Job cuts jeopardize PG&E service

Members keep media spotlight on downsizing

Union members kept the public spotlight on PG&E downsizing last month with continuing public vigils, picketing and numerous contacts with news media. A Feb. 22 picket line at PG&E offices in Fresno attracted about 80 union members—and generated a lengthy story in the Fresno Bee, along with a full-color photo of the picket line.

The Fresno pickets offered a blunt assessment of the recent Title 206 displacement notices issued by PG&E.

"I think it stinks," lineman Johnny Bigham was quoted as saying. "And when it takes days instead of a couple of hours to respond to a service call, the customer will think it stinks, too."

The Fresno demonstration also drew coverage from three television stations in the area. One report featured Clerical member Chris Habecker, who disputed the idea that laying off employees will produce a meaningful reduction in rates.

"It will make maybe a $5 difference on your bill. And for that $5 what you are giving up is safe, reliable, responsive service," said Habecker.

Another February news cast-on Oakland-based KTVU Channel 2-featured Local 1245 members Don Jackson, Paul Turner and Brian Southworth. "We're behind in our routine maintenance and we can barely make ends meet now with the amount of employees we have. And how we are going to do it with further reductions is beyond me," Southworth told KTVU busi-
Workers here and abroad

Rolling the union on...

OBEY THE LAW: A Sacramento County Superior Court judge last month ordered the Cal-OSHA Standards Board to enact an ergonomics standard or show cause by April 21 why he should not order it to do so. The Legislature ordered the Standards Board to issue an ergonomics standard by Jan. 1, but members of the Standards Board have shown little interest in enacting the standard. Union representatives say a properly-worded standard could prevent thousands of workplace repetitive motion injuries each year.

GLOBAL UNION BUSTING: Global oil companies Shell and Mobile are conducting anti-union campaigns in countries as far flung as Britain, Turkey, New Zealand, Malaysia and Fiji. Labor Notes reported. The International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions have sent letters to the two oil giants, warning that the federation's affiliated unions "will have to contemplate worldwide action" to protect workers' interests.

UNITY: Caterpillar workers in Isando, South Africa have held a number of solidarity actions since their American counterparts struck last June. Labor Notes reported. In July, the South African workers held a demonstration outside their factory, and in November they joined with other unionists in a march protesting the company's union-busting tactics in the United States.

RICH AND RICHER: Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" will make the rich richer at the expense of middle Americans. A study by Families USA, reported in Labor Notes, charges that 54% of the tax cuts the Contract promises would go to taxpayers with incomes over $100,000. These breaks, and the Contract's balanced budget amendment, will be financed by big cuts in Medicare, veterans' benefits and student loans, Families USA predicts.

RUSSIAN WAGE RIPOFF: Thousands of Russian workers demonstrated in October to demand payment of several months of back wages, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. About 35,000 Russian factories have suspended payments and millions of workers have not been paid for months. The cash shortage arose because the bosses of the state-owned companies gambled on the money markets with funds intended for wages.

BAGEL DISPUTE: The National Labor Relations Board has upheld nearly all 25 charges filed against the Boss of Bagels for firing union members. The company is accused of firing employees for union activities.

UNITED STRIKERS: Striking workers from three companies in Decatur, Ill. marched on the state capitol in Springfield to demand government action. Local union presidents representing strikers at Caterpillar, Bridgestone/Firestone and A.E. Staley met with Labor Secretary Robert Reich in January. On Jan. 27 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited A.E. Staley for 212 health and safety violations, including 173 that were "serious" or "willful," and fined the company $706,000 for its "overall lax attitude toward safety issues." (Photo: AFL-CIO)
Final rules on the Family and Medical Leave Act are scheduled to go into effect April 6, the AFL-CIO News reported.

The law provides for an employee to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave each year for the birth or adoption of a baby or the illness of the employee or a family member. Any company that employs at least 50 people is covered by the law.

The law, one of organized labor's major legislative victories during the Clinton presidency, still faces one final hurdle, however. A move in Congress to establish a moratorium on regulation retroactive to Nov. 9, 1994 could force a suspension of the final rules.

