under the approved agreement, drug testing can be initiated only when two management employees or one management employee and one bargaining unit employee concur that there is a behavioral basis for the drug test. Then a qualified medical person must be consulted and must concur that a drug test is warranted.

Wages in the new agreement take effect on Aug. 1 for San Joaquin Division Davey members; Sept. 1 for East Bay Division Davey members; Nov. 1 for San Jose and San Francisco Division Davey members; and retroactive to Jan. 1, 1992 for Redwood Region Davey members.

In addition to the first-year pay hike, wage hikes in the second and third years will be pegged to the Department of Labor's Employment Cost Index.

The agreement also made improvements in paid time off, meal expenses and out-of-town subsistence.

Bargaining for the union, along with Owen and Marttila, were Terry Dollar, Alan Finocchio, Frank R. Gratz III, Dan McMillon, John Kenney, Paul Mendes, Ramon Gomez, Pete Ely, Dennis Mitchell, and Advisory Council member Jim Travis.

Bargaining hit a rough spot when Davey insisted on drug-testing language.

Carrying out custodial tasks at Rancho Seco are (from left) Stella Poole and Lela Patterson.

Electrician Ron Mason, 22-year union member.

Radiation Protection Technician Pam Howard, 11-year union member.

Union negotiating team discusses contract proposals during a break in negotiations. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)
IBEW Local 1245
15th Annual Slowpitch Softball Tournament
May 16, 1992

Champions: Livermore Lushes
Team Manager: Art Theabold

2nd Place: Bob’s Connectors
Team Manager: Larry Rodrigues

3rd Place: Robertson Trucking Team
Team Manager: Bob Rubeo

4th Place: “Bakersfield”
Team Manager: Chuck Davis

Individual Trophies
(All Tournament)

1st (1) John Theabold, Livermore Lushes
1st (2) Manny Rico, Livermore Lushes
1st (3) Alex Campiotti, Livermore Lushes
1st (4) Manny Trujillo, Livermore Lushes
2nd (5) Larry Rodriguez, Bob’s Connectors
2nd (6) Ron Redding, Bob’s Connectors
2nd (7) Bruce Green, Bob’s Connectors
3rd (8) Mike Ruiz, Robertson Trucking
3rd (9) Mike Tafoya, Robertson Trucking
4th (10) Jim Kraucyk, “Bakersfield”
Caught stealing! (Actually, it's John Callegos breaking into his own car.)

Mighty swing (above) produces stand-up triple (below).

Safe at second.

The next Bambino?

It's a hit!

Young powerhouse.

It's a walk!

Coin toss.

Picnic in the park.

Safe at second.

Home safe!

One...

Two...

Three...

...Fore!

Barbecue brigade

Play-by-Play

Photos by Bob Martin & Ed Caruso
February 19, 1992

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

We have audited the accompanying statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity arising from cash transactions as of December 31, 1990 and the related Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 for the year ended December 31, 1991. These financial statements are the responsibility of the union's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. 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 includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Generally accepted accounting principles have not been established for labor organizations. The Local records receipts and disbursements on a cash basis. The basis for its statement of assets, liabilities and equity arising from cash transactions, is described in the note to the statement.

The savings account and stock fund account which make up the Supplemental Retirement-Severance Fund are included in these statements as they are carried in the name of the Local and are considered an asset of the Local. However, as of December 31, 1991, the entire amount in the fund was a liability to present and former employees and the Local had no equity in the fund.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above, present fairly, in all material respects, the cash transactions of Local No. 1245 for the year ended December 31, 1991 in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the note to the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity arising from cash transactions.

DALMUS & LU
Certified Public Accountants
LOCAL 1245 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1991

San Mateo Labor Council $585.00

Cash balance, December 31, 1991-
Wells Fargo checking account $17,078.83

EXHIBIT D

GENERAL FUND

Cash balance, beginning December 31, 1990 $3,483,678.62

Receips:
Local Union portion of receipts:
"A" members dues $108,510.06
"BA" members dues 6,311,575.01
Initiation fees 21,166.64
Reinstatement fees 537.00
Agency fees 57,797.69
Working dues - Outside Line 417,170.51
Difference in dues 259.00
Difference in fees 4,487.50
Retirement Club dues 67,061.12

Agency fees 16,482.00
Disbursements
"BA" members' per capita 1,338,422.30
"A" members' per capita 218,446.61
Difference in per capita 3,335.20 1,599,461.76

International portion of receipts:
Loan payments - Energy Workers Center:
Interest 10,188.00
Principal 70,200.00
Unpaid
Interest 6,950.91
Other receipts 516.72

