UtilityReporter



Zimmerman puts focus on serving membership

Perry Zimmerman was sworn in as IBEW Local 1245's ninth business manager on July 23, pledging to make the union more visible to its nearly 18,000 members.

During his first few days in office Zimmerman, accompanied by Business Rep. Arlene Edwards, visited Pacific Gas & Electric employees at the Sacramento Call Center and the Sacramento Payment Center. He joined Assistant Business Manager Bob Choate in visiting members at the PG&E yard in Concord, and met with General Office members at PG&E's San Francisco headquarters, accompanied by Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier.

Zimmerman said members were "pleasantly surprised" to find themselves being visited by the union's new business manager.

"I plan on being visible as much as I can," he said.

Zimmerman was sworn into office July 23 by International Representative Charlie Silvernale at Local 1245's Walnut Creek headquarters. Taking the oath of office at the same time were President Howard Steifer, Vice President Jim McCauley, Recording Secretary Ed Mallory, Northern Area Executive Board Member Kathy Tindall, Central Area Executive Board Member Anna Bayless-Martinez, and Executive Board Member-at-Large John Mendoza. Treasurer Mike Davis and Southern Area Executive Board Member Chris Habecker were unable to attend and were sworn in later.

Zimmerman, who was elected by a 3-2 margin in a mail ballot counted June 22, moved quickly to fulfill two major campaign promises: to improve representation for members at tree trimming companies and for members working in General Construction at PG&E.

Business Rep. Ray Thomas will represent tree trimmers in the northern part of the state, with Business Rep. Junior Ornelas covering the southern

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TAKING THE OATH

International Representative Charlie Silvernale (left) swears in newly elected officers and Executive Board members (from left, facing Silvernale) John Mendoza, Anna Bayless-Martinez, Kathy Tindall, Perry Zimmerman, Howard Steifer, Jim McCauley and Ed Mallory on July 23 at Local 1245's Walnut Creek headquarters.

Feds put transmission jobs at risk

n a regulatory showdown that puts Local 1245 transmission jobs at risk, the federal Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) announced last month that it has accepted 13 proposals from private investors to expand Path 15, an 84-mile stretch of transmission lines between Los Banos and Coalinga.

The California Public Utilities Com-

mission earlier this year ordered Pacific Gas and Electric to proceed with licensing the Path 15 expansion. If WAPA succeeds in usurping the CPUC's authority, it could award the Path 15 expansion to another firm, erasing transmission jobs for Local 1245 members working for PG&E

Page 5



NEW PLANTS OPENED Gov. Gray Davis greets Local 1245 Business Rep. Mike Grill at the opening of Edison Mission Energy's Sunrise Power Plant June 27 outside Bakersfield. Davis also presided over the opening of Calpine's Sutter plant near Yuba City on July 2 and the Los Medanos Energy Center in Pittsburg on July 9.

Your Union

Bill could alleviate utilities debt

he California Senate last month approved a bill that seeks to reduce the role of competitive markets in supplying the state's electricity, and to put regulated utilities back in the business of generating power.

SB 78xx, approved 22-17 on July 20, would also provide a framework

for resolving the financial problems plaguing Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and Southern California Edison. The utilities would be allowed to sell bonds to pay off their debt. A portion of customer bills—a "dedicated rate component"—would then be used to

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Safety Matters Ergonomic Hearings Draw Fire 15

Women at Work Working Women Economics 12



Members matter most

By Perry Zimmerman, Business Manager



You will see me. You will see my administrative

staff. You will see your business representative.

You will have the chance to hear first-hand what

we are doing to protect and improve your job.



EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 10-14 Stewards Conference Ukiah, CA

NOVEMBER 3 Advisory Council Rohnert Park, CA

Unit 3214, Red Bluff, has a new meeting location: Crystal Steak and Sea Food Restaurant, 723 Main Street, in Red Bluff. Meeting dates and time remain unchanged.

> Kit Stice Business Rep.

your new Business Manager, I have had to deal with a number of difficult issues—the bankruptcy at PG&E, the possible creation of a municipal utility district in San Francisco, the upcoming negotiations at SMUD, the water divestiture at Sierra, the acquisition/merger between Citizens and Frontier and the shift of DPI work to Kingman, the difficult negotiations ongoing with the City of Gridley and the Lassen Municipal Utility District the list goes on and on. Every one of these issues would

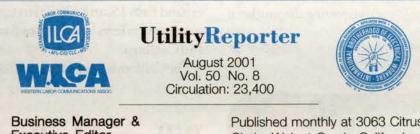
In the first few days on the job as

Every one of these issues would make an interesting column, but issues can wait a month. Issues come and issues go, but you-the union's membership-are constant.

When I campaigned for Business

Manager, I met with hundreds, if not thousands, of our members. I explained my hopes for the next three

years, and I listened to yours. If my administration is known for any one thing, it will be known as an administration when the members mattered the most. Those of you



Executive Editor Perry Zimmerman

Communications Director & Managing Editor Eric Wolfe

President Howard Stiefer

Executive Board Jim McCauley E. L. "Ed" Mallory Anna Bayless-Martinez Chris Habecker Kathy F. Tindall John Mendoza

Treasurer Michael J. Davis Published monthly at 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, California 94598. Official publication of Local Union 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

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Single copies \$1. Subscription by arrangement. Have you moved recently? Please send complete new address and your Social Security Number (by U.S. Mail) to: "Address Change", IBEW Local 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Our Web Site can be viewed at **www.IBEW1245.com**. Our phone number is (925) 933-6060. who remember me from my time in the field know that that was my operating assumption in the field, and it is my operating assumption in the Business Manager's office-you matter the most.

You will see me. You will see my administrative staff. You will see your business representative.

You will have the chance to hear first-hand what we are doing to protect and improve your job.

You will have the chance to tell us first-hand what you want us to do, what you think is important, what problems you see, and what solutions you think might work.