Under the terms of the law, the leave need not be taken consecutively; the chronic nature of illness or scheduling of such treatments as chemotherapy and physical therapy may dictate flexible schedules.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS!
Gregg Burk (left) and Advisory Council member Don Lockwood (below) are among the Local 1245 members in the South Coast Valley area who have carried the union's message to the marketplace by staffing a booth on Thursday nights at the San Luis Obispo Farmers Market. The booth warns shoppers that reliable electric service is at risk due to PG&E cutbacks.

Last hurdle: regulation moratorium
Final lap for Family Leave

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Also, a worker using FMLA is entitled to the same medical benefits that active employees receive, and does not suffer a loss in seniority rights. Upon return, employees must offer the old job or an equivalent one.

Costs Lower
A Labor Policy Association study concluded the cost of compliance for 123 survey respondents was lower than expected. Eighty-five percent of the respondents already had family leave policies when the FMLA took effect, and the majority of companies spent less than $50,000 to come into compliance.

Respondents cited two aspects of FMLA that eased compliance: requirements for advance notice of foreseeable leave and written medical certification.

A similar survey by The Conference Board reported that most respondents had leave benefits already in compliance with the FMLA and that few employees were using the program.
Pacific Gas & Electric
Call Center stewards

Union stewards at PG&E Call Centers attended steward conferences in Fresno and Walnut Creek to discuss a wide variety of issues concerning Call Center operations.

The Fresno conference, held last November, was attended by Melinda Phipps, Rick Parades, Keith Rasmussen, Debi Hall, Dave Paul, Rick Breadmont, Charles Garabedian, and Kathy Barber.

The Walnut Creek meeting, held in December for stewards from the San Francisco, San Jose and Sacramento Call Centers, was attended by Donna Ambeau, Anna Gomez, Bob Bush, Bob Ushman, Norma Ricker, Pam Stevens, Karen Russell, Jennifer Gonzalez and Ed Abrams.

The conferences were conducted by Business Manager Jack McNally, Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier, and Business Representatives Pat Collins and Enid Bidou.

Call Center stewards meet in Fresno.

Call Center stewards meet in Fresno.

Call Center stewards meet in Walnut Creek.

Media spotlight on PG&E downsizing

From PAGE ONE

Jackson told Banmiller he had given “a large part” of his life to PG&E. “I feel like they’ve kind of stabbed me in the back—sent me down the road.”

In a “guest commentary” appearing in the New Times, 22-year PG&E employee Len Ward wrote: “The bottom line has replaced moral responsibility to the public [at PG&E] and has seriously damaged work-force spirit within its ranks. They have forgotten that employees, not the bottom line, are the heart and soul of any company.”

Call-In Radio

A two-hour call-in program on KSCO radio in Santa Cruz in late January featured union member and PG&E System Operator Daryl Turner along with Local 1245 Business Rep. Gary Hughes. Turner used an analogy with fire fighters to explain to radio listeners the problems created by PG&E downsizing.

“If you had a fire department and most days you don’t have a fire, you don’t need many firemen. You only need the firemen when there’s a fire, and when you need them you don’t have time to train them, you don’t have time to hire them, and you can’t hire somebody to go to that fire. You need to have them already on-site, and trained and knowing the area,” said Turner. “PG&E feels something the same way.”

Hughes informed listeners of the utility restructuring plan now under consideration by the California Public Utilities Commission, and warned that ordinary ratepayers are not likely to benefit—especially if it leads to deteriorating service.

“What the Public Utilities Commission is looking to do is destroy a system that took over a hundred years to build and it may never come back to what it was if they find out they made a mistake,” Hughes said. “Deregulation, we contend, is going to give the most benefit to the large industrial consumers. Callers, many of whom had just had their power restored in the wake of the January storm, expressed appreciation for the dedication of PG&E employees. But there were also expressions of concern about how downsizing would affect future service.

