Members rally behind PG&E rate case

In a spirited defense of service reliability and job stability, Local 1245 members have rallied to the support of PG&E's request for gas and electric rate hikes from the California Public Utilities Commission.

At public hearings from Eureka to Bakersfield, union members offered personal testimony to the commissioners about the essential link between their jobs, service reliability and adequate funding for PG&E. At some locations members also leafleted the public and toted informational picket signs outside the hearing.

John Petrovitz, a Gas Crew Foreman testifying on April 20 in San Francisco, urged the commissioners to make "a thorough examination of what it takes for this utility to provide safe, responsive, and reliable service to the people in our service territory."

Petrovitz noted that gas is a potentially dangerous commodity, and that accidents can have major consequences not only for the supplier and end user, but for the general public as well. He called the commissioners attention to a serious gas leak in Redwood City the previous Friday that had resulted in the evacuation of city hall, the public library, and many businesses.

"The utility's ability to respond (to such emergencies) must not be compromised in any way," Petrovitz said.

Service Representative Elaine Delgado, after providing a vivid description of employee response to the Loma Prieta earthquake, told the commissioners, "I know we're going to have other emergencies and I want our people to be out there for the people who need them."

"When my employer calls me at night, I respond," said Arlene Edwards, a Service Representative at the Sacramento Call Center who testified in Woodland on April 15. "The customer needs someone to respond to their concerns. That's what PG&E is about—providing safe and reliable service to all its customers."

See PAGE TWELVE

Candidates for Union Office

Elections for local union office will be held by mail ballot in June.

Eligible members will receive ballots in the mail around June 1. Completed ballots must be received at the union's post office box by 10 a.m. on June 22.

Candidate resumes appear on Pages 17-22.

See PAGE TWELVE
Workers here and abroad

Rolling the union on...

**McStrike:** Twenty McDonald’s workers reached an agreement with the fast food giant last month, ending what was perhaps the first strike ever against the hamburger chain. Workers in Macedonia, Ohio said the deal includes human-relations training for managers and the promise to address complaints that new hires get paid more than experienced employees. Bryan Drapp, 19, a University of Akron freshman, organized the five-day walkout after a supervisor yelled at an elderly crew member and made her cry.

**Enron Bows Out:** Enron, by far the largest energy service provider to make a bid for residential customers in California’s newly deregulated electricity market, announced last month that it is abandoning the residential market, saying it can’t make any money in the business. Enron’s departure is a major blow to those who believed it feasible to establish competitive markets for residential customers.

**Lovely Weather:** There is “nothing out of the ordinary” at the Baker City, Ore. post office, according to a US Postal Service official quoted in Labor Notes. Unless of course you consider that in the last two years, of the 11 letter carriers at Baker City, one was fired, management is trying to fire another, three have resigned, one retired early, several were suspended, and the union steward committed suicide.

**The unsinkable L.L. Mitchell**

There were three men who had a profound direction on my life. Number one was my father. Number two was Ron Weekley, and number three was the unsinkable L. L. Mitchell.

Mitch was a born teacher. He cut through the side issues and went straight to the heart of the issue. I don’t believe anyone in or out of the labor movement could defend unionism better than Mitch.

One of the best recollections I have of Mitch was at a stewards’ meeting in which he stated:

“When you get into an argument with anti-union persons who are alleging all unions are crooked, just ask them if they do business with a bank. If they don’t answer, you can assume they do. Then just say, ‘I don’t see how anyone who does business with a bank can think unions are a bunch of crooks, when far more bankers are in prison than union representatives.’

I’m sure that Mitch is in Heaven and he may run into someone that made it that was anti-union and he will understand that God is forgiving, but you can bet Mitch will turn that soul into a believer.”

**Strawberry Supporter:** More than 90 prominent California Central Coast groups and individuals kicked off the founding of their new chapter of the National Strawberry Commission with a demonstration at Driscoll Corp.’s Watsonville headquarters last month. The group called on the giant berry producer to allow its workers to organize with the United Farm Workers without retaliation or intimidation.

**Let’s Eat:** Actually, there is a free lunch, Labor Notes reports. In Utah, Building Trades organizers deliver it to non-union construction sites. Union organizers lead a work site one day, announcing that they’ll serve lunch the following day. Usually 90% or more of the construction workers will turn out for free hot dogs and chili—and some talk about the union.

**Child Labor:** A growing army of child laborers in Africa is expected to swell by at least one million new children per year if current economic and social trends persist, according to a report by the International Labour Office. Already, about 41% of all African children between the ages of five and 14 are involved in economic activity.

**Child Labor March:** The AFL-CIO joined hundreds of Los Angeles workers, community and children’s activists and political and religious leaders at a May 2 rally to kick off the US leg of the Global March Against Child Labor. The March is an international effort, begun in January, to protest abusive child labor violations around the world.

**CEO compensation:** At large corporations is now running at 145 times the average union wage. An analysis by the New York Times of CEO compensation at the nation’s largest corporations showed a one year jump in CEO pay of 37.8%.
Vote absentee—democracy made convenient!

If you want to vote by mail, fill out the absentee ballot request contained in the sample ballot you received in the mail. If you did not receive a sample ballot, you can obtain an absentee ballot by contacting your local County Registrar.

The last day to obtain an absentee ballot is May 26. You may return your completed absentee ballot by mail to the County Registrar by June 2, or deliver it in person to your individual polling place. Ballots received by the County Registrar after June 2 will not be counted.