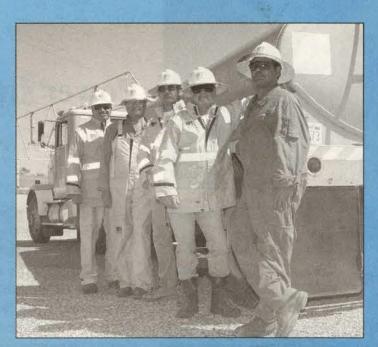
We will be more visible, and you will have a far greater voice in this union. With increased staff visibility and a greater membership voice, the decisions we make and the positions we take will be wiser, tougher, and more in your interest. We don't know what is good for you—you do. Only by seeing you and hearing you can we do our job as your representatives.

You have entrusted a great deal in your union and in me. By rebuilding the relationship between the union and you, its members, we will build a stronger and more vigorous union. In the words of the labor song: We're gonna roll this union on.

Hocal 1245 MEMBERS AT WORK

Some things conduct electricity very well, but dirt isn't one of them. That's why Local 1245 members at Pacific Gas and Electric wash the 230 kv capacitor banks at the Monte Vista Substation in Cupertino, usually twice a year.

> Newer insulators don't need to be washed, according to Fred De Aguinaga, an Electrician and union Steward at the substation. But the older ones still in wide use need regular cleaning so that their conductivity is not impaired.



The Local 1245 crew members performing the hot wash at Monte Vista Substaton in Cupertino last month were, from left; Jim Martinez, Fred De Aguinaga, Don Schroeder, Dennis Russell, and Vincent Warren.

When they're not hosing down energized capacitor banks (hence the term "hot wash"), the crew performs the routine maintance that keeps the substation in good working order, everything from testing the breakers to taking oil samples from the transformers.





'G-8' meeting sparks protests

As many as 200,000 anti-globalization protesters marched in Genoa, Italy on July 21 against global trade policies they say benefit the rich at workers' expense. The protest was targeted at the Group of Eight industrial nations who were meeting in Genoa.

A small minority of protesters engaged police in running battles that resulted in the shooting death of one protester, Carlo Giuliani, on July 20. More than 250 demonstrators, police and journalists were injured. Some reports put the figure at more than 500.

Italian student Dora Reggini, 20, said she was angry rioters had attempted to hijack the protests: "We weren't here for a war, we were here for a demonstration."

Several demonstrators formed human chains to rebuff rioters from penetrating their ranks. They were cheered on by Genoa residents, who poured water on hot, thirsty activists.

The demonstrators' opposition to global trade policies appeared to have had little effect on the world leaders, who issued a statement calling for more global trade.

About 15,000 police were on duty for the protests, part of a \$110 million security operation. Surfaceto-air missiles, fighter jets and naval ships formed part of the security operation.

Demonstrators from all over Europe presented alternative visions for combatting poverty, inequality and environmental destruction.

Over 100 solidarity demonstrations were held around the world, from Argentina to Austria, from Turkey to Berkley, Ca.

three-day power strike by some 31,000 electric workers across South Africa ended July 27 with wages increases of 10% for the lowest paid workers and 7.5% for higher-paid workers. The agreement also includes four months' paid maternity leave. The strikers' union said that the settlement "will create certainty for workers and improve their purchasing power" and "boost morale and show to all workers that they have power to change their wages and working conditions." The strike began after the employer tried to set the level of wage increases unilaterally, but a South African Labor Court ruled that the company did not have

Crushed Hand: Pictsweet Mushroom Farms in Oregon was fined \$7,475 by the state's OSHA for 13 safety violations, including failure to train forklift operators properly. One day after OSHA began inspections, a worker's hand was crushed by a forklift and had to be amputated.

the right to do so.

Truck Brouhaha: The US Senate took a stand for highway safety when it voted July 26 to end a filibuster against legislation to establish stringent safety requirements before Mexican trucks can operate on US highways. The White House wants to open the border to Mexican trucks. "We cannot close our eyes, let unsafe Mexican trucks cross the border and hope everything turns out all right," said Teamsters President James P. Hoffa. The safety provisions could become part of the final version of the Department of Transportation spending bill, which still must be hammered out in a conference committee.

The Real Thing: Coca-Cola Co. and its main Latin American bottler Panamerican Beverages were accused in a lawsuit filed in Miami of using paramilitary forces to threaten labor leaders in soft drink bottling factories in Colombia, according to the Foundation for International Legal Rights. The lawsuit, filed by the Colombian union Sinaltrainal, alleges that throughout Colombia paramilitary forces have assassinated more than 50 unionists since the beginning of the year, and killed 128 union members last year.

Chinese Activist Freed: Cao Maobing, a labor activist detained for seven months in a mental hospital in eastern China after attempting to organize a trade union, has been released. Cao had attempted to organize an independent union at the Funing Silk Factory in Jiangsu province, according to China Labour Watch. Cao had used the union to pressure the management of the factory to come up with long-owed back pay, demand the government maintain the laid-off and retired workers' living standards and pay existing workers the minimum wage.

Santa Monica Living Wage: The City Council in Santa Monica, Ca. has passed a living wage ordinance for 2002 and 2003. Businesses that contract with the city must provide health benefits and pay at least \$10.50/hour, Labor Notes reported.

Bill could alleviate utilities' debt

From Page 1

pay off the bonds over time.

The bill would authorize state regulators to order utilities to build new electric generating facilities, either on their own or in cooperation with the newly-created California Power Authority. By restoring the utilities' responsibility to provide generation, SB 78xx would repeal a central element of California's deregulation law, which sought to turn generation over to unregulated power generators operating in a "competitive" market.

The legislature spent the first few months of 2001 simply trying to keep the lights on as wholesale power prices went through the roof and blackout warnings became a daily occurance. The legislature in February authorized the state to buy power on behalf of the cashstrapped utilities, and in May legislators approved new conservation incentives and the creation of a California Power Authority to buy power and build new plants.

The legislature and the state attorney general also launched investigations into possible market manipulation by unregulated power suppliers.

But the utilities' huge debt seemed to defy resolution. Gov. Gray Davis proposed giving the utilities a cash infusion by purchasing their transmission lines. This idea met stiff opposition in the legislature, and was strongly opposed by PG&E and Local 1245.

SB 78xx would give the state an option to buy PG&E's and Edison's transmission lines, but stops short of requiring such a purchase.