One caller, who identified himself as a PG&E lineman, suggested that PG&E was no longer aggressively maintaining the electric system.

“What we’ve got here is a corporation that’s gone from being a preventative maintenance company to a reactive maintenance company,” the caller said.

Articles and commentaries on PG&E downsizing and utility deregulation also appeared last month in the Merced Sun Star, the Bakersfield Californian, the King City Rustler, the Monterey Herald, and The (Salinas) Californian. The Sacramento Bee and the Sacramento Business Journal were also preparing to publish stories on PG&E downsizing and related issues.

Local 1245 member Daryl Turner fields questions from callers during a two-hour radio talk show in Santa Cruz in late January. (Photo: Gary Hughes)
Bakersfield Pin Dinner honors long-time Local 1245 members

Local 1245 members in the Bakersfield area were recently honored for their years of service in the union. The dinner honored those achieving the 20, 25 and 30 year milestone in either 1993 or 1994.

30 years: Errol Montgomery, Charles Turner, G.D. Mizner, Ernest Watson
25 years: Howard Crawford, Dallas West, Stephen Beatty, Eddward Reynolds
20 years: John Erreca, Louie Hinojosa, Larry Moon, Fred Owen, Filemon Rodriguez, Ken White, Chiquita Alba, Juan Martinez

A member writes the CPUC

Dear Daniel Fessler...

Thousands of Local 1245 members have sent postcards to California Public Utilities Commission President Daniel Fessler urging him to take all necessary steps to increase the safety and reliability of electric service in California.

Some members have gone a step farther. In the following letter, union member Paul Mackin offers Fessler a utility employee’s personal perspective on downsizing.

Mr. Fessler:

I am a very dedicated PG&E employee who must let some information be known!

PG&E says that laying off employees will not compromise safety or service. This simply is untrue and here are some reasons why:

1) I believe PG&E is in the process of testing all the power poles in its system, due to a CPUC audit and mandate. It is unknown at this time how many of these poles are rotten—quite possibly thousands. When power poles fall they often create large power outages and the damage to life and property can be devastating. Many poles that fall are rotten and should have already been replaced.

2) I believe PG&E has known for several years now that due to a manufacturer’s mistake, two types of underground high voltage connectors (elbows and pin and socket straight splices) are failing. When these connectors fail they often cause large power outages and the associated explosion often causes metal covers in the streets and sidewalks to “launch” several yards in the air followed by flames, a very dangerous situation for the public. PG&E has cut back on its program to change these dangerous connectors. They are still in the system waiting to blow up.

3) I believe PG&E has known for several years now that the connectors being used on overhead high voltage lines may fail, causing high voltage lines to fall to the ground, often causing power outages, fires, damage to life and property and possible electrocution. On January 11, 1995, PG&E issued a Bulletin stating, “Effective immediately, the use of bolted connectors on overhead distribution systems, for new or reconstructed lines, is to be discontinued.” Please keep in mind that a mind boggling amount of these connectors have already been installed.

I must admit I am not a lawyer or an accountant. I spent my first 7 years with PG&E working hands on with electricity and the last 4 years directly responsible for the electrical system that serves several East Bay cities and over 350,000 PG&E customers. From my view point it is very clear PG&E needs the employees it now has just to satisfy the existing problems it has with its system. And quite possibly may need to hire more!

PG&E says that laying off employees will not compromise safety or service, they say it will get better due to new technology! The truth is, responding to natural disasters, dangerous situations, replacing poles, connectors and repairing street lights still takes highly trained men and women, not computers! There is no “new technology” that will replace maintenance and emergency response.

PG&E customers already deserve and have been paying for safe and reliable “World Class Service.” They have not been receiving it now and certainly won’t get it with less employees taking care of an already overwhelmingly deteriorating system.

Please keep in mind when a building is on fire, we want available firefighters to respond quickly. When a crime is in progress we want available police officers to respond quickly. When we have a power outage or dangerous situation with electricity or gas we want available trained utility workers to respond quickly.

I think it’s about time that state and local officials take a close look at what PG&E is up to.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul M. Mackin
Stewards' conference

Sacramento stewards conference.

