**BROTHERS BY DESTINY**

**By Eric Wolfe**

When your own body fails you, it's good to know that your friends won't.

Al Etchison knows. He was just 26 when Alport syndrome attacked his kidneys. The Mechanic-Rigger at PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant knew then that his fate was tied to other people in the most profound way possible. A kidney donated by his uncle about 17 years ago gave Etchison a new lease on life, but the donated kidney, he says, “started going south on me in early 2005.”

Etchison began Constant Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis, which allowed him to remain mobile and continue working. Then peritonitis set in, forcing him to go to hemodialysis, once every other day for 2 to 4 hours at a stretch. Hemodialysis can keep you alive, but it’s no walk in the park. Because it removes extra fluid from the blood, the procedure can bring on low blood pressure, fatigue, chest pains, leg-cramps and headaches.

This is the life Etchison was facing when Rick Laguna learned of his plight. “Rick came to me and said he wanted to be tested.” Etchison sounds casual when he says this, but you can tell it’s still a source of wonder to him. The strange thing is, it’s a source of wonder to Laguna, too.

A Lead Building Mechanic at Diablo Canyon and fellow member of IBEW Local 1245, Laguna already knew all about kidney failure when he approached Etchison, left, and Rick Laguna are back on the job after a medical journey together.

Etchison, in the 1990s he volunteered to be a kidney donor for Ron “Buzzard” Garcia, another Diablo Canyon coworker.

“They told me I could live off one and that was good enough for me,” Laguna recalls.

To Laguna’s great disappointment, he turned out to be an incompatible donor. It hit him hard when Garcia died.

**Senior**

Sam Tamimi is Local 1245’s “go-to” guy

When Tom Dalzell became Local 1245 business manager last August, one of his first decisions was to name Sam Tamimi as his “Senior.” Officially, the position is Senior Assistant Business Manager, and Tamimi now has major responsibilities for running the organization. But Tamimi is still the “go-to” guy for members who have issues and want to hear a voice they’ve trusted for years. This month, Tamimi talks with the Utility Reporter about his new job.

**Utility Reporter:** You seem to spend a lot of time on the phone.

**Tamimi:** I get a lot of calls. From the business reps and from the members. I get calls about grievance settlements. If they want to get improvements in their job classification, someone tells them to call Tamimi. I just got a call from a group that wants an ad hoc committee because they think they should get more money. I get calls any time there is a question about shift workers because I was a shift worker myself. And then Tom said if there are any problems with SAP, send them to Tamimi.

**UR:** I know there were a lot of calls about SAP. What brought that on?

**Tamimi:** PG&E’s old programming system was obsolete. They had to change. We worked with them from 2003 to 2005 to try to make sure that the essential functions stayed the same or were better. But on Aug. 25—how do I say this?—the sugar hit the fan, when the first paychecks came out of SAP. That afternoon, we got 42 calls from all over the system. People did not get their check. People got the incorrect amount.

People got overpaid. I got over 1,000 calls and e-mails the next few months. In some cases, the e-mails had to do with 50 or 60 people. Taxes were wrong. 401k. Vacation accrual. Sick leave accrual. Overtime. You name it.

**UR:** How did the company respond?

**Tamimi:** The company realized they had more problems than they could deal with and they assigned a special person for SAP issues. When we tell them about problems, there are people at the company who will listen and want to get it fixed. But for a while the problems were overwhelming. If somebody’s pay is impacted, they don’t care how many people are working on it. They want it fixed now. Anybody would feel that way.

**UR:** How has your job changed since becoming Senior?

**Tamimi:** I still take the calls. But it’s not just PG&E. Now it’s expanded to the
Open to change

Those who know me know that I am a bit on the cynical side. When I encounter people all worked up over some idea for making things better, I usually take it with a good-sized grain of salt. In doing so, I probably have missed some good ideas just because somebody else is trying to foist them on me. I don’t usually try to convince others that my beliefs should be theirs, and I tend to resist ideas that are “in fashion.”

Over the past few months, I know that I have shut down to several good ideas. But I caught myself doing this, and tried to give the ideas a second look—this time with an open mind.

First was the idea of home energy conservation, another area where I have suddenly found I must agree with an idea I had long resisted. I have recently embraced compact fluorescent lamps—CFLs—for my home lighting.

A CFL, as many of you know, is a type of fluorescent light that fits into a standard light bulb socket or lighting fixture. CFLs use about 20% of the power that incandescent bulbs use, meaning they can in theory reduce the amount of energy we use for lighting by 80%, with a corresponding reduction in the environmental impact of generating that electricity.

CFLs last 8 to 15 times longer than an equivalent incandescent. That means the higher initial cost is offset over time—about 500 hours of use—while making a major individual contribution towards a better environment.