If approved by the Assembly and signed by the governor, this legislation would strongly signal that California has had enough of uncontrolled competitive markets. The bill would put regulated utilities like PG&E and Edison back into the business of generating power on a cost-plus basis, where utilities are allowed to recover costs plus make a reasonable profit.

SOLIDARITY

Power strike, unsafe trucks & The Real Thing

LOCAL 1245 NEWS

100%

.100%

100%

100%

100%

30.7%

27.2%

24.7%

11.7%

5.7%

68.3%

31.7%

52.6%

47.4%

Local 1245 Election Tally: **Officers, Executive Board & Advisory Council**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

0

L

62.9%

37.1%

61.8%

38.2%

51.7%

26.6%

21.7%

OFFICERS & EXEC. BOARD

Business Manager/	Fin. Sec.
Perry Zimmerman	60.2%
Jack McNally	39.8%

President Howard Stiefer Tom Mapp

Vice President **Jim McCauley James Walpole**

Recording Secretary 56.9% Ed Mallory

Mickey Harrington 43.1%

Treasurer	
Michael Davis	
Kip Vaughn	
Gregory Brewer	

N. Area Exec. Board 57.7% Kathy Tindall Michael Scafani 42.3%

Central Area Exec. Bd. Anna Bayless-Martinez100%

S. Area Exec. Board Chris Habecker 65.7% Daniel Melanephy 34.3%

Exec. Bd. Member-at-Large John Mendoza 29.4% Jeff Johnstone 27.1% 17.3% Donald Johnson Marcus Carrasco 14.9% **Bill Paulsen** 11.3%

	OIL
No. 1 - 1 - + 1	
Clerical-at-Large Linda Jurado	100%
Sacramento Reg.	Transit
Villiam Gilliam	100%
Winder Connart	10070
Pacific Gas Transr	nieeion
lohn Folto	100%
John Felts	100%
humbaldt DORE	
Humboldt PG&E	1000/
_ee Thomas	100%
Shasta	
Stuart Neblett	51%
Stuart Neblett Russell Rylee	49%
Sierra Pacific Pov Robert Vieira	ver
Robert Vieira	100%
De Sabla PGE	
Richard Bentler	100%
nicitaru Deritier	10070
rrigation Districts	10000
rigation Districts	100%
Vike Stout	100%
-	
Drum PG&E et al.	
Ferry Andreucci	100%
Contracting and the second	
Colgate PG&E et	al.
Jim Edwards	100%
North Bay PG&E	et al.
Jim Findley	100%
Sacramento PG&	E
Dan Parmenter	100%
SMUD	
Arthur Torres	100%
Artiful TOTTOS	10070
USBR Reg. 2	
Eloio Abbeu	55.6%
Elsie Abbey Richard Perry	
Richard Perry	44.4%
Citizens Utility	194
Dave Morrison	53.3%
Thomas Croor	16 70/

Grover Day San Joaquin PG&E Ronald Moon Dan Mayo Ed Dwyer Larry Reis William Gross Coast Valleys PG&E Mark Taylor John Delsman Pipeline Op. PG&E Stephen James Patrick Earl San Jose PG&E, Santa Clara William Wallace

G.O. Cler. PG&E Mary Wise

East Bay PG&E

Richard Cowart

AC Transit et al.

San Fran. & G.O. PG&E

Stockton PG&E et al.

Larry Rodriguez

Bob Quinn

100% Gen'l Construction PG&E Larry Darby 50.8% **Chris Reese** 26.6% 22.7% Tony Norman

Tree Trimmer Cos. 53.7% Hector Arellano 29.3% Marc Rose **Gilbert Suarez** 17.1%

Outside Construction No Nominations

Thomas Green 46.7%

Local 1245 Election Tally:
IBEW Convention Delegates

VOTES

CANDIDATE

VOTES

CANDIDATE Dorothy Fortier 1283 Jim McCauley 1125 Kathy F. Tindall 1007 Anna Bayless-Martinez 974 Ed Mallory 970 ChristineHabecker 949 Linda S. Jurado 907 Mickey Harrington 886 Ed Caruso 858 **Bob Choate** 843 Sam Tamimi 760 **Barbara Saunders** 751 Lula Washington 713 Cathi Mazzacavallo 688 Landis Marttila 674 **Kip Yaughn** 644 626 Al Fortier Frank Saxsenmeier 583 Lynn A. Moon-Brown 549 538 Dan Lockwood John M. Mendoza 523 **Bill Brill** 500 **Richard Manley** 490 Steve Lopez 489 Hunter Stern 485 Jerry R. Camacho 472 Dan Mayo 471 **Rick Davis** 430 Richard C. Perry 429 427 **Robert Vieira** Gary Hughes 423 Bernard R. Smallwood 418 Dan Parmenter 414 403 Gover Day Michael A. Scafani 399 Percy Stahl 389 380 **Bob** Quinn Lonnie D. Smith 357 Gary Mai 351 Ignacio Araquistain 336

James E. Findley 336 Lee R. Thomas 334 Danny Jackson 331 Ed Dwyer Jr. 321 Lemuel M. Stubblefield 319 Warren Brown 316 Mile Grill 308 William Wallace 306 Alfonzo "Al" Estes III 302 Marcus A Carrasco 295 295 **Mike Haentiens** David D. Scott 291 Mark E. Taylor 276 Mike Stout 275 Steven Lee 271 **Dave Morrison** 262 260 **Christopher Reese** 259 William Goodman John D. Kent 253 251 Steve C. Ward Keith William Burkhardt 219 Albert H. Fox 215 211 James Haves Kenneth Wilson 210 **Ronald Greenlee** 204 Robert Dunlap 202 Dennis K. Seyfer 200 Tony Norman 195 Joseph S. Audelo 189 184 Steve K. Montgomery Brian R. Owens 178 **Tim Gilbride** 177 176 Darryl Munson James Brager 175 Ione E. Snyder 175 Robert Gregg 164 William Gilliam 162 Michael L. Saner 132 Russell W. Rylee 127 Matthew J. Huszarik 105

*Winning candidates for delegate are printed in bold type.

Note: The Business Manager and President automatically serve as delegates to the IBEW Convention.