Vote your priorities

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

In this busy age all of us face the problem of getting our priorities in order. Working our jobs, caring for our families, preserving our health, enjoying a bit of leisure—these are the priorities that occupy us most of our waking hours.

But there's another priority that deserves our attention, a priority that in some ways holds the key to all the others: choosing the leaders and the laws that shape our world.

In June, members of Local 1245 will have the opportunity to vote in two elections. In a mail-in ballot ending June 22, our members will choose the people who will lead this union for the next three years. And on June 2, our California members will vote on a large number of ballot propositions and political contests, including the race for governor.

It's tempting to just tune out the political advertising now dominating the airwaves. Much of it is shallow, and does little to advance our understanding of the issues or the candidates.

But all those annoying sound bites mask a deeper reality: critical issues are at stake in the June 2 election. We can't afford to kid ourselves about this: as governor, Gray Davis would help working families a lot. Dan Lungren would do us a lot of harm.

The stakes are also extremely high in Prop. 226, the brainchild of out-of-state extremists who want to cripple the labor movement.

These anti-worker forces are counting on you to stay away from the voting booth on June 2. There's nothing they would like better than an election where working folks are too tired, too angry, or too busy to vote.

So let's surprise them. All across California labor is mobilizing voters to reject Prop. 226 and the anti-worker politics it represents. By phone, by mail, and in door-to-door canvassing, union members throughout the state are being asked to stand up for their rights and go to the polls on June 2.

In this election, every single member of this union who is eligible to vote should make every effort to go to the polls on June 2. The following pages contain information that may be helpful to you in evaluating the candidates, including official endorsements by Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation.

Be informed, be involved, and keep your priorities straight on June 2. Vote!
10 Questions on union dollars, political action, and job security

1. Why does Local 1245 endorse candidates and ballot propositions?

Because politicians and propositions can hurt our members. Politicians in Sacramento have the power to destroy overtime protections, job site safety protections, and prevailing wage protections. Political appointees at the California Public Utilities Commission have the power to ruin utility companies and their employees. Like it or not, what politicians do has a big impact on how well we do. That's why our union's by-laws require the Executive Board to examine candidates and ballot propositions and to make recommendations to the members.

2. What gives the union the right to tell members how to vote?

No one can tell you how to vote. The union's job is to provide information on how candidates and propositions will affect you as a worker. What you do with that information is up to you.

3. Why does the union sometimes support candidates who have a position I dislike on abortion or gun control?

The union evaluates candidates on the economic and workplace issues that affect our members, and makes its endorsements accordingly. If a pro-worker candidate takes a position you disagree with on an issue like gun control or abortion, it's up to you to decide what's most important.

4. Proposition 226 would make political contributions by union members voluntary. What's wrong with that?

Political contributions by Local 1245 members are already voluntary, and they are minimal. Exactly one dollar per member per year is placed in the union's political action fund. Any member can obtain a refund of that one dollar by notifying the union in the prescribed manner.

5. But what's wrong with asking me personally for permission to use my dollar for political action?

In theory, there's nothing wrong with asking you. But in reality, the red tape involved in asking 20,000 individuals each year for permission to spend their one dollar would make it a logistical nightmare for our union to take any political action at all.

And that's the point of Proposition 226: to drive unions out of the political arena so that corporate political action committees will have the field all to themselves. Corporations already outspend unions by 11 to 1 in direct political contributions. Proposition 226 would make it 11 to 0. (See chart)

6. Don't other organizations have to get permission from their members before spending money on political action?

Yes. Local 1245 is a democratic organization. If you don't like the policies on political spending you can try to persuade the Executive Board to change the rules, or you can run for union office yourself. Officers, Executive Board members, and unit leaders are democratically elected every three years.

7. Are there any other checks and balances on union political action?

Yes. Local 1245 is a democratic organization. If you don't like the policies on political spending you can try to persuade the Executive Board to change the rules, or you can run for union office yourself. Officers, Executive Board members, and unit leaders are democratically elected every three years.

8. What do I get for my one dollar contribution?

A lot. Local 1245's political contributions helped gain us a seat at the table when utility deregulation was being hotly debated. We were directly involved in negotiating provisions of Assembly Bill 1890 that gave protections to displaced employees and that established reliability standards for California's electric system. Those reliability standards translate directly into job security for our members.

9. Can I give more than one dollar a year?

Yes. Many members make voluntary contributions to IBEW's political action committee on a monthly basis. Ask your business representative for more information.

10. If I want my union to have all the tools it needs to protect my job security, how should I vote on Proposition 226?

Vote No!
Dear Member,

One of the most effective steps you can take to protect your job security is also one of the easiest: vote on June 2.

This election presents our members with a grave danger...and also a great opportunity. The danger is Proposition 226, which would seriously undermine your job security. At the same time, we have a historic opportunity to elect a great Governor for California: Gray Davis. Time and again Gray Davis has stood with us when it counted. As Governor, Gray Davis will help us advance the rights of workers, and work to insure that all Californians share in our state’s prosperity.

This Election Guide is intended to provide you information so that you can make informed choices on June 2. Don’t be a spectator in this election—the stakes are too high. Get out and vote.

In Unity,

Jack McNally
Prop. 226: members speak out

"It's just another governmental anti-union proposition. It's trying to take what muscle we have left away, and it's leaving all the muscle with big business.

"All that comes out of Sacramento is anti-labor—we're losing our options is what's happening. "If the union doesn't have the ability to fight for the things we need, then we're not going to get them."