Fresno stewards conference.

San Jose stewards conference.


Business Rep. Frank Saxsenmeier discusses PG&E downsizing at the PG&E Shop Stewards Conferences.
Local 1245 shop stewards gathered at ten locations throughout central and northern California on Feb. 11 to discuss the union’s on-going campaign to combat downsizing at PG&E.

The issuance of Title 206 displacement notices last month by PG&E lent a special urgency to the meetings. Stewards and Local 1245 business representatives discussed at length the procedures that displaced employees should follow to insure that their rights under the labor agreement are fully honored.

They also reviewed the recent agreement that provides displaced employees in the Physical bargaining unit an opportunity to fill upcoming vacancies in the Clerical bargaining unit after Clerical members bid into current vacancies.

A theme throughout all of the conferences was the importance of a united membership as the union continues to fight layoffs in a number of arenas, including grievances, public picketing and leafletting, and outreach to the news media.

Also discussed was the union’s role in prompting the current CPUC investigation into PG&E’s performance during the January storm, and how downsizing may have hindered the company’s performance.

The conferences were held in Bakersfield, Concord, San Francisco (Pacifica), Fresno, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Rosa and Stockton.
The conferences stress unity

1245 shop stewards met at ten locations throughout California on Feb. 12 to discuss the union’s ongoing campaign to combat layoffs at PG&E. The conference was held in Bakersfield, Concord, San Francisco (Pacifica), Fresno, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Rosa and Stockton.

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SACRAMENTO
Steve Amaral
Joe Barrera
Doug Bell
Ken Brown
Steve Chapman
Arlene Cook
Ben Cox
Jim Edwards
Terri Ferguson
Arlene Filter-Edwards
Ronald L. Greenwood
Wanda Herbster
Patricia Hurley
Danny L. Jackson
Jim Jurkiewicz
Danna M. Lindsey
Felicia Mack
Dan Musick
Ernest Owens
D. L. Parmenter
Nick Salvatorelli
Red Sammon
Kt Stice
Bill Wallace
Al Wilhelm

SAN JOSE
Vida Anderson
JoAnne Barnes
Bill Brill
John Coates
Brian Cook
Robert E. Dailey
Ronald A. Fort
Joe Fradin
Art Freitas
Richelle Gallegos
Gary Goody
David Harris
Phyllis Hayes
Cynthia Koops
Rich Landucci
Tim Lorenzen
Sal Lozano
Robert Martin
James Mauzy
Mike McGinley
Robert M. McLean
Norm Mercer
Mark E. Newman
John Nolan
Michael A. Oleata
Ken Richards
Gerald M. Roza
Karen Russell
Barbara Saunders
John Sportsman
Pamela Stevens
Patrick Stoffey
Mark Thomas
Darryl Turner
John Vincent
Vincent Whitmer

SAN LUIS OBISPO
Kelly Ackerson
Billy J. Bell
Richard S. Brown
Gregg Burk
Bill Bukivotch
Ralph E. Chavez
Steve Curran
Bob Edie
Debbie Ensladado
Everett L. Flowers
Kim Fredrickson
Richard Gomez

STOCKTON
Leroy Adams
Anna Bayless
James Clemons
Rick Davis
Grover Day
Wayne Pippin
Randy Green
Robert M. Harty
Mike Johnson
Tom Jones
Harvey LaShon
John Mendez
Olivia Mercado
Don Mitchell
Gary Ottlaw
John T. Rasmussen
Dan Robertson
Michael Saner

SAN FRANCISCO


Fresno stewards conference.

San Francisco stewards conference.
Bill assaults worker rights

A congressional bill designed to ease the rules on company-dominated employee committees in the 1920s and 1930s. It took passage of the National Labor Relations Act 1935 and a federal court order in the early 1940s to convince PG&E to deal with legitimate employee representatives, paving the way to the establishment of Local 1245 on PG&E property.