I work for a trade union, and so obviously I believe in the power of collective action. As I have written before, I also believe in the ability of individuals to make a difference, both within an organization and in their own lives. There are limits to the philosophy of changing the world by changing yourself, but there is something to be said for walking the walk.

Every utility that Local 1245 represents is exploring options to become more “green.” I would hate to think that we, the members of a progressive labor union, are lagging behind our employers in environmental responsibility.

I urge you to think about your lives and how you can make adjustments that will have an impact on the environment. I will be floating other ideas on this in the future, and would like to hear about changes that you have made in your energy use that others might make, too.

Individuals can make a difference. Individuals working together toward the same worthwhile goal—minimizing damage to our planet—can make a big difference.

PG&E Gas letter agreements

Local 1245 has negotiated two Letter Agreements affecting some members working on the gas side of the house at PG&E.

The IBEW Local 1245/PGE Joint Training and Apprenticeship Committee (JATC) reviewed and updated the Apprentice Gas Technician Training Program, resulting in Letter Agreement 06-52, signed by Business Manager Tom Dalzell on March 16.

PG&E and Local 1245 have discussed moving various Title 300 classifications into the Line of Progression of the Gas Control Technician and the Apprentice Gas Control Technician in Gas System Maintenance. Letter Agreement 07-16, signed by Dalzell on March 16, modifies the Line of Progression for the Gas Control Technician and the Apprentice Gas Control Technician in Gas System Maintenance. The employees in the Title 300 classifications moved into the Line of Progression will be considered Subsection 205.7.c bidders.

The full text of these Letter Agreements can be found on the IBEW website (www.ibew1245.com).

Diablo Canyon letter agreements

Business Manager Tom Dalzell signed four letter agreements in March affecting members at PG&E’s Diablo Canyon Power Plants. LA 06-55 updates the Steam and Nuclear Power Generation Apprentice Instrument Repairman Training Program.

LA 07-08 covers refueling outage and staffing issues for the outage set to begin this month.

LA 07-14 and LA 07-15 clarify outage recognition programs.

The full text of these Letter Agreements can be found on the IBEW website (www.ibew1245.com).

CALENDAR

Apr. 3: Retirees Club, Merced, CA
Apr. 3: Retirees Club, Santa Rosa, CA
Apr. 5: Retirees Club, San Jose, CA
Apr. 11: Retirees Club, Vacaville, CA
Apr. 12: Retirees Club, Dublin, CA
Apr. 14: Service Awards, Stockton, CA
Apr. 21: Service Awards, Salinas/Monterey, CA
Apr. 28: Stewards Conference, San Luis Obispo, CA
Apr. 28: Service Awards, San Luis Obispo, CA
Apr. 28: Local 1245 Poker Tournament, Vacaville, CA
May 1: Retirees Club, Merced, CA
May 1: Retirees Club, Santa Rosa, CA
May 3: Retirees Club, San Jose, CA
May 5-6: Advisory Council, Vacaville, CA
May 9: Retirees Club, Vacaville, CA
May 10: Retirees Club, Dublin, CA
May 19: Stewards Conference, Pacifica, CA
May 19: Service Awards, Pacifica, CA
Month of June: Local Union Elections
Agreement strengthens bidding system for Com Techs

Letter Agreement 06-32R1, signed on Feb. 26 by Business Manager Tom Dalzell, establishes a beginning level classification for Title 300 at Pacific Gas & Electric and completes some omissions from 1999 General Bargaining when the Title 200 Utility Worker for ISTS was created.

Local 1245 did not previously have a “next lower” in the line of progression to Apprentice Communication Technician. As a result the company could choose who they wanted rather than being bound by the seniority based bidding system.

LA –06-32R1 delineates the Utility Worker’s job duties, limits the number of beginning level jobs to no more than one for each ten journeymen, and ensures that the beginning level classifications will be eliminated prior to any reductions in the higher journeyman classifications.

A link to the full text of the agreement can be found on the Local 1245 website at www.ibew1245.com.

Sierra Pacific conference stresses unity and strength

“Building Unity and Strength” was the focus of a St. Patrick’s Day stewards conference for Local 1245 stewards at Sierra Pacific Power, held March 17 in Reno. Leading the session were Local 1245 Business Reps. Patrick Waite, left, and Randy Osborn.

The union’s strength is directly related to the strength and unity of its members, and the union steward plays a pivotal role as “leader in the field” when it comes to building that strength, Osborn said.

“The union steward must educate, organize and target issues for the members. We have to help people become unionists and not mere members,” he said. “We need to be a union of people who understand what the union is about. Our wage and benefit standards cannot survive in today’s environment of corporate excess if our members don’t understand the need to stand together.”