Art Freitas, Foreman's Clerk, PG&E Salinas

"I feel that people need to be fully informed about 226 and need to be involved with it . . . One dollar—what's the big deal? It gives you a voice. "The unions are there to protect us and they do a good job of it. They give us our wage, our benefits. The union tries to pick a [candidate] that's going to do the best job for the working person."

"Once we get rid of the union there'll be nothing to protect us. We'll all be working for $8 an hour."

Sherry Barton, Service Rep., PG&E Bakersfield

"My concern is for the future—the impact on workers years from now if Prop. 226 passes. "You cannot stay out of the political arena and survive. Political action is an added source of strength for labor unions to negotiate good contracts for workers. In the history of the labor movement, they've always been tied together. "It's a small price to pay—$1 a year—for a fair and equitable wage, benefits coverage for you and your dependents, and safety protections."

Ike Williams, Backhoe Operator, SMUD
VOTE NO on Prop. 226

Prop. 226 Trashes Your Privacy

Union members will LOSE THEIR RIGHT to decide by majority vote how to spend their union dues.

Instead, your union will have to buy forms from the government, and your business agent will have to ask you to sign a new one each year.

Without the form, you can’t vote to use dues money to fight initiatives such as “Right-to-Work.”

Your employers must keep a copy of the form, and keep records of each of your contributions to candidates or issues.

This bureaucratic nightmare will WASTE YOUR DUES WHILE LEAVING CORPORATIONS FREE TO SPEND AT WILL.

Prop. 226 Opens Foreign Loopholes

DON’T be fooled. Federal law already prohibits foreign contributions to candidates.

Supporters DON’T TELL YOU that Prop 226 specifically ALLOWS foreign contributions to California INITIATIVE campaigns.

They DON’T TELL YOU THAT one of 226’s biggest out-of-state contributors, Grover Norquist, is a lobbyist for foreign governments (when he isn’t trying to trash unions).

They DON’T WANT YOU TO KNOW that Norquist and Pete Wilson plan to put a “Right-to-Work” initiative on California’s ballot if 226 passes.

Members Voice of the State Building Trades, ID #980162, 921 11th Street, Suite 4100, Sacramento, CA 95814
Gray Davis has what it takes to be a great governor for California. And he has the record to prove it.

As Lieutenant Governor, Gray Davis has focused on efforts to keep jobs in California and encourage new and fast-growing industries to locate and expand here. He has also led the fight to keep higher education affordable for California’s middle-class families, recognizing that a well-trained, highly-educated workforce is the key to creating the high-skill, high-wage jobs of the future.

Gray Davis has never been the kind of politician who thinks working people should wait for the fruits of economic growth to "trickle down" to them. He has consistently supported the efforts of working people and their unions to fight for their fair share of the American dream. Consider the facts:

When Gov. George Deukmejian tried to eliminate Cal-OSHA, Gray Davis was co-chair of the campaign to rescue the agency. When Gov. Pete Wilson ordered a 5% pay cut for 27,000 state employees in 1991, Gray Davis refused to implement it.

Gray Davis understands that wages are more than just some pawn to be used in political gamesmanship—wages are the lifeblood of California’s working families. When 15,000 union construction workers rallied at the state capitol in 1996 to defend California’s prevailing wage law, Gray Davis spoke passionately for their cause (see photo, at right). When California unions pressed for an increase in the state’s minimum wage law, Gray Davis lent the strength and prestige of his office to the effort.

Gray Davis understands the importance of unions and respecting the role of unions in defending the rights of working people. When Gov. Wilson attempted to increase health insurance premiums for state employees without renegotiating contracts, Gray Davis won a court order overturning Wilson’s effort.

Innovation has been the hallmark of Davis’ tenure as a public official. As Controller and a member of the CalPERS Board, he spearheaded a program to invest state employee pension funds in affordable housing for first-time homebuyers, resulting in employment for 8,000 construction workers, the construction of a projected 5,000 new homes, and a handsome 20% return for the pension fund.

And when state employees were threatened with layoffs in the budget balancing process of 1991, Gray Davis identified more than 20,000 vacancies in the state workforce, thereby demonstrating that further layoffs were unnecessary to balance the budget.

As Controller, Gray Davis saved taxpayers more than half a billion dollars by cracking down on Medi-Cal fraud, rooting out government waste and inefficiency, and exposing the misuse of public funds.

The San Jose Mercury recently called Gray Davis “perhaps the best trained governor-in-waiting California has ever produced.” It’s time to put that training and experience to work for the working men and women of California.

Local 1245 and the California Labor Federation endorse Gray Davis for governor of California.

When Gov. George Deukmejian tried to eliminate Cal-OSHA, Gray Davis was co-chair of the campaign to rescue the agency. When Gov. Pete Wilson ordered a 5% pay cut for 27,000 state employees in 1991, Gray Davis refused to implement it.
Jane Harmon compiles mixed record on worker issues

Jane Harmon has offered a little something for everyone during her six years in Congress. She opposed NAFTA, and she favors a prohibition on the use of permanent replacement workers during strikes. She pledges support for "prevailing wage" protections for construction workers and says she would sign legislation permitting workers to use their own sick leave to take care of sick family members.

However, Harmon's support for working families is inconsistent. While she opposed NAFTA, she supported the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an agreement that threatens to erode labor and environmental standards in the US and around the world. Harmon supported granting "Most Favored Nation" trading status to China despite that nation's abysmal record on labor and human rights.