The AFL-CIO said the proposal would take away the right of workers to an independent representative in dealing with subjects where workers and employers have different interests. Nothing in the legislation would prevent employers from setting up labor committees, writing the by-laws, picking the employee representatives and dealing directly with groups of employees on wages and working conditions, he said.

Teamsters President Ron Carey called the legislation undemocratic and un-American. "All Americans have the right to choose their own representatives. No one would call it democracy if people from another country chose America's leaders. In the same way, it is undemocratic to let management choose employee representatives, dictate what issues they can discuss and disband a committee if it takes the wrong positions," Carey said.

New laws restrict vocational rehabilitation

The new laws severely limit funds available for injured workers participating in a vocational rehabilitation program. Employees should act now in order to protect themselves in the event of an on-the-job injury. Ways to do so include enrolling in college programs, obtaining a private disability policy, and saving money now. While injured workers must still be trained if they cannot return to their job, the type and extent of benefits they receive is severely curtailed under the new laws.

By Sharon K. Brady

In 1994, a set of workers' compensation laws went into effect. The new laws changed vocational rehabilitation, or job retraining, significantly.

Vocational rehabilitation is a service provided by a workers' compensation carrier if the injured worker is no longer able to return to the job as a result of a work injury. The injured worker must have medical proof that he or she cannot perform the job he or she was doing when injured. The type of services offered in vocational rehabilitation range from job placement services or modified work with the employer, to on-the-job training or retraining in a new career.

While the injured worker is in vocational rehabilitation, he or she receives payments (a "maintenance allowance") of up to $246 per week. A vocational counselor is assigned to the injured workers' case to assist the worker in developing and following through with the vocational plan.

The new 1994 laws significantly limit vocational rehabilitation benefits. Injured workers may only receive maintenance allowance payments for up to 52 weeks, with certain very limited exceptions. An injured worker should start the vocational rehabilitation program as soon as possible, and actively participate to ensure completion of the program within 52 weeks. The entire plan must be completed within 18 months, so again, an injured worker should fully participate in his or her plan.

The entire amount of the plan must not exceed $16,000, less $4,500 for counseling fees. While this may seem like a large amount of money, an injured worker receiving the maximum benefit of $246 per week may use over $12,000 in maintenance allowance alone over 52 weeks.

Other costs such as tuition fees, mileage, and special tools or supplies must also be taken into account.

Modified Position

However, there are some provisions in the new laws which may assist injured workers. The law provides that an employer may offer an injured worker a modified or alternate position. If the employer does so, the position must be outlined and agreed upon in writing, and it must last 12 months from the date of the position. This also applies to jobs obtained through other vocational rehabilitation plans, or when the injured workers' disability prevents him or her from performing tasks in the new line of work.

Many employees want to know whether their current employer is required to take them back at modified work as part of the workers' compensation vocational rehabilitation process. Employers are required to consider modified work as part of the vocational rehabilitation plan, and the new laws make it advantageous for the employer to do so. However, the employer is not required to do so, and cannot be ordered to take back an injured employee under the workers' compensation system. Accordingly may exist under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, however, if the employee determines there is modified work, requests the modified work in writing, and is denied that position unreasonably. Employees who feel a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act has occurred should contact the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or a labor attorney.

In addition, the laws provide that if an injured worker is already enrolled in a community college or state university, vocational rehabilitation may be required to provide tuition assistance. An injured worker must have already completed 35% of the units required for his or her course of study. If this 35% requirement has been met, the worker may be entitled to decline the services of a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and obtain the money for tuition. As this represents a savings of $4,500, even uninjured employees may want to consider enrolling in college and working towards a degree, in the event that they are later injured.

In summary, the new laws severely limit funds available for injured workers participating in a vocational rehabilitation program. Employers should act now in order to protect themselves in the event of an on-the-job injury. Ways to do so include enrolling in college programs, obtaining a private disability policy, and saving money now. While injured workers must still be trained if they cannot return to their job, the type and extent of benefits they receive is severely curtailed under the new laws.