Kathy Maas on Memorial Wall

The name of the late Business Rep. Kathy Maas will be inscribed on the Memorial Wall at union headquarters in Vacaville.

The Memorial Wall, which appears just outside the front door of the main entrance to Ronald T. Weakley Hall, displays the names of Local 1245 members who gave outstanding service to the union. Additions to the Memorial Wall are made by the Local 1245 Executive Board.

Donations in Kathy’s memory can be made to: Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 49 Stevenson St., Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94105.

For more information call Sam Glero, Business Representative.

USBR, SMUD and City of Lodi

The following changes have been made to unit meetings at USBR/CVO Unit, SMUD and City of Lodi for the months of April, May and June. The units’ normal schedules will resume in July.

Unit 3012, USBR/CVO: April 17, May 1, June 19
Unit 3911, SMUD: April 18, May 16, June 20
Unit 2516, City of Lodi: April 19, May 17, June 21

Sam Glero, Business Representative

Thorough and persuasive

Thank you for your recent “Map Flap” article. It was the thorough and persuasive defense of wall maps I’ve seen. The first ten years of my service with PG&E were as an electric mapper. I was the primary mapper for the DO office. The next six years were spent as a DO in Merced & Fresno. For the last six years I’ve been a Grid System Operator at the Fresno Operating Center (FOC). I would add that wall maps are essential to Transmission Operators, especially in assessing the “big picture.”

I am in favor of switching center consolidation. I’m in favor of technology. I was involved in the roll-out of CTAS, DEDSA & OIS. (Great-grandparents to ILIS). Operating without wall maps, and the bin maps, will be a disaster. I pity the DO trouble-shooting an underground outage in a congested area. Please continue to preach this message to the company.

Rick A. Evans, Fresno, CA

United we stand

“United We Stand” is an old saying, but it works today. Recently the campaign by IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club scored a major success, when PG&E agreed to an additional $25 million offset to retiree medical costs. Many thanks to those retirees who stood up to be counted and to the union officers for supporting us.

Now is the time for all PG&E retirees who are not members of the IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club to join-giving the Retirees Club more power to fight for our benefits. Dues are just $36 yearly, and include a life insurance policy of $1,000 ($500 for spouse). There are chapters of the Retirees Club meeting in Dublin, San Jose, Vacaville, Santa Rosa and Merced. For membership application, contact Local 1245 Office Manager Tonya Alston at 707-452-2718.

Join us and make a difference. Your future benefits are at stake.

Tom D. S. Young, Reno, Nevada

Member, IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club

RPOA increase

As a member of the Vacaville Chapter of the Local 1245 Retirees Club, I would like to thank Tom Dalzell, Business Manager, for reaching a letter of agreement for an increase to the Retiree Premium Offset Account for the retirees. Union staff members and the active Retirees Club members should be congratulated for all the time and effort spent to help make this agreement occur.

Russ Jackson, Senior Vice President, his staff and senior management must also be commended for addressing the needs of retirees. Not only did PG&E management listen to the plight of the retirees, they actually heard what they had to say.

On a disappointing note: Within two hours after the company’s decision to increase the RPOA was announced, Retiree Club chapter presidents were e-mailed by an Alumni Advocate member, explaining this agreement. In this letter, the Alumni Advocates program was also mentioned for the part they played in this “historical agreement.” Many members, including myself, would like to know what part the salaried Alumni Advocate program members played in this agreement? In the past couple of years, when the issue of medical premium relief or COLA was presented to Alumni Advocates members, retirees were given nothing but negative responses regarding this issue.

In the future, retirees would hope that Alumni Advocate members would accept statements and suggestions positively. In the past, the retirees were told under no circumstances is the company in any position to address the plight of retirees with respect to medical premiums. With less than two years remaining on the current agreement, attendance at unit meetings, Retiree Club meetings, and educating younger employees must be a priority. This is no longer just a retired employee issue!

Ed Lenoir, Vacaville Chapter, Local 1245 Retirees Club

Thorough and persuasive

Got something to share with your fellow members? Send letters to: Utility Reporter Letters, IBEW 1245, POB 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696. Please note that we cannot print personal attacks or letters dealing with union politics. Opinions expressed in “Letters” are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IBEW Local 1245.
AFL-CIO calls for end to US involvement in Iraq

Editor's note: The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest and oldest federation of working people, last month called for an end to the US occupation of Iraq. The full statement appears below.

No U.S. foreign policy can be sustained without the informed consent of the American people. Last November, the people spoke clearly, calling on the president and Congress to change course in Iraq. Rather than heed the will of the citizenry or listen to the military leaders speaking out against the current policy in Iraq, the president has chosen to escalate military action. This blind pursuit of the war now undermines the very war on terror that was its justification.