In 1995, Harmon voted with Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" 64% of the time. In 1997, she supported positions taken by the Chamber of Commerce in 80% of her votes.

Harmon advocates incentives to provide "quality daycare, ongoing worker training, and liveable wage jobs to former welfare recipients."

Like the other two Democratic candidates for governor, Harmon has expressed strong support for improving education, including an emphasis on early childhood development. She supports placing a school construction bond measure on the ballot to build new schools and to provide funds to local districts to rehabilitate schools and colleges.

However, Harmon sided with business in backing legislation that would limit the amount of money that plaintiffs can receive in product liability lawsuits, and she has expressed support for permitting employees who work overtime to be paid in compensatory time off rather than overtime pay.

Al Checchi stresses business experience in bid for governor

Businessman Al Checchi believes his experience in the corporate world qualifies him to be governor of California. Checchi has put education at the center of his campaign, proposing "ten big changes" for California's schools, including improvements in teacher training and standards.

He has pledged to cut auto insurance rates by 10% and to cut state bureaucracy by 10%, actions that most working Californians would certainly welcome if they were achieved.

Checchi on labor issues is difficult because he has not held public office and thus has no "track record."

Checchi claims his stint as head of Northwestern Airlines, a unionized company, demonstrates his good relations with labor. His campaign material features favorable comments from Northwestern Airlines employees and a few California labor officials.

However, Checchi's record at Northwest has some troubling aspects.

Shortly after taking over Northwest Airlines in a leveraged buyout, Checchi informed the Machinists union that its members could face layoffs unless they agreed to a 10% pay cut.

Checchi claims he rescued Northwest from economic disaster, but the facts are more complicated than that. Northwest turned a profit for 39 consecutive years through 1988. Its subsequent financial troubles-and the pressure for wage reductions-were due in part to the $3.7 billion in debt the company racked up as a result of Checchi's leveraged buy-out.

Checchi has pledged to consolidate the state's various economic development efforts and to make better use of the state's job training funds.

Checchi clearly has the drive and the money to make a strong bid for the governor's chair. But it's not clear that he has the experience—or the proper priorities—to do right by working people if he were elected.

Dan Lundgren: opposes working families every chance he gets

Attorney General Dan Lundgren wants to be governor. But he has given California's working people precious little reason to come to his support.

Lundgren's most notable accomplishment in the area of labor during his tenure as attorney general was to go to court to defend the Industrial Welfare Commission in its drive to abolish the 8-hour day.

In another slap at workers and their families, Lundgren supported efforts by the Department of Industrial Relations to undercut current prevailing wages for construction workers in California.

Lundgren's anti-labor bias dates back to his days in Congress in the 1980s.

Specifically, Lundgren opposed a Congressional bill that would have established a system to provide medical monitoring and notification to workers at high risk of exposure to toxic substances. Protecting workers from hazards at the worksite was simply not a part of Lundgren's vision for America.

Lundgren also showed little regard while in Congress for the basic rights of workers. He opposed federal legislation that would have banned lie detector tests for new job applicants, adopting the attitude that a worker is guilty until proven innocent.

Lundgren didn't offer retired workers any reason to cheer, either. While in Congress he supported legislation to slash coverage for retiree Medicare coverage for hospital costs, nursing home costs, and prescription drugs.

The list goes on, and the basic theme remains the same throughout Lundgren's Congressional career: when voting on issues of importance to labor, Lundgren voted against working people—19 times out of 20.

Lundgren will try to portray himself as a friend of the average Californian in the current campaign for governor. But actions speak louder than words, and virtually every action Lundgren has taken in public life has been to the detriment of California's working families.
Ballot Propositions

Proposition 219——No Recommendation
Ballot Measures. Application.

Proposition 220——VOTE YES
This constitutional amendment permits su-
perior and municipal courts within a county to
consolidate their operations if approved by a
majority of the superior court judges and a
majority of municipal court judges in the
county.

Proposition 221——VOTE YES
This proposition would give the Commission
on Judicial Performance, at its discretion,
authority to oversee and discipline court com-
missioners or referees, just as it currently
does for judges.

Proposition 222——No Recommendation
This proposition provides that no person con-
victed of murder is eligible to receive credits
that reduce the time he or she spends in state
prison. This measure also places before the
voters a provision that is virtually identical to
the law enacted in September 1997 relating to
the second degree murder of a peace officer.

Proposition 223——VOTE NO
This proposition has two main provisions.
First, it limits the amount each school district
can spend on administrative costs. Second, it
establishes new performance budgeting re-
quirements.

Proposition 224——VOTE NO
This constitutional amendment requires pub-
ic entities to use a new process prior to
awarding contracts for various construction-
related services. The proposition would not
affect contracting out for other types of ser-
dices.

Proposition 225——VOTE NO
This proposition declares that it is the official
position of the People of California that its
elected officials should vote to amend the US
Constitution to limit a person to no more than
two terms (or a total of 12 years) as a senator
and no more than three terms (or six years)
as a representative.

Proposition 226——VOTE NO
This proposition would effectively remove
unions from taking political action by impos-
ing cumbersome administrative red-tape on
union dues collections.

Proposition 227——VOTE NO
This proposition significantly changes the
way that "limited-English proficient" students
are taught in California. Specifically, it re-
quires California public schools to teach LEP
students in special classes that are taught
nearly all in English. This would eliminate
"bilingual" classes in most cases.