Feds put Local 1245 transmission jobs at risk

From Page 1

and union contractors.

"Historically this has been our work," said Local 1245 Business Manager Perry Zimmerman. "The federal government ought to keep its hands off this project. California doesn't need non-union workers with questionable skills coming in and taking this work from our members."

Path 15 has been blamed for contributing to California's recent electric supply disruptions. In some cases there was sufficient generation in the southern part of the state, but there wasn't enough transmission capacity to ship the power north where it was needed, leading to blackouts.

Bidders on the federal project include some of the companies implicated in California electric supply, raising the specter that companies charged with manipulating electric generation could be in a position to gain influence over transmission capacity as well.

"The CPUC is trying to do the right thing here," said Marc Joseph, an attorney representing Local 1245 in regu-

latory matters. "They ordered PG&E to file an application to do this transmission expansion, and PG&E did so."

But it is unclear if the CPUC can retain control of this project as the federal government grows increasingly assertive in its effort to impose competitive electric markets nationwide.

Environmental impact hearings on the Path 15 expansion will be conducted by WAPA in Coalinga on Aug. 27 and in Los Banos on Aug. 28. More information is available on the agency's Web site at: www.WAPA.gov

Mark Rose

Local 1245 mourns the sudden death of Mark Rose on July 28.

Mark served on the Local 1245 Safety Committee and had just completed a term on the Local 1245 Advisory Council representing members at tree trimming companies.

A remembrance of Mark Rose will be featured in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.

Local 1245's offers its condolences to the friends, family and co-workers of Mark Rose.

The Inside Story: How Local 1245 stopped electric deregulation in Nevada

SIERRA PACIFIC

To:Local 1245From:Ernest E. Adler, Esq.Date:June 7, 2001Re:Legislative Session Summary

hen our firm first met with Business Representative, Ray Thomas, and Business Manager, Jack McNally, IBEW Local 1245's legislative goal was to keep the jobs of IBEW members who worked in the billing and metering departments. After discussion, we decided that it was possible to stop energy deregulation in Nevada and to stop divestiture of Sierra Pacific Resources power plants.

Initially, the legislature met our proposals with some scepticism. Many out-of-state independent power producers had entered into contracts to purchase the Nevada power plants, and one purchase agreement had been approved by the Nevada PUC. However, we transmitted information from Jack McNally concerning the negative impact of divestiture upon power companies and consumers in California, as did many other lobbyists and groups to the legislators. Soon after the legislature received information concerning the negative impact of divestiture, the Legislative Counsel Bureau issued a legal opinion that it was both legal and constitutional to stop the sale of Sierra Pacific Resource's plants.

The next issue we addressed was how Sierra Pacific could recover its increase in fuel costs. Robert Johnston, Esq., of our firm suggested that the utility be allowed to return to the use of deferred energy accounting. "Deferred energy accounting" is a rate adjustment mechanism that allows a utility to recover its reasonably incurred fuel and purchased power costs on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The utility accounts for the difference between the dollars it is recovering in its current rates to cover energy costs versus the dollars it is actually spending on energy costs. The utility then periodically adjusts its rates to recover any deficit or refund any surplus. Sierra Pacific Resources had agreed to eliminate deferred energy accounting when it agreed to a three-year rate freeze as part of S.B. 438 approved by the legislature in the last session.

The idea of reinstituting deferred energy accounting was so unpopular with the legislators that when the IBEW representatives first suggested it before the Senate Commerce Committee, the Chairman of the Committee told the IBEW not to expect to see that mechanism approved by the legislature. (In fact, deferred energy accounting was so controversial that the Sierra Pacific Resources own lobby team was afraid to address the concept and only did so after the IBEW suggested it was the only way Nevada could get out of its energy crisis.)

With these two important concepts on the table, the Assembly introduced A.B. 369 on March 14, and it was amended and passed out of the Assembly on committee on March 22. On April 6, it was heard and passed with amendments from the Senate Commerce Committee. On April 18, A.B. 369 was passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Initially, the IBEW was invited to negotiate the language of A.B. 369 with the utility, major interest groups, and the Governor's Office. In the end, no unions were allowed in the negotiations sessions. However, we were asked to e-mail our language concerning deferred energy accounting to the Governor's staff. Much of the language we developed does appear in the final draft of A.B. 369.

The information we received indicates that Sierra Pacific Resources was only a few weeks away from bankruptcy at the time A.B. 369 was signed into law. There is little doubt that the IBEW, in cooperation with the State AFL-CIO, helped save hundreds of IBEW jobs and the rate payers of Nevada from an energy crisis similar to what is occurring in California.

The next bill which the IBEW lobbied and monitored was A.B. 661. In short, this legislation allows certain large eligible customers to purchase electrical energy, capacity and ancillary services from providers of new electrical resources. We knew from the beginning that A.B. 661 would pass because it was a top priority of the gaming and mining industries which fund most of the political campaigns in Nevada. Moreover, the Governor's former Chief of Staff, who is also his campaign manager, was lobbying hard for its passage. As a consequence, we had language placed in A.B. 661 which states in relevant part: "Sec. 24(1). An electric utility shall provide all transmission, distribution, metering and other components of electric service that are necessary for a provider of new electric resources to sell energy, capacity or ancillary services. ..." In short, we wanted large customers who purchased power independently to be required to utilize the utilities services and thereby utilize the services of IBEW members.

Our lobbyists spent as much time keeping Sec. 24 in A.B. 661 as we did in working for the passage of A.B. 369. A.B. 661 underwent numerous changes, however, it did pass the legislature in the final minutes of the 120-day session, with Sec. 24 of A.B. 661 intact.

IBEW Local 1245 achieved all of its legislative goals during the 2001 session and then some. The session was a complete success.

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Zimmerman puts focus on serving membership

ADVISORY COUNCI

A D VISORY COUNCIL RENO, NEVADA JULY 28, 2001

Business Manager Perry Zimmerman

From Page 1

part of the union's jurisdiction. Ornelas is bilingual in English and Spanish, which should help improve communications with the union's many Spanish-speaking tree trimmers.