More than 3,100 U.S. men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, with nearly 30,000 wounded, many of them severely. Estimates of Iraqi lives lost range from 60,000 to many hundreds of thousands.

We should not be asking our young men and women who serve this nation in its armed forces, to remain in Iraq on extended tours without proper armor or equipment, caught in an endless occupation in the midst of a civil war... The best way now to recognize and honor their service is to take them out of harm's way. It is time to bring our military involvement in Iraq to an end.

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AFL-CIO backs Medicare for all

We, therefore, call on President Bush to reconsider the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. Specifically, the administration should open up a diplomatic offensive with allies and Iraq's neighbors. This should include a new initiative to revive a peace process in the Middle East and it should include a timetable for redeploying U.S. troops out of Iraq's civil strife. We also call on Congress to support these actions and insist on a timetable for disengagement. If the president refuses to act, Congress must use its powers under the Constitution and act.

That kind of diplomatic solution, together with our allies and the United Nations. Redeploying U.S. troops should help force Iraq's political leaders, its neighbors and our allies to reconsider their course.

The AFL-CIO continues to strongly support initiatives and programs to promote democracy, workers' rights and economic development in the Middle East. We believe the bipartisan Iraq Study Group (the Baker-Hamilton Commission) provides the president and Congress with a broad range of recommendations to address the wider regional conflict as well as economic and reconstruction assistance while charting a path for reducing the U.S. presence in Iraq.

We, therefore, call on President Bush to reconsider the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. Specifically, the administration should open up a diplomatic offensive with allies and Iraq's neighbors. This should include a new initiative to revive a peace process in the Middle East and it should include a timetable for redeploying U.S. troops out of Iraq's civil strife. We also call on Congress to support these actions and insist on a timetable for disengagement. If the president refuses to act, Congress must use its powers under the Constitution and act.

USBR unit assists military families

In keeping with its tradition of making charitable gifts at the end of the year, Unit 3012 of IBEW Local 1245 voted this past holiday season to contribute $200 to Operation Homefront.

Operation Homefront is a service organization that assists the families of deployed military personnel. Founded after the attacks of September 11, Operation Homefront leads more than 2,500 volunteers in 26 chapters nationwide, providing assistance to more than 40,000 military families in need.

"We try to make a charitable contribution each December," said Unit Chair Mike McKay. "The previous year we contributed to the Union Community Fund, which is the AFL-CIO's Hurricane Relief Fund."

Unit 3012 is the unit for Local 1245 members at the United States Bureau of Reclamation in the Sacramento area.

Existing Homefront programs include, among others:

- Emergency aid, including items such as food, baby care products, and vehicle donations.
- Computer program that allows children and spouses to stay in touch with their loved one.
- Financial assistance in crises such as illness, homelessness and death.
- Donations of household and baby furniture.
- Providing physical labor for families when a service member is deployed.

In response to the donation by Unit 3012, the unit recently received a letter from Operation Homefront acknowledging the gift.

"Please know that your gift has brought peace of mind to those who proudly serve our nation. At any given time, nearly 500,000 United States Armed Forces personnel are deployed in over 140 countries," wrote Stephen Harrington, president of the organization.

For more information on Operation Homefront, or to make a contribution, go to: www.operationhomefront.net/
By Ron Cochran

A new business representative is expected to start April 2, helping the team with:

- Outside Line contract (NECA & Henkels and McCoy)
- Osmose contract
- Davey pole test contract
- Canus contract
- Republic contract
- Wellington contract
- Utility pole test contract
- Good Cent contract
- H&M teledata contract
- NECA underground agreement
- PG&E hiring hall agreement
- SMUD hiring hall agreement

Other News

The First Annual Local 1245 Poker Tournament will be held April 28 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville. The deadline to register is April 14.

Crane certification will be March 26-30 in Vacaville. The deadline to register has passed.

The Unit Examining Committee met March 14. Six Policy 22 applications were reviewed. Pole top rescue tests given since last meeting went very well.

Member Down Fund

Attorney Shawn Groff is constructing the trust for us. A draft will be ready soon. Some of the features we are looking at include: five cent an hour contribution, three member trust board, one fund or account to draft from.

The final trust document will be completed in April and be out for discussion in April and May, with a special election in May. If passed, we will proceed to IRS application and payroll deduction forms to be signed by all members and nonmembers working in Local 1245’s jurisdictions. Deductions would take effect on June 1, 2007.

Cal-Nev JATC

We currently have 364 apprentices registered in our JATC program. We have 27 apprentices traveling out of our jurisdiction for work, 61 apprentices are working out of Local 1245; 206 are working out of Local 47; 15 are working out of Local 396; 55 are off of work—46 due to lack of work and nine due to various personal reasons.