For Attorney General

Bill Lockyer: the best choice
for Attorney General (by far)

It's hard to imagine a candidate with
better credentials for Attorney Gen-
eral than Bill Lockyer.

As leader of the California Senate,
Lockyer was a stout-hearted defender
of working families. Lockyer fre-
quently battled with Gov. Pete Wilson in
an on-going effort to increase funding for
public education, target tax cuts to lower-
income and middle-class working families,
and protect prevailing wage laws, pension
benefits, and worker safety.

Along with California unions, Lockyer
took Wilson to court twice to protect daily
overtime and prevailing wage laws that
Wilson refused to enforce.

Lockyer is currently in the forefront of
efforts to defeat Proposition 226 because
he knows that working people need strong
unions to defend their economic interests
and their workplace rights.

Lockyer began his career as a public
school teacher. He was elected to the As-
sembly in 1973 and won a seat in the state
Senate in 1982, where he served as chair of
the Judiciary Committee.

Lockyer has gained a national reputation
as an expert on criminal and civil law. He
wrote or helped write nearly every tough
sentencing law placed on the books in the
last 20 years. He won enactment of the
strangest laws in the nation aimed at ha-
tual sex offenders, child molesters, and
spousal abusers.

Moreover, Lockyer understands that the
Attorney General's office is supposed to
ensure that all of California's laws are uni-
formly enforced.

"The current Attorney General has a
reputation for settling serious cases against
business for pennies on the dollar," said
Lockyer. "He has brought fewer than 20
actions in defense of California's environ-
ment; he dismantled the unit that used to
go after major fraud.

Don't get left out of the action--vote absentee!

Not sure where you're going to be on June 2? You can still vote...by mail!
To vote by mail, fill out the absentee ballot request contained in the
sample ballot you received in the mail. If you did not receive a sample ballot,
you can obtain an absentee ballot by contacting your local County Registrar.
The last day to obtain an absentee ballot is May 26. You may return your
completed absentee ballot by mail to the County Registrar by June 2, or
deliver it in person to your individual polling place. Ballots received by the
County Registrar after June 2 will not be counted.
### United States Senator
1. Maria Cantwell (D)
2. Patty Murray (D)

### Governor
1. Jerry Brown (D)
2. Meg Whitman (R)
3. Abel Maldonado (R)

### Lieutenant Governor
1. John Deasy (D)
2. Delores D. Deras (D)
3. Sandy Fox (D)

### Secretary of State
1. Debra Bowen (D)
2.1. Steven Gruendl (D)
2.2. Noah Ryan (R)
3. John Noguez (D)

### State Controller
1. John Chiang (D)

### United States Senator
1. John Durbin (D)
2. Barack Obama (D)
3. Dick Durbin (D)
4. Pat Toomey (R)

### United States Representative in Congress
1. Jim Costa (D)
2. Zoe Lofgren (D)
3. Dan Lipinski (D)

### California State Senate District
1. Wes Chesbro (D)
2. John Hambrick (D)
3. Richard Pan (D)

### California Assembly District
1. Virginia Starnes-Martin (D)
2. Susan Glaser (D)
3. Brad Sherman (D)

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**Vote on June 2!**

May 1998 *Utility Reporter*
Many union members noted the special relationship that exists between PG&E employees and their customers. Gas Service Representative Gerry Steemers observed that service may be impersonal at many large corporations, but that has not historically been the case at PG&E.

"I feel that the service we provide gets by that barrier," said Steemers, who testified in San Francisco. "And providing that personal relationship with the community gives them the feeling that they're not alone when either an emergency emerges or a simple relight is required. "The men and women I work with feel passionate about their role in the community and feel the quality of that role should not suffer," Steemers said.

Napa lineman John Kent observed that PG&E had made a significant commitment to improving maintenance since mid-1995, and reminded the commissioners that they, too, had a responsibility for insuring reliability.

"A well-built, well-maintained line stands up to the torques of nature longer, is safer, and more efficient," said Kent.

"Safety is first for both the IBEW and PG&E," Kent testified. "Our goal is no accidents, no hazards, no outages. In baseball, to hit one in three is doing pretty good. We can't accept that. My life and the public's health depend on us doing our best to be right every time."

While many focused on service reliability and emergency response, other Local 1245 members raised concerns about customers who might end up without any service at all in the era of utility deregulation.

Gerry Steemers, the Gas Service Representative, observed that customers who have limited resources or live in areas where service is unreliable may be particularly vulnerable.

"The men and women I work with feel passionate about their role in the community and feel the quality of that role should not suffer."

Gerry Steemers, Gas Service Representative
Sharon and Doug Bell were on the line at the Woodland hearing.

"The men and women I work with feel passionate about their role in the community and feel the quality of that role should not suffer."

Gerry Steemers
Gas Service Rep.

Members showed up in force for informational leafletting at the CPUC public hearing in San Francisco.

Sharon and Doug Bell were on the line at the Woodland hearing.

Manning the informational picketline outside the CPUC hearings in Woodland are (from left): Bill Wallace, Norman Goodin, Mike Joy, Business Rep. Wayne Greer and Frank Pinzon.
Dawn Cummings, Steve Smith and Tony Borroto boost the union presence at the Woodland hearings.

Elaine Delgado (right) offers testimony at the San Francisco public hearing. Ralph Henley (below left) and Norman Goodin leaflet outside the public hearing in Woodland.