Three business representatives will now be assigned full-time to represent PG&E's General Construction employees. Roy Runnings will cover the northern part of the state, with Mike Haentjens in the south and Hunter Stern covering the central part of the state. They will be supervised by Assistant Business Manager Roger Stalcup, who has extensive background in General Construction issues.

New Appointments

At the July 28 Advisory Council meeting in Reno, Nev., Zimmerman introduced his new Senior Assistant Business Manager, Tom Dalzell, who has served as the union's staff attorney for 20 years.

Advisory Council members were also informed of the appointment of Jim McCauley and Dennis Seyfer as assistant business managers. McCauley resigned his position as vice president of the union in order to accept the appointment. Seyfer, who has represented members at Western Area Power Administration, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and other public agencies, will eventually assume over-



all responsibility for supervising the union's representation of public sector employees.

All business representatives and assistant business managers from the previous administration were retained on staff, in keeping with another of Zimmerman's campaign pledges.

(These and other impending staff changes will be described in more detail in future issues of the Utility Reporter.)

The July 28 Advisory Council meeting in Reno was the first for several newly-elected members: Elsie Abbey, Ron Moon, Stuart Neblett, Hector Arellano, Richard Bentler, Larry Darby and Mary Wise. In all, 27 members were elected in June to the Advisory



Elsie Abbey



Terry Andreucci



Hector Arellano



Richard Bentler



Rich Cowart



Larry Darby



Grover Day

8 UtilityReporter





HOTEL CASINO BENG

Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier reports on developments affecting Clerical members at PG&E.

DUSTRI

Local 1245 President Howard Stiefer (left) and Business Manager Perry Zimmerman confer just prior to the start of business at the July 28 Advisory Council meeting in Reno.





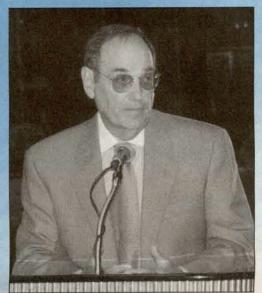


Assistant Business Manager Roger Stalcup reports on labor-management committee

meetings.

Advisory Council *

Zimmerman on serv



Business Manager Perry Zimmerman listens to reports by Advisory Council members.



Assistant Business Manager Bob Choate reports on staff





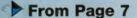
Jim Edwards

SORY COUNCIL * JULY 28, 2001 * RENO, NEVADA

merman puts focus on serving membership



er Perry Zimmerman listens visory Council members.



Council, where they represent specific parts of the union's membership.

Stiefer, who is beginning his eighth term as union president, introduced the new business manager to the Advisory Council, noting that Zimmerman served the union as a steward beginning in 1975, as an Advisory Council member in 1980, as a business representative from 1981 to 1992, and as an assistant business manager from 1992 to 2000.

During his decade as a business representative Zimmerman was known for his frequent contact with members. Increasing the union's visibility was a major theme of his campaign for business manager.

"I made a promise that members would see their business manager and they would see my staff," said Zimmerman. "We're going to work very hard to see as many members as possible in the field during the next three years."

Just prior to breaking for lunch, Advisory Council members were treated to a reading of this year's Al Sandoval Competitive Scholarship winning essay by Megan Siren, daughter of PG&E Equipment Operator and 25-year Local 1245 member George Siren. The essay will be printed in next month's Utility Reporter.



Representing Nevada unionists at the Reno Advisory Council meeting were (among others) Nevada Business Rep. Ray Thomas, Northern Area Advisory Council member Kathy Tindall, and union activist and Sierra Pacific Power employee Santiago Salazar.



Senior Assistant Business Manager Tom Dalzell discusses some of the changes being made in staff assignments.





Local 1245 members Darrell Norris (left) and Ed Lenoir enjoy the first Advisory Council meeting of the

























July 28, 2001 * Reno, Nevada

puts focus ving membership

From Page 7

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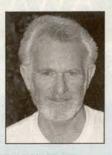
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Mary Wise



Bill Wallace

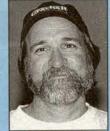


Bob Vieira













Dan Permenter















The Honorees

40 Years Erskine, Ronald E.

35 Years Alarcon, Johnny Borba, Anthony N. Castaneda, P. A. Covert, N. S. Medinas, Merrill E. Pickering, Bob Supernaw, Pat Woolf, Jerry

30 Years Barth, John P. Braswell, Raleigh Bushman, Carl Climer, Grady A. Foy, Gary W. Garcia, Billy L. Herfurth, Charles Herrera, James Jr. Hull, Leland W/ Leonardo, Paul Jr. Thiercof, Patrick Thomas, Steve A. Young, Ronnie D.

25 Years Bonds, William Broughton, Phillip D. Dyer, Dennis G. Hatch, donna L. Holden, Douglas Knox, Gerald W. Labuga, Rodrick G. Mello, Thomas J. Ohagan, Minerva Weston, Robert

20 Years Cobb, Blaine A. Hutchins, Frank

Conley, Mollie G. Erbes-Nordgreen, Michael D. Sanderson, Percy Terry, Mark A.



Merced, Ca.

April 6, 2001

40 Years: Ron Erskine (with plaque) is congratulated by Bus. Rep. Gary Hughes, then-Business Manager Jack McNally, and President Howard Stiefer.



35 Years: Receiving 35-year awards are (third and fourth from left respectively) Johnny Alarcon and Pete Castaneda.



25 Years: William Bonds (middle)



30 Years: Billy Garcia (middle)



Bush drug plan falls short of what seniors need

RETIREE CORNER

President Bush's state-based prescription drug plan falls woefully short of achieving the type of program seniors need.

It is too slow to provide any imme-

Social Security report misleads

new report from President George W. Bush's Social Security privatization commission uses scare tactics and half-truths to alarm the public unnecessarily about the country's most effective family support program and lay the groundwork for private accounts, critics charge.

In a draft report released July 19, the commission paints a "disingenuous and inflammatory critique of the program," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "If any doubts remain about how zealously President Bush's Social Security privatization commission would prosecute its case against Social Security and for privatized individual investment accounts, the draft report will dispel them," Sweeney said.