Difference in per capita 3,350.00 1,599,461.76
Total receipts 8,866,948.35

Total balance and receipts 12,390,629.92

Disbursements, per Page 12 of Schedule of Disbursements:


GENERAL FUND

Affiliation fees:
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers $1,701,653.16
San Francisco C.L.C. 4,620.00
Santa Clara C.L.C. 5,460.00
Alameda C.L.C. 6,480.00
Northern Nevada C.L.C. 1,600.00
Nevada State AFL-CIO 3,360.00
Nevada State Electrical Association 644.00
Sacramento C.L.C. 8,400.00
Contra Costa C.L.C. 6,300.00
California Federation of Labor 63,000.00
San Mateo State Assn. of Electrical Workers 25,200.00
San Joaquin and Calaveras C.L.C. 2,100.00
Butte-Glenn C.L.C. 780.00
Napa-Solano C.L.C. 1,872.50
Kern-Inyo-Mono C.L.C. 1,350.00
Fresno-Madera C.L.C. 3,000.00
Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake C.L.C. 1,930.00
Merced-Mariposa C.L.C. 1,350.00
Stanislaus-Tuolumne C.L.C. 1,116.00
Marysville C.L.C. 240.00
Humboldt-Del Norte C.L.C. 603.00
Five Counties C.L.C. 852.00
Monterey County C.L.C. 576.00
Government Coordinating Council 600.00
San Mateo C.L.C. 2,100.00
Sonoma M-CLC 137.76
Committee on California Utility Workers 3,690.00
Joint Executive Conference-S.C. Electrical Workers 60.00
Joint Executive Conference-N.C. Electrical Workers 100.20
Tri Counties C.L.C. 1,680.00
California Labor-Federal-Regional Dues 12.00
Forum-C.C., Napa, Solano 20.00
Congress of California Seniors 44.20
Forum-Alameda Retired Members 5.00
Maritime Trades Post Co. 420.00
Public Employees Council 50.00
I.B.E.W. C.L.C. 2248.00

TCC-6 53.69

Staff expenses:
Salaries 2,605,649.30
Expenses 198,916.10
Automobile expenses 89,599.07
Automobile purchases 183,293.74
Administrative expenses 6,286.59

3,287,617.40

Research and Education:
Subscriptions and publications $15,266.19
Public relation 434.50
Scholarship fund 2000.00

17,500.69

Office salaries:
Administration office salaries 271,391.82
Bargaining unit salaries 358,588.01

618,979.83

Office expenses:
Rent 150,723.21
Telephone 175,203.42
Postage mail service and meter expense 62,746.09
Print and offsetting 78,948.15
Supplies 27,621.30
Equipment maintenance 24,545.30
Data processing 88,296.31
Equipment rental 3,175.32
Utility repair 115,031.28
Miscellaneous 16,462.41
Bank charges 1,403.54
Furniture and equipment purchases 54,091.84
Utilities and janitorial 8,161.10

262,707.18

See NEXT PAGE

July 1992
Utility Reporter 11
LOCAL 1245 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1991

Membership expenses:
- Accounts Receivable
- G.C. negotiations
- Other disbursements:
  - Legal fees
  - Hall rentals
  - Insurance-travel
  - Miscellaneous fees
- Re-Rate
- Clinical job
- PLO
- Misc. General Office
- Ad Hoc
- Hydro/Water Dept.
- EMP Neg. Comm.
- G.C. negotiations
- Accounts Receivable
- Meter Readers
- Transmission

Payroll taxes:
- Employee portion:
  - U.S. income tax withheld
  - California income tax withheld
  - FICA withheld
  - SDI withheld
  - U.S. income tax forwarded
  - FICA forwarded

Employee benefits:
- Health and Welfare plans
- Group life insurance
- Refunds
- Audit fees
- PRD fees
- Insurance-bond
- Fair Give-a-way
- Fair-employee property
- Insurance-property
- Insurance-travel

Members elect union leaders

"The one thing we know for sure is that the challenges will keep coming," said McNally. "But if the members stay involved and support their union like they have during the past three years, we should be able to continue making progress in our standard of living, our job security, and safety matters," McNally said.

The election was conducted by a union rank-and-file election committee. Pat Gates served as judge of the election. Others serving on the committee were Vice Judge Art Garza, Stephanie Baber, Linda Jurado, Frank Kenney, Christine Oakley-Niemiec, David Pittman, Nagaraja Rao, David Reishus, Leo Tablizo, and Chris Van Dyke.

In charge of electronic ballot counting was Sequoia Pacific.

"The election committee performs one of the most important tasks the union has: insuring that elections are conducted in a fair and democratic manner and we all have reason to be proud of the job this committee has done."