We have graduated 14 apprentices this year to journeyman lineman. We have indentured 11 apprentices into the program.

First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month in Riverside and Sacramento.

We have 36 Traffic Signal Maintenance Apprentices registered. 8 are working for Republic Electric in Local 1245’s jurisdiction. 28 are working for Republic Electric in Local 47’s jurisdiction.

Pending Grievances

Two grievances related to storm work in the northwest. There will be a labor-management hearing on April 13.

Work Report

Black and Veatch started a job in San Francisco; 6-10’s for 3 to 6 weeks, warranty work. Two other subs being built.

All Day has three overhead crews and one underground crew in San Francisco.

H&N unit pricing—40 weeks of transmission work, Metcalf Sub- South, Moss Landing Sub- South. Starting mid-April.

Michels Power starting underground work in San Francisco—the same work All Day Electric has been doing.

Pacheco utility has one crew, Railway Electric has one crew. TTR has 3 crews.

Par pulled their line crews and sent six of them to Nebraska for six weeks to work on transmission rebuild project—related to ice storms. Substation crews are working in Ravenwood and Hunters Point.

Diversified transferred all employees to Local 47 (Riverside).

ILB is very slow—one crew in the Hayward area.

Wilson is working in Sacramento, Livermore and Palo Alto. Mountain Power is working in Sacramento. Abbott has one crew in San Francisco.

Contra Costa has three crews. Refinery work looks really good this year.

California Splicing & Testing has one crew. Grace Associates has one crew. Henkels & McCoy has 4-5 crews.

We hear reports that pole replacement work will be much slower this year from PG&E. Transmission and substation work will increase.

Out of Work Books as of March 14

Lineman 1: 14
Lineman 2: 20
Lineman 3: 2
Lineman 4: 2
Cable Splicer 1: 2
Cable Splicer 2: 2
Cable Splicer 3: 2
LEM 1: 6
LEM 2: 7
LEM 3: 5
Groundman 1: 26
Groundman 2: 13
Groundman 3: 17
Groundman 4: 57

Locals Needing Help

- Alaska: Local 1547, 5 open calls
- Kansas: Local 304, 31 open calls
- Nebraska: more storm work
- Wisconsin: Local 2150, 15 open calls

Ron Cochran is Senior Business Representative for Local 1245.

Utility Reporter
5
Local 1245 members working for All Day Electric are helping PG&E bury 45 miles of overhead distribution lines in San Francisco.

Last month a crew consisting of Linemen Marshall Free, Donald Matthews, Casey Kelley and Apprentice Lineman Jason Clause were building the structures needed to bring a line underground on 23rd Avenue in the city's Sunset District.

The overhead-to-underground conversion, called “Rule 20” work after the CPUC rules that govern it, is part of a PG&E agreement with the City and County of San Francisco dating back to the late 1990s, with an expected completion date later this year.

Undergrounding isn’t limited to San Francisco. Systemwide, PG&E allocates a portion of ratepayer money to various undergrounding projects.

The program is clearly popular in San Fran-

### Bury it!

Jason Clause attaching new service to a house and making the weatherhead connections.

Casey Kelly uses a plumb line to make sure the new pole is level.

(Right) Marshall Free guides a bucket of fill into position.

Marshall Free removing rigging after setting the pole.

Packing fill around the base of the pole are, from left: Casey Kelly and Marshall Free, shoveling dirt, and Donald Mathews running hydraulic tap.

Story and photos by Eric Wolfe
Working the 23rd Avenue job are, from left, Marshall Free, Donald Matthews, Casey Kelley, Jason Clause. All are journeyman linemen, except Clause, who is a 5th step apprentice.

Casey Kelly picks up a bucket of fill to pack around the newly-set pole.

Jason Clause accepts a plate of cookies from a resident. People like linemen, that’s all there is to it.

Citizens indicated in a recent survey that they’d like to see more of the city’s wires put underground and would be willing to pay more on their electric bill to get it done.

One citizen found a more direct way to show his appreciation, bringing a plate of cookies to the Local 1245 members performing the work.

Jessica Kelly picks up a bucket of fill to pack around the newly-set pole.

Local 1245 Senior Business Rep. Ron Cochran, right, sells another union hat.
But only if we try!

possible for retirees to have an impact.
financial squeeze that many retirees are experiencing. Pension checks have failed to provide the
security that many retirees were promised. That's the amount of additional money that PG&E will
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Why is it important for the Retirees Club to grow? Simple. Numbers matter. Here's a number for you: $25 million. That's the amount of additional money that PG&E will use to offset retiree medical premiums in coming years. That agreement, negotiated in February by Business Manager Tom Dalzell, was a direct result of a year-long Retiree Club campaign to lobby the company for relief.