The commission deliberately resorted to "scare tactics to persuade women and minority workers, in particular, that the program is failing them," Sweeney said. In what may come as a shock to working families, the commission said neither workers nor retirees have legal ownership of their Social Security benefits.

"Instead, what they have is a political promise that can be changed at any time, by any amount for any reason," the commission wrote in a preface to the report. Bush's privatization commission-stacked with financial industry and corporate executives, anti-government ideologues and retired politicianswas slated to meet July 24 to discuss the report. The panel is due to issue final recommendations in September. For more information, visit **www.aflcio.org/socialsecurity**. diate help. Experience shows that it will take 12-14 months to set up new programs before enrollment even begins.

The Bush plan won't help middle class seniors who need it-only the poorest seniors will be assured complete coverage. Those between 135% and 175% of the poverty level would have to use their modest incomes to cover the 50% premium share and co-pays required under the Bush plan. The proposed catastrophic drug coverage-the only benefit available to middle class seniors-would not help the 90% of such seniors who never reach the \$6,000 threshold.

Another problem is that the Bush plan relies too heavily on individual states to have the will and the ability to participate, even though state pharmacy assistance programs are still few in number and lack a proven track record. Coverage will depend on where you live.

Furthermore, the Bush plan would create instability in Medicare. Since 1999, over 1.6 million beneficiaries have been affected by plan withdrawals and millions more experienced benefit cutbacks. Seniors greatly suffer when their health care delivery systems are in turmoil. The Bush plan would sunset after four years, leaving beneficiaries even more uncertain about their Medicare benefits than they are today, and their futures too dependent on partisan politics fueled by the Medicare reform debate.

Make a Date...

The Local 1245 Retiree Club invites you to join us for companionship, discussion and projects. Current meeting locations are:

East Bay Chapter: meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 1245 headquarters, 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, CA.

San Jose Chapter: meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose.

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates

these recently-retired members of the union. We

invite you to participate in - or start! - a Retirees

Congratulations!

Gregory Ross, 26 years Placerville, CA

Frank Russo, 25 years Antioch, CA

Lee Schunk, 35 years Colfax, CA

Charles Sievers, 22 years Brentwood, CA

Donald A. Smith, 17 years Ukiah, CA

Donald L. Smith, 36 years Mill Valley, CA

Jose Solis, 21 years Pittsburg, CA

Angel Soriano Jr., 38 years Auburn, CA

Morris Soto, 28 years Hayward, CA

Richard Sumabat, 28 years Oceano, CA Gary Surfus, 34 years Antioch, Ca

Club chapter in your area.

Douglas Taylor, 35 years Antioch, CA

Richard Thomas, 30 years Ukiah, CA

Paul Tobias, 33 years Red Bluff, Ca

John Trowbridge, 35 years Benicia, CA

Nicholas Wegner, 30 years Rio Vista, CA

Eddie Williams, 35 years Pittsburg, CA

Frank Willis, 25 years Antioch, CA

Donald Wilson, 32 years Antioch, CA

Leonard Woodbury, 37 years Antioch, CA

50

Gary Young, 30 years Benicia, CA

Jane Zegler, 5 years Antelope, CA

Ronald Zunino, 30 years Vacaville, CA

Stephen Beatty, 32 years Bakersfield, CA

Edward Bond, 26 years Pittsburg, CA

Milson Clark, 10 years Oakley, CA

Larry Jasmann, 28 years Martinez

Clarence Rommel, 20 years Georgetown, CA

Robert Ruggiero, 32 years San Bruno, Ca

Marvin Stauts, 29 years Santa Rosa, CA



Just the facts: Working Women and Economics

WOMEN AT

Women Are a Significant Part of the Workforce

Women accounted for 46% of total United States labor force participants in 1994 and are projected to compromise 48% in the year 2005. Nancy Campbell, "Women and Work,"

Ohio State University Women's Studies Department, 1998

Of the 26 million net increase in the civilian labor force between 1990 and 2005, women will account for 15 million or 62% of net growth.

US Department of Labor Women's Bureau, "Women Workers: Outlook to 2005," 1992

Many Working Women Are Part of the Working Poor and Live In Poverty

Nearly 4.5 million families with female heads of household were below the poverty level in 1993. This figure represents 35.6% of all families with female heads of household.

> Nancy Campbell, "Women and Work," Ohio State University Women's Studies Department, 1998



Save the Date!

Coalition of Labor Union Women 11th Biennial Convention October 4-7, 2001 Las Vegas, Nevada Riviera Hotel & Casino

For more information, call 202-223-8360 email: info@cluw.org

Women Work to Support Themselves and Their Families

70% of working women work out of economic necessity.

WORK

US Census Bureau

41% of working women are the sole providers for their households. They are single, divorced, separated or widowed. 28% have dependent children.

1997 AFL-CIO survey, "Ask a Working Woman"

Of the 68.5 million families in the United States in 1993, 12.4 million (18%) were headed by women — 8 million were white, 3.8 million were black, and 1.5 million were Hispanic.

Nancy Campbell, "Women and Work," Ohio State University Women's Studies Department, 1998

Working women's families have the lowest median income of all family types.

Fifty-seven million women were employed in 1994. The largest proportion still work in technical, sales, and clerical occupations. Of the 57 million, 41 million worked full time; nearly 16 million worked part-time. Two-thirds of all part-time workers were women. 3.3 million held more than one job to make ends meet.

> Nancy Campbell, "Women and Work," Ohio State University Women's Studies Department, 1998

The unemployment rate for all women in 1994 was 6.0%. For white women it was 5.2%; 11.0% for black women; and 10.7% for Hispanic women.

Nancy Campbell, "Women and Work," Ohio State University Women's Studies Department, 1998

Despite the fact that Social Security benefits provide lower wage earners a higher percentage of their income, in 1991 the average man retiring at age 65 received \$782 a month in benefits compared with \$523 a month for the average woman.

US Department of Labor

18% of the general population lacks health insurance; however, 43% of women who work part-time and 34% of women over age 55 do not have health care coverage.

Families and Work Institute's 1998 Business and Work-Life Study

Only 8% of working women have jobs that offer help with childcare. 1997 AFL-CIO Survey, "Ask a Working Woman"

Only 53% of employers provide at least some replacement pay during periods of maternity leave, a time when women need their paycheck the most.