Who is that helping Local 1245 Advisory Council members Chris Habecker (left) and Mike Brocchini (right) celebrate the achievements of organized labor at the "Union Yes" Dinner in Merced, Ca. last month? It's noneother than Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, champion of countless pro-labor bills during his tenure in the California Legislature.

Any person who makes or causes to be made any knowingly false or fraudulent statement or material representation for the purpose of obtaining or denying workers' compensation benefits or payments is guilty of felony.
New study suggests EMF-cancer connection

Electric utility workers who are highly exposed to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) have a greater chance of dying of brain cancer than less exposed workers, according to a major new study sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the utility trade association.

The study, conducted by Drs. David Savitz and Dana Loomis of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, did not find a link between EMFs and leukemia mortality, except among electricians who had been on the job for more than 20 years.

"This study simultaneously provides evidence against an association of magnetic fields with leukemia and for an association between magnetic fields and brain cancer," Savitz said in a prepared statement. "It does not, however, resolve the fundamental question of whether magnetic fields cause cancer."

The results of the study were reported in detail in Microwave News.

The researchers noted that the risks from EMF exposure are likely to be small for most people. Loomis said that the study shows that, "There is not some huge risk out there that we have failed to discover."

Savitz and Loomis emphasized that the observed brain cancer link is stronger than that seen in previous studies of electric utility workers. They found that workers with the highest EMF exposures had more than a two-and-a-half times greater chance of dying of brain cancer than the least exposed workers. In addition, they observed a significant exposure-response relationship for brain tumors.

Swedish researcher Dr. Anders Ahlbom of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, told Microwave News, "I am quite impressed with the brain tumor results. My feeling is that they are quite reliable."

Savitz and Loomis measured exposures with an AMEX meter, which provides time-weighted average magnetic field levels. They did not measure transients or other kinds of fields-which have been the focus of recent attention.

William Feero of the Pennsylvania-based Electric Research and Management Inc. said that more needs to be learned about the different types of magnetic field exposures. "There are a hell of a lot of different field characteristics," he said.

"Seeing Smoke"

Dr. Gilles Theriault of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, said he believes that there are a small number of people exposed to a specific, and so far unidentified, component of the field. He stressed that he is convinced that there is some connection between EMFs and cancer.

"We keep seeing smoke, but we have not identified the fire. And there is a fire out there. One day we will put our finger on it," said Theriault.

Savitz, in explaining the results of his study, said there is either a small risk to all workers or a large risk to a very small group of workers who are exposed to a specific type of field. Loomis said that an effect might depend on specific exposure conditions or specific characteristics of apopulation that have not yet been identified.

The Savitz-Loomis study included 138,905 men who had been employed full time for at least six months between Jan. 1, 1950, and Dec. 31, 1986, at one of five utilities, including Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

A number of earlier occupational studies, including one on electrical workers by Loomis and Savitz published in 1989, have pointed to a brain cancer risk from EMFs. In one rel ation, Dr. David Savitz and Dana Loomis emphasize the need for more research:

"We should not quit half-waybefore we have the answer. If we did, we would lose what we have learned so far. We are gaining ground."

Dr. David Savitz

ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS

"This study simultaneously provides evidence against an association of magnetic fields with leukemia and for an association between magnetic fields and brain cancer. It does not, however, resolve the fundamental question of whether magnetic fields cause cancer."

March 1995  Utility Reporter 9
South Coast Valleys Pin Dinner honors long-time members

Feb. 10, 1995

30 years

30-year members honored were: Chet Bartlett, Jesse Armas, Marvin Daniels, Guy Lamoureux, and Robert Guthrie.

25 years

25-year members honored were: Dempsey Goins, Donald Bona, Pat Dolan, Richard Sumabat, Ronald Kirby, Chris Lopez, Irwin Thomas, Dale Johnston, Chuck Stone, Max Bakke, Robert Fernandez, and Larry Perry.

20 years

20-year members honored were: Faye Gagaran, Tim Miller, Sylvia DeLeon, Dave Rodgers, Ralph Chavez, Howard Ketchum, Steve Ward, Dave Fosse, Dick Williams, Rich Brown, Bob Turney, and Dennis Flores.