The $25 million will be a huge help to retirees, but it doesn't put an end to the financial squeeze that many retirees are feeling. Pension checks have failed to keep up with general inflation, and medical costs will continue to be a major problem.

The recent agreement shows it is possible for retirees to have an impact. But only if we try!

In coming weeks, ask any former co-workers you're still in touch with if they've received a letter from the Retirees Club. Encourage them to join. Even if the letter gets misplaced, any former IBEW member can join the club by contacting Tonya Alston, Office Manager, at 707-452-2718.

Retirees’ Corner

Recruiting letter coming soon

In the next few weeks thousands of retirees who once belonged to IB EW Local 1245 will receive a letter inviting them to join the union’s Retirees Club.

If you’re one of those people, or you know some of those people, encourage them to take action.

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Retiree Club Meeting Schedule

East Bay Chapter: 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA
San Jose Chapter: 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canso Gardens, San Jose, CA.
Vacaville/Sacramento Chapter: 2nd Wednesday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 1245, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA.
Santa Rosa Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 591, 2552 Cleveland Ave., Suite B, Santa Rosa.
Merced Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., Merced Senior Community, 755 W. 15th Street, Merced.

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Merced Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., Merced Senior Community, 755 W. 15th Street, Merced.
45 Years
Ronald Sevier

40 Years
Robin Boeder
David Breeding
W C Bryson
Peter Coffin
Donald Fischer
George Ford
Henry House, Jr
Charles Johnson
Christine Ross
D P Stevens

35 Years
Robert Bailey
Thomas L Bailey
Richard Burgess
Robert Bustamante, Jr
Frank Carrillo
James Carter
Stephen Claxton
Charles Coleman
Andrew Contreras
John Cottonham
Wade Cunningham
Gary Feddersen
Avelino Figueroa
Stephen Franks
Clifford Good
David Greer
David Harris
Dolores E Sanchez
Rudolpho Herras
Kenneth Jackson
Harvey Lashon
William Malone

30 Years
Keith Nystrom
Michael Phillips
Larry D Preszler
John Pruett
Eugene Richards
Donnie Royal
Robert Rubio
David Rust
Ralph Silvelli, Jr
Steve Thomas
David Vieira
Michael Ward
George Williams

30 Years
Jean Abe
Gaye Balbo
Sharon Bolton
Edward Bond
Cathy Carson
Ronald Churchill
Floyd Cooper
Marco Diaz
John Edwards
Mark Garner
David Garrity
Ana Gomez
Theresa Gomez - Armas
Courtney "Mike" Harms
Antonio Hurtado, Jr
John King
Timothy Laird
Evangelin Masangcay - Miclat
David McClellan
James Mout Jr
Barry Muhamedceni
William Murray

25 Years
Michael Bowers
David Brown
Doreen Byndloss
Richard Chan
Nicholas Chin
Kenneth Elliott
Jack Ferguson
Kanetha Green
E M Harner
Susan Heiman
Sandra Hernandez
Susan Howe
Gail Huffman
J D Jackson
Suzie Kennedy
Janet Martin
Jerry Martinez
Greg McKinnon
Mabel Perez
Debra Reynolds
Connie Salladay
Karen Sharp
Boris Shevetsoff
Gwen Simmons
Ron L Smith
Jose Solis
Barry Vandermolen
Gerald Waylett

Retirees, from page 8
William Edward Pruitt
10 years
San Francisco, CA
Joyce Richardson
11 years
Pinole, CA
Brenda Rigsby
29 years
Richmond, CA
Roger Rodgers
33 years
Fresno, CA
Robert Romey
27 years
San Rafael, CA
Utility Reporter

40 Years
Robert Romeyn
Fresno, CA
27 years

20 Years
Brenda Rigsby
Pinole, CA
11 years

30 Years
Joyce Richardson
San Francisco, CA
30 years

35 Years
Victor Pulido
Paso Robles, CA
30 years

95 Years
Pruitt
Bellflower, CA
5 years

25 Years
Ronald Churchill
Oakley, CA
36 years

20 Years
Leeland Wright
Antioch, CA
9 years

50 Years
Julie Neira
Sacramento, CA
45 years

100 Years
Donnie Royal
Sacramento, CA
36 years

Stay connected
We want you to stay connected
To IBEW 1245.
Sacramento, CA
March 10, 2007

Sixty-year member William Shultz is joined by his wife in receiving his award from Business Manager Tom Dalzell, left, and former Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, right.