PG&E Lineman Steve Kerr testifies at Woodland public hearing.

From PAGE TWELVE

in remote or "undesirable" areas may not be able to obtain service.

His concerns were echoed by Galen McKie, a union member who testified in San Francisco. "If the poor have to hire an outside contractor every time they have a gas leak or a blown fuse, they will not be able to afford these situations," said McKie. "This will lead to situations where people live day by day with gas leaks because they cannot afford to get them repaired."

McKie warned against "compromising safety for the almighty dollar." Union members were blunt about the bottom line.

"It costs money to maintain these kinds of services," said Brian Souza, an Unassigned Fitter in Gas T&D testifying in San Francisco. "I believe the old adage-you get what you pay for-holds true."

"Money spent on maintenance is money well spent," said Steve Kerr, a lineman testifying in Woodland.

Many members of the public spoke out in support of PG&E's rate request, despite the fact that it will increase the cost of service to customers.

Joe Horak of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board testified in San Francisco that electrical outages hurt business, and that his area had experienced fewer and shorter outages since PG&E had increased its maintenance efforts.

Many others spoke of PG&E's commitment to community service organizations and to environmental projects.

In San Francisco, the only dissenting voice--out of perhaps two dozen speakers--came from Nettie Hoge of The Utility Reform Network, which opposes PG&E's rate request. But even Hoge conceded that "Certainly we want service that's reliable and safe."

PG&E is requesting a $627 million increase in authorized
In his testimony to the CPUC, Napa Lineman John Kent recounted the following bit of Greek mythology:

I know it's late in the afternoon, but I'd like to tell you a little story. It's about Prometheus. He was a Greek god, but a minor one, and he looked down from Olympus and saw those mortals shivering in the dark, and eating their meat raw. He took some coals from the fire on Olympus, and gave them to the people, so they could keep warm, and cook their food, and keep out the dark.

Well, some of the other gods didn't like this, so they chained Prometheus to a rock on top of the Caucasus Mountains, and every day sent birds to peck out his liver. Every night it grew back, and every day the eagles ate it again.

Now I'm not saying that they want to eat our liver, but I know that somewhere out there somebody wants to eat our lunch. PUC, it's your job too, to see that all customers are served—Exxon, the small farmer, the apartment dwellers, and the guy who wants to live out past the end of the road. We share the responsibility for the lights staying on and the pilots burning in this part of the state. I want you to do your job—determine what PG&E needs to serve all customers well, and give them the money to do it.

I expect PG&E's management to do their job, and run the company in an enlightened and efficient manner. I'll do my job, and keep looking for ways to improve. There is nothing so good we can't work to make it better.
Prop. 226: attack on unions...and Medicare

By Ory Owen

Prop. 226, scheduled for the June ballot in California, is just another in a long history of laws and proposed laws to limit a worker's right to a job that provides fair wages, benefits and working conditions, and to participate in the basic rights afforded to all our citizens in the political process.

I believe we should ask ourselves: Why should out-of-state wealthy people suddenly be concerned about the welfare of workers and union members in California? They never were in the past.

However, if you consider that the largest financial backers of Prop. 226 are from the health insurance business who are committed to privatizing Social Security and Medicare, then the answer is clear:

They want to get their greedy hands on the state's Medicare program, its 3.7 million recipients, and the $22 billion currently spent on Medicare in California.

In my view, Prop. 226 was created solely to get workers and their unions out of the political process by imposing costly bureaucratic regulations on organizations that are the last bastion for protecting seniors and the rights of retirees.

Prop. 226 is an attack on seniors and other folks who have earned and paid for benefits such as Social Security and Medicare.

Prop. 226 is unfair as it would set up two sets of rules for participating in politics—one for big business and another for unions.

Supporters of Prop. 226 claim it's about campaign finance reform. If they are really interested in genuine campaign reform they should support eliminating all money from political campaigns and elections, period.

History tells us that labor was forced to get involved in the political arena because of legislative threats to workers' hard-won gains at the bargaining table.

Proposition 226: why seniors should care

✓ Prop. 226 makes it virtually impossible for working Californians to participate in the political process by severely limiting their ability to contribute to candidates or ballot initiatives.

✓ For more than 50 years, unions and employee organizations have fought to protect and secure crucial benefits for working Californians and seniors—benefits like Medicare, pensions and Social Security.

✓ With unions and employee organizations silenced, out-of-state extremists will have a clear path to make an all-out assault on these protections.

✓ The wealthy out-of-state extremists who support Prop. 226 are using California as a stepping stone to advance a national political agenda.

✓ Grover Norquist, a Washington D.C. lobbyist, supports massive privatization of services relied upon by many seniors. He publicly advocates cuts to Social Security and other public retirement and pension programs.

✓ J. Patrick Rooney, a millionaire insurance tycoon from Indianapolis, wants to eliminate Social Security. He wants to replace Medicare with "Medical Savings Accounts," (MSAs) which his company can sell.

✓ Many seniors on fixed incomes will not be able to afford these MSAs. Instead of having access to Medicare or a traditional insurance policy with a low deductible, an individual will be forced to purchase a high deductible catastrophic policy. The individual will have to pay for all health costs under the deductible out-of-pocket or use funds from a MSA which will not equal the amount of the deductible.

✓ If these extremists are able to achieve their dangerous political goals, public benefits programs will go bankrupt. Working Californians and retirees will be unable to afford health insurance or collect their hard-earned retirement. That just isn't fair.