Roseville pact ratified

Members have ratified a new agreement with the City of Roseville that improves wages and benefits. The two-year agreement contains a 5% general wage increase in the first year. Wages will rise by 3.5% plus a one-for-one match of the Consumer Price Index up to a 5% cap.

The agreement also provides special wage adjustments in a number of classifications. Electric Department employees will receive a 1.5% adjustment. Energy Analysts and Energy Specialists will receive 5% special adjustments.

Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus at the group's national meeting in Atlanta last month. The conference was addressed by Sibusiso Ndebele, Minister of Transport, Province of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

Tindall re-elected

Local 1245 Executive Board member Kathy Tindall was recently re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern Nevada Central Labor Council.
Seniors: our quality of life is under attack

By Ory Owen

If ever the retirees and senior citizens had reason to organize and unite their efforts to support the quality of life they have worked so hard for, it is now! It is clear, unless our heads are buried in the sand, the benefits and quality of life of senior citizens, workers and the poor are under attack and in harm's way with those who are in control of the legislative process.

Communities offer resources

Economic support services for senior citizens

The National Council of Senior Citizens offers the following advice to senior citizens on where to find economic support and community services.

Programs Under the Older Americans Act

A variety of services funded by the Older Americans Act (OAA) are available in local communities through the Area Agency on Aging. These services include information and referral, homemaker-homehealth aides, transportation, home-delivered meals, chore and other supportive services. OAA services are provided without charge. The types of services available vary in each community based upon the needs and resources of a given locality.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assures a minimum monthly income to needy persons with limited income and resources, who are 65, blind or disabled. Eligibility is based on income and assets. Local Social Security offices take applications, help file claims and provide information about the programs.

Tax Benefits

A variety of federal, state and local tax benefits are available to older persons, including property tax exemptions and/or deferrals in some communities. Contact the federal Internal Revenue Service or a local tax office.

Medicaid

Medicaid is a health care program for low-income persons, cooperatively financed by federal and state governments. Administered by states, the program provides for medical services to eligible individuals. Benefits cover both institutional and outpatient services. However, the types of services covered may differ from state to state. Each state has a set of criteria that establishes eligibility for services under this program.

Further information about the Medicaid program is available at local welfare, health or social service departments or the Area Agency on Aging.

Other Programs

Veterans, their widows or widowers, or parents of veterans with limited incomes may be eligible for benefits. Contact the local Veterans Administration for information.

Other sources of public support include food stamps, veterans' benefits, housing and energy assistance.
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

IBEW LOCAL UNION 1245

Saturday, June 10, 1995
Willow Pass Park, Concord, California

Four Divisions

• Women’s
• Coed (Minimum 3 women on field)
• Men’s “D”
• 35 & Older (Minimum 5, 35 or older on field)

Family Members Eligible!

Individual Bat Bags for the 1st Place Team
Team Trophies for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd in all Divisions
Winner of “D” Division to Advance to State Industrial Championship

$160 Entry Fee Due No Later Than May 12, 1995

For More Information, Contact:
Ed Caruso
(510) 933-6060

USSA Umpires Provided

Local Union 1245’s 18th Annual Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
June 10, 1995

Team Name:
1993 Team Name:
Manager’s Name:
Address:
City, State & Zip:
Home Phone: Work Phone:

Please Print:

1. ___________________________ 11. ___________________________
2. ___________________________ 12. ___________________________
3. ___________________________ 13. ___________________________
4. ___________________________ 14. ___________________________
5. ___________________________ 15. ___________________________
6. ___________________________
7. ___________________________
8. ___________________________
9. ___________________________
10. ___________________________

Men’s D
Coed
Women’s
35 & Older
(Circle One)

Entry Fee: $160
Final Deadline: May 12, 1995, 5 p.m. at Local 1245 Headquarters in Walnut Creek
Make Checks Payable to: Ed Caruso
P.O. Box 4790
Walnut Creek, CA 94596