Families and Work Institute's 1998 Business and Work-Life Study



Sacramento, Ca. April 21, 2001



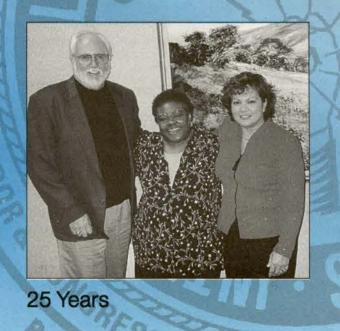
50 Years: Clarence Job



35 Years



30 Years



60 Years Merlino, Bauldie L.

55 Years Austin, Gail C. Sherman, William S. Thompson, George R.

50 Years Athey, Vernon E. Barnes, Kenneth J. Dowty, Floyd R. Job, Clarence

45 Years Cooper, David E. Festa, Joe A. Kneppel, R. E.

35 Years Bristol, D. L. Carston, Robert W. Gerolamy, Ralph M. Greer, Wayne Hayes, Clifford Loos, Gary McNamara, George R. Miles, Bruce M. Raffety, William Riggs, Ronald R. Thomas, Jim Yaws, Oliver

30 Years Alcala, Paul Baglin, Cahrles Jr. Bishop, Robert E. Borges, John B.

The Honorees

Conn, Gretchen

Copeland, John II Crisp, Theo Dana, George R. Denton, Gary C. Dialogo, Anthony Downs, George Ebhardt, F. Finch, Clifford Garcia, Thomas J. Geiger, Earl W. Gomes, Daniel J. Hall, John L. Lynch, Chas. J. Maas, Stephen R. Parker, Kenneth D. Personius, Bill E. Romstad, Terry L. Watson, Alvan L. Wolf, Alvin J. Young, Chester Jr. Young, David L.

25 Years

Agtual, Domini P. Anderson, Jeanette Bailey, Lester Bula, Richard J. Castanon, Carlos T. Chavez, Lloyd M. Fisher, Steven W. Fortner, Walter D. Fretwell, Thomas P. Garcia, Randy Greer, Melody, D. Hollowell, Wanda J. Kelly, Marsha S. Kim, Aaron J.

Macias, James Moore, Lucius Raquinan, Cecilia E. Reese, Janet Renoude, Barbara J. Rose, Benito Jr. Tamayo, Noel Valtakis, Kulie A. Walters, Joseph B. Wong, Dale

20 Years Amaya, Judy A. Bevan, Katherine Bolling, Cynthia E. Borrero, Anthony D. Butler, Pier S. Campbell, David M. Connow, Robert D. Escalante,. Rose M. Evans, John S. Jr. Green, Dee A. James, Regina P. Jones, Karen L. Kemp, Louis A. Koutnik, Harold J. Leard, Sharon P. Lee, Susie J. Mack, Felicia A. Melanson, Linda S. Mullikin, Sandy P. Nielsen, Frank E. Perry, David R. Rillera, Edwaard T. Ruxton, David A. Stone, Debbie M. Tuomala, Edward V. Jr. Uyeda, Donna B. Young, Larry C.





Fresno, Ca. April 7, 2001



55 Years: Albert "Cally" Callahan (third from left) is honored for 55 years of service by (from left) Business Rep. Gary Hughes, President Howard Stiefer, and then-Business Manager Jack McNally.



20 Years



35 Years



30 Years



25 Years

The Honorees

55 Years Callahan, Albert G. Johnson, William M.

40 Years Bisko, John I Cullers, B. L

Munson, G. W. Ormonde, Melvin E Perez, J. D.

30 Years Downs, Richard L. Espinosa, Edward A. Garabedian, Charles Greydanus, James S. Grigsby, William Hernandez, Danny Horne, Bruce Lathrop, Frank L. Perkins, Salvador Perkins, Robert L. Powell, Ronnie C. Pronold, Daniel

Pruett, Jerry D. Reed, Aaron W. Sebilian, Larry Tufts, Charles J. Weaver, Geary Zwinge, Frances

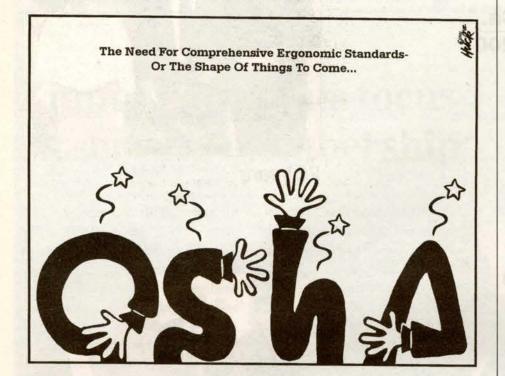
25 Years

Cotton, Florence Deaver, Joanne H. Habecker, Christine Hamasaki, Michael S. Monreal, John M. Jr. Monreal, John W. C Moody, Ron Obrien, Patrick S. Osborne, Richard Pavlovich, Mark S. Ragsdale, Don H. Ramorini, Adrian J. Jr. Rasmussen, Keith A. Riddle, Clifford Saiz, Joe Jr. Sandlin, David A. Sandoval, Pedro Jr. Whitley, Robert Zagyi, Stephen

20 Years

Cabezut, David Cal, Valerie L. Coronel, Guillermo Dyer, Tom M. Foote, Darleen Gibson, Karen G. Green, Paul A. Hayes, Chuck Holden, Janey B. House, Leland E. Isaac, Gary D. Lara, Michael A. Lopez, Ruben M. Macleod, Frederick Marshall, Gerald S. Moore, James R. Morita, Linda Okamura, Dale C. Parsons, Michael E. Silva, Russ A. Vermilya, Edward J. Wiederhold, Richard S. Work, Arnell

SAFETY MATTERS



Ergonomic hearing draws fire

undreds of California unionists protested a sham forum conducted by the Department of Labor in Palo Alto on July 24.

The Bush Administration, which this spring rescinded an ergonomics rule nine years in the making, held its third and final hearing on a new rule at Stanford University.