PROPOSITION 226 IS BAD FOR CALIFORNIA.
But It's Good for Rooney and his Insurance Industry Allies.
Public worried about health care

Access to doctors and affordable health care is seen as one of the most serious problems facing Americans today, according to a recent Peter Hart poll. Unions, as the largest group of organized purchasers, consumers and providers of managed care services, are in the forefront of efforts to reform this system, a system that falls short when it comes to meeting the health care needs of the American public.

The AFL-CIO supports the need for legally enforceable national standards to assure access to quality health care. These standards should assure network adequacy, access to specialists, an external appeals process, information disclosure and other commonsense measures. Purchasers and consumers must have the ability to hold health plans accountable and to improve quality, but will only be able to do so if basic consumer protections are in place.

The costs of basic consumer protections is negligible. A recent study by the Lewin Group puts the costs of the President's Consumer Bill of Rights provisions on information disclosure and external appeals at 59 cents to $2.24 per enrollee per month. Lack of affordable coverage explains 76% of the decline in employer health coverage since 1989. If these trends continue, the study projects that between 8.1 million and 12.5 million workers and their family members will lose employer-based health coverage by 2002.

The AFL-CIO supports incremental measures to expand coverage such as the Administration's proposal to allow early retirees to buy into Medicare. But unless steps are taken soon to shore up employment-based coverage, incremental coverage gains will be far outweighed by the continued erosion of workplace health benefits.

Do you get enough sleep?

It is recommended that you sleep for at least eight hours a night. One in three Americans sleep six or less hours a night.

Help your knees

Knees can be injured when they've been "quiet" too long, reports Rodale Press's Safety Check.

If you're a desk worker or a counter worker, try the following move before you get up after sitting for extended periods. This exercise is also beneficial anytime your knees feel stiff or creaky.

1. Slide forward on a chair, and extend your legs straight out so that only your heels rest on the floor.
2. Tighten the muscles on the front of your thighs (quadriceps). Hold for five seconds, then release.
3. Repeat three times, and then do another set.

By contracting your thigh, you strengthen that part of your quadriceps muscle that supports and stabilizes your kneecap, says James Garrick, M.D., director of sports medicine at St. Franisc Memorial Hospital in San Francisco.
CANDIDATES FOR IBEW LOCAL 1245 OFFICES

Business Manager/Financial Secretary
JACK McNALLY

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in October of 1960. Was employed as a Journeyman Lineman and Electric Crew Foreman for Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Served as a Business Representative and as an Assistant Business Manager from 1968 to 1978. Was elected as Business Manager/Financial Secretary in 1980 and has been re-elected in each Local Union election since. Currently serves as Vice President and Executive Council Member of the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO and was first elected in 1980. Currently serves as Executive Board member of the California State Association of Electrical Workers. Currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, and as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Center for Labor Research and Education at the University of California at Berkeley. Serves as IBEW member of the Steering Committee to the Inter-Union Gas Conference and currently serves on the IBEW Committee on Electric Utility Restructuring. Serves as a Governing Board Member of the California Independent System Operator and as a member of the Governance Committee and the Reliability and Grid Operations Committee of the ISO. Has developed arguments and testified before the California Public Utilities Commission defending the rights of free collective bargaining. Is a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC), and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA).

President
HOWARD STIEFER


Vice President
JIM 'MAC' McCauley

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in March, 1960. Member of Unit #2318, Richmond, East Bay Division. Employed by PG&E Richmond, as an Underground Construction Foreman. Currently serving as Vice President of the Executive Board, 1989 to present. Served as Executive Board member representing Central Area, 1986 - 1989, East Bay Division Advisory Council Member 1974 - 1977, served as the Chairman of the Advisory Council. Shop Steward in East Bay Division 1970 to present; Chairman of PG&E New Business Competitive Pilot Program 1996 to present. IBEW Construction Representative for the Gas & Electric Rodeo, 1995 to present. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Executive Committee member of East Bay Union #2311; member of East Bay Division Joint Grievance Committee; and member of the Local Union Political Action Committee, 1986 - 1998. Chairperson of Local Union Political Action Committee, 1986 - 1998. Served on Local Union 1245 Office.
McCauley, continued

Treasurer

MICHAEL J. DAVIS


Southern Area Executive Board Member

CHRIS HABECKER

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in January of 1976. Member of Unit #1111 Fresno; Classification: Operating Clerk; Executive Board Southern Area Member 1995 to present; Clerical-At-Large Advisory Council Member 1994 & 1995; Shop Steward 1982 to present; designated alternate San Joaquin Valley Region Shop Steward for the Clerical Position Evaluation System; Appeals Procedure Committee 1990 to present; member of the San Joaquin 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 three-day workshop on AFL-CIO one-on-one program; completed labor Communications, COLA, Health and Safety, Labor Law, Labor Negotiation and Psychology of Union Labor Leaders, courses from the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley; Organizing and Communications for Labor Leaders, course from Merrill 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, also a certified Union Counselor from Alameda Labor Council. Participated on behalf of Local Union 1245 at Career Night at Bay Area High Schools. Organized the first three IBEW Local 1245 Softball tournaments and picnics; represented Local 1245 on Central Division Substance Abuse Program, 1989 - 1992.

Recording Secretary

ED MALLORY

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in May of 1966.

Excerise Your Rights. Vote!
KATHY F. TINDALL


Central Area Executive Board Member

ANNA BAYLESS


Executive Board Member at Large

JEFF JOHNSTONE

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December of 1968.