60 Years
Arless Bonham
Robert Calzascia
Max Dawson
David Dawson
Hoyt Elmore
John Osborne
Wilbert Penfold
William Shultz
Andrew Snodgrass
Douglas Wakefield
Harold Withrow

55 Years
Eugene Hatch
Francis Hayes
Frank Munn

50 Years
Darrell Abbott
Jerry Dillow
Walter Edwards
Robert Kunz
David Putman
Donald Smith
Herbert Webb
Elmer Whitaker

45 Years
Robert Perez

40 Years
Victor Badasow
Allen Baker
Arthur Cruickshank
Gary Delbono
Samlin Eiri
Kenneth Hook
Carl Ingvoldsen
Harland Kenyon
L.F. Starnes
Gerald Whitmire
Randall Williams

35 Years
William Banish
Jeff Braden
Walter Brown, Jr.
Charles Carmona
Allan Fanoni
Robert Favilla
Robert Fuentes
Paul Gallon
Thomas Gatten

30 Years
Steve Gearhart
Ted Gibson
Jim Hattrup
Danny Jackson
Louie Kiser
David Lawton
Dennis Leahy
Anthony Longueria
David Meier
Philip Mosle
Ramiro Ortiz
Delores Paulsen
Charles Peabody
Rexford Pickering
Richard Prater
Paul Randil
Kurt Runge
Thomas Ryan
Frank Sammartino
Mike Signan
Brent Steele
Kathleen Warwick
Nicholas Whitlesey
Mary Wise

25 Years
Richard Blasquez
Stephen Bowen
Delbert Gibert
Julie Cosgrove
Kevin De Ryk
Dean Evans
Paul Feeley
Corazon Felix
Andres Garcia, Jr.
Debbie Hicks
Richard Laform
Roy Marciel
Denise Newman
Robert Oftedal
Darla Pence
Jack Price
David Reed
Lance Rose
Cynthia Sheely
Gregory Steed
Alton Seyford
Lucy Venegas
William Wasil
Roy Wright

25 Years
Christine Lay
Gary Lindquist
Susan Marinas
Reiko Martinez
David McCall
Deborah McGowan
Fidel Medina
Cheryl Meitzenheimer
Adrienne Middlebrooks
Daryl Mitchell
Robert Molino
Donna Newton
Dale Noble
Robert Noel
Joe Ojeda, Jr
Amor Payawal
Peter Ramirez
Thomas Ramirez
Jimmy Ramirez
Curly Reed
Roy Reimund
Peter Roland
John Romankiw
Denise Sand
George Siren
Bonnie Sivesind
William Sparks
Ronald Stivers
Sandra Tong
Richard Tyler
William Westoby
Kenneth Williams
James Williams
Destiny, from page 1
When he learned about Etchison’s condition, it was like a second chance to make good on a promise he had already made.

To put Laguna’s magnificent gift in perspective it helps to know this: “I have a sick daughter and physically there’s nothing I can offer my daughter to make her healthy,” he says. “It was a blessing for me to have the opportunity (to help Etchison).”

Laguna didn’t let the tragic death of Ron Garcia dampen his enthusiasm for this new opportunity to help someone. “I dove in with a positive attitude—we never had anything to slow us down. It was great.”

The surgery was performed successfully at St. Vincent Medical Center in southern California by Robert Mendez and Rafael Mendez, identical twin doc-tor with decades of experience in trans-plant operations.

Senior, from page 1
system—Outside Line, the public sec-tor. I also check expenses, keep an eye on the payroll, deal with staff assign-ments. The administrative staff—Dorothy, Roger, Bob, Howard and Den-nis among others—make this job easier. I help Tom with staff meetings and fill in for him with the Executive Board if he’s not available. If we have issues coming in from employers or from the field, I try to organize all the information for Tom because he’s a very busy man. I review all the Letter Agreements, I assign them to the proper people for review, and present them to Tom with a recommen-dation to sign or send back to the com-pany. Tom can read five pages in one second.

UR: You’ve been on the job for 8 months. How would you assess things so far?
Tamimi: Tom is the most experienced business manager we ever had. He was staff attorney for 21 years and then five years as Senior. That’s a lot of experi-ence. He deals with the companies, he negotiates with the companies—he’s a hands-on business manager. The thing I’m proudest of is Letter Agreement 07-07, giving help to the retirees on their medical premiums. But also the other Letter Agreements—for the front counter jobs at PG&E, the severance package, the Clerical agreement. This is Tom in action for you. He believes in getting things done through bargaining and he wants them done yesterday.

UR: He’s said that bargaining is a big prior-ity.
Tamimi: He loves bargaining—it’s a challenge to him. He can have two, three committees going on the same day, and he knows about everyone of them more than anyone involved. Even with arbitrations, which he doesn’t handle anymore, he still knows about every grievance that goes to arbitration and knows as much about them as the busi-ness reps involved.