Ergonomics injuries, including repetitive stress injuries, are now the most common form of work-related illness and injury. More than 800,000 Californians are hurt or made sick on the job every year. The ergonomics standard rescinded by Bush would have added important protections above California's first-in-the-nation rule adopted in 1997.

"California's rule was an important groundbreaker at the time," said California Labor Federation President Tom Rankin, "but it requires two identical injuries before an employer has to correct the hazard. That's like requiring two car crashes before CHP writes a ticket."

Rankin, South Bay AFL-CIO officer Amy Dean, AFL-CIO ergonomics expert Jordan Barab, UAW safety office Joe Enos and injured worker Mary Magdaleno testified about the urgency of an ergonomics standard and demanded that the Bush Administration do the right thing for workers.

On July 19, members of the CalOSHA Standards Board appointed by Pete Wilson rejected a petition by labor to adopt an improved state standard, 4-0. Two members are still serving terms which expired in 1999, and have not been replaced by the Davis Administration; two other positions are vacant. The Board meets again August 16.

Senate Bill 123, which recently passed the legislature, requires Senate confirmation of appointees and prohibits service after a term expires.

Report confirms some EMF risk

Researchers for the California Department of Health Services issued a report last month saying that exposure to electromagnetic fields may put people at slightly higher risk for miscarriages and other health problems. The researchers' analysis carries a stronger warning of possible health risks than many other previous studies into EMFs. The report, open for public comment through Sept. 10, will undergo public review over the next few months. See the report at: www.dhs.ca.gov. By the Local 1245 Safety Committee



Summertime sporting safety

ith summertime in full swing it is important to protect ourselves from injury as we participate in sports activities.

Some hints that may be helpful:

 $\sqrt{\text{Start slowly and be sure to warm}}$ up before engaging in vigorous activities.

✓ Make sure your shoes are supportive, comfortable, and appropriate for the sport you have chosen.

 \sqrt{A} Always stretch between exercises.

 $\sqrt{}$ Take breaks when you can.

 $\sqrt{\text{Try to keep your muscles flex-ible; they will get stronger with use.}}$

√ Always be aware of your back; unusual activity requiring twisting and turning can hurt your back, but proper exercises can protect it.

 $\sqrt{\text{Drink plenty of water before,}}$ during and after participating in all sports.

 $\sqrt{\text{Conditions yourself by walking,}}$ running, swimming, and cycling.

 $\sqrt{1}$ If you should feel pain during any exercise or sport activity, stop what you're doing and assess your condition; you may need to find a different sport.

 $\sqrt{}$ If you have an injury, be sure to allow ample healing time; re-injuries are painful and take more time to heal.

If you have persistent pain, consult a health care professional.

Know where you're digging

f you're one of those folks who takes advantage of the summer weather to landscape your yard, it's important to keep in mind whereyou are digging, especially when using machinery, like post hole

diggers, trenchers, or even backhoes or excavators.

Underground hazards include gas lines, water lines, communications conduit, and power conduits.

Power and gas accidents can be life threatening; the others can be expensive.

Check before you dig. Call U.S.A. underground service alert. You could save a lot of time and money-or even your life.



"How do I know he's not just faking it to get Workman's Comp?

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee are: Stoney Burk, Alameda Power & Telecommunications; Keith Hopp, Pacific Gas & Electric; Ralph Muraca, City of Santa Clara; Mark Rose, Davey Tree; Al White, Pacific Gas & Electric; Rod Wright, Modesto Irrigation District; and Assistant Business Manager Art Murray.



Oakland, Ca. February 23, 2001



25 years



30 years

50 Years Hughes, Raleigh E.

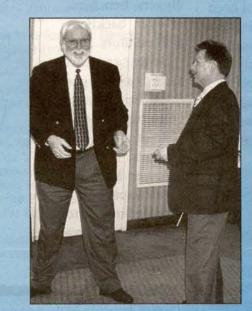
35 Years Elliott, G. A. Funderburk, A. L. Hein, Arthur P. Howell, G. D. Johnson, Jerry V. Paisano, James Williams, Tom L.

30 Years Adams, John E. Augustin, Roger K. Balentine, Roger D. Bax, Roy E. Beard, Richard R. Brasesco, John A. Broughton, Thomas Burnett, John L. Burton, Steve S. Crosby, Edward L. Davis, James H.

The Honorees

Dees, Edna Fong, Wanda Gillespie, Thomas S. Gomez, T. J. Greathouse, Richard Greene, Effie Gundersen, Charles K. Hamill, Gary Harris, Oscar Hemphill, James R. Johannsen, Donald







20 years

Kilgore, Willie Lowther, Robert E. McQueen, Johnnie Miners, Dale P. Nesbitt, Garland R. Otto, Donald Jr. Owens, Kenneth E. Poe, Billy Reyes, James P. Robnik, John H. Rocha, Samuel M. Ruiz, Daniel W. Scaife, Geraldine Schmidt, Stanley Scott, Douglas L. Smith, Gary Sondersen, G. K. Stovall, Richard L. Vancil, Keith R. Wildman, Jim D. Winford, John C.

25 Years Banks, Wayne N. Burgess, Michael Delgado, Jose Dito, Donna J. Kelleher, Peggy L. Kriletich, Matthew Lucero, Larry Magtoto, Romulo D. Natata, Harold Silva, Tom J. Stanton, Susan M. Stella, Nicholas

20 Years Adams. John E. Jr. Blacksher, Joe L. Blake, Bennie E. Boyd, Paul K. Brown, Curtis J. Campiotti, Alex F. Castrillo, Carlos M. Cowart, Joe A. Dalzell, Tom Estilo, Shirley Gatan, A. C. Gonzalez, Victoria Gow, Dennis C. Harris, John W. James, Ira A. Kleman, Kevin P. Knoedler, Donald R. Lacombe, Jackson G. Jr. Macdula, Joseph N. Morris, Bridget E. Palmer, David Rafael, Laurneano Ramsey, Terry L. Rodriguez, L. Scoggins, William N. Sipple, Hose M. Vasarhely, Joseph F. Wong, Perry B. Wright, Robert G. Zaballos, Sheila K.