JOHN M. MENDOZA

Initiated into IBEW Local 1245 in December of 1983. Member of Unit #2314; Classification: T&D Driver/Equipment Operator (MEO). Shop Steward from 1985 to present. Executive Board Member at Large from July of 1997 to present. Served on 1245 Partnership Committee. Main Title 8 Committee: 1997 Contract Negotiations Committee.

Advisory Council:
San Joaquin PG&E, PG&E Gas, PG&E Gas Management

RICH COWART

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December of 1972.

Bernard R. Smallwood

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in October of 1985. Member of Unit #2412; PG&E Gas OM&C Employee Involvement Committee; Shop Steward for October, 1985.

Jeff Madigan

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in April of 1981.

Bill Wallace

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in August of 1977. Member of Unit #1411; Classification: Electrician, Unit Chairman. Shop Steward 1982 to present. Shop Steward Training; Delegate to South Bay Labor Council.

Advisory Council:
AC Transit District, East Bay Municipalities

LARRY RODRIGUEZ


Advisory Council:
East Bay & Materials PG&E, Foster Wheeler

See NEXT PAGE
GROVER DAY


ROOSEVELT HAWKINS

Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in April of 1990. Member of Unit #3023, Walla Walla, WA; Classification: Mech./Welder.

RAYMOND THOMAS


BOB 'B.J.' VIEIRA


Advisory Council: Electrical Manufacturing

NO NOMINATIONS
LOCAL 1245 ELECTIONS: CANDIDATE RESUMES

Advisory Council:
De Sabla PG&E

BOB LOVETT
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in July of 1971.

Advisory Council:
Drum PG&E, Plumas Sierra REC, City of Roseville

TERRY ANDREUCCI

Advisory Council:
Colgate PG&E, City of Gridley, Yuba County Water Agency

JIM "ED" EDWARDS
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December of 1973. Member of Unit #3911, Marysville; Classification: Lineman. Shop Steward from 1980 to present. Three negotiating committees and Alternate Work Schedule Committee. Two terms on Advisory Council, Class A DOT Committee and Continuous Safety Improvement Committee, Electrical Division Safety Committee.

Advisory Council:
Water & Power Resource Services/Western Area Power Admin., US Gov't

MIKE MENA
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in September of 1981.

Advisory Council:
Sacramento PG&E, Calibration & Testing

KIT STICE
Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in December of 1983. Member of Unit #3814; Classification: Fieldman. Unit Chairman, of Unit #3814. Shop Steward from 1984 to present. Served on the 1999 General Rate Case Communication Committee. New Business Competitiveness Pilot Committee, 1996 to present. DCS Unit Cost Committee, 1997 to present. Delegate on the Sacramento Central Labor Council. Delegate to the Inter-Union Gas Conference.

Advisory Council:
Sacramento Municipal Utility District, QEO/Coldwater Creek Operating Coop

ARLENE EDWARDS

Advisory Council:
San Francisco General Office Clerical PG&E

NO NOMINATIONS

See Page 22 for instructions on how to fill out your ballot.
**LOCAL 1245 ELECTIONS: CANDIDATE RESUMES**

**Advisory Council: Irrigation Districts**

**MIKE STOUT**


**Advisory Council: Outside Construction**

**AL FORTIER**


**TOM ROWLEY**

 Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in May of 1985.

**Advisory Council: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Region 2**

**NO NOMINATIONS**

**Advisory Council: Government Coordinating Council**

**GARY MAI**

 Initiated into IBEW Local Union 1245 in April of 1968.

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**Watch your mail for your ballot...**

All Local 1245 members eligible to vote in the local union election will receive a ballot in the mail around June 1. Please watch the mail for your ballot, then follow the directions for voting given below.

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**How to Vote**

**GENERAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. To vote, use the ballot card provided.

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 council member.

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, 1998, at the P.O. Box. Ballots arriving in the Post Office Box after this time and date will not be counted.

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**SPOILED BALLOTS**

If you spoil your ballot by punching it in error, return the entire kit in a separate envelope at once to: Sequoia Pacific Systems Corporation, Election Services Department, 5221 Central Ave. #204, Richmond, CA 94804. 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, 1998.
Thirteenth Annual
IBEW Local 1245
Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 11, 1998
Indian Valley Golf Club
Novato, California
First Tee Time: 11:00 a.m.*

Hole-in-One Prize!

Don't Miss Out--Register Now! Deadline is June 29!

1. Name ________________________________________  ☐ Chicken ☐ Steak
   Address ________________________________________
2. Name ________________________________________  ☐ Chicken ☐ Steak
   Address ________________________________________
3. Name ________________________________________  ☐ Chicken ☐ Steak
   Address ________________________________________
4. Name ________________________________________  ☐ Chicken ☐ Steak
   Address ________________________________________

Mail Check Payable to:
"Local 1245 Golf Tournament"
PO Box 4790
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

For Further Information Call:
Frank Saxsenmeier
510-933-6060 Ext. 338
or 707-939-7611

Guests Are Welcome!
4-Man Best Ball Scramble
Limited Tee Spaces
Entry Deadline: May 15

$80 Entry Fee
(Includes Cart & Dinner)

$70 Entry Fee
(Cart & Green Fee Only, No Dinner)

Dinner and Awards
Immediately Following:

Indian Valley Golf Club
3035 Novato Blvd.
Novato, California 94948
(415) 897-1118

Foursomes are not necessary
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