UR: I know Larry Foss was a big influ-ence on you.
Tamimi: Larry—along with Jack McNally—interviewed me and hired me in 1981, when he was Senior. Larry went to the Harvard School of Life. He was very articulate; he had an adage for every situation. And he really knew about handling grievances because he was the first fact finder for IBEW and he had been secretary of the Review Com-mittee. If you took a problem to him, he always asked, “Tell me first—where did you look in the agreement to find the answer?” He wanted to make sure you tried.

UR: Now that you’ve become Senior yourself, do you actually like the job?
Tamimi: Yes. There is no way I can come close to Larry’s charm and openness. But I’ve been doing parts of this job since 1995 when I became an ABM and now I have added duties. It’s a chal-lenge. I like it. But sometimes I get tired, at my age. I was born 4-12-45, the same day Franklin Roosevelt died. (“You wouldn’t believe what it’s like when food tastes good and you have energy again,” says Etchison.)

But the most amazing thing of all, he says, is the support he got from his fel-low workers at Diablo Canyon through-out his ordeal.

“I was off work for damn near eight-and-a-half months. I’d get phone calls from people while I was sitting in dialysis. People would drop by.”

Besides the moral support, his union brothers and sisters donated vacation time to give a boost to both men during their recuperation, Etchison says. “The people out here were absolutely fantas-tic. They saved my bacon.”

“They saved mine, too,” says Laguna. “These people out here at Diablo Canyon Power Plant—they have the biggest hearts.”

Does destiny make us brothers? No need to debate that proposition. Etchison and Laguna are the living proof.

Sam Tamimi leads a discussion at a recent staff meeting at Weakley Hall in Vacaville.
For Local 1245 firefighters at PG&E’s Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, vigilance isn’t just the name of the game—it’s the whole game.

The plants are a witch’s brew of deadly radioactive substances that could irradiate a large swath of California if “containment” failed. Fire is a significant threat because it has the potential to deactivate critical systems that are needed to maintain and shut down the reactor.

Be glad that PG&E has a full-time fire department stationed at the plant around the clock, with a minimum of five firefighters on duty at any time.

“Our duties are to respond to safety problems and mitigate the situation,” says Eric Carter, a shift captain and member of Local 1245. “We’re defense in depth.”

Don’t think that defense means waiting around for the worst to happen. If containment is breached, it’s pretty much too late for defense. For Diablo Canyon firefighters, defense is upfront and takes the form of vigilance and training.

Firefighters are trained to standards established by the National Fire Protection Association. They also meet state standards for Emergency Medical Technicians. Then there’s the training for hazardous materials and confined spaces to maintain the necessary certifications.

When they’re not training, Diablo Canyon firefighters can be found servicing extinguishers, hydrostatically testing fire hoses, and performing “fire penetration seal and barrier inspections”, among other duties.

Diablo firefighters also attend trainings hosted by the California Department of Forestry. It’s training that can have real world applications at any time, like January of this year when a 300 acre wild fire swept across PG&E property.

While it never got close to the plant, it engaged the attention of 200 firefighters and 40-50 engines in what Carter called “three heavy days of fire fighting.”

On duty March 7 are, from left, Gustavo Felix, Firefighter; Eric Carter, Captain; Greg Porte, Firefighter; Daniel Beile, Captain; and Tony Cappelleti, Firefighter.

With wildfires, the main concern is the possibility of fire getting under the 500 kv lines coming out of plant, or the 230 kv line coming into the plant that provide power when the plant isn’t generating any.

In-plant protection systems include 18 hose-reel stations fed by a 7.5 ton CO2 extinguisher, as well as hose-reel stations for delivering water.

While the possibility of a catastrophic nuclear release is the underlying reason for all the vigilance and training, Fire Captain and Local 1245 member Dan Beile is more concerned about something else.

“The biggest problem isn’t radiation, it’s hazardous materials. We have tanks with thousands of gallons of caustics.”

Huge transformers, for example, contain thousands of gallons of oil. The transformers have a “one in four chance of catastrophically failing” during their 25-year lifespans.

“We’ve already had one that blew up,” Beile says.

In this case the explosion ruptured the casing of the transformer. Firefighters quickly put their training to good use. They contained the fire to the transformer, extinguishing it with foam. A hazardous material team cleaned up the spilled oil.

Another small fire was extinguished last December when a three-phase capacitor failed in a circulator water pump.

This spring, Diablo Canyon firefighters are looking forward to the arrival of a new engine, the “Dash 2000”—a 2007 model with 455 horsepower and 1550 foot-pounds of torque.